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Rotary Home Town Heroes - The Show Must Go On . . . And It Did!

GLENDORA - The Rotary Club of Glendora continues to spearhead efforts to raise money and provide resources for people hardest hit by the pandemic. Another example is their recent Christmas relief project.

The club usually hosts an annual Christmas luncheon at the La Fetra Senior Center where it provides a delicious holiday meal and show for approximately 250 seniors. Because of the pandemic, the event had to be cancelled, so the club decided to use the money budgeted to provide food for low income seniors in our community. When the people from the Champion Foundation found out what the Rotary Club was doing, they generously added \$5,000 to the project. Visiting Angels, a local home health care agency, chipped in by donating approximately 100 small Christmas trees.

Once the finances were in place, the project manager, Christine Smith, was tasked with making the arrangements



Glendora Rotary members presenting gift cards and Christmas trees to the residents of Glendora Gardens: Left to right - Dennis Franklin (Rotary Club President), Areliy Lopez (Assistant manager of Glendora Gardens), Brian Goodman (head of maintenance), and Christine Smith (Rotary club Secretary) to distribute the gifts. She reached out to Debbie Lopez of the La Fetra Center, Sabrina Montes from the YWCA, Areliy Lopez at Glendora Gardens, Glendora Police Chief Matt Egan, Joe Babinaeu from

Meals on Wheels, and Maria Thompson at Charter Oaks School District.

At the same time, our satellite club, The Friends of Rotary, coordinated with Penny DeLeon at Glendora Unified School District. They're providing one family in each of the Glendora USD campus' with a \$200 gift basket.

Because of the of everyone involved, The Rotary Club of Glendora was able to provide two hundred and twenty five worthy recipients with gift cards to Stater Brothers that would enable them to put on

their own socially distance, COVID approved banquet, just

in time for Christmas.

Dennis Franklin, the club's President shared that "This is another great example of the citizens in the Glendora area coming together to help one another. I consider them all "Hometown Heroes". He went on to say that he knows there are others in the community who have the desire to help others in this time of need and that the Rotary Club of Glendora is always looking for like-minded people to help us. If you are one of them, Dennis says "we encourage you to join our ongoing efforts. For more information or to donate you can visit our website - www.rotaryofglendora.org/rotarycovidhelp or send a check to: Glendora Rotary Club, PO BOX 776 Glendora, CA 91740. You can also contact our Treasurer Joe Cina at the Glendora Chamber of Commerce.



Glendora Rotary members Andrew Delwicious, Christine Smith, and Gary Boyer helping to distribute Christmas cheer at LaFetra Senior Center

Holiday Joy Present At Los Angeles County Public Housing Sites

More than 850 Families Provided Food Assistance and Nearly 700 Youth Received Holiday Gifts



LOS ANGELES COUNTY - Throughout the month of December, the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) collaborated with local partners, and volunteers to help spread holiday joy to its public housing residents.

Through safe and socially-distanced events, nearly 700 youth received holiday gifts, and more than 850 families were provided bags of food including milk, fruit, poultry, non-perishable items, and grocery store gift cards. Events ranged from grab-and-go distributions, home deliveries, and drive-thru giveaways, to ensure every interested home was ser-

vised. In addition, a special "Spread the Cheer" drive was also created for public housing seniors across Los Angeles County. Over 1,600 holiday cheer bags were distributed, offering socks, earmuffs, art kits, and soaps. Senior residents were greeted with warm and well wishes as the items were delivered to their doorsteps.

Emilio Salas, LACDA Acting Executive Director, "We'll all be home for the holidays this year, but we want to ensure that our residents' are taken care of and they remain in good health. Thankfully, we have the

support of our local partners to do just that this holiday season."

These countywide holiday events were made possible through the incredible outpouring of support from Shelter Partnership, Cottonwood Church, The Long Beach Basket Brigade, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Women In Action Reaching Out, HOPE Church of East Los Angeles, and many others who graciously provided toys, food, and monetary donations to help give a touch of cheer to our youth, families, and seniors residents this holiday season.

Chick-fil-A and Heavenly Flowers in the Spirit of Christmas in West Covina



West Covina Mayor Letty Lopez-Viado with George Cuong Nguyen, WCFD Mike Browne, City Manager David Carmany, WCPD Chief Richard Bell, Danny Hernandez of Chick-fil-A, Melissa Rojas of Heavenly Flowers and a number of other first responders were present for the event.

By George Ogden
WEST COVINA - Chick-fil-A in West Covina and Heavenly Flowers came together the day before Christmas along with a number of police and firefighters along with city management where they handed out beautiful bouquet of flowers from Heavenly Flowers and with goodie bags, toy cows, gift cards from Chick-fil-A.

Santa Claus and the Chick-fil-A cow were on hand to greet the people as they came in. The event was supposed to go from noon to 1:00 p.m. but it continued until around 3 p.m. "We brought joy during this

holiday season," West Covina Mayor Lopez-Viado said. "Everything went smooth," according to Melissa Rojas of Heavenly Flowers, "It was very

nice." Danny Hernandez of Chick-fil-A said, "It was a great time here and we saw lots of smiles."

RECYCLE YOUR TREE CURBSIDE

Curbside tree collection will take place on your scheduled collection day from **December 28** through **January 11**.

Please remove all decorations including tinsel, lights, ornaments & tree stands. Trees taller than 6 feet must be cut in half.

ALERT: COVID-19 Cases Are Rising

Stay home when possible.

Wear a mask over your mouth AND nose.

Avoid crowds. Stay 6 feet away from others.

Wash your hands often.

CDC cdc.gov/coronavirus

Annual Christmas Price Index Reflects Pandemic's Economic Impacts

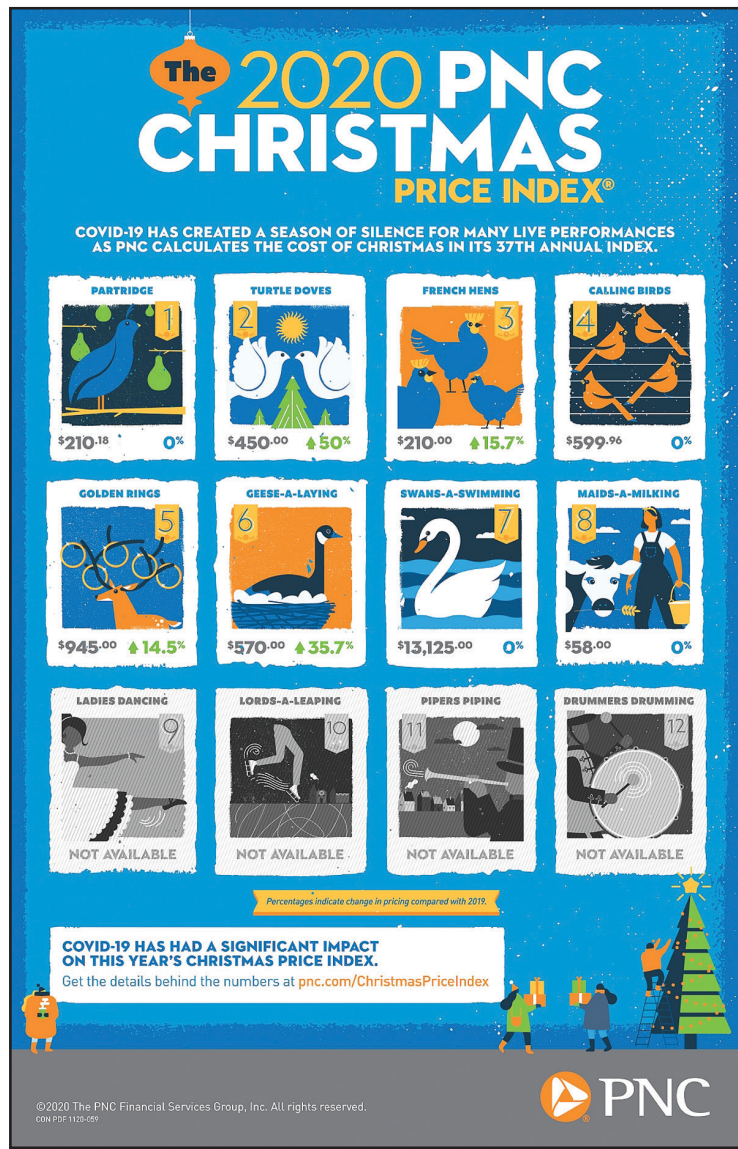
In a year marked by unprecedented shocks to the economy, PNC's 37th annual Christmas Price Index (CPI) accounts for the pandemic's impact on the cost of purchasing presents from the classic holiday song, "The 12 Days of Christmas."

A lighthearted take on the Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) Consumer Price Index, which measures the average change in prices for goods and services over time, the PNC version applies analysis to procuring "True Love's" 12 gifts. This year's index includes adjustments for the reality that many live performances have been cancelled.

PNC calculated the 2020 price tag for the PNC Christmas Price Index at just \$16,168.10, a considerable decrease of \$22,825.45 or -58.5% over last year's cost, with a third of the items literally not available for purchase this year.

"In response to these unusual times, we took a non-traditional view in calculating the Christmas Price Index," said Amanda Agati, chief investment strategist for The PNC Financial Services Group. "The biggest impact has been for live performances, which are mostly unavailable. While some performing arts groups are engaging through virtual presentations, it's a silent night at most symphonies and the lights have dimmed on many dance companies, as reflected in this year's significant drop in PNC's CPI data."

The annual tradition also includes calculating the "True Cost



2020 has been anything but conventional for consumers, the markets and the economy, and this year's Christmas Price Index most notably highlights the change with a season of silence for many live performers.

of Christmas," which is the total cost of items when repeating all the song's verses. Purchasing all 364 gifts will require \$105,561.80, which means that spreading cheer throughout 2020 costs 38% less than in 2019,

given the exclusion of live performances.

For the full report, along with lessons consumers can learn from the pandemic's economic impact, visit, pnc.com. (StatePoint)

One & All Church Food Distribution in West Covina



Councilman Tony Wu, Councilwoman Rosario Diaz, Mayor Pro-Tem Dario Castellanos, West Covina Mayor Leticia "Letty" Lopez-Viado with Michael Kisaka, Pastor Matt Chavez, Danielle Frazer and Augusto Dolce

By George Ogden
WEST COVINA - One & All Church food distribution event is held monthly at Cameron Park. Mayor Leticia "Letty" Lopez-Viado, thanked Pastor Matt Chavez, its members, and God's Pantry for giving groceries to those who need it during these times. Lopez

stated "Our community appreciates it".

Councilman Tony Wu, Councilwoman Rosario Diaz, Mayor Pro-Tem Dario Castellanos, West Covina Mayor Leticia "Letty" Lopez-Viado were on hand to make a city recognition for everything that they do.

This has been an ongoing event for One & All Church and Pastor Matt Chavez. A number of volunteers get together and distribute various needed item to the families that show up. Donations are always appreciated. You can call (909) 592-2282 if you would like to help.

Looking for Love in 2021? 5 Tips for Successful Online Dating



With the busiest dating season of the year upon us, it's time to get your profile ready and date with confidence. (Photo Source: (c) tommy / iStock via Getty Images Plus)

The first Sunday of the new year or "Dating Sunday," is the busiest online dating day of the year and kicks off peak online dating season – there is no better time to get your profile ready.

Below are five tips to help you make the most of "Dating Sunday" from Andrea McGinty, premier dating expert and founder of 33 Thousand Dates, a coaching platform designed to help millennial and Gen X women and men navigate online dating. In her 20+ years as a matchmaker, McGinty arranged over 33,000 dates, so it's safe to say she knows a thing or two about dating successfully!

1. Enlist help. With over 104

million singles in America and over 30 million dating online, your online dating profile needs to stand out. A dating expert can help you craft a profile you're proud of – and one that isn't full of clichés like "long walks on the beach." You hire professionals to help you exercise, clean and shop, so why not hire a dating pro to help reflect your individuality? At 33 Thousand Dates, for example, they take a personalized, proactive approach and handle the heavy lifting so that clients can have all the fun.

2. Refresh your photos. Time to cull from the thousands of photos saved on your phone for five to 10 terrific shots. If they're more than a year old or low-resolution, consider scheduling a photoshoot with a friend or a professional. Pose in natural light, ideally outdoors, and show off your smile. Avoid selfies and sunglasses, and include at least one full body shot that conveys your interests, whether you're hiking, doing a tree pose, or walking along the shore. For men, shirts on unless it's a great surf shot or you're spiking a volleyball on the beach. Lastly, most photos should be solo – pets are warm and welcoming, but limit the shots including friends or family.

3. Be proactive. Start with only one or two dating platforms. You can add more later, but you don't want to be overwhelmed by all the "likes" you'll receive! Once live, don't

wait for messages to bombard you. Instead, use the platform's filters so you see the type of people you're looking for – don't be shy about knowing what you want!

"After coaching thousands of people and playing a part in 4,200 marriages, I've found that those with the highest level of dating success proactively work the system in person and online," says McGinty.

4. Arrange video chats. Set up short virtual dates to determine whether you're willing to meet in person. Keep conversations to 10 minutes – this is enough time to get a feel for personality, looks and mannerisms. Ask important questions early to ensure your values align, and remember, chemistry only comes in person!

5. Have fun. Now it's time for the good stuff! Arrange drinks, coffee or brunch al fresco – these dates are less pressure, more relaxed and don't drag on. If you're ready to leave, say you have errands to run or evening plans. A coach can help with this part, too – 33 Thousand Dates offers expert advice on how to communicate and follow up on dates. Keep in mind, you're seeing if you like the person enough to go on a second date, not marry them! And if it doesn't go well, those millions of other singles are waiting to meet you.

For more tips and to learn more about enlisting help from pros, visit 33000dates.com. (StatePoint)

Resolve to Learn to Play an Instrument in the New Year

Have you been wanting to learn to play an instrument for a long time? Let the New Year be your motivation to finally take the plunge. Here are some top tips for getting started and for sticking with it:

- Schedule practice sessions: Learning to play an instrument requires a time commitment, so actually schedule a daily practice session -- at least 30 minutes -- in your planner or calendar. Whether it's first thing in the morning or just before bed, identify a time of day when you are best able to turn off distractions and focus on the task at hand.

- Check out online resources: While in-person lessons may not

be available at the current moment, you might try taking a remote class or working with an online music teacher. Free tutorials are also available online, and have the added benefit of being paused or replayed again and again.

- Stay motivated: When learning a new skill, fast progress can be one of the greatest motivators. Thankfully, some of the latest tools make picking up the basics easier than ever. For example, with the Casiotone Keyboards from Casio, which feature a built-in learning system, you can go from being a novice to an intermediate player in a matter of weeks. By connecting the instru-

ment to the free Chordana Play app, you can learn to play your favorite songs from downloaded MIDI files. Some of the keyboard models in this series even feature light-up keys, helping new musicians quickly get the hang of proper finger placements and chords.

- Set new goals: Set concrete goals and dates by which you'd like to achieve them. This could be mastering a particular song or performing a live stream concert for your friends over social media. Always having a new goal to reach toward can keep things fresh, helping you stick with your New Year's resolution.

- Be compassionate with yourself: Learning to play an instrument is not easy, and some practice sessions will go more smoothly than others. Have patience with your own progress and try not to compare yourself to others, especially those who have been playing a lot longer than you!

Building your music skills is not only fun, it's good for your mental and physical wellness, making it the perfect New Year's resolution. Be sure to get started with the right mindset and tools. (StatePoint)

Gov. Newsom Announces Partnership with CVS and Walgreens to Provide Pfizer Vaccines to Residents and Staff in Long-Term Care Facilities

SACRAMENTO—Governor Gavin Newsom announced Monday that California has opted in to the federal COVID-19 Pharmacy Partnership. At no cost to the state or local government, CVS and Walgreens will administer the Pfizer vaccine to residents and staff in long-term care facilities. Starting today, CVS and Walgreens will start with nursing homes, which will take an estimated 3-4 weeks, and then vaccinate staff and residents in assisted living, residential care and other long-term care facilities.

“Vaccinating those most vulnerable among us is critical to fighting this virus,” said Governor Newsom. “By leveraging CVS and Walgreens resources, we can effectively deploy vaccines to residents and staff at our long-term care facilities,

which are at higher risk of Covid transmission – and do it at no cost to the state or local government.”

The program will enable counties to leverage CVS and Walgreens pharmacy staff to administer the vaccine more broadly with pharmacy staff going directly to care facilities. Skilled Nursing Facilities will receive vaccine from staff from CVS and Walgreens. Approximately 499 nursing homes will be provided vaccine by CVS and 357 by Walgreens. The vaccines will be administered by pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and nurses. Pharmacy technicians are participating under a recent waiver by the Board of Pharmacy that requires appropriate supervision under California law and specialized training.

“This partnership is an opportunity to augment other vaccination efforts at the local level to prioritize our most vulnerable Californians where we are

seeing the most outbreaks, hospitalizations, and deaths,” said Dr. Erica Pan, Interim State Public Health Officer. “The partnership also allows us to continue to vaccinate other high priority individuals such as our front-line health care workers who are critical to our ongoing response to a surge of cases.”

- Specifically, the program:
- Schedules and coordinates on-site vaccine clinic dates directly with each facility. Pharmacy staff will visit each facility several times to ensure that all residents and employees who wish to be vaccinated get the vaccine.
 - Orders vaccines and associated supplies (e.g. syringes, needles, personal protective equipment).
 - Ensures cold storage for the vaccine.
 - Provides on-site administration of the vaccine to all residents and staff.

County Library Offers New Park & Connect Service

Free Outdoor Wi-Fi in Parking Lots at Participating Libraries

LOS ANGELES COUNTY—Through funding provided from the Coronavirus Relief Fund Spending Plan, LA County Library is excited to announce a new service, Park & Connect: free outdoor Wi-Fi in the parking lots of participating libraries.

This pandemic has widened the digital divide across Los Angeles County with constituents left without reliable internet service that is essential to navigate essential services virtually. With libraries closed, those who would be able to use a computer or connect through Wi-Fi are left without the resources needed to do schoolwork, apply for a job, or simply connect with friends and family.

Park & Connect will allow LA County residents who lack reliable internet service at home to benefit from outdoor LA County Library Wi-Fi hotspots. For those who need internet access for work, schooling, health-related information, or to complete essential tasks such as ordering groceries and household supplies, free Wi-Fi coverage has been extended to the entirety of participating parking lots.

The Library’s Park & Connect program allows anyone with a Wi-Fi enabled device to get connected with ease. Just park in a designated parking spot and use your device within your car. If you do not have a car, you may sit

within 25 feet of the library to use the Wi-Fi network. Masks and social distancing of at least 6 feet are required if you are sitting outside. Accessing the network is simple. Using a laptop or mobile device, choose the network CountyLibraryWiFi, accept the terms of agreement, and then close and reopen your browser. A library card is not required to access the network.

LA County Library is currently operating 79 Sidewalk Service locations that are open and offering curbside pick-up for customers. Customers 18+ can also check out a laptop and hotspot kit for use at home for 3 weeks—just like a book—with the opportunity to renew up to 3 times if there are no holds.

“We are adjusting our business model to ensure that we provide service to our customers during these trying times,” said Library Director, Skye Patrick. “Our doors may be closed due to the pandemic, but LA County Library is ensuring that its customers have the necessary tools to stay connected—whether it be for school, work, or enjoyment.”

There are currently 32 sites offering free Wi-Fi in the parking lot, with additional sites being added on in 2021. For a list of participating locations and more information about Park & Connect, visit LACountyLibrary.org/Wi-Fi.

Bill to Make Pet Adoption Easier for Active Duty Military Service Members

SACRAMENTO—Assemblymember Chris Holden introduced legislation, AB 121 that waives the pet adoption fee for Active Duty Military Service Members.

“Given how profound the emotional and physical benefits of having a pet can be, we should make pet adoption as easy as possible for our coun-

try’s heroes,” said Assemblymember Chris Holden.

As of January 2020, the adoption fee for veterans is already waived. AB 121 would expand current law to waive the adoption fee for a dog or cat to an active duty military service member who present to the public animal shelter a current military identification.

LA County Awards \$46 Million in CARES Act Funding to Small Businesses in Economically Disadvantaged Communities

Critical funding helped to save an estimated 5,700 jobs and \$99.5 million in retained revenue

LOS ANGELES COUNTY – The County of Los Angeles announced that \$46.2 million of federal CARES Act funding has been distributed to more than 1,400 community-based businesses to help retain or hire employees, implement COVID-19-related safety measures, and comply with local health orders. At the direction of the Board of Supervisors, the Los Angeles County Department of Workforce Development, Aging, and Community Services (WDACS), along with REDF, a venture philanthropy focused on building the employment social enterprise sector, partnered to provide these CARES Act funds to small businesses, social enterprises, B corporations, non-profits, and Community Business Enterprises (CBEs) located in economically disadvantaged communities throughout Los Angeles County.

“Small local businesses and their employees are dealing with profound uncertainty in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and a shuttered economy,” said Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Hilda L. Solis, and Supervisor to the First District. “These businesses anchor our families, contribute to the historical identity to our communities, and invigorate development in every corner of our County. Many have been directly impacted by the economic fallout and have also struggled to gain equal access under federal aid efforts. While we were successful in supporting many small businesses in disadvantaged communities, advocacy around further federal relief is critical in order to alleviate the economic inequalities this sector continues to be confronted with.”

“Small businesses are the backbone of our County,” said Supervisor Kathryn Barger. “This was an important effort by the

Board of Supervisors to make these grants available to help small businesses get through these difficult times.”

“LA County businesses are struggling, but because of the leadership of the Board of Supervisors, we were able to help thousands of small businesses,” said Otto Solórzano, Acting Director of WDACS. “For many, this funding was the difference between staying in business or shutting down. We were able to support more than 1,400 small businesses, with a special focus on those with a social mission. This money went where it could do the most good.”

The businesses that received funding represent a wide variety of products and services, from restaurants to education and childcare to retail.

• More than 1,400 small businesses and non-profit organizations were awarded funding, out of more than 2,400 total applicants. This is a 60% acceptance rate.

• 34% of funding went to businesses or non-profit organizations led by people of color

• A total of \$46.2 million was awarded to businesses and non-profit organizations throughout all five Supervisorial Districts in Los Angeles County, helping to avert more than 5,700 layoffs (estimated)

* \$33.3 million was awarded to small businesses

* \$12.7 million was awarded to social enterprises, B-Corps, and CBEs

“This grant allowed us to deliver meals and groceries to hundreds of seniors, adults with underlying health conditions, and families who have tested positive for COVID,” said Becky Teter, Executive Minister of 5,000 Pies. “This grant has been a blessing for us, not only to keep oper-

ating and our workers employed, but to also care for those in need. Amidst worldwide struggle against this virus, being able to continue making food with love has provided joy to many in our community.”

“We worked hard to transparently and equitably support businesses during the application process,” said Greg Erickson, Associate Director, Regional Partnerships for REDF. “This included establishing a County hotline with live staff members to help navigate the application process and requirements, recorded training videos, hosting an educational webinar for potential applicants, and creating a dedicated webpage with the resources and information needed to apply.”

WDACS, in partnership with REDF, established three grant opportunities to provide economic recovery support to small businesses that have been financially impacted by COVID-19, and their employees. Funding was granted for the following three categories:

• Pandemic Relief Funds (Up to \$5,000) to help businesses offset costs related to compliance with local health orders and recommended safety measures.

• General Employer Assistance Grants (Up to \$30,000) to help support all Los Angeles County businesses impacted by COVID-19 for a variety of eligible uses.

• Social Impact Grant Funds (Up to \$60,000) to help Social Enterprises and Social Community Business Enterprises (CBEs), which includes designations for Woman Business Enterprises (WBE), Minority Business Enterprises (MBE), and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE), or a certified B Corporation.

Californians Ring In The New Year With New Traffic Safety Laws

SACRAMENTO - As 2020 comes to a close, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) wants to highlight some new roadway safety laws that take effect in 2021.

License points for distracted driving (AB 47, Daly; 2019): Using a cell phone in a handheld manner while driving is currently punishable by a fine. Beginning July 1, 2021, violating the hands-free law for a second time within 36 months of a prior conviction for the same offense will result in a point being added to a driver’s record. This applies to the violations of talking or texting while driving (except for hands-free use) and to any use of these devices while driving by a person under 18 years of age.

Unattended children in motor vehicles (AB 2717, Chau): Exempts a person from civil or criminal liability for trespassing or damaging a vehicle when rescuing a child who is 6 years old or younger and who is in immediate danger from heat, cold, lack of ventilation, or other dangerous circumstances. The law takes effect January 1, 2021.

“Move Over, Slow Down” amendments (AB 2285, Transportation Committee): Extends the provisions of the “Move Over, Slow Down” law currently in place on freeways to also apply to local streets and roads so drivers approaching a stationary emergency vehicle displaying emergency lights, including tow trucks and Caltrans vehicles,

must now move to another lane when possible, or slow to a reasonable speed on all highways, not just freeways. The law is effective January 1, 2021.

Emergency vehicles (SB 909, Dodd): Allows authorized emergency vehicles to use a “Hi-Lo” warning sound. This distinctive sound, different than a siren, would be used to notify the public of an immediate need to evacuate an area in an emergency. The CHP is currently developing regulations to standardize the Hi-Lo warning sound statewide. Until the regulations are adopted, law enforcement agencies can use the Hi-Lo warning sound by obtaining a permit from the CHP. The law went into effect September 29, 2020.

Holden Introduces Legislation to Ensure Uninterrupted Access to Medi-Cal Benefits for Former Inmates

SACRAMENTO—Assemblymember Chris Holden introduced legislation, AB 112 that would help incarcerated individuals access their Medi-Cal benefits immediately upon release.

“Continuity of care is critical for improving health outcomes for vulnerable populations,” said Assemblymember Chris Holden. “It would also decrease the need for costlier health care services later down the road and improve successful community reintegration.”

Specifically AB 112 extends the termination date of Medi-Cal for incarcerated individuals from one year to three years. This simple extension would eliminate the lengthy process triggered by terminating and reapplying for benefits that can delay access to life saving health care upon release.

For individuals with chronic conditions, the period of time between reapplying for Medi-Cal and receiving benefits can be deadly. According to a 2007

study in Washington State, the risk of death for a formerly incarcerated person was 12.7 times higher in the two weeks following the date of release than an average person. This study also found that the leading causes of death were drug overdoses, cardiovascular disease, homicide, and suicide.

“AB 112 will decrease rates of illness, death and recidivism by improving immediate access to health services,” said Holden.



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Virus, Shutdowns Up, Trump, McClintock Protest

COVID cases are up and threats the mutated form from the U.K. might be landing here soon. The numbers are disturbing, but watching the panic mode set in when bed capacity in our hospitals begins to disappear and the only solution is to shut down small businesses is more horrifying because we then know there is no real plan to deal with this pandemic.

We had expanded capabilities, including bed capacity, when 2006 Gov. Schwarzenegger, concerned about the impact of Hurricane Katrina and threats of an Avian Flu pandemic, decided to invest \$200 million to ensure the state was able to meet her responsibility and respond effectively to any disaster including earthquakes, fires and even a pandemic flu.

Dr. Carlos Aristeguieta coordinated the effort and California became fully prepared to deal with any disaster. (RedState



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

vides \$70 billion for public health: \$20 billion to purchase vaccines; \$8 to distribute vaccines; and, \$20 billion to continue test-and-trace programs.

Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CD-4) said, "I cannot in good conscience vote for it (COVID relief bill) ... If the aid were targeted to those who have been devastated by the lockdowns, it might be justified. But the bill

to the average person and family. He wants to see \$2,000 stimulus checks to Americans who are impacted by the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) virus and not the \$600 this bill provides.

This bill contains \$85.5 million for assistance to Cambodia, \$134 million to Burma, \$1.3 billion for Egypt and the Egyptian military which Trump tweeted will go out and buy almost exclusively Russian military equipment. More taxpayer dollars leaving this country: Pakistan-\$25 million, Hong Kong-\$3 million, South Sudan-\$23 million, Syria -\$40 million, Vietnam -\$170 million. The list goes on all the way up to \$1 trillion and some change.

The media is hammering President Trump for not signing this bill, but "tucked" into this bill is:

- "Three Martini Lunch" tax allowing 100% deduction of corporate meal expenses, including take-outs until 2022, costing tax-

Christmas, A Humbug?

Christmas day is now a pleasant memory, and what the new year promises is as yet unknown. In my earlier, more pious life, I often got my knickers in a twist fuming about the commercialization of Christmas. "Santa has replaced the manger child! Ain't it a shame?" Grumble, grumble, grumble! The issue has not gotten any simpler. The whiskered man in the red suit has increasingly dominated the season until this year when the VIRUS reduced the commercial scene to Internet catalogues and zoom.

But in recent years important changes have been taking place in me. I am devoted to the story of the manger child. And while for years I have tended to avoid hectic shopping sprees, I now spend more time and energy listening to those I encounter as they talk about their childhood memories, family gatherings, the empty place at the Christmas table and ways they plan to do something for people they don't even know. On Thanksgiving I produced a column about Grandmother's Turkey. I subsequently got a call from daughter Beth in New Orleans who was not about to have her Great-Granny get the best of her. On Thanksgiving she had cooked three turkeys: one for dinner to share with friends, a second to be a base for gallons of jambalaya taken to the community food locker to be used by any family needing the nourishment, a third as part of scores of dinners taken and distributed in a hard-hit part of the city. That's just Beth's nature!



Charles H. Bayer

Some others to whom I listen find themselves regularly in church even if services now must arrive electronically. Even so, there is also something compelling about the carols, the manger story, the decorations, the colored lights reflected in the eyes of children. Then there are the decorated houses, the manger scenes and even the plastic snowmen silently performing their sentry duties on neighborhood lawns.

Some people sing out "Merry Christmas" to friends and strangers alike. Others say "Happy Holidays," but it is often the same message. "No matter who you are, we are neighbors on this troubled planet, and at least for this short time, we have each other."

Sometime over the years most of us have probably either seen a production or listened to a reading of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," and may even have taken pity on Ebenezer Scrooge with his dismal "humbug." And if we run across someone who sneers at the season because they think

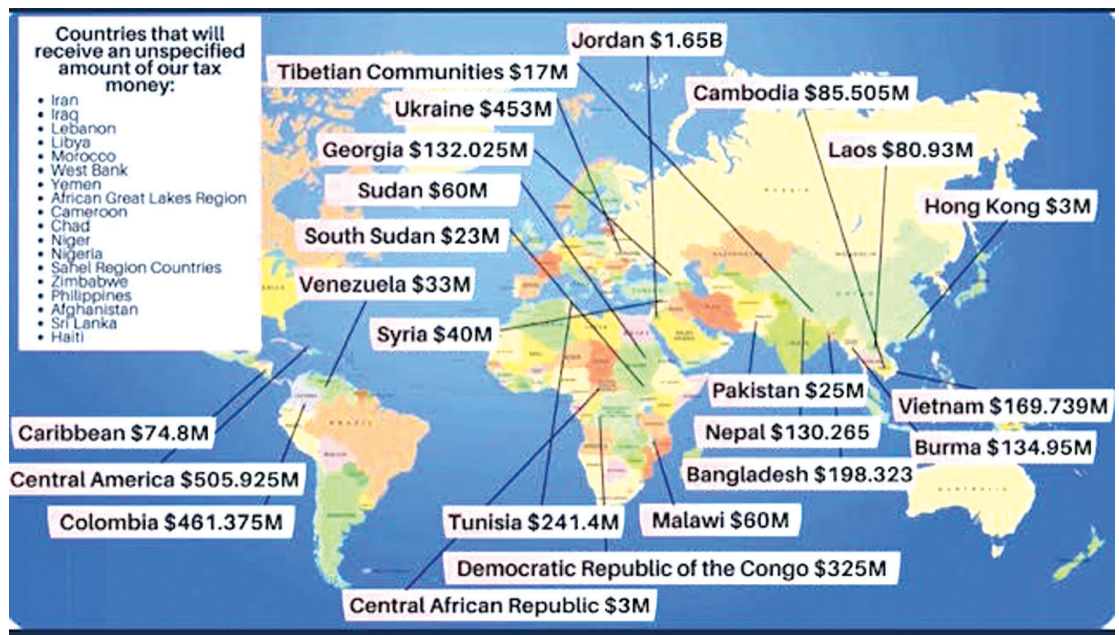
it is too religious or not religious enough, we will smile and perhaps recall the words of Scrooge's nephew when confronting his grumpy uncle.

"Humbug uncle? I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come around—apart from the veneration due to its sacred name and origin, if anything belonging to it can be apart from that—as a good time: a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time: the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. And therefore, uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, God bless it!"

And finally we will recall the words of Tiny Tim, who was making a theological statement, and also offering a heart-warming song of love to anyone with ears to hear, and to all those whose hearts may have been softened by the season, when he said, "God bless us, Every One!"

So whoever you are and wherever you find yourself in life's journey, my word to you echoes that sentiment, and so I also say, "God bless Us, Every One!"--

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.
Contact Charles Bayer at candwbayer@verizon.net



March, 2020)

- Three 200-bed hospitals to roll out on flatbed trucks with each the size of a football field.
- These units came with x-ray equipment, a surgical ward and fully equipped intensive care unit.
- When first completed these units came with 50 million N95 respirators, 2,400 ventilators and the ability to set up 21,000 additional patient beds in tents.

Fully insulated tents, HVAC equipped with sleeping quarters for the staff.

Gov. Schwarzenegger told LA Daily News in 2006, "In light of the pandemic flu risk, (Avian Flu) it is absolutely a critical investment ... I'm not willing to gamble with the people's safety."

Former Gov. Brown and Lt. Gov. Newsom let this critical emergency response unit disappear. Equipment was given away or allowed to expire rather than spend \$5.8 million a year to update and maintain it as part of the legal requirement to have a fully functional current Disaster Plan in place able to respond to emergencies.

While Newsom wrestles with bed capacity, leaders in D.C. are wrestling with a second \$908 billion COVID Relief and Omnibus Spending bill to provide a \$600 cash payment, plus \$600 per child, for those earning up to \$75,000 a year; a \$1,200 per month addition to unemployment benefits; and, PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) forgivable loans to businesses. This bill pro-

makes no such distinction. Neither the personal nor first-time PPP grants are contingent on the recipient being financially harmed by the lockdowns. The aid is wholly inadequate for those who were harmed, and wholly unnecessary for those who weren't ... the waiter whose income has been slashed will get the same \$600 as the government bureaucrat who's been enjoying a steady paycheck at home. A thriving law firm qualifies for the same first-time PPP grant as a restaurateur who has been decimated ... the \$300 weekly unemployment bonus means the minimum wage grocery store clerk who shows up at 4:00 every morning and works a full shift gets paid LESS than the roommate who stays home and collects unemployment."

The \$908 billion COVID relief package became a \$2.3 trillion spending package that President Trump fought because it didn't provide the necessary relief to the average citizen and small mom & pop businesses needed for their survival.

Trump told NBC News the 5,600-page legislation has too many items tucked in that have nothing to do with the pandemic and is too "stingy" with payments

payers \$6 billion.

- \$2 billion for Space Force.
- \$35 billion for clean energy development and regulations for hydrofluorocarbons common in air-conditioners and refrigerators.

- Someone's spouse died in 2020, would get \$1,200 relief checks.

- Someone without a social security number (illegals) gets a check.

- \$15 billion goes to the entertainment industry.

- \$1 billion to Smithsonian Museum to create Women's History Museum and National Museum of the American Latino.

- \$300 million for infrastructure in rural areas suffering from slow internet speeds.

5,600 pages in this bill. Do you think it was read before the vote? Who is trying to impress and buy favors from these countries when people at home are desperate for help?

President Trump told Epoch Times, "I am signing this bill to restore unemployment benefits, stop evictions, provide rental assistance, add money for PPP, return our airline workers back to work, add substantially more money for vaccine distribution, and much more ... and vowed to "never give up" his fight for the American people."

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MY TURN: Walt Didn't Sign On To This Disney

My several trips as a child to Disneyland were highlighted by one particular short trip that my dad and I took, as sort of a father and son experience, when I was particularly young. We entered the park early and the crowds had not arrived yet. The grounds were quite empty but off in the distance I saw a man on a golf cart cruising around and he was moving closer to us. Dressed casually in a nice pair of pants, "comfortable" shoes and a button down sweater like Mr. Rogers or Perry Como were famous for, he became recognizable as the man himself, Walt Disney. With a pamphlet in hand, my dad encouraged me to go up to him and ask for his autograph. Walt politely refused saying that he would, otherwise, get inundated with autograph seekers. My dad was more disappointed then I was, because even then, I realized that Disney, a busy man for sure, was seeking what all of us seek from time to time, including my father and me. That is, an escape from the realities of life for a brief moment. It was the reason for Disneyland being built in the first place. I gave "Mr. Disney" a pass for wanting some privacy because of how much he had done for all of us



Charles Lopresto

with his films, programs and parks.

When Disney built his park, he made sure it was isolated from the outside world, so his "guests" could enjoy a world of fantasy separated from thoughts about jobs, mortgages, and responsibilities. His efforts to think outside the box when he created his park were met with criticism, skepticism and the usual advice about how he SHOULD build it. Bucking trends, taking chances and proving the critics wrong were things Walt did his whole life. His decision to do things in a way that was different from what anybody else was doing, was the very reason his park was successful. Disney was a Conservative man who loved his country and appreciated what he had acquired as a result of the opportunity here. He wrote:

"Disneyland is dedicated to the ideals, the dreams and the hard facts which have created America...with the hope that it will be a source of joy and inspiration to all the world."

Sadly, all of that seems to be changing.

In a Wall Street Journal article by R.T. Watson, "Disney Opening Sobering for Fans," the changes that have taken place due to the pandemic shutdown are

revealed in the opening of Disney's last "hands on" creation, the Disney World Park in Orlando, Florida. The light crowd and restrictions, it was reported, appear eerie as that park begins to return to normalcy. But even before the shutdown, there were dynamics taking place that were more about political correctness then they were any health considerations. Disney is now a company without Disney and sadly some of the people that are running it now are not in the same mindset of Walt or his family. They are more like the people Walt proved to be wrong when he envisioned the mission of his park and his entertainment projects.

The parks are now apparently allowing the trends of the outside world to interfere with the Disney experience. The ride called Splash Mountain is being re-themed to reflect a more modern sensitivity, as if any of Walt Disney's sensitivities were that bad. Now we find out that controversial football player Colin Kaepernick has signed on with Disney to be involved in some projects, dealing with race, of course. Projects that will likely bring politics into the attractions and venues. Just as "Splash Mountain" was retooled to eliminate the perceived politically incorrect story, "Song of the South," we now hear of something even more disturbing. The "imagineers" are going to possibly "imagineer" some changes to "The Hall of Presidents." That scares the hell out of me.

It was Colin Kaepernick who was in a major way, the person who dragged the other escapist aspect of our lives, sports, into the political fray. And it looks like now, as in the case of attending a football or basketball game, we will no longer be able leave the outside world at the door when we enter The Magic Kingdom.

These changes are more sobering than anything the virus has caused and I wonder what Walt would think?

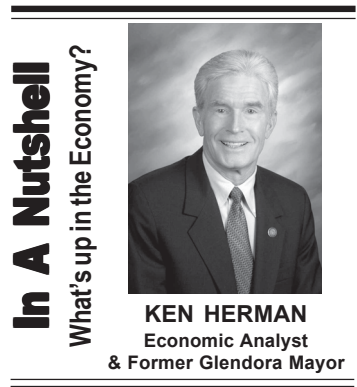
It is the end of an era and all I can say is, I sure wish I could have gotten that autograph.

Good Riddance To 2020

Was 2020 possibly America's "Worst Year Ever" for many of us? How does it compare with World War II or 9/11 terrorist attacks? Was COVID-19 even the worst pandemic ever? 2020 certainly wasn't the worst stock market year. Markets are up. Worst unemployment? No, the jobless rate peaked under 15% and quickly retreated to 6.7%. Worst (somewhat) natural disaster? Maybe not, considering 2005 with the rapid succession of killer hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma. Worst political election? Maybe, but the level of election fraud is still being investigated. Remember, the 2000 election wasn't decided for 37 days. Worst urban riots? No, 1968 was worse.

During 2020 the Dow Jones Industrial Average reached 30,000 for the first time - and it was the laggard. Through last Friday, NASDAQ was up 38.9% YTD, the Russell 2000 was up 23.4% and the S&P 500 rose 14.5%. Four years ago, on Election Day 2016, the Dow closed at 18,332, so it's up 65% during Trump's tenure. Who knows how much higher it might be without COVID-19? That also could apply to the still being investigated Presidential election irregularities?

Recent economic indicators are almost all positive - low inflation, low interest rates, high personal savings and higher productivity from working at home. GDP grew at a 33.1% annual rate in the third quarter and is on track for a 13% gain in the closing quarter. Housing is booming. Vehicle sales (especially trucks) are also robust, and most consumers who are working still have plenty of savings (on the sideline looking for investment opportunities). However, new COVID related lock downs in some blue states will certainly create more bankruptcies and localized economic disasters.



In A Nutshell
What's up in the Economy?

KEN HERMAN
Economic Analyst
& Former Glendora Mayor

In recent memory 1982 as well as 2008 were worse years from an economic perspective. Each vie for "the worst recession year since the Great Depression." In 1982, we had double-digit pain indexes across the board - inflation, unemployment, and interest rates all above 10%, including a Prime Rate of 21.5% at one time.

In 2008, the numbers weren't nearly so high, but the S&P fell 55% in a 17-month period and the global financial system was on the verge of collapse.

From 1982 through 1999 the Dow exploded 15-fold, and the 2009-2020 bull market was the longest ever. However, even if 2020 has had the worst political environment in memory, and the Presidential election fraud disclosures are not yet fully exposed, 2020 probably isn't America's worst year ever. Nevertheless, it will feel good to some of us to see 2020 end and 2021 begin (even though much uncertainty continues).

But what can we really expect going forward? From here, Wall Street expects job growth will recover at about the pace as in the last cycle. However, there are roughly 10 million fewer payroll jobs today than in February 2020. Add another 2.5 million potential workers to account for typical annual labor force growth, and there is a 12.5 million job shortfall to work through before the economy reaches maximum employment (assuming that could happen with ongoing Presidential leadership uncertainty).

Unemployment quickly peaked last April and May, which was much different than prior recessions when unemployment typically rose for 6-9 months even after a recovery began. 2020's quick April and May fall before gradual late spring and summer recovery alleviated some deflationary pressure. The synchronized global nature of the China coronavirus Lockdown Recession, coupled with the degree of slack not just in the US but globally, suggests it could be 5-7 years before inflationary pressure redevelops.

Year-on-year inflation will undoubtedly start rising sometime this spring. However, the inflation rate is likely to drop before March, and it may drop further after April. By year-end 2021 Wall Street expects year-on-year core PCE inflation to only reach a cyclical low of 1.25%.

In 2022, inflation should start to climb back toward 1.7% or so. The increase is likely to be fairly rapid, occurring over 6-9 months, but inflation should stabilize once it reaches 1.75%. The Fed's goal of higher inflation, near or even slightly above 2%, will be realized only if new expansion continues long enough to pull unemployment back down under 4%. In the last economic cycle, inflation was close to 2% in 2019, and likely would have exceeded that in 2020 or 2021 if the expansion had not been cut short by the spread of China's pandemic. Because of the worldwide pandemic, or more precisely because of the business destruction and job losses resulting from COVID-19, 2% inflation is unlikely before 2027-2028.

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

"Get control of my finances" is at the top of my list of New Year's resolutions. I don't even know how to make a budget let alone stick to it. Can you help?

Start by getting a better idea of how much you are already spending. Make a list of EVERYTHING you spent money on during the last 2 or 3 months. You might think that's unrealistic because you spent more in October for Halloween, in November for Thanksgiving, and in December for Christmas. It is realistic, because there are many holidays, birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, car and home repairs, insurance, and tax bills throughout the year. Add to get a total for each month. Divide that total by the number of months. That's your average spending. **Next**, make a budget. List, by category (rent/mortgage, gas, electric, water, trash, sewer, life insurance, medical/dental/vision insurance, car insurance, property taxes, property/renter's insurance, groceries, clothing, entertainment (including Prime, Netflix, Disney), internet, vehicle payment/gas/maintenance, student loans, credit cards, gifts and donations, savings, etc. **Finally**, go over your budget and see what areas you can change to pay off debt and save more money. **Stick to it!** Sharing your goals with a trusted friend can work wonders in your success.

Last week you said that we should diversify the types of products we put our money into. Could you explain?



Julia Yoder

There's an old saying: Don't put all your eggs in one basket. (If you drop that basket, all your eggs get broken.) If all your investment dollars are in the stock market, and the stock market crashes, chances are, you've lost a big chunk of your money. (You still own the shares of stock, so if you have time before using that money, you just wait until the stock market rallies again.) As I've said many times, put your retirement investment funds into different baskets - 401(k), IRA, Roth, Annuity, Life Insurance, etc. Stock market charts will appear more dramatic in their ups and down when you look at a time period (1 week, 1 month, 6 months, 1 year). In order to get a bigger-picture look at the behavior of the stock market, it's best to view a chart showing a 2 - 5 years (or more) to present. Now, take action to look into different baskets for your savings.

We bought our first home in 2020. What are our tax deductions?

If you choose to itemize, you

have the opportunity to deduct mortgage interest paid, any points connected with the loan, and property taxes paid. The mortgage interest deduction for 2020 to present is applicable to a mortgage debt of \$750,000 or less.

My annuity is past its surrender fee period. Can I cash it out and put that money into a new annuity without paying taxes and penalties?

A 1035 exchange can be used to exchange an existing annuity contract for a newer contract without creating a taxable event or resulting in a pre-59 1/2 Early-withdrawal Penalty. Initially, it's important to ensure that an exchange is in your best interest. Newer annuities carry several more benefits, often serving to eliminate the negative enigma too many folks still hang onto regarding annuities. Annuities and life insurance aren't what they used to be! The industry listened to the consumer and made great changes.

Ask Julia by email:
juliayoder@yahoo.com

This is your opportunity to simplify your life by having one professional working personally with you to coordinate your finances, investments, real estate, mortgage, insurance, retirement, and estate plans. CA Insurance 0C83859/Real Estate Broker 01238153/ Member of Nat'l. Ethics Assoc. Accident-Medical-Dental discount plans: CalStarBenefits.com/28485

Prop. 19 Certified By Secretary Of State

Pros, Cons to Prop. 13 Amendment; Assessor Prang Seeks Clarification

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - California Secretary of State Alex Padilla has certified on Dec. 11 the adoption of Proposition 19, a Constitutional amendment to Prop. 13 that expands the portability of a property owner's tax base. It also makes significant changes to the property tax benefits for individuals who inherit real property from their parents, and in some cases, grandparents.

"Prop. 19 has a very short implementation deadline," Los Angeles County Assessor Prang said in a prepared statement. "For parents who intend to leave their property to their children, it's important that they be aware of this new law and its limitations. Prop. 19 significantly reduces the property tax savings' benefits for inherited property."

Under current law, known as Prop. 58 and Prop. 193, children (and in some cases grandchildren) may inherit their par-

ents or grandparents' property tax assessment. This applies to primary residences of any value and up to \$1 million in additional property (commercial or residential).

Prop. 19 restricts the inheritance of a property's assessed value to the primary residence with a maximum transfer value of \$2 million, depending on the circumstances. Prior to a transfer, the home must be the parent's principal residence and it must become the primary residence of the children/child within one year after the transfer to qualify. This new law takes effect February 15, 2021.

"I am committed to implementing a quick and smooth transition to the new law," Assessor Prang said. "However, there are significant issues in the language of the measure that will require interpretation or amendment by the State Board of Equalization or the

Legislature before the 57 other California assessors and I are able to fairly and efficiently implement this measure."

Assessor Prang has been appointed Chair of the California Assessors' Association Legislative Committee and in that capacity, he will play a key role in identifying elements of the measure that need legislative clarification or correction.

Prop. 19 also expands benefits allowed for seniors, the disabled and victims of disasters to transfer their property's assessed value to another home anywhere in California. This aspect of Prop. 19 is effective April 1, 2021.

"As the sale of property frequently triggers unintended consequences on federal and state taxes, such as capital gains, property owners are encouraged to seek professional advice before taking any action," Assessor Prang said.

Residential Refuse and Recycling Rates to Increase Beginning January 1, 2020

DUARTE - Effective January 1, 2021, Duarte residents will see a modest increase of approximately \$0.72 cents to their monthly residential refuse and recycling rates. This estimated rate adjustment from \$26.71 to \$27.43 is based on the most common form of residential service covering one 90-gallon trash container, one 60-gallon recyclable container and one 60-gallon green waste container.

The City of Duarte's solid waste services agreement with Burrtec calls for a review and adjustment of rates annually. Rates are adjusted up or down based on various cost factors including Consumer Price Index, fuel prices, tipping fees, and State mandates such as minimum wage increases. This year's adjustment is a 2.7 percent increase based on the cost factors. Burrtec also requested a slight \$0.03 cent increase for

residential street sweeping raising the fee from \$1.90 to \$1.93 per month.

Commercial customers will also experience rate increases. The most common level of refuse service, one 3-yard bin serviced once per week, will increase by \$8.63 per month from \$190.61 to \$199.24. Commercial street sweeping will also see an increase in 2021 by \$0.07 cents going from \$3.66 to \$3.73 per month.

Duarte continues to maintain some of the lowest rates in Los Angeles County.

Burrtec Waste Services began providing franchised refuse collection and recycling services

in the City of Duarte in 1996, with the most recent contract extension approved in 2020. In recent years, Burrtec completed the conversion of the diesel fleet to alternative fuel trucks, implemented a used oil curbside collection program, and integrated free paper shredding and compost giveaway at Community Cleanups, introduced a construction and demolition processing option, and most recently, rolled out a new commercial food recycling program. For more information on Burrtec Waste Services and the cost increases, call 1-(800) 325-9417.



THE CAR GURU

WHAT YOU "AUTO" KNOW

By Gene Morrill - Certified Automotive Specialists

New Year's Resolutions

I hope you all have a wonderful start to the New Year and I know more than a few of you will probably make some New Year's resolutions. Here is a simple one I would encourage you to add to your list; a New Year's resolution for your car!

1. You hear us saying frequently; "According to the manufacturer's recommendations..." well...those recommendations are all listed in your owner's manual. Making sure you bring your car in for these recommended services keeps your car running well and increases its life.

2. Regular maintenance also

saves you money! For example, replacing a worn set of brake pads is much less expensive than replacing brake rotors.

3. Do you know your car communicates with you? It communicates by a lit dashboard telling you service is needed or by poor engine performance, rough handling, fading brakes, strange or unusual noises, drips and more.

4. Regular maintenance also makes you eco-friendlier and being eco-friendly saves you money!

5. The best way to take care of your car in 2021 is to bring

it to our shop on a regular basis and we will check it out for you with tender loving care so you can enjoy many more miles together. Our New Year's resolution is to help you keep your car running great and save you some money at the same time!

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HOW TO RECYCLE YOUR HOLIDAY TREE



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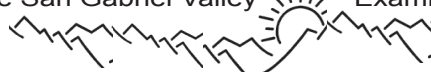
Place curbside on your regular trash collection day



Trees will be recycled into mulch and compost!

Community Articles Are Welcome

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



Around the Valley & Senior News

"Time Jockey" - Architectural Landmark

By Joe Castillo

Los Angeles Building History... Los Angeles City Hall stands proudly above the nation's second largest city. Built in 1928 by John Austin, along with fellow architects Albert C. Martin and John Parkinson who represented the Associated Architects Group. After a contentious bidding and contract approval process, the Associated group won the contract. The original cost of the project was estimated to be \$5 million and the architect group was to be awarded 6% of the final cost, roughly \$270,000 - \$300,000. The original plans called for a building built to a height of 430 feet and 28 stories high. It was designed with the intent to provide 20 years of growth of the city and would cover 424 feet of frontage along Spring Street. The style of the building was to be Italian Renaissance with granite decorations used on the lower levels while the upper stories followed a Terra Cotta design.

A long-held myth was that no building could be built in Los Angeles which was taller than City Hall however that story was only a myth. In reality, Los An-

geles City passed a law in 1905 which limited the height of a building to 150 feet. The reason for limiting the height was unknown but it could have been due to the limit of fire-fighting equipment being able to reach beyond 150 feet. As plans were submitted to building the new City Hall beyond 150 feet, a public vote was needed to approve of the exception. But legal challenges would eventually remove the resolution from the ballot and eventually the California Supreme Court had to decide the new Los Angeles City Hall could exceed 150 feet.

On March 4, 1926, a groundbreaking ceremony announced work on the building construction and 10 months later the new Los Angeles City Hall was completed. A parade was held from the location of the "old" City Hall located on Broadway which had been built in 1888, to the new City Hall. A grandstand able to hold 1,000 people was filled in front of the steps of the new building. The granite cornerstone was unveiled and the Native Sons of the Golden West dedicated the new building. California Governor C.C. Young and Los Angeles

Mayor George Cryer presided over the event.

Unique to the building was the Lindberg Beacon, a high-powered light which was placed upon the tall building to warn low-flying airplanes of an impending potential obstacle. It was also named in honor of Charles Lindberg and his aviation accomplishments. Donations were sought to raise additional funds for the Beacon and movie director Cecil B. De Mille was the first donor for the powerful light and eventually the entire amount of \$3,000 was raised. The Beacon was eventually lit and President Calvin Coolidge pressed the power button to light the Lindberg Beacon from the Oval Office, approximately 3,000 miles away in Washington D.C. The building was eventually completed in 1928 and remained the tallest building in the City of Angels until 1964.

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

Need Mortgage Relief Due to COVID-19? Here's What to Know

As the pandemic continues to affect Americans across the country, many are facing financial hardship.

For homeowners with a Freddie Mac loan, COVID-19 mortgage assistance is available in the form of "forbearance," which temporarily suspends or reduces your mortgage payment without penalty so you can get back on your feet.

Here is how forbearance works and what happens when it ends:

How do I request forbearance? To request forbearance, you must contact your loan servicer (the company listed on your mortgage statement) who will help you understand your options. Forbearance is available for up to a year, though servicers will typically start you on a shorter forbearance plan and reassess to see if your financial situation has changed.

What happens when forbearance ends? It's important to remember mortgage forbearance is not the same as mortgage forgiveness and you will have to repay your missed payments. About 30 days before the forbearance plan is scheduled to end, you and your servicer will determine next steps. This could include additional forbearance or a workout

option to make up the missed payments. Just remember, you are never required to pay back missed payments in a lump sum if your loan is owned by Freddie Mac.

How does repayment work? Even though you must pay back payments that were missed during forbearance, you have several options for doing so. Additionally, you won't accrue additional fees, penalties or interest beyond the amounts already scheduled or calculated based on the terms of your mortgage. For example, let's say you enter into a forbearance agreement of three months. If your monthly mortgage payment is \$1,000, you will owe about \$3,000 in missed mortgage payments at the end of your forbearance term. Your servicer can help you determine the workout option that works best for you, including:

- Full repayment, where you pay back the missed payments all at once.
- Repayment plans, which allow you to catch up gradually while you are paying your regular monthly payment.
- Payment deferral, which allows you to resume making your normal monthly payment. Your servicer can work with you to leverage alternative ways for you

to pay back the missed payments from your forbearance period at a later date and in a manner that is affordable.

- Modification of the loan, which changes the terms of your loan, usually to reduce your original monthly payment amount. Your servicer can help with a modification that might suit your new circumstances.

Additional Information: To stay on track with paying down your loan balance and less interest over the life of the loan, it's important that you resume your payments as soon as you're financially able. Keep in mind that while you're not charged "extra" interest, you won't be paying down your principal, and the interest will continue to accrue on your unpaid mortgage balance.

For information on forbearance and how to get help with your mortgage, visit My Home by Freddie Mac at myhome.freddie.com.

Remember, contacting your servicer is the first step in getting help with your mortgage payments if you are facing financial hardship due to COVID-19 or for other reasons. They can explore available options with you and determine what works best for your circumstances. (StatePoint)

Duarte City-Owned LED Streetlight Replacement Project

DUARTE - As part of Duarte's Energy Conservation Program, the City is replacing all City-owned high-pressure-sodium-vapor (HPSV) bulbs with efficient, long-lasting light-emitting diode (LED) fixtures over the next month. Replacing HPSV bulbs with LED fixtures reduces monthly energy costs significantly. Also, using less energy per light reduces greenhouse gas emissions and helps cities reach its long-term energy goals. Earlier in the year, all SCE owned street lights

were converted to LED.

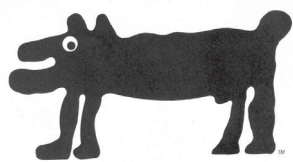
You may see licensed electricians replacing street lights throughout the day or night over the next few weeks. Please be patient as we fine-

tune the light levels throughout our community as the installation progresses. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Public Works at (626) 357-7931 Ext. 233.

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BART The BLOCKHOUND



Fleaz naughty doG An a yappy nude year...

The New L.A. County District Attorney is Compromising Our Safety

The West Covina Police provide some information on their social media site.

Recently, the newly elected district attorney for the County of Los Angeles, George Gascón, released a set of directives, which includes filing guidelines for misdemeanor crimes. As a result of these issued directives, many criminals will not be charged for crimes in Los Angeles County and this has raised legitimate concerns for the safety of our community."

What does this mean? For certain misdemeanor crimes, to include resisting arrest, the district attorney's office will not be filing criminal charges. Therefore, in many instances there will be no real deterrence and/or consequences for the offender, to include no jail time.

The West Covina Police Department wants its community to know that they remain committed to the safety of the residents, business owners and patrons, as well as those who are just passing through. The West Covina Police Department will continue to enforce current laws that will assist in keeping our communities safe and enhance the quality and the life in our community.

Example: As a resident you call the police for someone sitting in your backyard smoking methamphetamines. You step outside and you ask him or her to leave. At this point the person threatens to kill you. You call the police. When the police arrived, the person runs from the police. The police chase that person over multiple fences and rear yards until he or she eventually stops and is arrested.

- The subject is arrested for,
- Trespassing, 602 PC.
 - Criminal threats, 422 PC.
 - Possession of methamphet-



George Ogden
That's just the way it is!

amines, 11377 a H and S.

- Delay and obstructing an officer in his duties, one for 8.1 a one PC.

Result: charges filed, none. Punishment, none.

Some of the other charges that the DA will not do anything with but throw out, Disturbing the Peace 415.1 of the Penal Code. Driving without a valid license, 12500a California Vehicle Code. Driving on a suspended license 14601.1 California Vehicle Code. Criminal Threats, 422 California Penal Code. Possession of drugs and paraphernalia, Health & Safety Code 11350, 11357, 11364, and 11377. Minor in possession of alcohol, 25662a of the Business and Professional Code. Drinking in public, L.A. Co. Municipal Code 13.18.010. Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance, 11550 Health & Safety Code. Public Intoxication 647f California Penal Code. Loitering 647b of the Penal Code., Loitering to commit prostitution 653.22a of the Penal Code. Trespass 602a of the Penal Code. Resisting arrest 148.1 of the Penal Code.

This was the information posted on social media so the people are aware of what the new DA is doing.

A little history on Gascón: In 2006, Gascón was appointed as Chief of Police for the Mesa Police Department. He had fre-

quent clashes with Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio over immigration sweeps targeting criminal Latinos. His job wasn't going to last long there.

In 2009, then-Mayor Gavin Newsom appointed Gascón as the Chief of Police for the San Francisco Police Department. Again, he had issues. In 2011, after Kamala Harris was elected California Attorney General, Newsom appointed Gascón to be the San Francisco District Attorney. Again, there was controversy.

In 2019, Gascón announced he was running to be the District Attorney for Los Angeles County. During Gascón's time as District Attorney in San Francisco, property crime increased by 49%. Some of Gascón's critics have blamed this increase on his office's reluctance to file charges against low-level offenders; during Gascón's tenure, misdemeanor charges were only filed in 40% of cases presented by the San Francisco Police Department. Having worked with Gascón, San Francisco Mayor London Breed and City Attorney Dennis Herrera declined to endorse him in his bid to become the District Attorney of Los Angeles County. Breed and Herrera instead endorsed his opponent, the incumbent Jackie Lacey. He has stated he would never seek the death penalty, and would end the charging of juveniles as adults. His policies have sparked outrage from some victims and their families and concern from some of his own prosecutors.

Gascón was born in Havana, Cuba. He is a Democrat and has the support of the State's controlling powers.

Guess those who voted for him didn't do their homework. Welcome to the "New Norm!" *"That's Just the Way It Is!"*

Seen Or Heard Around Town And In The Valley

By Ed Torres

1. Regardless of all the 2020 election campaign "doom and gloom" by some politicians and their news media supporters, The United States of America has so many more advantages than all other countries.

2. Presumed president-elect Joe Biden campaigned that on "day one" of his administration he would cancel \$50,000 or \$10,000 of any college student's student loan debt; and he pledged free 4 year college tuition for all students, but now he suggests he did-not-know that he did not have the power to do that - and many political pundits say we all should forgive him for this "little misstatement". Seriously?!

3. Tens of millions of "White People", seemingly, have been "hypnotized" into believing they are all racist, bigoted scum and that all other people in the country are the ideal human beings everyone should aspire to be.

4. Something is wrong in 21st century America when simple national "news writers

and T.V. presenters" can "brain wash" so many millions of people into burning and destroying neighborhoods, and protesting and professing that America is a terrible country!

5. "Homeless people", as well as vagrants and some apparent drug addicts, not only are now living on the streets "in the Valley", but in the local mountains, foothills and watersheds.

6. Additionally, almost every day some of these people from the mentioned categories walk along main streets "cussing", threatening and berating citizens who are simply going about their daily lives... Allowing such "disruptions" is not a sign of compassion - whether we are in the Christmas Holiday Season or during any season of the year...

7. Almost every day, in Glendora and "in the Valley", there are "parked" supermarket carts on the sidewalks with someone's belongings - as if the sidewalks are "Parking Lots" for such supermarket

carts of stale food and unclean clothes.

8. All government employees and politicians (with the exception of first-responders and health workers) should take a pay cut or receive no pay during government-forced restrictions or out-right shut-downs of businesses and institutions.

9. Unless they are in a vulnerable category because of age or underlying health conditions, politicians should not be allowed to get "ahead of the line" to get Corona Virus vaccinations - neither should prosperous athletes or business people.

10. People who voted in November 2020 for Los Angeles County District Attorney Gascon because he was in their political party or represented their overall political inclinations should not be excused - since many of these voters now say that they did not know about his radical political history.

Comments for Ed Torres are appreciated at: honnod1@yahoo.com

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Irwindale Holiday Home Decorating Winners

The holiday spirit is all around as Irwindale residents decorated their homes to celebrate the beauty and joy of the season. Special thanks to all the families who entered and congratulations to the 2020 winners.



Photos courtesy of the City of Irwindale



Best in Show: Fraije Family on Peppertree Lane



Merry & Bright (light display): Salgado Family on Central Street



Best Holiday Spirit: Tapia Family on Central Street

How Your Family Can Adopt Healthier Digital Habits in 2021

As we head into 2021, adults and kids alike may still be enjoying the excitement of digital devices received as gifts over the holidays. However, the new year is always a great time for a reset, so alongside those new devices, consider adopting some new digital habits.

Here are some great ideas for helping your family build healthier relationships with their digital devices:

- **Get healthy:** Not all screen time is wasted time. You can use your device in positive, productive ways that help your family work toward improved physical health. For example, a steps counter might encourage your family to move more or even take up running, while a yoga app can help guide your family through quick routines you can practice from the comfort of home.

- **Get smart:** Likewise, the members of your family can use their devices to exercise their minds. Encourage everyone to let their smartphones and tablets double function as e-readers, and to download apps that teach new skills and build knowledge. You can even try setting a goal as a family, such



For better overall health and wellness, make 2021 the year your family adopts great digital habits. (Photo Source: (c) nd3000 / iStock via Getty Images Plus)

as learning a new language using the same app.

- **Schedule digital downtime:** Too much screen time is associated with poor quality sleep, increased anxiety and a range of other physical and mental health concerns, so be sure each day includes digital downtime. This is especially important if your family is working and learning from home right now. Make the most of these

screen-free blocks by engaging in active play, moving, getting fresh air or spending quality time together.

- **Get assistance:** Making sure every member of the family is using their device only in safe and healthy ways is easier said than done, however, a parental guidance app can help. Using OurPact for example, the most comprehensive parental control app, you can remotely establish automated

schedules for when internet, apps and the device itself are unavailable. Features include URL whitelisting and blacklisting, daily screen time allowances and iMessage/SMS blocking, helping ensure device usage passes your approval. Available at the iOS App Store and Google Play Store, parents can also sign up for an account at www.ourpact.com. (StatePoint)

5 Flu Season Tips to Keep Your Household Healthy



Fight viruses on household surfaces and clean without harsh chemicals.

Flu season is here, and amid the COVID-19 pandemic, it's even more important than usual to take steps to avoid getting sick. Here are five top tips to help your household stay healthy:

1. **Wash hands regularly:** Make sure every member of the household washes their hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds each time. This is especially important to do after getting home, before preparing food and after using the bathroom. Even with regular hand-washing, it's still important to avoid touching your mouth, nose and eyes.

2. **Guard against germs:** Cold and flu viruses can survive on household surfaces long enough for germs to spread. However, cleaning surfaces with an effective disinfectant can help put a stop to germ transfer. The good news is that you don't need harsh chemicals.

Inspired by nature, ARM & HAMMER Essentials Disinfecting Wipes, a citrus-based disinfectant, can be used around kids and pets and cleans without harsh chemicals. Safe for use on a range of surfaces, including stainless steel, sealed granite, hardwood, tubs, shower walls, classrooms and gym surfaces, use these wipes to disinfect kitchens, bathrooms, pet areas, non-porous surfaces car interiors and other frequently-touched areas of your home.

In the never-ending battle against germs, this is an invaluable

tool to have on hand, as the wipes kill 99.9% of viruses (including cold and flu viruses and human coronavirus), 99.9% of bacteria, MRSA, streptococcus, staphylococcus, E. coli, salmonella and klebsiella pneumoniae. To learn more, visit armandhammercleans.com.

3. **Load up on veggies:** A nutritious diet can help keep you vital during flu season. Pack a range of immunity-boosting vitamins, minerals and antioxidants into just one meal with a hearty stew of potatoes, carrots, green leafy vegetables, broccoli, beans and lentils. To eliminate pesticides, wax and soil from produce, include a vegetable wash in your meal prep routine, which can be more effective than water alone.

4. **Supplement your diet:** Consider incorporating a dietary supplement into your family's daily routine that contains vitamin C, zinc and other immunity-boosters.

5. **Practice healthy habits:** Getting regular exercise, staying hydrated and getting plenty of shut-eye are all proven ways to protect your health. Be sure to practice these healthy habits.

As COVID-19 continues to place substantial demands on hospitals and healthcare resources, staying healthy and protected against the flu is especially vital. Take steps to boost your immunity and stop the spread of germs. (StatePoint)



Blood Drive Irwindale Senior Center

Location: Dining Hall
16116 Arrow Highway
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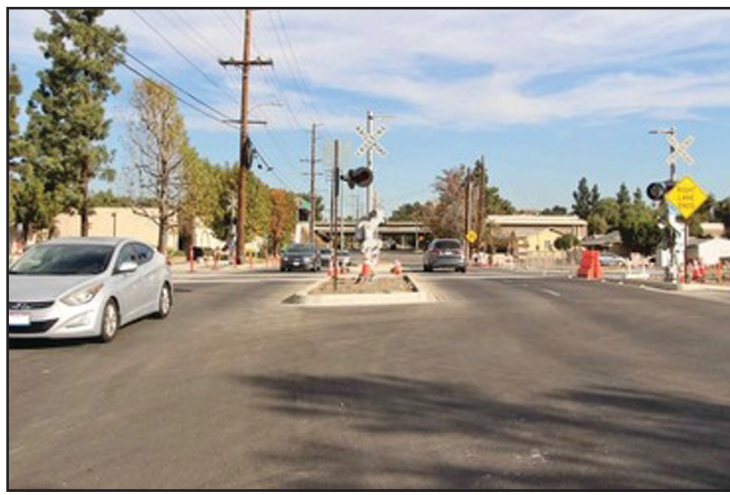
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Gladstone St. Grade Crossing Reopens; Progress Continues at Three Grade Crossings; Corridor Activities



After more than four months of reconstruction work, the Gladstone St. grade crossing reopened to the public

The Gladstone St. grade crossing reopened to the public on November 25. During the four-month reconstruction effort, the crossing was made safer and more efficient. Additionally, crews upgraded and relocated (or protected) underground utilities, and the two new light rail tracks and the new freight track were installed. Before the street was opened to the public, the roadway, curbs, gutters, sidewalks and surrounding driveways were rebuilt. More work is still needed to complete the crossing, but the street will not be closed again.

Progress Continues at Three Grade Crossings

Work is underway to reconstruct three grade crossings: Barranca Ave. and Glendora Ave. in Glendora, and Wheeler Ave. in La Verne.

Crews at all three grade crossings continue to relocate and protect underground utilities, as well as install infrastructure for the freight and light rail systems.

At the Barranca Ave. crossing, crews are building a new storm drain (see photo above), as well as installing crossing gate foundations and duct banks that will house the communications and power lines.

At the Glendora Ave. crossing, Frontier Communications completed the relocation and protection of the underground fiber lines, as well as the safe removal of fiber line conduits



Crews excavating for the pedestrian undercrossing that will provide riders access to the Glendora station platform from Glendora Ave.

containing asbestos. Nearby, between the crossings at Glendora Ave. and Vermont Ave., crews have begun excavating (see photo above) for a pedestrian undercrossing that will provide access to the future Glendora station platform.

Finally, at Wheeler Ave., crews are installing crossing gate foundations, building foundations for new traffic signals at the Wheeler Ave./Arrow Hwy. intersection, relocating and protecting underground utilities and installing underground conduit that will provide

power for the new traffic signals (see photo below).

Corridor Activities

Along the corridor in Glendora, crews are currently using a specialized rail cutting machine (see first photo above) to remove the existing freight track piece by piece, as well as removing and bundling the old wooden track ties (see second photo above). The freight track will be replaced and relocated to make room for the future light rail system.



Crews installing underground conduit to provide power to new traffic signals at Wheeler Ave./Arrow Hwy.



Crews using specialized equipment to remove freight track piece by piece in Glendora



Crews building a storm drain at Barranca Ave.

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Keep Kids Safe From Medicines Around the House This Cold and Flu Season



This cold and flu season and year-round, keep children safe by always putting medicine out of sight and reach. (Photo Source: (c) GMMB/fotobutch)

During the cold and flu season and amid the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be more medicines in homes being used to treat all kinds of symptoms. It is important to remember that you can keep curious kids safe by keeping medicine up and away and out of sight and reach.

Approximately 50,000 young children are brought to the emergency room each year because they got into medicines left within reach, according to recent statistics published in the Journal of American Medical Association. This cold and flu season could present some additional hazards.

"Families with their curious children are spending more time at home together to help stop the spread of COVID-19. It's imperative that all medicines are

kept up and away and out of sight and reach to avoid accidental ingestion and an unnecessary trip to the emergency room," says Anita Brikman, executive director of the Consumer Healthcare Products Association Educational Foundation.

The Up and Away campaign, an initiative of PROTECT, in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Consumer Healthcare Products Association Educational Foundation, aims to prevent accidental ingestion of medicine by educating families about how to safely keep medicine out of the sight and reach of young children. They're advising parents and caregivers to follow these tips this cold and flu season and beyond:

- One-half of exposures in-

volve children accessing medications that had previously been removed from original packaging, according to a study published in the Journal of Pediatrics. Whether you're at home or away, keep medicines in child-resistant containers. If you must put medicines in other containers, such as pill organizers, only do so if they're child-resistant.

• Never leave loose pills on the counter or tables and keep medicines in child-resistant containers until right before taking them. To a young child, pills can look like candy, and it's important to keep them out of children's reach and sight.

• Keep young children safe by putting all medicines carried with you, including those in purses, bags, pockets, or pill organizers, out of their sight and reach.

• More than 80% of grandparents say they keep their medication in the same place as usual when their grandchildren visit their house, and 72% keep them in their purse or bag when they visit their grandchildren, according to a University of Michigan poll. Whether you're a grandparent or another visitor to a home with children, don't be shy about asking for a safe place to put your medicines (including those kept in purses, bags or pockets) that's out of reach and sight of curious young kids.

• Save the Poison Help number: 1-800-222-1222, in your home and cell phones so you're always prepared. Make sure that babysitters, older children and frequent family visitors have the number too in case there's an emergency when they're in charge.

For more medicine safety tips, visit UpandAway.org. (StatePoint)



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