

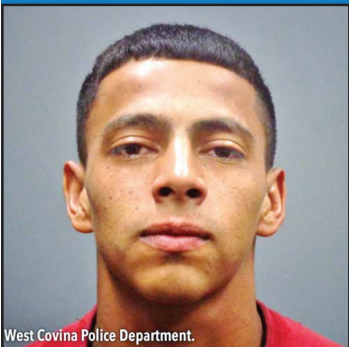


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Unclaimed Dead / A3

Suspect Arrested



West Covina Police Department.

Brayan Castellanos-Matute / A7

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California Highway Patrol To Combat Retail Theft With Organized Retail Crime Task Force

SACRAMENTO - With the holiday shopping season in full swing, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) is collaborating with local law enforcement agencies to aggressively investigate organized retail crimes, make arrests, and recover stolen merchandise from brick-and-mortar and online retail stores throughout the state.

The CHP's Organized Retail Crime Task Force (ORCTF) assists local law enforcement agencies and pursues leads, identifies suspects, and supports criminal investigations. Immediately following the high-profile burglaries in the Bay Area this weekend, the CHP contacted the local agencies investigating the crimes and offered assistance. As a result, effective immediately, the CHP is increasing patrols on the freeway corridors adjacent to major shopping centers.

Since its creation in 2019, the CHP's ORCTF, in conjunction with local law enforcement agencies, has participated in 773 investigations, made 240 arrests, and assisted in the recovery of more than \$18.9 million in merchandise.

"The CHP remains steadfast in its efforts to help reduce orga-



Governor Newsom signs legislation targeting retail theft alongside law enforcement leaders, legislators and Big 13 mayors. (File Photo July 21, 2021)

nized retail theft," CHP Commissioner Amanda Ray said. "We are collaborating with local law enforcement and district attorneys to apprehend and prosecute the criminals involved in this nefarious activity."

As California's state law enforcement agency, the CHP can assist local authorities with com-

plex investigations that extend beyond their jurisdictions or as requested. The ORCTF provides local law enforcement with logistical support and resources, including personnel and equipment. Every ORCTF team throughout the state shares information between law enforcement agencies and California's retailers, and has committed CHP detectives to investigate these crimes and enhance the safety of the public as they shop throughout California.

According to the National Retail Federation, organized retail theft accounts for an estimated \$30 billion in economic loss each year nationwide. Organized retail theft typically involves a criminal enterprise with multiple theft rings at numerous retail stores

and uses a fencing operation to sell the stolen goods. Retailers carry losses from theft on several levels and ultimately the cost

is passed on to consumers through price inflation to offset the economic loss.

If you observe organized theft:

- Do not attempt to intervene.
- Note what the people involved look like.
- If possible, obtain a license plate and vehicle description.
- Be cautious - multiple suspects can be involved in these thefts.
- Report all suspicious activity to the store manager or police when safe to do so.
- Submit pictures or video of the suspects or criminal activity to law enforcement, if you can do so safely.
- Report organized retail theft incidents to CHP online at: <https://www.chp.ca.gov/notify-chp/organized-retail-theft-program>.

The ORCTF's efforts are consistent with the CHP's mission to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security to the people of California and are in line with the CHP strategic goal to protect life and property.

3 OF TOP 10 CITIES FOR ORC IN UNITED STATES ARE IN CALIFORNIA

Rank	Cities
1	Los Angeles
2	Chicago
3	Miami
4	New York
5	San Francisco
6	Baltimore
7	Atlanta
8	Washington, D.C.
9	Philadelphia
10	Sacramento

Source: NRF Organized Retail Crime Survey 2020

City To Celebrate The Life And Legacy Of Council Member Roger Chandler

ARCADIA - The City of Arcadia is celebrating the life and legacy of Council Member Roger Chandler on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, located at 240 W. Huntington Drive. The event will be held prior to the City Council meeting at 7:00 p.m., which will be adjourned in his memory.

The community is welcome to briefly share their stories about Mr. Chandler and his impact on them personally or Arcadia. For more information about this event, please contact Mary Buttice at mbuttice@ArcadiaCA.gov or at (626) 574-5401.



Glendora Women's Club Prepares For Festivities



The Music and Drama Department of the Glendora Women's Club. Left to right: Sylvia Jimenez, Sharon Hambricht, Rita Miller (guest), Suki Duran, Toni Barrett, Gloria Lawler, Carolyn Cunningham, Roberta Veith, Virginia Bordey, Mona Soza, Sue Bauer, Connie Halbert.

By Marsha Edwards Mason

GLENDORA - The Glendora Women's Club has three different departments within the Club designed to appeal to our various members. The departments are, Garden and Crafts, Potpourri and Music and Drama. Members can get involved with all three or

none. These departments compliment each other and give everyone something special to look forward to.

This month's Music and Drama department have put together activities for Christmas festivities at Citrus and New Year's Eve festivities at

Amundson Court. Both are entertainment with socializing, singing and food. There will also be an upscale Christmas High Tea in Pasadena with all the trimmings.

Come join the Women's Club and be part of the fun.

5th Annual Operation Gobble Brings Thanksgiving Meals to Families



Baldwin Park Planning Commissioner Ricardo Vazquez, Azusa Unified Governing Board member Dr. Sabrina Bow, Azusa Councilman Andrew Mendez. (Photo credit Angel Nevarez)

COVINA - Assemblywoman Blanca E. Rubio (D-Baldwin Park) hosted her 5th Annual Operation Gobble Turkey Giveaway on Tuesday, November 23, 2021, ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday. Pallets were unloaded in the early morning at Azusa Unified School District's Gladstone High School as dozens of students and community members set up for the drive-through distribution.

Foothill Unity Center, a non-profit serving the greater San Gabriel Valley, served as the onsite lead, instructing volunteers on how to set up a safe and respectful event. More than

20 community-based organizations filled vehicles with turkeys and produce to distribute to their clients. Snaking through the streets in a line that was at times more than a mile long, residents from throughout the region lined up their cars hours ahead of the 10 a.m. start time in anticipation of a holiday meal. By the end of the day, more than 2,700 families received a free turkey or turkey voucher.

With food insecurity made more acute by Covid-19, Assemblywoman Rubio's work to raise more than \$85,000 dollars from corporate sponsors

provided relief and comfort to families struggling to make ends meet this holiday season.

Elected officials, including Senator Susan Rubio, Azusa Mayor Robert Gonzales, Duarte Councilman Toney Lewis, and Azusa Unified School District Governing Board Member Dr. Sabrina Bow showed up to volunteer and to talk with families. Azusa Councilman Andrew Mendez said of the event, "It was humbling to see the massive effort coordinated by Assemblywoman Rubio and her team, and it's gratifying to be a part of this effort".

J Med Supply Inc. Opens New Office in Orange County



Buena Park Mayor Connor Traut Presents J Med CEO John Amirthiah with plaque at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

By Jayam Rutnam

BUENA PARK - It was a proud day indeed, when John Amirthiah, President/CEO of J Med Supply Inc. a Medical Supply company, held the Grand Opening of his beautiful new 8000 square foot premises in Buena Park, Ca.

Many dignitaries and officials from the various districts attended the Grand Opening ceremony and reception, which was held on November 10th, 2021. Some of those in attendance were the Mayor of Buena Park Connor Traut, Sri Lanka's Consul General Dr. Lalith Chandradasa, Congresswoman Young Kim's representative Sarah Mendoza, State Assembly Member Sharon Quirk-Silva's representative Alicia De La Luz, North Orange County Chamber President/CEO Andrew Gregson and many others including his loyal team members (staff). Buena Park Mayor Connor Traut present-

ed John Amirthiah with a plaque welcoming J Med Supply Inc. to Buena Park. Certificates were also presented by representatives of the district Congress and State Assemblies as well as the Buena Park Chamber of Commerce.

The event started off with the lighting of the traditional Sri Lankan lamp. Being a Sri Lankan/American, CEO John Amirthiah is proud of his country of birth. Speaking at the function, John expressed his gratitude to the local community, his clients, his staff and friends, for their support. He also promised to expand the company into a "full range of medical supplies" company.

While developing his business, John Amirthiah always gave back to the local communities. Recently, with the help of the Mayor of Buena Park Connor Traut, he founded a local charity organization "Giving Children Hope". On the

occasion of the Grand Opening, John and his two daughters presented donations to the Charity.

J Med Supply Inc. was founded in 2016 by company President/CEO John Amirthiah. Since its' inception, the company has had a strong commitment to quality and customer satisfaction. John started operations from his garage and quickly grew to occupying a small office in a matter of months. According to J Med Supply Inc. President and CEO John Amirthiah, "With our loyal business partners and customers, we serve Los Angeles, Orange County and Brea. We distribute Medical Supplies including Rollators, Wheelchairs, Scooters, Hospital and Bathroom Aids."

J Med Supply Inc. is located at 7300 Artesia Boulevard, Buena Park, Ca. 90621. Telephone 855-825-5259.

Join the City of Duarte and Duarte Neighborhood Watch to "Stuff the Bus" this Holiday Season

DUARTE- Duarte's Public Safety Department and its Neighborhood Watch program work throughout the holiday season to brighten the lives of nearly over 500 children every year, and this year they will host their first "Stuff the Bus" event. With your help, we can fill an entire bus with toys to give to underserved children in the community. On Saturday, December 11 from 12 - 7 PM, drop off an unwrapped toy in two convenient sites - the entrances of Target (1050 Huntington Drive) and Walmart (1600 Mountain Avenue) in Duarte. Those who chose to donate at the Duarte Target location will also have an opportunity to take a free photo with Santa Claus and bring their personal gifts to be wrapped by DART youth volunteers for FREE!

If you are unable to make the event on December 11, but still want to participate, additional donation drop-off locations will

Neighborhood Watch Toy Drive
in collaboration with Los Angeles Sheriff's Department

Stuff the Bus

Saturday, December 11
12 PM - 7PM
DUARTE TARGET
DUARTE WALMART

For questions contact Aida Torres (626) 359-5671 or A2Torres@lasd.org

be available between November 1 and December 11. The Duarte Public Safety Office, City of Hope, Duarte Starbucks and more locations will be announced on social media. All locations will be identified by Duarte Public Safety flyers.

Some donations for the Stuff the Bus event will be personally delivered by Los Angeles

Sheriff's Deputies to eligible youth involved with Duarte Public Safety Youth Programs.

If you would like to host a "Stuff the Bus" toy drive in your neighborhood watch area, or learn more, please contact Aida Torres, Crime Prevention Specialist at (626) 359-5671, ext. 316, or A2Torres@lasd.org.

Citrus College Foster Youth Program Highlighted

DUARTE - Jorge Razo shared information on the Citrus College Foster/Kinship Care Education Program and resources. This program is provided for former foster care youth and adults as well as youths on probation. There is no age limit for the Guardian Scholars Program. Students coming into this program are provided resources to minimize barriers to their success.

Many students may lack stable housing, or may be single parents themselves. Jorge's program works to build trust with these students and expand the program through "word of mouth".



Jorge Razo

One example of the community partners with the program is the "church ladies". This group of women come together to cel-

ebate birthdays for students in the program - making them a blanking and bringing cupcakes. Most of the students share that prior to entering this program, no one ever celebrated their birthdays. Jorge shared a sample success story of one former participant who had graduated from Citrus. She was accepted at UC Berkley, became very active in city government and at age 22 is now running for City Council.

If you are interested in joining the Duarte Kiwanis or presenting at a future meeting, please contact Tina Carey at tinac51@aol.com.



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Arcadia Announces City Council Redistricting Mapping Tool And Public Hearing Schedule

ARCADIA – The City of Arcadia has released the District public mapping tool for the City Council redistricting process. In that portal, you can draw both a map and a community of interest for the City. To let the City Council know about your community of interest and what brings it together or to submit your suggested City Council district map, please share your map using this tool. For more information on how to submit maps, including instructional videos, please visit the City's redistricting page at ArcadiaCA.gov/redistricting.

The deadline to submit draft maps for inclusion at the next public hearing is January 15, 2022. Maps submitted by the deadline will be presented for discussion and consideration at a public hearing at the February 1, 2022, City Council meeting. The final public hearing is scheduled for the March 15,

2022, City Council meeting at which time the City Council will vote to adopt a new City Council district map. For the City of Arcadia, the redistricting process must be completed by April 17, 2022. Additional public hearings may be scheduled as needed prior to the deadline.

The public is invited to comment on redistricting issues discussed during those meetings.

For more information regarding the City's redistricting process, please visit the City's website at ArcadiaCA.gov/redistricting. If you have any questions regarding the redistricting process or wish to submit public comment regarding any proposed maps, please email us at CityClerk@ArcadiaCA.gov.

COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Uptake Uneven

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - While booster shots are now available to all fully vaccinated adults 18 years and older, uptake has been uneven in L.A. County.

As of November 17, nearly 1 million additional or booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to Los Angeles County residents.

Among the 4.8 million residents eligible for additional or booster doses, booster uptake has been lower in hardest-hit, highest-need ZIP codes (de-

finied using the Healthy Places Index and other criteria), than in other ZIP codes, with 6.9% of residents in high-need ZIP codes receiving boosters as of November 11, 2021, compared with 12.6% in other ZIP codes. Simultaneously, the County has seen great success vaccinating skilled nursing facility residents: as of November 16, of 341 skilled nursing facilities, 334 (98%) had completed or scheduled a booster dose vaccination clinic to take place before the end of last week.

L.A. County to Bury Unclaimed Dead

Tradition of honoring the unclaimed dead continues with on-line virtual ceremony

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - A non-denominational interfaith virtual burial ceremony will be held by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, L.A. County Department of Health Services, Department of Decedent Affairs and LAC+USC Medical Center Chaplains on December 1, 2021 at 10:00AM at the Los Angeles County Crematory and Cemetery to remember and honor the unclaimed dead. Local faith leaders will preside over the burial of 1,780 decedents in a single mass grave.

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors conducts an annual non-denominational, inter-

faith burial ceremony. The interfaith ceremony includes the Lord's prayer in various languages and a multiple of religions will be represented. This year's public event will honor 1,780 individuals who passed away in 2018. The County of Los Angeles has been conducting burials of the unclaimed dead since 1896.

The Office of Decedent Affairs handles cremation and burial for indigent/unclaimed individuals who die within Los Angeles County jurisdiction. These individuals may be homeless or have no next of kin. There is a three year wait

between year of death and burial to allow family members to come forward to claim cremated remains before burial. A couple of days before the ceremony, ashes are placed in a single mass grave. A marker indicating the year of cremation is placed atop the plot. The Office of Decedent Affairs works with families to facilitate remains retrieval prior to burial.

To continue the tradition of honoring the unclaimed dead, event organizers will show a brief virtual ceremony so Los Angeles County residents can watch safely from home.

Police Shoot and Kill Armed Suspect in West Covina

By George Ogden

WEST COVINA - On Monday afternoon November 22nd, around 12:30 p.m., a West Covina Police officer assigned to the US Marshal Service Pacific Southwest Region Task Force, spotted a man, identified as Joseph Burciaga, age 40, in the 700 block of North Sunset Avenue sitting in a vehicle. He fit the description of an individual that they were looking for. He was wanted in connection with a parole warrant and an assault with

a deadly weapon charge, according to a news release from the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. The officers attempted to make contact with Burciaga, however, he tried to escape and fled the scene. During his attempt to flee, he pulled a gun on the officers at which time there was gunfire and the suspect was hit several times.

The suspect took rounds in the upper part of his body and fell. Once the suspect was secured and the weapon recov-

ered, they performed lifesaving procedures on the suspect until paramedics arrived and took over. However, the man was pronounced dead at the scene.

No officers were injured and it is unknown if the suspect fired on the officers or not. The Los Angeles Sheriff Homicide Division will investigate this incident.

The area was blocked off for several hours while this investigation continued into the evening.

West Covina Home Fire Injures Resident, Pet Dog Dies

By George Ogden

WEST COVINA - On Thursday evening, November 23rd, the West Covina Fire Department responded to a residence in the 1400 block of East Workman Avenue. When the fire department arrived, they found that the fire was on one side of the home and burning hot with open flames.

They found the resident out-

side suffering from burns. The resident informed the firefighters that no other people were inside, however, there was a pet dog still inside. They believe the resident was burned trying to put out the fire and rescue the pet dog.

Firefighters quickly entered the home and fought back the flames and contained the fire

to one side of the house and preventing it from spreading any further. A search was conducted to find the pet and sadly, when found, the dog had perished in the fire.

The fire victim was transported to the hospital to be treated for the injuries. The resident was not identified and the fire is under investigation.

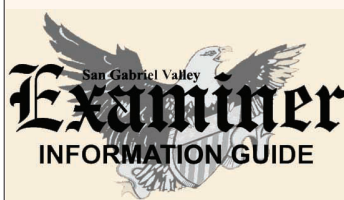
Arcadia Issues Bond Refunding Saving Taxpayers \$845,000

ARCADIA - The City of Arcadia has refinanced two separate General Obligation Bond issuances saving Arcadia taxpayers \$845,000 over the term of the financing. The two voter-approved measures financed

the construction of the Arcadia Police Department in 1999 and the acquisition and construction of an overpass at the intersection of Santa Anita Ave and the MTA Gold Line Foothill Extension in 2011.

"This refunding made perfect sense in terms of cost savings to property owners," said City Manager Dominic Lazzaretto. "We continue to look for every opportunity to reduce the burden to taxpayers while maintaining the high quality of services Arcadia is known for. This action accomplishes both."

The savings are a result of a favorable interest rate environment for the City's AAA (S&P) credit rating. The outstanding bonds ranged in rates from 2.0% to 5.0% and the refunding is being financed at a rate of 1.28%. As a result, Arcadia property taxpayers will see a decrease in their property tax payments.



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- We believe in performing our journalistic work to the best of our ability and will continue to present the facts clearly and fairly.

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Early End of the Past Year Review

End of December or right after New Year's Day in January, all the newspapers come out with their list of great things that happened in the year and not-so great happenings and sometimes pure and simple failures that will linger on into the upcoming year. I had time to think over the four-day weekend and have already started my list.

Joe Gardner, former law enforcement officer and county commissioner has been focused on the homeless issues and posted to Facebook comments on the closure of the Pomona Fairplex intake facility and program for migrant children. His comments: "What if we repurposed it for homeless female seniors or maybe homeless mothers with children? It could be a transitional shelter for placement into long term housing and treatment. Put Reverend Andy Bales in charge from Union Rescue Mission. After all, we did it for people not even from this country."

KNX10.70 reported the Fairplex originally accepted 250 unaccompanied minors for sheltering and since April has found homes for 8,450 children, administered 25,600 COVID-19 vaccines, provided 548,000 meals and made 65,000 calls across the U.S. to place these immigrant children. Supervisor Hilda Solis said, "When President Biden's team reached out to my office to assist with the influx of unaccompanied children, I knew without question that our Pomona community would step up for this mission."

Solis missed the chance the keep the Fairplex open and provide, as Joe Gardner suggested, relief to the most vulnerable - homeless seniors and mothers with children - and instead allowed it to close. Her option appears to be Newsom's Roomkey Project, housing for homeless in motels, making cities responsible and losing sight of L.A. County's most vulnera-



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

ment." Gonzalez was CEO and Secretary-Treasurer of San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO, for five years prior to being elected to the Assembly in 2013 and has record of support for their legislation. Sen. Scott Weiner (D-S.F.) has had a series of bills with the dual purpose of usurping local government's zoning authority and meeting Gov. Newsom's campaign promise to create 3.5 million new housing units to increase affordability and reduce homelessness. SB 827 was Weiner's first effort in 2018 to eliminate local zoning and increase density adjacent to rail and bus corridors. When that failed, he created SB 50 to do the same, but that failed two years in a row.

His last effort, SB 10, part of a package of Democrat Senate Caucus bills, sold as "Building Opportunities for All," allows city councils to override local zoning, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and voter-approved land protections, to erect 14-unit buildings almost everywhere and increase higher-density housing near transit areas with no parking requirements. SB 10 was signed into law instantly after the Recall Newsom failed. Considered a companion bill, SB 9, Susan Rubio (D-Baldwin Park) would allow a developer to buy any house and build a 6-unit project with no yards or garages and no public hearings.

Livable California is proposing an initiative for the November ballot to remove SB 9 and 10 from the books and provide a constitutional amendment making zoning a local government constitutional right. We the voters need to look closely at what our elected officials are doing and not doing and demand accountability in November 2022. Solis, Gonzalez and Rubio are up for re-election in November 2022, but Weiner, not until 2024.

Thanksgiving, Are We Really Thankful for All This?

This past Thanksgiving, what did most of us have to be thankful for? As I look around, I have to say, not much. Are we thankful for the Government taking over our people? Government shutdowns and unreasonable demands on the people? BLM racial riots across the country, burning, looting and destroying businesses and attacking people? Thankful for the corrupt political arena with all kinds of corrupt elected politicians? Thankful for a District Attorney who will not prosecute crimes and releasing prisoners so they can go and commit more crimes, including murder? Handcuffing the police so they can't do their job to protect us? Trying to restrict our Constitutional rights to own



George Ogden
That's just the way it is!

firearms to protect ourselves and family from criminals? Should we be thankful for the government lockdowns and shutdown that closed many businesses for good and putting people out of work? Should we be thankful that the "new" administration has created a financial

nightmare for the people with prices nearly doubling across the nation? Can we be thankful for the gas prices skyrocketing to the point that those who are having financial issues, especially our senior citizens, can't afford to put gas in their cars?

I wonder if those people who lost a loved one and were not allowed to have final services for that person because of government restriction, are thankful?

We could go on and on, but I am sure you get the message. I hope you had a great Thanksgiving with family and friends, but the way I see, we really didn't have that much to be thankful for this past year.

"That's Just the Way It Is!"

Golden State Water Company Donates More Than \$100,000 to Local Charities Through Operation Gobble

CLAREMONT – During the month of November, Golden State Water Company (Golden State Water) worked in partnership with elected officials and community leaders to donate more than \$100,000 to organizations throughout the state that serve families and individuals with limited resources through its annual Operation Gobble outreach program.

Operation Gobble has been a Golden State Water tradition since 1990. Over the last 31 years, Golden State Water has donated more than 250,000 turkeys through the program.

"Operation Gobble has become an important part of the holiday season for all of our employees who understand the significant impact these donations can make for our neighbors who have limited resources," said Ronald Moore, Golden State Water's Operation Gobble project leader. "The need for the program has never been greater. We hope these donations bring a sense of relief and normalcy to families struggling with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic."

Community organizations that received donations include:

- La Casa de San Gabriel Community Center
- Foothill Unity Center, Inc.
- McKinley Children's Center
- The Salvation Army of Pomona
- Claremont Kiwanis Club



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The Indelible Sondheim (1930-2021)

At its very best, musical theater gives audiences more than glitzy, showstopping song and dance numbers. Often it is the quieter moments of a character's performance that reward theatergoers with deeper insights into themselves and society. This is where Stephen Sondheim's musicals excelled.

Throughout his over sixty-year career as a composer, lyricist, and Broadway giant, Sondheim distinguished his musicals as explorations of human nature and, in the process, elevated the stature of American stage musicals. He sadly passed away on November 26 at the age of 91, yet his timeless music and lyrics will undoubtedly continue to move audiences and inspire new generations of musicians, lyricists, and actors.

As a teenager, Sondheim learned theatrical songwriting from his mentor, Oscar Hammerstein II, who was and remains one of the most influential lyricists and playwrights in American theater. His career launched in the 1950s when he penned the iconic lyrics to Leonard Bernstein's renowned musical, "West Side Story." The 1970s and 1980s were a particularly productive period for Sondheim, during which he wrote the music and lyrics for nine musicals, including "Company" (1970), "Pacific Overtures" (1976), "Sweeney Todd" (1979), "Merrily We Roll Along" (1981), and "Into the Woods" (1987).

I was first introduced to Sondheim while growing up in West Covina. During my freshman year at South Hills High, I countered my inner shyness to audition for Sondheim's musical "Into the Woods" and performed the role of Cinderella's evil stepmother. In the musical, Sondheim explores the consequences of wish fulfillment through his interpretation of interwoven Brothers Grimm fairy tales. I was instantly hooked on theater after



Farrah Hassen

experiencing the sheer euphoria of live performances. Although I took the last bow of my stage-acting career after four years of high school musical theater, I never missed a chance to see a musical in Los Angeles or when I moved to Washington, D.C. and New York City.

Sondheim shows would continue to unexpectedly appear during several formative points of my life. While in college interning in D.C. in the summer of 2002, I needed some relief from the dryness of researching free trade agreements. Fortuitously, I chanced upon a revival of several Sondheim musicals occurring during his retrospective at the Kennedy Center. Seated in between seasoned theater patrons dressed to impress, I saw Sondheim's "A Little Night Music," originally produced in 1973. It's best known for the hit song, "Send in the Clowns," recorded over 500 times, including by Frank Sinatra and Judy Collins. In the musical, the song is performed by the character Desirée, an actress who reflects back on relationship disappointments and her life choices with stirring anger and melancholy.

In another happenstance moment, the 2005 Broadway revival of Sondheim's "Sweeney Todd" premiered just after I moved to D.C. for graduate school. The dark musical centers around a barber who returns to England seeking revenge after having been

unjustly imprisoned for years by a corrupt judge. It's a cautionary tale of revenge, however, as the protagonist ends up becoming indiscriminately murderous. I endured a crammed five-hour bus ride to New York City for the chance to see Broadway legend Patti LuPone perform the part of Mrs. Lovett, the barber's resourceful accomplice who bakes his victims into meat pies. I couldn't believe my luck as I sat only a few rows away from the stage, watching the gruesome, outrageous scenes unfold.

When I first discovered Sondheim's musicals, I was still too young to fully appreciate the lessons carefully embedded within his lyric's complex and wonderfully subversive rhymes and refrains. Many of his notable characters sing about aging, ambivalence, agitations, and injustices. Revisiting them later in life made me realize the unassuming brilliance of his songwriting, even if not as commercially successful as contemporaries like Andrew Lloyd Webber, known for his blockbuster musicals "The Phantom of the Opera" and "Cats."

Ultimately, Sondheim's work stands out precisely because he challenged the conventional notions of musical theater. As Tom Sutcliffe noted in the November 28 Guardian, "Musicals had traditionally been the voice of hope, perhaps naive, perhaps foolish. Sondheim's were about understanding. He rebelled against the dream-market ethos of popular theater."

Looking back now at Sondheim's prolific work, his character Dot's admonition from the 1984 musical "Sunday in the Park with George" especially resonates at this stage of my life: "Stop worrying where you're going... Just keep moving on."

Farrah Hassen, J.D., is a writer, policy analyst, and adjunct professor in the Department of Political Science at Cal Poly Pomona.

Critical Race Theory: What It Is And How To Combat It. Part Two

My Opinion: By D. B. Shimel

This article is a continuation of this discussion from Part One published last week. In that article I cited two noted scholars and authors who have studied CRT and gave insightful definitions on what CRT is.

From Part One: In his speech at Hillsdale College, Christopher Rufo gave three suggested actions to combat CRT. They are: "There are three parts to a successful strategy to defeat the forces of critical race theory: governmental action, grassroots mobilization, and an appeal to principle."

As to government action: Let us be honest with ourselves - the current regime, wants to impose this Marxist ideology on the American people - do not seek refuge there.

In fact, the Biden regime has charged the DOJ and FBI with directions to investigate people who have spoken up at school board meetings. The head of the DOJ, AG Merrick Garland, directed the FBI and local law enforcement to investigate parents as domestic terrorists who dare confront school boards about perceived threats actual or implied.

Recently, an unnamed whistleblower disclosed documents suggesting that the FBI is using its counterterrorism resources to investigate parents who threaten school board members, teachers, or other staff.

The whistleblower provided documents, allegedly sourced from the FBI that included an email sent out by Carlton L. Peoples of the FBI Inspection Division. These documents allege that the Counterterrorism and Criminal Division "created a threat tag, (labeled) EDUOFFICIALS, to track instances of related threats."

The email reads: "We ask that your offices apply the threat tag to investigations and assessments of threats specifically directed against school board administrators, board members, teachers, and staff."

The email was signed by Counterterrorism Division Assistant Director Timothy Langan and then-Criminal Division assistant director Calvin Shivers.

In rebuttal, an FBI spokesperson said "the bureau has never been in the business of investigating parents who speak out or policing speech at school board meetings, and we are not going to start now." "The FBI's mission is to protect the American people and uphold the Constitution. These are dual and simultaneous and not one at the expense of the other," the spokesperson said. "We are fully committed to preserving and protecting First Amendment rights, including freedom of speech. The FBI's focus is on violence and threats of violence that potentially violate federal law."

The threat of having the FBI knock at your door has become a cudgel of the Biden Administration. Clean out the DOJ and FBI.

Finally, several Republican members of the US House of Representatives have introduced a bill labeled "Parent's Bill of Rights". This bill would guarantee the rights of parents to have a say in the education of their children.

This segues us to Rufo's other option of "grassroots mobilization."

At the California state level:

Governor Newsom recently signed a bill which imposes the requirement that every student must - in order to graduate high school - complete at least one course in "Ethnic Studies". This requirement goes into effect by the school year of 2030.

The California Ethnic Studies

curriculum is defined in the California School Board Guidelines for 2020 - Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum. From this document: "These guidelines are based on requirements in the authorizing statute (Assembly Bill 2016, Chapter 327 of the Statutes of 2016). The Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum must reflect the requirements in the authorizing statute as well as other legal requirements for curriculum in California." The model curriculum was adopted by the SBE on March 18, 2021.

If one studies these guidelines and the model curriculum it becomes obvious that the requirements are so loosely defined that teaching of CRT fits easily within the guidelines.

To view the entire document go to <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/cf/ethnicguidelines.asp>

Concerning Rufo's final action to confront CRT: "an appeal to principle" - how does one appeal to people whose motivations lack principal. Apparently these people are so fixated on the ideal of transforming this nation into a bastion for communism that they fail to see the harm they are inflicting.

CRT theorists claim that: "CRT challenges the long-held claim... that America functions as a color-blind meritocracy." Apparently they believe 'Mediocracy is better than Meritocracy'.

Parents across this nation are confronting school boards about the teaching of CRT, mask mandates and vaccinating healthy children. One such group is the Moms for Liberty, a nationwide parent's advocacy group, which encourages parental push back on curricula and policies that they oppose.

You must speak up for what you believe your children are to be taught. Because if you don't, someone else will.

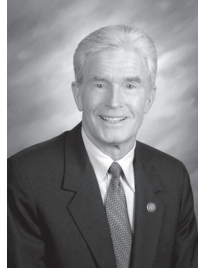
More Bad Moves From Brandon

We know that the USA was energy independent under President Trump. We also know that the first action the Biden Administration took was to cancel the Keystone Pipeline. Following that damaging move came shutting down drilling for oil or gas on federal land as well as other green new deal restrictions. It should have been no surprise when gasoline and heating oil and natural gas prices exploded. Practically overnight America went from energy independence and being a net oil and gas exporter to suffering from shortages and significantly rising energy prices. When asked about the problem Biden blamed OPEC and Russia. He is very experienced at blaming others.

After shutting down new oil production in the USA Biden has now decided to sell at least some of America's critical oil reserves. How could that make sense? Is the Biden administration turning to some of the world's other largest oil consuming nations to together push for lower global prices? Is this his best response after OPEC+ snubbed requests to increase crude production? Reuters reports that this coordinated effort could include China, India, South Korea and Japan, and would involve releasing national crude stockpiles at a time when prices are significantly rising at the pump. The U.S. and allies have coordinated strategic petroleum reserve releases before, with the last big effort coming during the 2011 war in OPEC member Libya.

"We're talking about the symbolism of the largest consumers of the world sending a message to OPEC that you've got to change your behavior" a source told Reuters. Reports also suggest that President Biden asked the Federal Trade Commission to probe possible criminal conduct in the U.S. gasoline market. He specifically pointed to gasoline prices that rose about 3% from a

In A Nutshell
What's up in the Economy?



KEN HERMAN
Economic Analyst
& Former Glendora Mayor

month earlier, even as the price of unfinished gasoline was down more than 5%. "This unexplained large gap is well above the pre-pandemic average" Biden said in a letter to FTC Chair Lina Khan. "Meanwhile, the largest oil-and-gas companies in America are generating significant profits off higher energy prices."

For the first time since the late 70's and early '80s inflation has risen to become the undisputed leader in Americans' list of worries. The cause of this year's inflation flare-up is easy enough to point out. A pandemic-related supply shock ran head on into multiple waves of extravagant government pandemic relief provided to many Business Entities and Individual Citizens who did not need that level of relief. Many Americans and USA businesses found themselves with more excess cash than ever before. One net result of easy and often "free" excess liquidity became severe shortages of goods, services, and labor. Many Americans also no longer financially need to work.

Regardless of where extreme inflation comes from, if it becomes persistent Wall Street expects central banks to take action to stop it. However, no significant actions have yet been taken by the Federal Reserve or others controlling interest rates or excessive quantitative easing actions. As a result, three essential pending questions for investors are:

1. Will new fiscal initiatives make inflation worse?
2. Will Americans return to

work despite ongoing government "handouts" and Covid risks, allowing the labor force to grow enough to meet demand?

3. Will inflation fall to less dangerous levels on its own before FOMC members decide they must tackle it?

It is worth questioning the Federal Reserve's understanding of transitory versus sustained inflation now that "transitory" has dragged on for many months with no certain relief in sight? Inflation worsens when demand for goods and services and workers exceeds supply. Recent examples of potentially transitory inflation are regional gas price increases when pipelines close down or generator prices rising after hurricanes knock out power. Sustained inflation comes from labor shortages when people do not need to work. Not enough people working creates a shortage, while the wage increases offered by companies desperate for workers creates higher prices to the consumer to offset those increases, setting up a wage-price spiral.

Americans have not experienced a wage-price spiral such as we are seeing today since at least the 80's. But, then again, we also have not experienced a series of one-off transitory factors boosting inflation like this in at least that long. Indeed, even some economists believe a long enough stretch of inflation due to a string of one-off increases can soon result in sustained inflation. With the big spenders in Washington wanting to approve even more excessive government hand-outs as well as infrastructure and socialism initiatives, why would anyone believe the USA's currently significant inflation to be transitory?

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

Are there ways for me to legally increase my taxable deductions for 2021?

Since you are asking about taxable deductions, my understanding is that you are not planning to take the standard deduction when filing your 2021 income tax return. The I.R.S. has announced the new tax rates, standard deductions, and more. This information is especially important if you plan to take funds from a tax-deferred account like a 401(k) or IRA, for example. Financial professionals are recommending that you max-out your tax limit during 2021 so that you are paying taxes at the 2021 tax rates. If you are a homeowner, make your January mortgage payment in December so that you get that extra amount of interest deduction. If you are a business owner or independent contractor, you could buy items in 2021 (see IRS Schedule C) for use in 2022. It would be best talk with a CPA for tax planning.

I had not saved up, so I put my Black Friday and Cyber Monday Christmas purchases on credit cards. Now, how do I get out of debt asap?

Since you decided to spend, at least you took advantage of the sales. You are doing good to recognize and want to pay off your debt. Rising inflation makes it harder to get out of debt because basic needs, (groceries and gasoline), are more expensive. Focus on your goal to pay off debt. Look into transferring your balances to a credit card with the lowest, or zero, interest rate. Or, you could utilize the system that works like a snowball effect. Pay off one credit card, while you continue to make minimum pay-



Julia Yoder

ments on the other cards. Then, take the amount you were paying to pay off that one credit card and add it to the minimum payment amount to pay off a second credit card. Once it's paid off, add the amount you were paying on the second card and add it to the minimum payment you've been paying on the third card. I strongly advise against falling into the trap of using a debt-consolidation company. Draw up a new budget, asking yourself, "Do I NEED this? Or do I just WANT this?" Do you have anything you could sell? If you get a year-end bonus, or a pay raise, use all those new funds to pay down that credit card. This is a good time of year to get 'seasonal' work. Once your debt is paid off, start putting the amount that you were spending to pay off your debt into a savings account.

Is it better to get an annuity, or should I get life insurance with a cash account?

It depends on your specific situation and needs, and what you want that investment to do for you. Each product has its own advantages. The life insurance you mentioned can offer you a higher payout for your beneficiaries if you were to pass sooner than later, and some of the mon-

ey you pay is used to cover the premium. Life insurance with a cash account offers you the death benefit, plus the tax-advantaged potential pot of money to access while you are alive. Annuities can be a way to save for retirement, with company-backed guarantees that you cannot lose your money. There are long-term annuities, and there are immediate annuities with scheduled monthly or annual payouts. If you don't qualify for life insurance, simply go with an annuity.

As a beneficiary, is making a claim the same for an annuity as it is for life insurance?

No. Making a claim on an annuity incorrectly can result in a considerable loss of funds. How you file the claim and receive that payout depends on that specific annuity policy's rules, whether or not it's within a trust, or if the owner set up any other payout guidelines. For right now, do nothing until you thoroughly review the annuity policy. Contact the annuity company (contact information can be found on the policy), the owner's life insurance agent (also on the policy, or ask the annuity company), and/or your own life insurance agent.

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

Emanate Health Queen Of The Valley Hospital Again Earns National Recognition For Efforts To Improve Stroke Treatment

The American Heart Association presents Get With The Guidelines-Stroke Gold Plus award for quality stroke care for the 7th consecutive year

WEST COVINA - Emanate Health Queen of the Valley Hospital in West Covina has again received the American Heart Association's Gold Plus Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Quality Achievement Award for their commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines.

Stroke is the No. 5 cause of death and a leading cause of adult disability in the U.S. On average, someone in the U.S. suffers a stroke every 40 seconds, and nearly 795,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year. Early stroke detection and treatment are key to improving survival, minimizing disability and speeding recovery times.

Get With The Guidelines-Stroke was developed to assist healthcare professionals to provide the most up-to-date, research-based guidelines for treating stroke patients.

"Queen of the Valley Hospital is honored to be recognized by the American Heart Association for our dedication to helping our patients have the best possible chance of survival and after a stroke," said Chief Executive Officer Robert H. Curry. "Get With The Guidelines-Stroke makes it easier for our teams to put proven knowledge and guidelines to work on a daily basis to improve outcomes for stroke patients. For seven consecutive years, Emanate Health has consistently demonstrated a commitment to these guidelines, which promote high-quality emergency stroke care."

Each year program participants apply for the award recognition by demonstrating how their organization has committed to providing quality care for

stroke patients. In addition to following treatment guidelines, participants also provide education to patients to help them manage their health and rehabilitation once at home.

"We are pleased to recognize Queen of the Valley Hospital for their commitment to stroke care," said Lee H. Schwamm, M.D., national chairperson of the Quality Oversight Committee and Executive Vice-Chair of Neurology, Director of Acute Stroke Services, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts. "Research has shown that hospitals adhering to clinical measures through the Get With The Guidelines quality improvement initiative can often see fewer readmissions and lower mortality rates."

Queen of the Valley Hospital also received the Association's Target: StrokeSM Honor Roll Elite award. To qualify for this recognition, hospitals must meet quality measures developed to reduce the time between the pa-

tient's arrival at the hospital and treatment with the clot-buster tissue plasminogen activator, or tPA, the only drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat ischemic stroke.

Additionally, Queen of the Valley Hospital received the Association's Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll award. To qualify for this recognition, hospitals must meet quality measures developed with more than 90% of compliance for 12 consecutive months for the "Overall Diabetes Cardiovascular Initiative Composite Score."

Earlier this year, Queen of the Valley Hospital was designated a Comprehensive Stroke Center by the Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services Agency to treat emergency stroke patients. Such a center is defined as a 9-1-1 receiving hospital that has met the standards of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and LA County EMS as a comprehensive or thrombectomy-capable stroke center.



Car Talk by
THE CAR DOC

What You "AUTO" Know

By Gene Morrill - Certified Automotive Specialists

The Role of the Check Engine Light

Your car has many computers that monitor your engine for the best performance, your transmission for proper shifting, your braking system for safe stopping, and it monitors many other devices to make sure they are working properly. If a system detects a problem, it needs to alert you, so you can bring the car in for service. This is the role of the check engine light.

The check engine light looks different from car to car. It is usually a yellow or orange color. It will rarely be red. Most of the time it illuminates in the shape of an engine. If the check engine light comes on solid (not blinking), you can continue to drive the car until you have a chance to bring it in. This does not mean you should ignore it.

When the check engine light is on, the car defaults to a back-up system that controls all the important systems. Driving

around for a short time until you can set up an appointment is no problem, but continuing to drive more than 20 miles is a bad idea.

If the check engine light is blinking rhythmically, this indicates a serious problem! A computer system has had a major malfunction that will damage the catalytic converter. If you notice a blinking check engine light, you do not need to stop in the middle of the bridge and call a tow truck, but you do need to stop driving as soon as it is practical. Whether the check engine light is solid or blinking, it's a good idea to drive gently.

The modern car is more complex than ever, and many folks believe a small hand-held code reader will tell you what's wrong with the car. This is incorrect information. It is called a code reader for a reason; it

reads the trouble code for the major systems only. A code reader will not tell you the complete story of the car's condition.

Please don't diagnose or replace parts based on a code reader device. The only way to correctly find all the issues with your car is to use a scanner. The scanner does what it says; it scans all the modules and systems of the car, instead of a select few that a code reader does. Most cars have 20 to 100 modules; a code reader is not set to read even half of those.

No one wants to pay for expensive testing, but it beats changing parts and losing that hard-earned cash we all want to spend elsewhere. Please use a shop that is well equipped and don't rely on the old code reader anymore.

Certified Auto Specialists: the friendlier and more helpful auto shop! Feel free to call 626-963-0814 with any questions and we will be glad to help, or visit our website at CertifiedAutoCa.com.

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

Covina Christmas Parade

JOIN US SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 4TH AT 6:30P.M.

IMPORTANT CHRISTMAS PARADE INFORMATION!

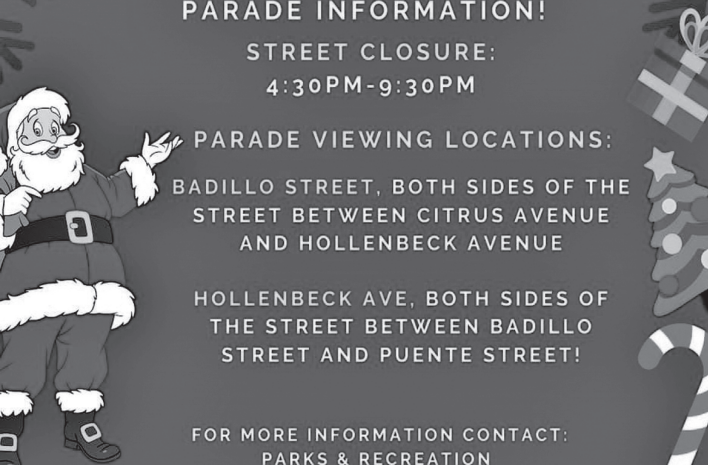
STREET CLOSURE:
4:30PM-9:30PM

PARADE VIEWING LOCATIONS:

BADILLO STREET, BOTH SIDES OF THE STREET BETWEEN CITRUS AVENUE AND HOLLENBECK AVENUE

HOLLENBECK AVE. BOTH SIDES OF THE STREET BETWEEN BADILLO STREET AND PUENTE STREET!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
PARKS & RECREATION
626-384-5340



Around the Valley & Senior News

Seen Or Heard Around Town And All Around

By Ed Torres

1. Many attended "the 2021 lighting" in Glendora, for the "Downtown Christmas Tree", and the concurrent "Christmas Stroll". There are unique boundaries in the historical downtown section of the city, highlighted by large distinctive cone shaped trees outlining the street...

cartels are coming! Yes, the "Gardener cartels". Reportedly, the gardeners who've worked in a neighborhood the longest, they set the basic rate of what the lowest amount each homeowner in each block pays...

and Hoo-rah! 8. Birds that fly in large flocks, seemingly fly as one, almost effortlessly, swaying here and over there, up and down and away — there are no freeway style collisions, caused by inattentiveness or because of "Sky Rage".

Nominations for 2021 Senior Citizen of the Year

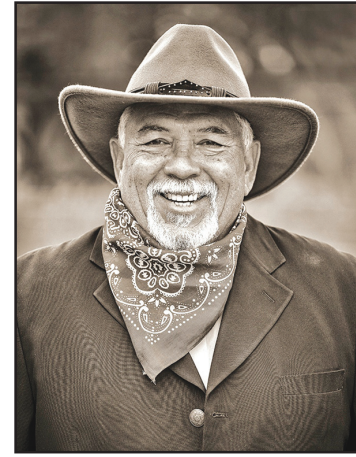
ARCADIA - Nomination forms are available at the Arcadia Community Center, 365 Campus Drive and the Recreation Department office, 375 Campus Drive for the 2021 Senior Citizen of the Year!

Arcadia Community - Not previously a recipient of the award If so, please stop by to pick up a nomination form or log onto the City's website at www.arcadiaca.gov

10, 2022 at the Arcadia Community Center. Nomination forms must be submitted to Gina Hernandez, Recreation Supervisor, by Friday, February 18, 2022 by 5:30pm.

"TIME JOCKEY" - Anniversary

Kennedy Assassination... This past November 22nd was the 58th Anniversary of the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy, one of the most infamous acts in the history of the United States.



Joe Castillo

Oswald had qualified as a "marksman" with one point above the minimum rating while in the Marine Corp in 1959. The target was moving in a car, moving away from the rifleman who was located at an elevation of 60 feet.

speed of the car. Two expert riflemen fired two series of three shots each and in those series hit 2 of the 3 shots taken, and 4 of the total 6 shots taken. Only one expert marksman hit all three shots taken and finished with 5 of 6 hits.

Model Train Show at Public Library

GLENDORA - The Glendora Public Library has invited a local modular model train club-Group 160 NTRAK Club-to return to Bidwell Forum for two days in December to share and operate their club layout along with two smaller operating model train displays.

an operating staging yard. Our younger visitors will have an opportunity to personally operate our 2' X 3' mini layout. We are also introducing the public to another format of scale model railroading called Ttrak which involves 12" X 14" table top modules

by throughout the western United States at conventions, train and hobby trade shows, and presentations involving such venues as the Los Angeles Downtown Public Library, the Orange County Transit Authority's Anaheim Transportation Complex, LA Fairplex, and the Fillmore Railfest.

Free Flu Vaccine Clinic

ARCADIA - Arcadia Senior Services in partnership with Methodist Hospital is offering free flu vaccines on Thursday, December 2, 2021 from 9:30am to 11:30am.

administered at the Arcadia Community Center, located at 365 Campus Drive, Arcadia 91007. Appointments are required as there are limited number of vaccines.

Spode Christmas Dishes Collection

DUARTE - Spode is a brand of China that was first made in the 1770s in Stoke-on-Trent, England. Spode Christmas dishes from the collection of Claudia Noel Heller are on display at the Duarte Historical

Museum until the end of the year. The museum is located at 777 Encanto Parkway, Duarte and is open Saturdays 1-4 p.m. and the first and third Wednesday of each month.

Advent Market and Yard Sale at St. Luke Episcopal

MONROVIA - A wide range of items including furniture, clothing and holiday goods will be offered at the Advent Market and Yard Sale at Saint Luke Episcopal Church on Saturday, December 4.

will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on the St. Luke grounds, 122 South California Avenue at Foothill Boulevard in Monrovia.

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include: 1. Pilgrim's destination, 6. Make a scene, 9. Rubik's puzzle, 13. Hawaii environs, 14. Tooth fish, 15. Cone-shaped dwelling, 16. White Swan in "Swan Lake" ballerina, 17. ___-Wan Kenobi, 18. *Decorate with wreaths and holly, e.g., 19. *Either dessert or source of heat (2 words), 21. * ___ Day, or second day of Christmastide, 23. Land parcel, 24. Strauss of denim fame, 25. Broadband access overseer, acr., 28. Clarified butter, 30. Acute one and obtuse one, 35. Southeastern Asian country, 37. Joust's breastplate, 39. Shrewdness, 40. Caspian basin river, 41. *Pasadena's Tournament of ____, 43. Tel ____, Israel, 44. Native American emblem, 46. "Why not?!", 47. Hitchhiker's quest, 48. Omits when speaking, 50. Hard to find, 52. Bear's winter quarters, 53. Hoodwink, 55. Scepter's partner, 57. *Number of days in Christmastide, 60. *"Ugly" holiday party garb?

THEME: HAPPY HOLIDAYS 25. *Champagne holder, 26. *Wassailing composition, 27. Raccoon's South American cousin, 29. Feeling of superiority, pl., 31. ___ gum, food additive, 32. Furiously angry, 33. Exclude or omit, 34. *Number of candles in kinara, Kwanzaa, 36. *Troika vehicle, 38. "Will be," according to Doris, 42. Asian goat antelope, 45. Potpourri, 49. Chevy Suburban, e.g., 51. Builds, 54. *Popular holiday wish, 56. Munchausen's title, 57. *Bedecked arbor, 58. Shakespeare, to his friends?, 59. And others, for short, 60. Minus, 61. Tropical edible root, 62. Anon's partner, 63. Take a load off, 64. Like some humor, 66. *Traditional main holiday dish

November 25, 2021 Puzzle Solution grid with words like ALAS, GURU, AKIN, REAL, IOTAS, LOTTOS, OVA, SALT, ETCH, RESEWED, VOW, BOOR, AEGIS, FARCE, TREE, LIE, TIDY, OBOE, ORLOP, AVER, ALI, BRAVADO, DYADIC, OWES, RNA, DRAMA, MIA, SMA, AMPERE, RUNNY, WANT, STOBE, ADAR, HARP, LIRA, OHIO, KIM, NUTS

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BART The BLOCKHOUND Today try to understand your... competing interest competing desires competing distractions competing agendas competing concerns Competing in completions.

West Covina Police Arrest Burglary, Attempted Rape Suspect

By George Ogden

WEST COVINA - The West Covina Police and other local agencies are seeking any other victims of Braylan Castellanos-Matute, a 20-year-old, who recently went to court for residential burglary, and assault on commit rape of a West Covina woman.

His recent court appearance had his bail remain at \$1,000,000 and a new court date was set for December 16th.

Matute was found naked in bed with the victim after he broke into her home in the 100 block of south Barranca Avenue, around 3 a.m., November 11th. This caused her to wake up and she fled the home. Police were called and the suspect fled the scene. A containment area was set up and he was not found. However, evidence at the scene led to the location of the suspect and a warrant was secured and he was located around 3 p.m., 12 hours after the crime. He was arrested and charged with the crimes.

The original bail was also \$1,000,000 and not reduced after his first court appearance.

Police feel that this is not the



West Covina Police Department.

Braylan Castellanos-Matute, 20, arrested by West Covina Police.

first time that this man tried something like this and would like to hear from any possible victims. His is described as a male Hispanic, 20 with dark brown hair and eyes. He is only 5 feet tall and only 130 lbs.

Anyone with information on this incident or who may possi-

bly be a victim of Matute is urged to call the West Covina Police Department at 626-939-8500. Information can be provided anonymously by calling LA Regional Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), through the P3Tips mobile app, or lacrimestoppers.org.

Minor Vehicle Code Violation Ends With Possession Of A Loaded Firearm Arrest

IRWINDALE - A weekend traffic stop by Irwindale Police lead to the arrest of a 19-year-old Moreno Valley resident for possession of a loaded firearm in a vehicle.

Henry Ramirez was driving unlicensed when he was stopped by one of our patrol officers for a minor vehicle code violation. His vehicle was impounded for the violation and a loaded, unregistered semi-automatic handgun was subsequently found in the vehicle. A bottle of Nitrous Oxide was also located.

Ramirez was arrested for weapons and narcotics viola-



Photo courtesy of the Irwindale Police Dept.

tions. He was booked at the jail and later released on citation pending a court appearance.

U.S. Postal Service Shares Safety Tips



The United States Postal Service cares about keeping employees and customers safe every day of the year. As the holidays approach, here are some important safety tips.

Slip, Trip And Fall Prevention:

Last year, 17,534 Postal Service employees were victims of a slip, trip, or fall-one of the leading types of accidents for mail carriers-many of which can result in serious injury. With increased letter and package deliveries during the holidays, carriers experience preventable falls in urban, suburban and rural settings, and in all kinds of weather.

To ensure carriers' safety, the Post Office ask customers to identify and correct hazards on their properties, including:

- Walk the path your carrier takes along your property to identify potential hazards
- Repair cracks in steps, porches and uneven sidewalk joints
- Check railings and tighten any loose railings
- Clear snow, ice, mud, leaves and other debris from the paths

walked by carriers

- Keep dogs secure

Customer Tips:

- Wear proper footwear
- Maintain good posture, to help keep balance
- Avoid walking on patchy snow, ice, wet leaves and mud slicks
- Avoid cracked or uneven surfaces
- Be certain you can see your path when you are carrying packages

Holiday Packages:

- Don't over pack boxes. Over packed boxes can cause injuries
- Items should fit inside the box and not bulge out of it
- Consider getting a bigger size box or sending contents in multiple shipments
- Get free Priority Mail and Priority Mail Express boxes, in a wide variety of sizes, at any Post Office location

Restricted Items:

- Don't send restricted items, including alcohol or alcoholic-based materials such as perfume or cologne, aerosols, or fireworks
- Visit usps.com, or ask a

Postal Service employee for more information about restricted items

Batteries:

- If applicable, remove replaceable batteries from any battery-operated device
- Wrap and place batteries next to the items in the package
- Include new batteries in the unopened, original manufacturer's packaging, if possible

COVID-19:

The Postal Service providing a vital public service that is a part of this nation's critical infrastructure. During the pandemic, it is focused on employee and customer safety and continues to follow strategies and measures recommended by public health departments and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at <https://www.coronavirus.gov> and the Postal Service has information about how it's handling COVID-19 at <https://about.usps.com/newsroom/statements/usps-statement-on-coronavirus.htm>. (NAPSI)

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Keep The Cheer Here

Shop in Glendora this holiday season and WIN! This holiday season when you Shop Glendora you can enter to win great prizes for yourself or a loved one.

Get 1 entry for every \$50 you spend in Glendora and double your chances when you shop a Glendora Chamber member.

Enter at **ShopGlendora.org**
Purchases must be from November 1st to December 17th

www.janstowing.com

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Do buckle up. Don't drink and drive.

We have found that in many cases just by placing our signs on your property, your parking problems stop.
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The 2021 Glendora Hometown Christmas Parade IS BACK!

GLENDORA - The 2021 Glendora Hometown Christmas Parade IS BACK! The 2021 Glendora Hometown Christmas Parade is set to take place Saturday, December 11, 2021, at 9 AM sharp. The parade's motto is "All About Kids" and the theme this year is "An Old-Fashioned Christmas."

The Glendora Christmas Parade Committee is now looking for entries for this year's parade. To enter please visit GlendoraChristmasParade.com

This year's parade starts downtown in The Glendora Village at Bennett led by a special flyover, the Glendora Police Department Color Guard, and much more! The parade routes down Glendora Ave then will head west on Foothill Blvd and finishes north on Grand



Ave to Bennett.

Please join us Saturday, December 11 for some Holiday fun starting at 9 AM. Please also be aware of street closures due to the parade route so please plan accordingly.

The Glendora Christmas parade is brought to you by the Glendora Christmas Parade

Committee, City of Glendora, Glendora Kiwanis, Rotary Club of Glendora, and the Glendora Chamber of Commerce.

For more information, please visit GlendoraChristmasParade.com or call the Glendora Chamber of Commerce at (626) 963-4128.

Baldwin Park Unified, City to Host Annual Santa Clothes Project

BALDWIN PARK - Baldwin Park Unified is partnering with the City of Baldwin Park during the season of giving to collect donations for the 24th annual Santa Clothes Project, which will provide 416 K-12 students with winter clothes on Tuesday, Dec. 7 at Wal-Mart, 3250 Big Dalton

Ave., Baldwin Park.

Volunteer shoppers will be matched with Baldwin Park Unified students, and will receive information that includes their name, grade, clothes and shoe size, to help them put together a winter wardrobe using a \$80 prepaid shopping card.

Students will be selected based on family financial need.

BPUSD and the City of Baldwin Park are accepting donations for those who wish to help students and their families during the holiday season. Donations of any amount will be accepted through Friday, Dec. 3. Check donations can be made payable to the Baldwin Park Charitable Relief Foundation, and can be turned in to District School Community Liaison Maria Guevara.

BPUSD is also accepting volunteer shoppers for the project. Those who wish to participate can fill out and submit a volunteer form to Ms. Guevara by Dec. 3. For more information, contact Ms. Guevara at 626.962.3311, ext. 86025 or mguevara1703@bpusd.net.

Letters To Santa



NORTH POLE - USPS Operation Santa was established by the Postal Service 109 years ago to help those in need experience a happy holiday season. You don't have to be religious or even believe in Santa to participate.

Program participation is simple. Just write a letter, not an email, put it in an envelope affixed with a First-Class Mail stamp, and make sure you **include your full return address** — apartment number, directional information (i.e., E Main St, Apt 103) and ZIP Code — and send it to Santa's official workshop address:

**Santa Claus
123 Elf Road
North Pole, 88888**

Just as Santa always checks his list twice, letter writers should also always double-check to make sure their **full return address** is included in **both the letter AND on the envelope**.

Letters without full return addresses or names will not be posted for adoption.

The program began accepting

letters Nov. 1. Letters must be postmarked by Dec. 10 and will be uploaded to the website through Dec. 15. The last day to adopt letters is Dec. 22 and packages can be shipped until Jan. 14. So, if you haven't written your letter yet, you still have some time.

There is no guarantee that letters submitted to the program will be adopted.

When someone writes a letter, it is opened by "Santa's Elves," and for safety reasons, all personally identifiable information of the letter writer is removed (such as last name, address, ZIP Code) and uploaded to USPSOperationSanta.com for adoption.

How to Write a Letter

Sending a letter to Santa is easy and the Postal Service has guides and tips to help kids write and send their best letters ever. All the information you could possibly need on how to write a letter, address an envelope, put on a stamp it and send it on its way can be found on

USPSOperationSanta.com and in our [Holiday Newsroom](http://HolidayNewsroom).

How about what to ask for in the letter? Well, that's up to the creativity of each and every person who writes in. But the more specific writers are with sizes, colors, styles, favorite authors, book titles, toys, etc., the better chance their wishes will be granted if their letter is adopted.

Some kids include artwork in their letters. Santa and his elves love seeing all the creativity, but please don't include anything with glitter or other items (such as macaroni) glued to the paper. Letters with items glued to them will not be uploaded to the website for adoption.

USPS Operation Santa History

The Postal Service began receiving letters to Santa more than a century ago. In 1912, then-Postmaster General Frank Hitchcock authorized local postmasters to allow postal employees and customers to respond to them. This became what is now known as USPS Operation Santa.

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