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# Pathfinder Ministries Annual Christmas Toy Giveaway



Guests picking out gifts at the Christmas Toy Giveaway event by Pathfinder Ministries.

**AZUSA** - Pathfinder Ministries, with the help of former Mayor Joseph R Rocha and Melissa Dominguez, once again held their annual Christmas Toy Giveaway for the 17th consecutive year for families of Azusa.

Parents and Grandparents bundled up against the cold on Saturday morning to select gifts to give to their children.

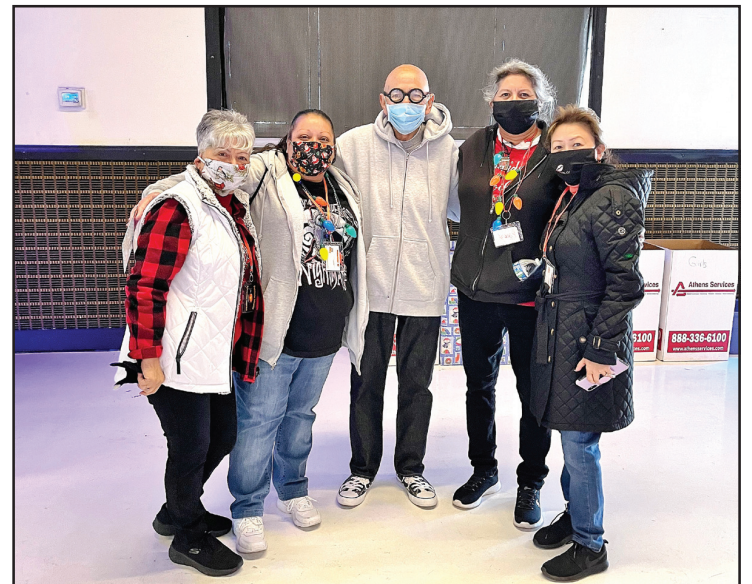
Two lines formed in the parking lot of the Azusa VFW Post 8070 and, as the lines met at the entrance, one by one, each vol-

unteer escort was paired with a guest. Upon entry, guests were in awe of the rows of tables filled with donated toys, games, and dolls that were on display for their choosing.

Christmas lights shone and Christmas music filled the room as guests walked pass each table to pick out just the right gift. As they neared the end, guests were offered to have their selected gifts wrapped by student volun-

teer escort was paired with a guest. Upon entry, guests were in awe of the rows of tables filled with donated toys, games, and dolls that were on display for their choosing.

teers from Paramount Elementary, Slauson, Center, and Foot-



Community volunteers Luz Luna, Cecelia Ford, Former Mayor and Co-organizer Joseph R Rocha, Community Volunteers Mary Rieta-Ramirez and Tess Allebanosa

hill middle schools as well as Gladstone High School, Azusa High School and Christbridge Academy.

Student volunteers were overjoyed with the task of wrapping gifts. Guests freely shared their gratitude with their escorts and event organizers. The well-organized event brought smiles to the faces of all in attendance, and

even a few tears of joy as well. Organizers of the event would like to give thanks to all of the community and student volunteers for helping to bring a little Christmas cheer to these families. A special thanks to donors of the event goes to:  
LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis  
Miles Rosedale  
Mrs. Manqueros  
Lawrence Carlos  
Dr. Scott Bledsoe  
Pathfinders Ministries  
Athens Services  
Jorge Chavirran - U.S. Marines  
Stephanie Mills  
Joe & Linda Rocha  
Azusa Rotary  
Christine Ramirez  
Phillip & Nieves Santellan  
Vicent & Aura Nicolat  
Azusa Glendora Soroptimist International

## Vejar Elementary Hosts Spark of Love Toy Drive

**WALNUT** - Vejar Elementary students delivered special holiday gifts during the annual Spark of Love toy drive on December 13.

The children filed through by grade level dropping off new toys to local firefighters from Walnut Station #61.

"It's always such a great time to embrace the spirit of giving with our students," said Principal Dr. Whitney Prenger. "We hope that the morning brings light and energy to our students and staff while we support the local community during the holidays!"

The Spark of Love toy drive is co-sponsored by Southland Firefighters and KABC7.

"We want to thank Vejar Elementary for all the wonderful toys!" said Captain John Gatt about the presents that would later be delivered to needy children throughout Southern California.

Continuing their long-standing tradition, the firemen even sang



Vejar Elementary students donate gifts during the Spark of Love toy drive on December 13.

"Jingle Bells" to students over the school intercom before the program began.

Live entertainment was provided by the Diamond Bar High School Commercial Music Program during the walk-through experience that began at 9 a.m.

The program was co-hosted by the Vejar Community Club.

"We're so excited to be a part of this event and spread joy to all of the kids," said President Amy Deyampert.

Classes were eager to pose for photos with the firefighter heroes and Santa Claus.

"Ho, Ho, Ho - wishing all of you a Merry Christmas!" said the jolly bearded fellow.



Vejar Elementary classes pose for photos during the walk-through Spark of Love experience

## Glendora Community Coordinating Council's December Awardees

**GLENDORA** - Every week Glendora residents and Christy Cave and Nicole Benzen join forces to sew for great causes in our Glendora community and beyond. They've made over 500 pillow cases in lots of fun, themed fabrics that they donate to local foster facilities. With their gifts of the heart they give these foster children something personal, that belongs to them. At times the children are abruptly removed from a home with only the clothes they are wearing. These pillow cases are not only something that can bring them comfort but they can also be used to put their belongings in if they need to leave where they are staying. Christy and Nicole's heart of charity have also benefitted many animals at dog shelters in Riverside and Azusa. To date they have made and donated over 60 pet beds to make these animals' stay more comfortable and provide comfort. During the pandemic when face masks were in high demand Christy and Nicole made hundreds of face masks in cheerful fabric patterns and donated them to organizations in need. Their charity doesn't stop there. In November they made and donated 75 Christmas stockings that were given to children at Olive Crest Home. The Glendora Community Coordinating Council is very proud to recognize Christy Cave and Nicole Benzen with December's Humanitarian Award.

Glendora High School senior, Michael Kloster, is an AP student and also on the Cross Country and Track Team. He has been in Peer Leadership at GHS for the past four years. He has been a doer, a go getter, always leading with encour-



Glendora Community Coordinating Council Humanitarian Award recipients Nicole Bentzen and Christy Cave with Glendora Community Coordinating Council President, Matt Bartlett



Glendora Community Coordinating Council President Matt Bartlett, Youth Award recipient Michael Kloster, Glendora High School advisor Debra Clune, Youth Recognition Chair Eric Osborne

agement. His leading force his sophomore and senior year created an abundance of donated canned foods during Glendora High School's food drive. For the past three years he has been involved in GHS's Student Body Leadership with his focus always being service and highlighting others. Michael has a kind heart and a giving and generous spirit. He enjoys doing things for others. He has worked hard to be able to create room in his busy schedule to stay involved and give back to the Glendora High School campus. Michael represents the Glendora High School Tartan spirit well. It is with great pleasure Glendora Community Coordinating Council recognizes Michael Kloster with December's Youth Recognition Award.

The GCCC is always looking for volunteers from the city to be recognized each month. If you have a nominee please visit their website at [www.glendoraordinating-council.org](http://www.glendoraordinating-council.org) for a form and contact information. They would like to thank Christy Cave for being our meeting sponsor.

## "The Classic At Damien" Basketball Tournament Ready For Tip-off



by Howard Palmer

**LA VERNE** - The fifth "Classic at Damien" presented by Mark Christopher Auto Center will be played December 27-30 in the Damien High School Athletic Center and Event Center, as well as at Bonita High School, Charter Oak High School, Ramona Middle School, Royal Oak Middle School, St. Lucy's Priory High School and Life Pacific University. Basketball fans in the San Gabriel Valley, Inland Empire and points East and West, North and South will have the opportunity to watch many of the elite basketball teams from Southern and Northern California. Also, there will be teams from Idaho, Nevada, Utah, and Hawaii.

In December of 1981, the inaugural "Damien Cage Classic" first took place. At the time Ray Plutko, then Commissioner of the CIF was a part of the Damien Booster Club, as three of his sons played basketball and are alumni of Damien. He had the idea to start a basketball tournament and Ray served as the original tournament director. At the time Coach Mike LeDuc was in his 3rd year as Head Basketball Coach at Damien. The "Cage

Classic" continued until 1994 which ended a 13-year run.

Coach LeDuc was the head coach at Damien from 1979-86 before he left for Glendora High School, where he won 692 games and four CIF-SS titles. His teams made seven trips to the section finals and won 15 league championships. LeDuc left Glendora and returned to Damien in 2015.

In January 2016 he recalled the "Damien Cage Classic" and with the encouragement of his close friend, Ray Plutko, the idea was floated to bring back the tournament. A group of basketball enthusiasts met and formed a committee to organize and plan the "new classic". Trying to keep a little of the history and recognizing that it had been 35 years since its beginning, the tournament was renamed "The Classic at Damien" with a 48 team, 3 division format. The 2021 program includes 88 teams in 6 divisions.

The second night of the tournament, December 28, will be a special night with the honoring of the legendary basketball coach and "statesman", George Raveling, in the Athletic Center at Damien. Raveling, now 84, spent his last six seasons as head coach

at USC. For the better part of six decades Raveling was a "pioneer" of sorts for opening the path for minorities to become head coaches-and not just in basketball-when he was hired by Washington State University as the first African-American head coach in the then-Pac 8 Conference. Raveling's resume is filled with remarkable accomplishments.

Now in its fifth year, "The Classic" has made a name for itself on the West Coast as the premiere high school basketball event. With each year the event grows and draws more attention within the basketball community - the history of "The Classic" lives on.

As the tournament takes place it is highly probable that its Director, Damien Coach Mike LeDuc, will have reached a significant milestone in his 42 year coaching career, 1000 wins! The second boys basketball coach in California history to reach 1,000 wins.

Details on participating teams, divisions, brackets, game locations and times, plus additional information is available at [www.classicatdamien.org](http://www.classicatdamien.org).

## Baldwin Park Mourns the Passing of Former Mayor Bette Lou Lowes

**BALDWIN PARK** - Bette Lou Lowes, age 89, of Baldwin Park, California passed away on Wednesday, December 8, 2021. Bette was born November 22, 1932.

The City of Baldwin Park learned of the passing of former Baldwin Park Mayor Bette Lou Lowes, December 17, 2021. "On behalf of the City Council and City staff, we extend our deepest condolences to the Lowes family," said Mayor Emmanuel J. Estrada. "Bette was a dedicated public servant and the first woman elected mayor in Baldwin Park. She loved her city and its residents and her contributions while on the City Council shaped the Baldwin Park we know and love today. She will be missed in our community though her impact lives on."

Lowes played an important role in attracting major employers to Baldwin Park, including the Kaiser Permanente medical center and Target. During her time on the City Council and as the City's mayor, Lowes also contributed to improving Morgan Park, expanding Hilda L. Solis Park, and creating synergy around the City's freeway corridor. She served as mayor from April 1990 to April 1992 and March 1997 to March 1999.

Community members and residents are invited to mourn this loss during private services hosted by her family:

- January 4, 2022 from 3-5 p.m.: Visitation (2333 West Merced Ave, West Covina, CA 91790)
- January 5, 2022 at 10 a.m.: Funeral Mass (3883 Baldwin Park Blvd, Baldwin Park, CA 91706)
- January 5, 2022 at noon: Graveside Service (Resurrection Cemetery, 966 N Potrero Grande Dr. Rosemead, CA 91770)



**Bette Lou Lowes**  
November 22, 1932 - December 8, 2021

**"My Christmas Wish for the World"**  
Live today, dream of tomorrow, respect thy self and kindness will follow.  
Drive to thrive with the help of mankind, learn to forgive, forget, love and to honor allowing no other to divide and dishonor.  
For you were place on this precious Earth not to fear, but to be free in honor, to live, love, learn and to honor, helping others as they journey on, as they would return in kind your path through time, lead by the everlasting glow of your inner soul light.  
Michael Allawos 2021

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## LACoFD Reminds Everyone Holiday Safety Begins At Home

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY**— Between now and New Year's Day, first responders see an increase in 9-1-1 calls for emergencies related to carbon monoxide alarms and poisoning, electrical fires, and fires caused by unattended candles or through the improper use of space heaters.

This past Saturday, Los Angeles County firefighters and sheriff's deputies rescued three residents, including a child, after responding to a fire in a Florence area home caused by a space heater. All three patients were transported to a local area hospital. This incident serves as a critical reminder about the importance of smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors as well as spreading the message of fire prevention at home.

During last year's holiday season, the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD) responded to 81 holiday tree-related fires, 11 kitchen fires, and 68 traffic collisions. There were also two fatalities from fires, in-

cluding one on Christmas Day. "As we all get ready to 'deck the halls' this holiday season, we hope you keep safety in mind," said Interim Fire Chief Anthony C. Marrone. "We want everyone to be safe and enjoy their time together, making happy memories with loved ones."

Here are some holiday safety tips to prevent fires and injuries at home:

- If you have a fresh tree, keep it well-watered and hydrated; dried-out trees become a fire danger. Click here to see what happens when a dry tree becomes a hazard.
- Do NOT place trees where they will block exits – and make sure trees are at least THREE FEET away from any heat source, like fireplaces, candles, or heaters. Choose ornaments and decorations that are flame-resistant and flame-retardant.
- Do NOT overload electrical circuits – and carefully inspect extension cords for any wear-and-tear or fraying. Do NOT run cords across doorways or under rugs. If you are having problems with blown fuses or circuit

breakers, call a licensed electrician to make repairs.

- Always turn off your tree lights and extinguish candles before leaving home or going to bed.
- Make sure your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are installed and working properly – and that you have a fire extinguisher near you in your kitchen.
- Before you and your family go to bed, remember to "Close Before You Doze." Closing the bedroom door can help save your life by slowing the spread of flames – and prevent heat, smoke, and deadly gases from filling your room.
- And lastly, have an emergency plan in place! Create your plan by downloading the Family Instructions for Rapid Escape guide which includes simple steps to ensure your family and home are F.I.R.E.-safe and emphasizes the use of a window as the quickest, safest, and most immediate way out.

For additional holiday safety tips, please visit our website at [fire.lacounty.gov](http://fire.lacounty.gov).

## High Compliance with Masking Requirements Keeps Residents Safe and Healthy

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY** - Public Health data suggests that public mask wearing is one of the most effective strategies at reducing the spread of the virus when compliance is high.

In L.A. County schools, where mask wearing is mandatory indoors, this practice (in combination with other mitigation strategies and outbreak management) has kept transmission low. This protective effect was demonstrable even in elementary schools before 5-11 year old were eligible for vaccines. With more than 1.55 million students across 3,000 L.A. County schools, Public Health is routinely seeing less than a dozen outbreaks each week.

Public and business sector masking compliance is high, indicating the broad understanding that this small behavior change adds a layer of protection that enables us to engage in our customary activities without endangering ourselves or others. Public Health regularly conducts site visits to assess mask compliance across a variety of L.A. County businesses, during which we determine compliance among customers, employees and their staff, and overall safety requirements. Out of more than 1500 site visits conducted between December 4th-10th, the vast majority of businesses and industries, including restaurants, bars, food markets and hair salons, had masking compliance rates above 95%.

Public Health notes the endorsement by the Centers for Disease Control of updated recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on Immuniza-

tion Practices (ACIP) for the prevention of COVID-19, expressing clinical preference for adults 18+ to receive an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine over Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine. As of December 12th, over 530,000 residents in L.A. County have received a dose of the Johnson & Johnson COVID vaccine. We remind residents that L.A. County's supply of mRNA vaccines is abundant and that when it is time to get a booster dose, individuals previously vaccinated with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine should consider boosters with Pfizer or Moderna.

"Masking requirements reduce transmission without much disruption to people's routines and allow businesses to reduce risk for their customers, and workers," said Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director of Public Health. "We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the business community of L.A. County for leading by example on masking as champions for public health. The take home message is clear: masking creates safety for employees and customers, reduces COVID transmission in our communities and helps everyone stay safe here in L.A. County."

Ferrer continued, "We appreciate the CDC's guidance on vaccine choice. While any vaccine is better than no vaccine, we urge those who have received Johnson and Johnson vaccines to obtain booster doses of Pfizer or Moderna vaccines to ensure they are well protected from both suffering severe Covid outcomes and transmitting infection to others."

## Supervisor Barger Announces \$1 Million in Funding to Support Public Safety As Busiest Holiday Shopping Days Approach

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY** - Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger announced on Thu, Dec 16, 2021 that she will provide \$1 million in discretionary funding to increase law enforcement services in unincorporated areas and communities in her district.

"This month's busiest holiday shopping days are quickly approaching and crime is indisputably on the rise" said Supervisor Barger. "The recent smash-and-grab crime wave and various robberies are proof that criminals feel bold and untouchable – crimes are increasingly committed in the public eye. These funds will help provide more law enforcement patrols and presence in the communities I represent. Everyone deserves to feel safe whether they work in retail, are shopping for loved ones or simply enjoying time off at home."

The funding was lauded by Sheriff Alex Villanueva, who stated, "I would like to thank Super-

visor Barger for her generous support. During a time when crime rates are up, this funding will contribute to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's tireless efforts towards keeping the public safe in the Fifth District."

Additional thanks was expressed by James Wheeler, President of the Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs. "It's apparent that these criminals have no respect for property or human lives. A former police officer was shot dead in Oakland and countless numbers of people have been attacked," said Wheeler. "Tackling the rise in crime requires recognition that law enforcement plays a critical role in maintaining safety and order. Elected officials, law enforcement, and community leaders must send a renewed unified and clear message to the individuals who choose to commit these crimes – you will be apprehend-

ed and prosecuted. We thank Supervisor Barger for her swift response and look forward to working with our partners to ensure that the public can regain a sense of security during this holiday season."

"Retail shop owners need to feel protected and families need to feel safe while strolling and shopping during this holiday season," said Steve Pierce, Executive Director of the Crescenta Valley Chamber of Commerce. "Supervisor Barger's commitment of discretionary funds for additional law enforcement in the communities she serves will have a positive impact on holiday sales at our community based shops and businesses."

L.A. County Sheriff Department patrol stations that will receive funding are the Altadena, Crescenta Valley, Lancaster, Malibu/Lost Hills, Palmdale, San Dimas, Santa Clarita Valley and Temple stations.

## \$6.4 Million State Parks Grants to Expand Parks and Open Spaces in Baldwin Park

**BALDWIN PARK** - The California Department of Parks and Recreation awarded the City of Baldwin Park two grants totaling nearly \$6.4 million to expand Barnes Park and create parks and open spaces along the new Big Dalton Wash Trail.

"These grants provide an exciting opportunity to create new green spaces for the hard-working families of Baldwin Park, which is one of my top priorities as mayor," said Mayor Emmanuel J. Estrada. "Adding new parks and trails makes nature readily accessible for all residents of Baldwin Park."

Barnes Park Expansion Project

The City will use almost \$3.1 million in grant funding to develop the newly acquired 0.16-acre lot next to Barnes Park and an existing 0.18-acre section of the park. By the end of the expansion project, Barnes Park will have a new universal-access playground featuring shade structures, two basketball courts, a futsal court/mini-pitch soccer field, a picnic area and public art. With the extension also comes an expanded parking lot, ornamental safety fencing, and lighting and land-

scaping all throughout the park.

This new park land is the first addition of park space in Baldwin Park in several decades, representing an unprecedented investment to reduce Baldwin Park's park-poor space. Baldwin Park has 0.35 park acres per 1,000 residents, which is below the 3.3 park-acre-average in Los Angeles County, according to a 2019 Countywide Comprehensive Park and Recreation Needs Assessment.

Big Dalton Wash Trail Greening Project

Baldwin Park also received nearly \$3.3 million to green the paved road along the Big Dalton Wash with a bike trail, lighting and four pocket parks on Garvey Avenue, Dalewood Street, and Francisquito Avenue. Between the four parks, residents can enjoy a pollinator garden, playground with two shade structures, picnic areas with shade structures, three exercise stations and artwork.

This will be the City's first-ever urban trail and linear park system, which creates new transportation options in Baldwin Park and the San Gabriel Valley.

The City hosted community

meetings in English and Spanish and during weekdays and weekends to ensure the parks reflect the diverse needs and desires of the community. Baldwin Park residents of all ages requested more outdoor spaces and they actively engaged in community input meetings to help shape the first expansion of park space in Baldwin Park in decades.

One-hundred agencies submitted 468 applications in hopes of securing a portion of the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program's \$548.3 million grant funding. The program intends for this competitive grant program to create new parks and new recreation opportunities in underserved communities in California, better enabling all Californians, regardless of zip code or income, to access parks and open space.

The California Departments of Parks and Recreation selected only 112 projects, including these two projects for the City of Baldwin Park.

The City of Baldwin Park received \$2.5 million in State Park Development and Community Revitalization Program funding in 2019 to green the portion of the road along the Big Dalton Wash between Baldwin Park Boulevard and Hilda Solis Park. Grant funding from the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority will construct the first segment of the trail from the San Gabriel River Trail to Baldwin Park Boulevard.

Nearly \$15 million of Measure W funding from Los Angeles County will also benefit Barnes Park, which will receive the City's first water pretreatment system and underground stormwater infiltration system that will capture and infiltrate runoff water from residential communities. The funding will also support the construction of a new dog park, ADA-compliant running and walking paths and several other amenities.

Construction on the Barnes Park expansion project is expected to start in the fall of 2022.

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- We also believe in accuracy in fact and context. Journalists should be accountable for any news or subjects they write about.
- We believe in growth. Therefore, complaints or mistakes erroneously committed will be entertained and investigated diligently and corrected accordingly.
- 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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## Barger Demands Transparency, Citizen Input

Citizens in the San Gabriel Valley are fortunate to have 5th District Supervisor Kathryn Barger as our representative on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors always demanding all the information concerning Board Agenda items, providing transparency and accountability, backed up by our citizens input on all those items impacting residents of the San Gabriel Valley. A conservative among four liberals, Barger has a hard time getting motions on the agenda for discussion and getting conservative measures passed. That's the case in the recent actions on youth camps countywide, but specifically in La Verne.

Please remember not to allow current events, like the diversions to youth camps, to cloud the reasons causing the events, like SB 823, a mandate from Sacramento progressive Democrats to Reimagine our Criminal Justice System in California beginning with SB 109, early release, followed with Propositions 47 and 57 allowing legalized theft of less than \$950 and reducing felonies to misdemeanors. And, that's thanks to L.A.D.A. co-author George Gascon.

Supervisor Kathryn Barger said, "The State of California and Los Angeles County have been working to transform the youth justice system for several years ... [and are] committed to sharing important and new information about the impact of these upcoming changes ... SB 823 ... legally shifted the responsibility of housing, treating, and supervising DJJ youth to county probation camps."

An SB 823 requirement is to ensure youth (up to 25 years) are closer to their families and communities and receive age-appropriate treatment, and to do that, it is necessary to close the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and move the jurisdiction of these youth to local county jurisdictions. And, from Shade's Per-



**Shade's Perspective**  
Lois M. Shade

**Former Mayor of Glendora** spective, located within their community areas in L.A. County to be close to parents and family to receive the support needed to make a successful transition to productive citizens.

SB 823 was passed along party line votes with Republicans voting against and Democrats voting in support of this bill, that passed August 2020 as a trailer in the budget bill. Those in the San Gabriel Valley Senate and Assembly Districts voting for SB 823 were Chris Holden, Pasadena, Susan Rubio, Baldwin Park, Anthony Portantino, San Dimas, Blanca Rubio, Baldwin Park, and Ed Chau, 49th Assembly District, who resigned for a judgeship appointment by Gov. Newsom.

Los Angeles County Division of Juvenile Justice Transition Plan, put out by L.A. County Probation Department under the realignment of juvenile justice SB 823, is now referring to the youth camps as Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTF). The L.A. County Department of Probation's white paper, posted on the City of La Verne's website, says, "The youth ordered to SYTF have committed serious offenses. Most of these youth have mental health needs, and many have had contact with the child welfare system. Los Angeles County continues to decrease the number of youth in detention, which has resulted in a population with higher risks and higher needs. All

youth in Probation Juvenile Camps have committed serious offenses. Most DJJ youth had prior Juvenile Court ordered delinquency wardship prior to their DJJ disposition."

La Verne City Council wrote a letter to Supervisor Barger saying the timing for review of The Plan and designating these camp sites as SYTF was premature and rushed. Elements in the county plan should include how the clients will be selected for housing, programs and services and staff to implement those services and personnel and security enhancements so the public is allowed to view and comment on those elements.

The Mayor and City Council's letter reminds JJRBG, "Additionally, before any such decision is considered by the Commission, it would be imperative for the community and local law enforcement to be engaged to understand what the impacts would be on their services and the community at large."

Most imperative to the safety of all, is a coordinated response plan for events by various teams ... probation, camp personnel, local law enforcement, fire, medical response teams and the identification and roles of all other agencies who might be involved in any emergency situation at all SYTF.

La Verne maintains Camp Kilpatrick in the Santa Monica Mountains is already set up to provide needed elements of the L.A. County Plan. County's Youth Justice Workgroup studied this issue for months, and issued a report (Youth Justice Reimagined). This report recommended Campus Kilpatrick as the best option for an alternative to DJJ, but when the Supervisor who represents the area expressed concerns it was removed from permanent consideration. That Supervisor of District 3, termed out and seeking election to Congress, is Sheila Kueh.

## Reimagining "The Blue Boy" and Representation in Art

A visit to The Huntington library, art museum, and botanic gardens in San Marino often marks a quintessential part of growing up in the SGV. When I was a girl, I first dashed through its pristine gardens and stood captivated by "The Blue Boy" painted by British artist Thomas Gainsborough in 1770. I recently revisited The Huntington and that iconic portrait when I went to see American artist Kehinde Wiley's 2021 response to "The Blue Boy" called "A Portrait of a Young Gentleman" (the original title of Gainsborough's painting).

Since Henry and Arabella Huntington founded The Huntington in 1919, it has welcomed visitors from all over California, the U.S., and the globe. A sign on its museum grounds reminds them of the land's original residents: The Tongva people, who lived for over 8,000 years where the institution now stands. The sixteen botanic gardens spread across 120 acres are as diverse as California today, with towering palms, prickly desert cacti, vibrant red maples trees, decorative bonsai, and lush bamboo.

The art world has not always reflected this diversity, however, despite the inspirations and intersections across cultures over the centuries. The Huntington's deliberate commission of Wiley's painting on the hundredth anniversary of acquiring "The Blue Boy" is a small but noteworthy step towards more fundamentally reckoning with diversity in the arts and in society more broadly. This timing also coincides with the much-needed national conversation on racial equity and power ignited by George Floyd's murder and the ensuing Black Lives Matter protests in 2020.

The two paintings face each other from opposite walls of the hallway, positioned identically so that the young gentlemen, both with unmistakable swagger, share



Farrah Hassen

an unending gaze. Is this a showdown? A dialogue? It is left up to us who stand between these two generations and perspectives. The subject of "Blue Boy," a young white man with cherubic pink cheeks and dressed in shimmering blue satin, is emblematic of traditional British Grand Manner portraiture, which is designed to showcase wealth and status. He poses with his left arm resting assuredly on his hip, and his right hand holding a fancy black hat with feathers. His glance still exudes the same confidence I remember from my childhood.

Wiley, who also painted President Barack Obama's official portrait in 2018, incorporates similar elements from Grand Manner portraiture into his own contemporary representations of empowered Black and brown subjects. In this way, he both confronts and reimagines privilege and inequality. This is vividly captured in his response to Gainsborough. The young gentleman is Black, from Senegal, and mimics the "Blue Boy" pose: The same arm on hip, but now adorned with a hi-tech watch. Instead of an ornate black hat, he holds a more utilitarian black baseball cap. His attire is completed by a trendy, tie-dye shirt, bright blue shorts, and a pair of "Old Skool" Vans. As with "Blue Boy," this young gentleman radiates self-assurance.

Wiley also acknowledges the power of inspiration that defies race and class and still provokes important artistic responses to the past, present, and future. In a clear nod to British textile designer William Morris, renowned for his intricate floral patterns, his young gentleman stands amidst a striking backdrop of intertwined orange flowers and violet leaves, but with a West African fabric-style twist. As with the display of Gainsborough and Wiley's respective works in the same room, this further validates the need for dialogue and coexistence. Such juxtaposition also brought to mind the 1926 poem by Langston Hughes entitled "I, Too," which was a literary retort to Walt Whitman's poem "I Hear America Singing" from 1860. Hughes declared "I, too, sing America" and urged a recognition of the Black experience in America that had been excluded from Whitman's earlier narrative.

As evidenced by Wiley, spending time with the artwork at a place like The Huntington can reveal uncomfortable truths and even be life-changing. His frequent visits to The Huntington during his youth led him to question the absence of works depicting subjects of color who looked like him and to ultimately achieve a place of his own on its stately walls.

"I am a son of the soil, I am from South-Central Los Angeles," Wiley emphasized to the Los Angeles Times in a September 9 article. "And this represents, for me, a readiness and a willingness to see my experience on the big walls, on the walls of institutions so that these stories are told."

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

## Racism is Growing Again. Judge's Family Uses N Word.

Lafayette Judge Michelle Odinet whose home was being broken into by an armed male black has gotten into some controversy over people from her home using the "N" word to describe the person who was committing the crime. On top of that a large contingency of male members from the home chased down the armed suspect which was being recorded on surveillance cameras. It is believed that male members of the family and possibly friends were heard using the N word while in the foot pursuit of the suspect who was actually caught by the victims. While reviewing the surveillance footage, racial comments were used to describe and to identify the suspect. During the review, Odinet, came in during the viewing and her voice could be heard, however, her comments could not be understood and there was no clarity of her comments. Nevertheless, the other family members could be heard including comments from her son using the N word. He was immediately removed for the college track team for this.

Odinet has taken an unpaid leave from the bench because of this. Most likely because she participated in the group viewing and laughed at some of the comments.

In my opinion, she should have not taken a leave, but continued to do her job, but to also PUBLICLY reprimand those who made the comments including her family. We all know that our family members can be jackasses even if you don't take their position.

This is just one incident that has been in the limelight.



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

I have seen a growing hatred towards the black community in the recent years. Sadly, I can understand why. Looking into the "why" this is happening, Mark Wahlberg (human behavior analyst) has made it clear that the fault falls on the people of the African American society themselves. He used the term negative population who does all they can to make things worse. He cites crime as an issue pointing out that the population African Americans in the U.S. is about 12% but nearly 40% of those in jail are African Americans. He states that this alone is a trigger for "hatred" of African Americans. He also highlighted the "Hip Hop" events that the entertainers who are involved in crimes and how they kill each other.

In a recent poll he had about the change in diversity in television commercials using African Americans in a large percentage of commercials for products. Some of those interviewed state that they are annoyed by this and they mute the commercial with some saying that they will no longer buy the products. As for myself, I have noticed this too. My problem with this, I have a hard time understanding what they

are saying because of the accent, slang words, or mispronounced words. There are two commercials with black actors that I horribly hate. One is yelling, and I really don't have a clue what it is about, but it might be about a credit card. It would be a cold day in hell before I use that product. The other is some dude sitting on a couch making faces and yelling and I don't have a clue what that is all about. The only thing I know, that it is on over and over again.

Dr. Angela Davis, who is a female African American herself, blames her own race for the increase hatred towards African Americans. One of her comments was, "just watch the news" and see what is happening. Everything from murder, crime, looting, race riots and more. "Our race looks bad, very bad!" "We have taken a step backwards." She continues with, "I see people looking at me and feel that they are throwing eye daggers at me because I am black." She went on to say, "It is sickening and very sad."

Myself, I have heard the N word more and more lately. This is including at our city council meetings with Armando Herman's vulgar rantings at the lectern.

Recently, there was a group of us watching the news when it showed a crime in progress with suspects being black. Without batting an eye, he blurted out, "That's all them N\*\*\*\*RS know what to do, commit crime and steal." Nobody batted an eye at his comment. How sad is this? We are going backwards and it seems to be getting worse.

*"That's Just the Way It Is!"*

## U.S. News & World Report Names Emanate Health Queen of the Valley Hospital's Family Birth & Newborn Center a High Performing Hospital for Maternity Care

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Emanate Health Queen of the Valley Hospital's Family Birth & Newborn Center in West Covina has been recognized as High Performing in Maternity Care (Uncomplicated Pregnancy) by U.S. News & World Report. This is the first time U.S. News & World Report has published a list of Best Hospitals for Maternity.

To be recognized among the Best Hospitals for Maternity, hospitals had to excel on multiple quality metrics that matter to expectant families, including complication rates, C-sections, whether births were scheduled too early in pregnancy, and how successfully each hospital supported breastfeeding. Only one-third of the hospitals evaluated by U.S. News & World Report for maternity care earned a 'High Performing' rating.

"All families deserve to be informed on how hospitals perform on key indicators of quality, which is why U.S. News & World Report has compiled and published a trove of maternal health data from hospitals across the country," said Ben Harder, managing editor and chief of health analysis at U.S. News & World Report. "The hospitals we've recognized as High Performing meet a high standard in caring for patients with uncomplicated pregnancies."

The Family Birth & Newborn Center earned a "High Performing" rating in Best Hospitals for

Maternity. "High Performing" is the highest rating U.S. News & World Report awards for that type of care.

"What makes our Family Birth & Newborn Center unique is that we offer high quality, comprehensive maternity care that is family-centered from the moment an expectant mother has her first appointment all the way through and following the birth of her baby here," said Emanate Health CEO Robert H. Curry.

"We provide a safe, seamless and memorable experience so mothers can focus on the joy of receiving their bundle of joy," Curry said. "This is what sets The Emanate Health Family Birth & Newborn Center apart."

Unique to the U.S. News & World Report site, participating hospital profiles are a one-stop shop and include a variety of relevant offerings for parents-to-be including key measures of safety, alongside services and amenities, like private rooms, valet parking and availability of child birthing classes.

In summer of 2022, to coincide with the release of the 2022-23 Best Hospitals for Procedures & Conditions ratings.

The Family Birth & Newborn Center is a free-standing building on the Emanate Health Queen of the Valley Hospital campus. To promote safety, the center is taking every precaution necessary to keep mothers, newborns and visitors safe from COVID-19. The center creates a personalized birthing plan early on to identify what an ideal birth looks like to each expectant mother. Private birthing rooms are also available to expectant mothers.

In the event of a high-risk birth, The Family Birth & Newborn Center has an in-house Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) staffed with neonatologists who specialize in premature births, and trained NICU nurses available around the clock.

Immediately following birth, new mothers get to hold their child, skin to skin, if there are no complications. Doctors will conduct a thorough, post-partum check-up. In addition, new mothers can take Pre-natal Breastfeeding Classes and sign-up for Mom2Mom: Breast-feeding Support Group sessions. The center will also take professional mom 360 photos of new mothers and babies hours after delivering. The goal is to capture a special moment that new mothers will never forget.



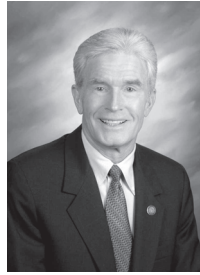
# The Spin That Doesn't Work

November's USA consumer inflation reading of +6.8%, the highest since 1982, is reinforcing a narrative that the Federal Reserve will have to do more to combat soaring price pressures. The central bank finally appears ready to quicken its pace of tapering asset purchases, which will set the stage for earlier interest rate hikes and an overall change in their Monetary Policy. This is confirmation that October's CPI was not a one-off blip. Through 2021 Wall Street has debated whether inflation will be transitory or sustained. We can now erase the term transitory. As expected, the White House spin continues saying how great the economy is doing. One just has to ask, has my salary or income gone up as much as inflation has?

According to the WSJ inflation is now the major stumbling block preventing passage of the build back better liberal wish list bill. Fortunately, at least West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin understands that excessive government spending would make inflation even worse, and White House messaging on BBB and inflation is not helping. The President admitted that subsidies for families would pay for essential goods and services, but would make everything more expensive for everyone.

West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin has repeatedly said he is worried the Build Back Better bill would add to inflation as well as significantly boosting the deficit. The White House insists the bill would reduce the deficit over 10 years despite a negative score by the CBO because CBO did not count anticipated tax revenue collected from spending allocated

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



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

ed to the IRS to pursue tax cheats. Who are you going to believe?

Fed Chair Jerome Powell has already said it's time to talk about speeding up its taper by a few months during his testimony to Congress on Nov. 30. Since those comments the jobs picture (the other side of the dual mandate) has flashed mixed signals. The number of nonfarm payrolls created last month fell far below the consensus, but the unemployment rate was better than expected, primarily due to many Americans no longer looking for employment!

The worsening inflation environment is likely to prompt FOMC officials to accelerate stimulus withdrawal and/or deliver swifter policy tightening. This signals a big pivot for the central bank, which until now had been more worried about the "maximum employment" side of its dual mandate, compared to "stable prices." Current Wall Street thinking is for the Fed to announce its first 25-basis point rate hike in May or June of 2022, while a high inflation reading could hasten the taper of its \$120B monthly bond-buying program, possibly ending it in March. But what are they waiting for?

"I think that their plan right now probably is three rate hikes next year, four rate hikes in 2023," said David Kelly, J.P. Morgan Asset Management chief global strategist. SGH Macro Advisors Chief U.S. Economist Tim Duy even sees a "high probability that the Fed hikes rates in March," though he doesn't expect the policymakers will pencil in that timeline on their economic forecast. "Where the Fed is now and where the Fed is in three months are two different things," he wrote in a note dated Dec. 7.

The highest year-on-year inflation in almost 40 years solidifies market expectations for a more hawkish Fed in 2022. After Chair Powell's pivot last week in his testimony to Congress, the key questions are when rate hikes will begin and how rapid they will come. This upcoming FOMC meeting will include updated rate and economic projections after two high CPI reports. The worst-case scenario, from the Fed's viewpoint especially, is that the year-on-year inflation (CPI) rate will top 7% before falling back, with a realistic shot at double digit inflation if we see another month or two (in the next five months) as bad as October or November.

Hopefully Joe Manchin will continue to block passage of the extremely leftist build back better legislation. That insane spending would make inflation much worse!

**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

**Do you have any advice on how I could have a more financially sound and happier 2022?**

Each new year is an opportunity for a new start. As we learned last year, Covid will not just disappear at midnight on New Year's Eve. We know that inflation is increasing. Everything from food to gasoline, cars to utilities, healthcare, and other goods are getting more and more expensive. Interest rates are just starting to rise, and most of us will be paying higher taxes. In any type of economy, the basic guidelines of being more financially sound is to have a budget, focus on getting and staying out of debt, and build your savings. Money problems cause a whole lot of stress and unhappiness. Having your finances under control is comforting. Review your retirement plan. If all of your retirement savings are in one place, consider diversifying to additional plans like a fixed-index-universal-life insurance policy or a fixed-indexed annuity. Making plans and setting goals are worthless unless you take action. When making your plans or setting your goals, also break it down to the steps you need to take, and set deadlines for yourself so you can monitor your progress. Don't just quit if you miss a deadline, just pick up from there and move forward. It's okay to modify your budget, plans, and goals as the year progresses.

**What are the differences between a 401k and a Roth IRA?**

401(k)'s and Roth IRA's each offer something worthwhile, but are different. A 401(k) is funded with money you have not paid taxes on, yet. Roth IRA's are funded with money you've already paid



**Julia Yoder**

taxes on. 401(k) money is taxed when withdrawn, but Roth IRA money is not. 401(k) money is subject to Required Minimum Distributions, but Roth IRA's are not. Contributions to your 401(k) are tax deductible from your gross income; Roth IRA's are not. A 401(k) has higher contribution limits than Roth IRA's. For tax information specific to your circumstances, check with your CPA.

**The stock market has been doing really good, which scares me that it might be nearing a crash. What should I be doing now?**

Investment advisors have said for many years, "Buy low. Sell high." If you sell your stocks now, and the market rallies even higher, you could miss out on those higher gains. If you do not sell, and the market crashes, you could suffer terrible losses. Now you have a better understanding why I advise you to diversify the types of products you put your investment dollars. Don't have ALL your retirement savings in the stock market. For example, fixed-indexed annuity policies offer a guarantee\* that you cannot lose your money. They do not offer the very highest gains, and

they protect you from losses. (\*Guarantees are based on the strength of the insurance company.) A similar product is a fixed-indexed universal life insurance policy.

**I know that I'd save time and money by being more organized, but I cannot seem to get into a routine. Do you have any recommendations?**

"Time is money." Start with a budget. Using your bank and credit card statements, receipts for cash payments, and memory, write down every expense you've had for the last 2 or 3 months. Make special note of semi-annual and annual bills (taxes, car registration, etc.). Take that information and create a monthly budget. Every day make a note of your income (paycheck, pension) and your outgo (bills, and all money spent). You'll see where you could reduce your spending, or what you could do without in order to get something you want. Create a specific place to put your receipts, bills, tax returns. For a free monthly TO DO list, go to [www.GetOrganized.com](http://www.GetOrganized.com). For routines that you could customize and use right away, try [www.flylady.net](http://www.flylady.net).

**Ask Julia by email:**  
[juliyoder@yahoo.com](mailto:juliyoder@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](http://CalStarBenefits.com/28485)

## Christian Community Credit Union Donates \$5,000 To Samaritan's Purse Tornado Disaster Relief Effort

**SANDIMAS** - Christian Community Credit Union donated \$5,000 to Samaritan's Purse relief effort in response to the devastating tornadoes on December 10-11, 2021 that swept through six states—Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, Mississippi, and Tennessee. The unfathomable levels of destruction have left the loss of lives, homes, churches, and businesses.

The funds for the donation come from Christian Community Credit Union's "Cards that Give to Missions" program, in which a portion of the Credit Union's interchange income (fees merchants pay to card issuers) is donated when cardholders use their Christian Community Credit Union-issued credit cards for purchases.

"We are deeply saddened by the devastation we have seen from

the tornadoes," said Blair Korschun, Christian Community Credit Union President and CEO. "Our prayers go out to all those who have been affected and for those who have lost loved ones. A crisis of this magnitude, especially during this Christmas season, is never easy. We ask our fellow brothers and sisters to join us in supporting relief efforts by donating to Samaritan's Purse or other organizations to help the victims."

Help Support Samaritan's Purse Tornado Relief Effort

Samaritan's Purse has deployed team members, vehicles, and resources to help those whose lives have been turned upside down. Many Disaster Response Units—tractor trailers loaded with equipment and supplies—are now on the ground in hard-hit areas. To support Samaritan's Purse relief effort, please click here.

Samaritan's Purse is a non-denominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ. The organization serves the Church worldwide to promote the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Christian Community Credit Union has over \$840 million in assets and over 30,000 members nationwide. For over 64 years, the Credit Union has served as a financial partner of Christian ministries, churches, and their members.

## San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership Announces New President & CEO

**IRWINDALE** - The San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership is delighted to announce the appointment of Luis Portillo as its new President and CEO, effective December 16, 2021. The Partnership Board of Directors has unanimously chosen Portillo, who until recently served as Director of Public Policy for the Inland Empire Economic Partnership, to succeed Bill Manis, who retired this month.

"We are most fortunate that Luis Portillo has emerged as the outstanding candidate from a competitive field of several highly qualified applicants for this key leadership position," said Alex Eng, Chair of the Partnership Board of Directors and Senior Vice President and Private Bank Market Leader at Bank of America. "Among his many strengths, Luis has a strong connection to the San Gabriel Valley community, where he has spent much of his life, which will enable him to be an effective

leader in helping the Partnership to move forward."

Portillo brings more than 18 years of experience working in the public, private and nonprofit sectors. Previously, he managed the Inland Empire Economic Partnership's advocacy efforts. While there, he helped establish a grassroots coalition that brought together more than 20 business organizations throughout the Inland Empire to advocate on behalf of pro-growth economic policies. He also worked at Edison International as part of its Government Affairs team focusing on the analysis of legislation proposed in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

Luis also spent nine years working in the state capitol. There he served as a Senior Staff Member in the Office of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, led the Regulatory and Legislative Affairs Unit of the California Department of Consumer Affairs, and worked as a Senate Fel-

low/Legislative Aide in the State Senate.

He received a B.S. in Business Administration with a concentration in Information Management and a specialty in Computer Information Systems and a B.A. in Business Administration with a concentration in Management from California State University, San Bernardino. "I am truly honored and extremely excited about taking on this opportunity with the Partnership, and serving our members," Portillo said, stating his appreciation for the Board's decision in selecting him as the new President and CEO. "This is an exciting time for the Partnership as the reopening of the San Gabriel Valley is really taking off - from healthcare, aerospace, bioscience, and tourism to what is taking place at the Ontario International Airport. This growth all equates to amazing economic opportunities for the San Gabriel Valley, and the Partnership plays a key role."



## Car Talk by THE CAR DOC

**What You "AUTO" Know**

**By Gene Morrill - Certified Automotive Specialists**

## Working In A Car Care Wonderland

We love cars, are you listening?  
To keep them serviced is so thrilling.  
A beautiful sight, a car working just right,  
Working in a car care wonderland.

We raise cars up on lifts,  
Keeping them like new is our gift.  
We service them well, and enjoy it, you can tell,  
We love working in a car care wonderland.

In the shop bay we can fix cars' problems,  
And you will know that we fixed it right.  
You'll say can you set an appointment for the next time,  
And we'll say yes we will and have a good night.

Serving you well is our pleasure,  
As each customer we all treasure,  
We work very hard to please one and all,  
Working in a car care wonderland.

We enjoy changing oil and rotating tires,  
We can do brakes and mufflers, belts and hoses too!  
We exchange fluids, and new filters and batteries,  
And yes it's true we like very much what we do.

When customers come in, it's so thrilling,  
We love cars, so we're willing,  
To us it's all in a day, the technician way,  
Working in a car care wonderland!

Happy Holidays From All of Us!

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](http://CertifiedAutoCa.com).  
**Hometown Service You Can Count On!**



SEE YOU IN THE NEW YEAR!

*Happy Holidays!*

from your friends at the Irwindale Chamber of Commerce

Around the Valley & Senior News

Glendora Unified Ranked Among Best School Districts in Los Angeles County

GLENDORA - Glendora Unified School District ranks in the top twenty school districts in Los Angeles County according to Niche.com and its "2022 Best School Districts in Los Angeles County" rankings.

"This is a true testament to the extraordinary work of our teachers, staff, students, and community," said Glendora Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Penelope DeLeon.

sidering what our schools and community have accomplished together in the midst of a pandemic."

Glendora Unified received "A" marks in Academics, Teachers, Administration, Diversity, College Prep, Health and Safety, and Sports.

Other Top Glendora Unified School District Rankings in Los Angeles County According to the Niche 2022 Rankings:

- Best School Districts for Athletes: #12
• Best Places to Teach: #14
• Districts with the Best Teachers: #19

- Most Diverse: #12
• Safest School Districts: #26

According to Niche, it "ranks nearly 100,000 schools and districts based on statistics and millions of opinions from students and parents."

Seen Or Heard Around Town And All Around

By Ed Torres

1. The "Poinsettia" is a plant native to Mexico, known there as "La Flor de Nochebuena" (The Flower of Christmas Eve).

2. Some people prefer that it be called, "Nochebuena", the name of the plant in Mexico when the ambassador served there...

3. The Church of the Nativity - located in the city of Bethlehem, in the Middle East's "West Bank" -- is traditionally accepted by Christians as being the site of the birth of Christ...

4. Bethlehem (not so incidentally), is located in a hotbed of political intrigue and conflict, located but a short distance from Jerusalem - and most people probably consider it very saddening that an area so special to those who hold various religious beliefs, would be so problematic for them all...

5. Regarding the Poinsettias, or Nochebuenas: it is concerning to some that after cities, merchants and volunteers spend time, effort and expense, decorating certain areas in their cities with the colorful plants (during this special-time-of-the-year), some "kids" and adults, seemingly with little thought or care, trample the beautiful settings with their feet, skate boards, bicycles and pets...

6. There are various renditions of the origins of the rise of SANTACLAS... One is that around 1,800 years ago, in what is now Turkey, a Christian person who gave up his wealth to help "gift" people in need, later became Saint Nicholas...

7. For some Hispanic Catholic families, Christmas decorations go up around December 12 (when reportedly in 1531, the MOTHER of JESUS "appeared" in nowadays Mexico) -- and decorations stay up until January 6,

when traditionally, "some say", the Wise Men arrived to visit the newly born Baby Jesus... Of course, there are no set rules as when to decorate and when to remove the decorations: some keep decorations up all year, and play Christmas music for months before and after Christmas Day.

8. In America, Christmas Season is not solely a special day for Christians - non-Christians, too, often participate in the non-religious parts of the special season, such as decorating their homes, sharing gifts with family and friends, and holding family reunions...

9. Each family is different, and at Christmas they follow their own traditions as to when to exchange gifts, if they exchange gifts at all... Sometimes it depends on when family members will be able to get together with the rest...

10. Some people, in addition to attending church services and exchanging gifts (or instead of exchanging gifts) on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, they participate in special events that will BENEFIT the whole family or the community as a whole...

Comments/suggestions: honnod1@yahoo.com

South Hills High School Football Coach, Danilo Robinson, Resigns

COVINA - South Hills High School head football coach, Danilo Robinson, resigned his coaching position Dec. 17, 2021.

"Coach Robinson was key in keeping our Huskies together and leading them through the challenges of the pandemic," South Hills Athletic Director Darren

Murphy said. "We appreciate the work Coach did in keeping our kids safe."

Robinson is a graduate of Covina High School and played football at Utah State. Robinson came to South Hills in January 2019 after two years as coach at Sky View High in Smithfield, Utah, where he led the team to back-to-back section titles.

school levels.

"Athletics teach our students valuable life skills about teamwork, commitment, strategy and perseverance," Robinson said. "I'm proud of these kids - they have shown tremendous spirit during this pandemic."

Given South Hills' respected athletics program, it is anticipated the coaching slot will quickly attract a strong field of candidates for the job.

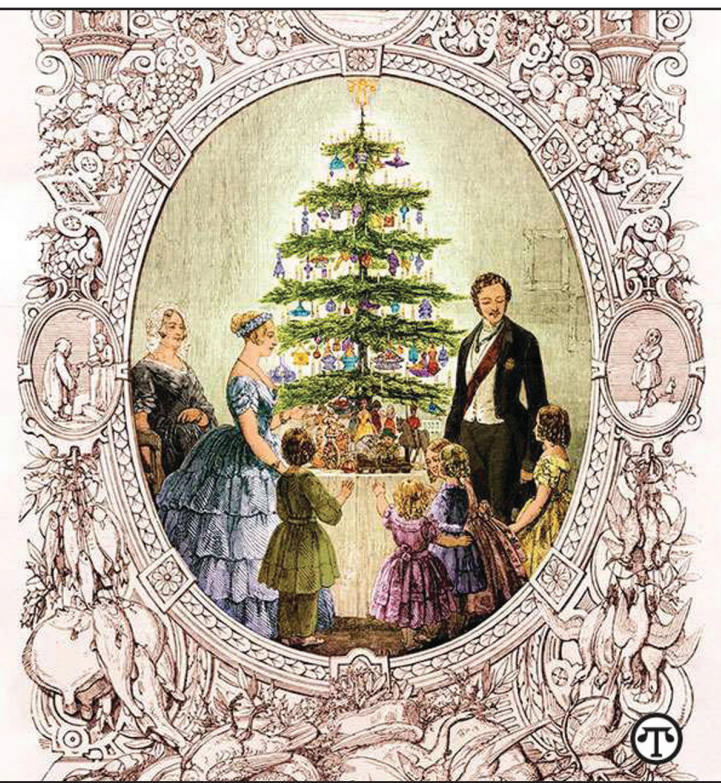
The Royal Roots Of Today's Christmas Traditions

Melding American and European Traditions

The idea of Father Christmas is one that predates the Victorian era and was part of English folklore; a figure of merry-making just for adults. In the middle of Queen Victoria's reign, however, American and European traditions came together to create the

idea of Father Christmas or Santa Claus, as we now know him, as the bringer of gifts to children.

And all the other traditions of Christmas trees, Christmas cards, the Christmas feast and gift-giving were celebrated in England as well as across the pond in America.



Many Americans are not aware that some of the enduring Christmas traditions they enjoy every year are rooted in those started by the British Royal Family back in the 1840s.

The Christmas Tree

It all started with Queen Victoria and her German-born husband Prince Albert, who were instrumental in bringing German Christmas traditions to Britain, such as the Christmas tree. Until then, most people in Britain thought the idea of having a tree inside the house was a little strange.

decorations and small gifts.

Christmas Cards

The notion of sending Christmas cards also originated during this period. Thanks to the industrialization happening at the time and the widespread use of the printing press, items such as cards and books became less expensive to make.

Christmas Feast

While the Victorian Royal Family may have been the impetus behind the public's adopting Christmas trees and cards, when it came to the Christmas feast, there was a lot of variety on the Royal menu. Roast beef, turkey, mince pies, soups and plum pudding for dessert.

ACROSS

- 1. THESE
5. General Services Administration
8. Ex-Miami Heat player Dwyane
12. Pomegranate seed
13. Actor Chris O'
14. Pacific Crest Trail walker
15. Country dance formation
16. Wished undone
17. Popeye's sweetie
18. "Sudden Impact": "Go ahead,

- 20. Arm part
21. Gold unit
22. Parabola, e.g.
23. San Joaquin Valley city
26. Hangs out with
30. Unit of electrical resistance
31. "Star Wars": "Stay in

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD THEME: MOVIE QUOTES

- formation"
34. Mr. Jinx's (of "Meet the Parents") cry
35. Clay and silt deposit
37. Camel debris
38. Japanese sword fighting
39. Was aware of
40. Come into sight
42. "Independence Day": "I belong in the"
43. "The Dark Knight": "Why so?"
45. Common allergen
47. Cup alternative
48. Bird-made fertilizer
50. Sketch
52. "On the Waterfront": "I coulda been a"
56. El Dorado-related
57. Tabernacle Choir's home

- state
58. Contributed
59. Star Wars attacker
60. Unidentified aircraft
61. Prep for publication
62. Ladder step
63. Tropical American cuckoo
64. Part to play DOWN
1. Precedes storm?
2. Soprano's song, e.g.
3. "Mean Girls": "On Wednesdays, we wear"
4. Makes smooth, as in hair
5. Dutch cheese
6. "Darkest Hour": "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and"
7. Walker, American Girl doll
8. "Field of Dreams": "If you build it, he"
9. Related
10. Deity, in Sanskrit
11. "... he drove out of sight"
13. Fungus damage (2 words)
14. Meryl Streep's "The"
19. Supernatural life force, pl.
22. Query

- 23. "Who Framed Roger Rabbit": "That's all,!"
24. Cotes du, wine region
25. Mideast V.I.P.
26. Soreness
27. Kidney-related
28. "Princess Bride": "You killed my father. Prepare"
29. Bound by oath
32. "Lights out" tune
33. Nile reptile
36. "Finding Nemo": "Just keep"
38. Danish money
40. Two before Oct
41. Lack of enthusiasm
44. 1/16th of a pound
46. Not two years but three, e.g.
48. Coped (2 words)
49. Freshwater eel, in Japan
50. Comics character Little
51. Fe
52. Caribbean island country
53. Carpenter's joint
54. Like a fairytale stepmother?
55. Network of nerves
56. Acronym, abbr.

CROSSWORD grid with numbers 1-64.

December 16, 2021 Puzzle Solution

Grid with puzzle solution words: HEMP, TAI, TSAR, EVER, TOLD, DONNA, MEME, INLY, EBONY, SNOW, ANGEL, IOWA, ASSAY, EGG, SPARSE, PANGAEA, NAP, ALBEIT, ARMS, AGISM, ARP, VNECK, FAUN, SLEEVE, NEE, UNMORAL, ELATED, WIG, REGAL, RASP, POLARBEAR, CACHE, OMEN, IDLE, ANION, SECS, NAME, TIDE, HOT, OMSK

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# Cheryl Alexander Appointed Area 3 Trustee For Citrus College

**GLENDORA** – The Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees unanimously voted to appoint Cheryl Alexander as the provisional trustee for area 3 during its Dec. 14 annual organizational board meeting. Trustee area 3 includes Duarte and portions of Azusa, Monrovia, Arcadia, Covina and Irwindale.

Ms. Alexander assumes the seat previously held by Edward C. Ortell, J.D., who passed away on Oct. 16, 2021. She will serve for the duration of the current area 3 term, which ends on Dec. 9, 2022.

"I am thrilled to welcome Ms. Alexander to the Citrus College community," said Dr. Greg Schulz, superintendent/president of Citrus College. "Her commitment to public service is commendable, and I look forward to working with her as a member of our board of trustees to support our students on their academic journey."

A Duarte resident, Ms. Alexander earned a bachelor's degree in elementary and special education from Eastern Illinois University. She also obtained a bachelor's degree in computer science from Roosevelt University before receiving a master's degree in teaching, with a specialization in reading, from National University.

Ms. Alexander is currently pursuing a Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership/Special Education from Grand Canyon University.



Cheryl Alexander is a governing board member of the Citrus Community College District. She represents Trustee Area 3, which includes Duarte and portions of Azusa, Monrovia, Arcadia, Covina and Irwindale. (Photo courtesy Citrus College)

She currently works as a special education resource specialist teacher in the Inglewood Unified School District. Prior to her current role, Ms. Alexander worked for the district as a first-grade teacher and eighth-grade reading intervention teacher. She also spent time as a computer programmer and system analysis

engineer. "On behalf of the board of trustees, I congratulate Ms. Alexander and welcome her to our governing body," said Mary Ann Lutz, president of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees. "She brings a vast amount of knowledge, experience and passion to the board, and we cannot wait to work alongside her."

Additionally, at the organizational meeting, trustees were elected to the following positions for the period from Dec. 14, 2021, through Dec. 13, 2022: Trustee Lutz is the new president; Trustee Laura J. Bollinger is the new board vice president; and Trustee Anthony Contreras is the new board clerk/secretary.

# Azusa Honors Veterans with Holiday for Heroes Ceremony

by Andrew Rietta

**AZUSA** - On Saturday, December 11th, Azusa's veterans were honored with the Holiday for Heroes ceremony. This touching event was created and organized by Mayor of Azusa, Robert Gonzales, to honor Azusa's veterans. In an intimate private ceremony, Mayor Gonzales and City Councilman Eddie Alvarez presented flowers to gold star mothers, Mrs. Padilla and Mrs. Harris for their sons' ultimate sacrifice.

Poinsettias were placed at the Memorial Wall which stands as a tribute to those Azusa veterans killed during the course of their service to their country. Floral sticks and blank cards were placed with the poinsettias for people to write a note of thanks to a soldier or veteran, or to leave a message of remembrance to a brave servicemember who sacrificed their life for their country. The poinsettias and notecards will be displayed throughout the holiday season. All are encouraged to come and leave a note to honor Azusa's veterans.

A special thank you goes to Mayor Gonzales for creating this wonderful tribute to the soldiers,



Azusa Mayor Robert Gonzales places a "note of thanks" on one of the Poinsettias at the Azusa Memorial Wall.

and to Councilman Alvarez for participating in the touching flower ceremony. This is the first year Holiday for Heroes is taking place, but the hope is that it will become a long-standing tradition for the City of Azusa. The Azusa Woman's Club is currently working through the details to take on the task of managing this event going forward. The hope is that Holiday for Heroes will ex-

pand to become a fundraiser for all holidays, providing an opportunity to honor and celebrate Azusa's veterans all year long.

Everyone, please make your way to Azusa City Hall to add your note to the poinsettia display, and share a message of hope, honor, and remembrance to those brave soldier's who sacrifice their lives for our freedom.

# Fatal Crash Closes Intersection for Hours

By George Ogden

**AZUSA** - A crash occurred around 2:30 a.m. Sunday morning, December 19th in the intersection of Arrow Highway and Cerritos Avenue. Two vehicles were involved. One was a late model pickup truck and the other a late model SUV.

One driver involved in collision vehicles died at the scene. The driver and passengers of the second vehicle were taken to various hospitals, according to the Azusa Police Department.

It appears the pickup T-boned



the SUV causing it to spin out of control and impacting a utility pole. From the amount of impact damage, speed may have been a factor in the crash. As the accident investigation continues, they will try to determine if alcohol is also a factor in the crash.

they called for four ambulances to respond to the scene. The entire intersection was closed off for most of the morning during the accident investigation.

The actual cause of the fatal accident is still under investigation.

When firefighters arrived,

## 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](mailto:SGExaminer@aol.com). Articles should be in Word format while photos should be in jpeg.

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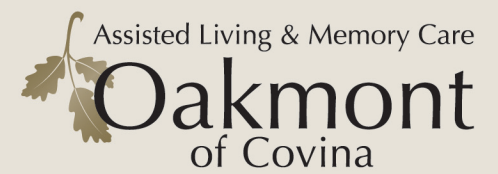
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