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Watershed Projects / A3

Humanitarian Awardee



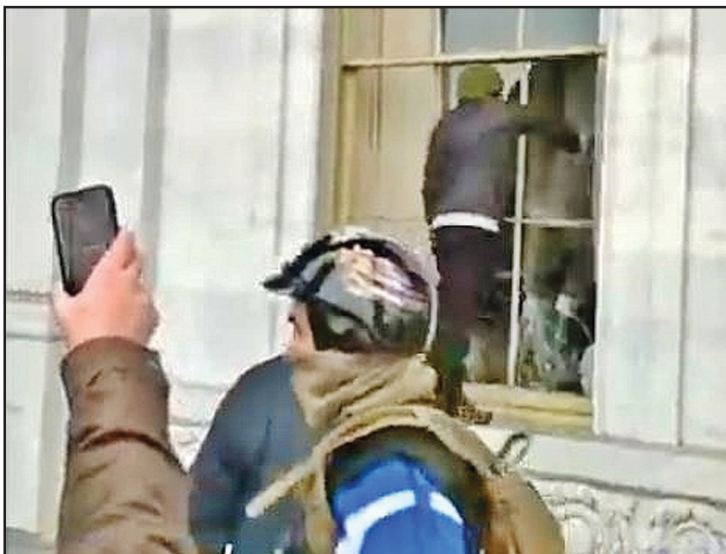
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Glendora Man Arrested in Connection with January 6th Capitol Riots

GLENDORA - Glendora Police Officers assisted the FBI with serving an arrest warrant for a suspect in relation to the events at the Capitol on January 6, 2021. Hunter Allen Ehmke was arrested Wednesday, January 13, 2021 without incident while he was dining with his family at his grandfather's home in Glendora. He is the grandson of Bob Kuhn, who served on the council in Glendora in the early 1990s. Mr. Ehmke was booked at the Glendora City Jail overnight. The next morning, he was released to the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service who booked him into the Metropolitan Detention Center.

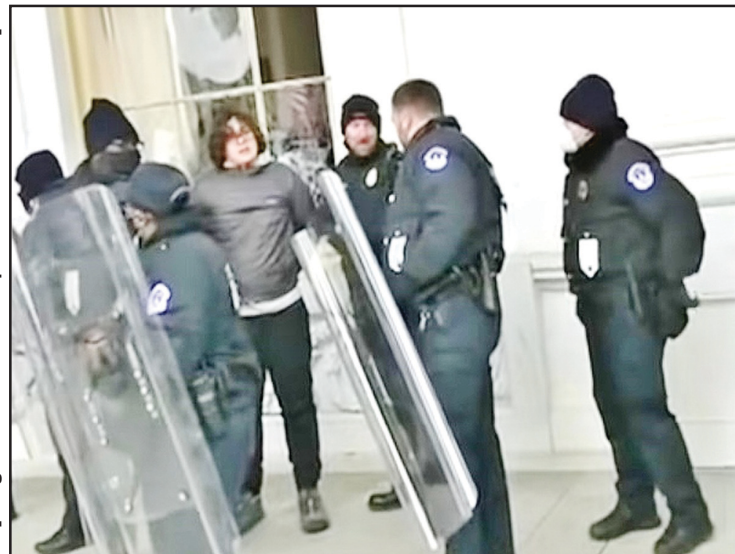
His initial appearance in federal court in the Central District of California was on January 14 before Magistrate Judge John E. McDermott of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. The judge released Ehmke on bail. The judge also ordered him to wear an ankle monitor and to submit to a search of his home in Glendora. Initial appearance in federal court in the District of Columbia is scheduled for Thursday, January 21, 2021. According to the complaint



The suspect identified by police as Hunter Allen Ehmke breaks a window at the Capitol building in Washington D.C. .

signed by Special Agent James Soltes of the United States Capitol Police, Capitol Police Officer Fluke observed an individual, later identified as Hunter Ehmke, wearing a dark grey jacket and dark colored pants, standing on a ledge approximately 3 feet off the ground. Officer Fluke, who is familiar with the U.S. Capitol Building from his employment with the Capitol Police, knew that the ledge had access to a multiple-pane window over 6 foot in height that leads to interior office of the

building. Officer Fluke observed Ehmke pointing towards the window, followed by looking at the crowd to his south and waving his hand as if to summon others over to his position. Ehmke repeated the sequence of gestures again. Officer Fluke shouted out, "They're going to break the window" during this time in hopes to bring attention from fellow officers. Officer Fluke looked east to focus back on the crowd pushing on the shields and gave orders for the growing crowd to get back. Officer Fluke turned to look north again and observed Ehmke with a balled fist, pulling his arm back and twisting his upper body. Ehmke then swung forward striking a pane of the window about shoulder level of Ehmke. Officer Fluke began to run toward Ehmke while continuing to hold his shield in both hands.



The suspect identified by police as Hunter Allen Ehmke is detained by United States Capitol Police in Washington D.C.

causing Ehmke to fall to the ground on the landing. Officer Fluke lost grip of the shield and fell to the ground that was covered in shards of glass. While Ehmke lay face-down on the ground, two other officers with the U.S. Capitol Police pulled Ehmke's arms behind his back and detained him with handcuffs. Officer Fluke stood up and gave orders to the crowd to stay back and set a perimeter. Officers moved north on the landing to set up a perimeter with CDU shields between a crowd of approximately ten individuals in the immediate area and the two officers, Officer Fluke, and Ehmke. This small perimeter line of officers also blocked possible attempts of breaching the now visibly broken window which, to Officer Fluke's knowledge, did not show signs of breakage prior to Ehmke striking the window. Ehmke was assisted onto his feet. USCP Officer Mooney obtained Ehmke's California driver's license and positively identified him as Hunter Allen Ehmke. Officer Fluke asked Ehmke if he was injured, and Ehmke denied any injuries and there were no injuries visible.

over the radio to advise their situation and seek further instructions. These attempts could not be clearly heard or unable to be broadcasted due to the many other calls of service by USCP officers. As the officers discussed an action plan, the disturbance caused individuals of the crowd facing the Rotunda doors to divert their attention towards the approximately 10 officers in the northwest corner of the landing. Individuals in the throng began to show aggression by pointing fingers and shouting obscenities. One unidentified individual threatened Officer Fluke and the other officers, stating "you're not leaving with him", while pointing in the direction of Officer Fluke and Ehmke. Due to the growing aggression of the large crowd that far outnumbered the officers and the exigent circumstances at the time, officers made the decision to allow Ehmke depart under his own power. Officers took photos of Ehmke and the damaged window. Officers advised Ehmke that his actions were criminal and that they would seek a warrant for his arrest. Ehmke was told to immediately leave the Capitol grounds. Officers maintained custody of Ehmke's driver's license upon his release.

Los Angeles County Expands COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution with Launch of Five Large-Scale Vaccination Sites

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - Los Angeles County is expanding its capacity for large-scale COVID-19 vaccine distributions by opening five large-scale vaccination sites across the County.

The five established sites, which were prudently chosen for their regional accessibility and their ability to handle large capacities of people, are:

- Pomona Fairplex, 1101 W McKinley Ave, Pomona, CA 91768
- The Forum, 3900 W Manchester Blvd, Inglewood, CA 90305
- California State University, Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff St, Northridge, CA 91330
- L.A. County Office of Education, 12830 Columbia Way, Downey, CA 90242
- Six Flags Magic Mountain, 26101 Magic Mountain Pkwy, Valencia, CA 91355

These large-scale vaccination sites came online on Tuesday, January 19, and will be able to vaccinate approximately 4,000 people per day at each site, significantly increasing the number of frontline healthcare workers vaccinated. Los Angeles County aims to complete 500,000 additional vaccinations among healthcare workers by the end of January. All vaccinations are administered free of charge.

Only priority groups identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), with additional guidance provided by the state, are receiving the vaccine; currently, only frontline healthcare workers, residents and staff in skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) and other long-term care facilities are eligible for vaccination.

Eligible healthcare workers must have verification documents, which include a healthcare worker badge with a photo, or a professional license and a photo identification (ID), or a signed letter from an employer and a photo ID, or a payment stub

COVID-19 VACCINE

VISIT VaccinateLACounty.com

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT VACCINE ELIGIBILITY.

For more information, visit: VaccinateLACounty.com

from a healthcare provider with a name and a photo ID. Residents who are not in the eligible categories should not attempt to register for a vaccine appointment, at this time. Doing so will take an appointment slot away from the frontline healthcare workers.

"Los Angeles County is setting up these sites throughout the County to vaccinate our most vulnerable and at-risk residents to protect them from this deadly virus," said Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Hilda L. Solis, Supervisor of the First District. "Equity is our North Star in the distribution of the vaccine, and I thank long-term stakeholders such as the Pomona Fairplex for stepping up and working with the County to make getting a vaccine as easy, convenient and as safe as possible in hard-hit communities."

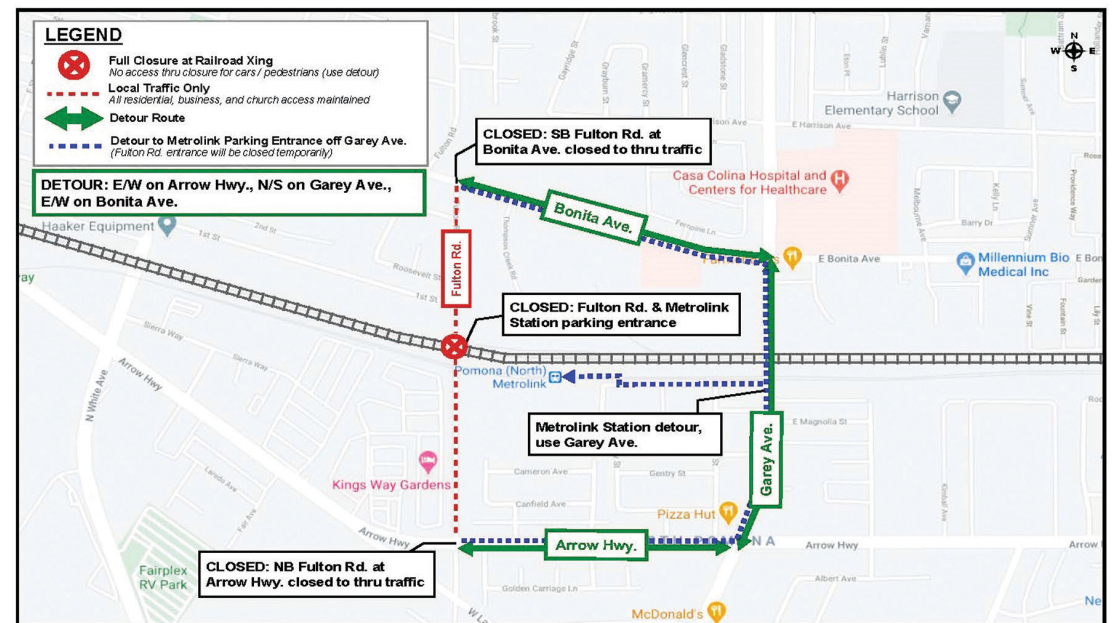
"The County's efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic rely on using all of the tools that we have available," said Supervisor Kathryn Barger. "As science and health experts continue to address this pandemic, these vaccines will help reduce the spread of the disease in Los Angeles County. These MPOD sites will help support the County's efforts to pro-

tect our residents and restore the fabric of our communities."

The County has also launched a new "Know Your Tier" public information campaign that highlights the County's new vaccination website, VaccinateLACounty.com, and explains how residents can find out when they will be eligible to be vaccinated.

The large-scale vaccination sites are in addition to more than 75 vaccination locations that have been established to facilitate the administration of doses to individuals within Phase 1A, tiers 2 and 3. To date, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has opened more than 20 designated vaccination centers for frontline healthcare workers and has made arrangements with dozens of pharmacies to facilitate vaccinations for frontline healthcare workers within Phase 1A. LA County began vaccinating frontline healthcare workers in December. This week, an estimated 80,000 vaccine doses will be administered at the community vaccination sites. For up-to-date information on LA County's vaccine program, visit VaccinateLACounty.com.

Full Street Closure Of Fulton Road At Railroad Crossing



LA VERNE - Crews will be fully rebuilding the railroad crossing on Fulton Road in the cities of La Verne/Pomona, as part of the 9.1-mile Foothill Gold Line light rail project. This work requires a full closure of Fulton Rd. at the railroad crossing for approximately 3 months, including the temporary closure of the Metrolink Station parking entrance.

Beginning Monday, January 18th and continuing daily thru April 9th, Fulton Road will be fully closed to all traffic at the railroad crossing 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Arrow Hwy and

Bonita Ave. will remain open and accessible by way of detour route. Crews plan to work daily during double shift hours of 6:00 AM - 11:00 PM. Overnight work and Sunday shifts may also be required.

Access to homes, businesses, and churches on Fulton Rd. within the closure area north and south of the railroad crossing will be maintained at all times, as well as access to 1st St., Roosevelt St., & Brandt St. The Metrolink Station parking entrance on Fulton Rd. will be closed temporarily.

A detour route will be in place

during the closure and signage will be posted to direct motorists and pedestrians as well as Metrolink customers. Fulton Rd. will be fully closed to all traffic at the railroad crossing between Arrow Hwy and Bonita Ave. The entrance to the Metrolink Station parking lot will be closed during the street closure (access to the parking lot will remain open from Garey Ave. to Santa Fe St.). Garey Avenue will serve as the main detour route. Arrow Highway will remain open to all traffic. Bonita Avenue will remain open to all traffic.

5 Tips to Protect Seniors from Financial Scams Right Now

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



Social isolation among seniors is not only linked to numerous negative health consequences like depression and cardiovascular disease, but it's also a primary contributing factor in financial exploitation and scams. Estimated to affect one in 10 older adults and cost billions annually, the threat of elder financial fraud is pervasive, and especially so right now.

With seniors more isolated than ever due to the pandemic and stimulus checks being sent to millions of Americans nationwide, experts suggest that seniors and their families be extra vigilant.

"Scammers look for key time periods where money and private financial information are in motion. Not only is IRS fraud one of the most common and successful types of scams that exists, as a general rule, additional money equates to additional fraud," says Ron Long, head of Aging Client Services at Wells Fargo.

"Scammers are banking on the fact that many seniors are apart from families and friends due to COVID-19. When someone is alone, physically or socially, they often miss out on the added benefit of a second pair of eyes and ears."

Compounding the risks associated with isolation is the number of seniors who feel their chances of falling victim to a financial scam is unlikely.

According to a recent Wells Fargo study conducted by The Harris Poll, 69 percent of all seniors age 60 and above believe they're not likely to be susceptible to a financial scam, despite nearly all seniors (97 percent) acknowledging that older people are very or somewhat susceptible to becoming a victim. When asked about their peers, the poll found that 47 percent of all seniors knew someone who had already fallen victim to a scam.

"The results indicate what most of us want -- the ability to age relatively unaffected from the realities associated with aging," says Dr. Marti DeLiema, a gerontologist and consultant for Wells Fargo's Aging Client Services. "The problem is that when someone doesn't feel they're at risk, they're unlikely to take precaution."

To better protect seniors from elder financial fraud and abuse, consider these tips from Wells Fargo:

1. Don't wait for a crisis. Seniors should speak with trustworthy family members about financial plans, as well as consult them when something doesn't feel right.

2. Stay up-to-date. Seniors and families should draft and periodically update legal documents such as wills, healthcare directives and powers of attorney.

3. Automate. Seniors should consider signing up for direct deposit, automatic bill pay and large transaction alerts.

4. Prioritize security. Seniors should keep checks and credit cards locked away, and update passwords when information is compromised. They should also carefully review credit reports, account statements and bills for unusual activity or charges.

5. Be aware. Families can help seniors stay aware of the latest and most common scams, as well as help them identify potential red flags, including:

- Alleged emergency situations involving family members, often grandchildren, requiring immediate payment.
- Lottery winnings requiring upfront cash payment for taxes and other fees.
- Phone calls from alleged government agencies, such as Social Security, threatening arrest or penalties.

For more information on fraud prevention, visit wellsfargo.com. (StatePoint)

"Aging resiliently requires planning ahead and not shying away from difficult conversations," says Long. "We have to talk with our older loved ones about the risks, the warning signs and prevention -- and we have to keep talking."

Lessons from 2020 Lay Foundation for Brave New Year

"With great challenges come great opportunities." "Crisis brings out the best in people." There have been numerous times throughout history that put the truth of these sayings to the test, and 2020 was certainly one of them. In retrospect, we can safely conclude that these maxims passed a trial by fire with flying colors and will long endure as part of our lexicon.

As a lifelong participant and seasoned observer of the state and direction of community college education, I have often noted that this nimble academic paradigm mirrors the life and times of society. In assessing societal challenges and responses through the prism of higher education this past year, much has been learned.

To unsuspecting students and college educators, the year started off positive. Innovation was flourishing and the possibilities seemed endless. Students pursued training for high tech, high paying jobs of the future. Time and cost saving options, such as early college, a program where our local high school students simultaneously earn both high school and college credit, were becoming widely available and receiving high marks. Higher education was delivering good student outcomes in efficient, innovative ways, and students were



By Dr. Edward C. Ortell
Citrus College Governing Board Member

achieving success.

Then spring arrived, and with it a global pandemic. Suddenly the conversation turned to the need for first responders, doctors and nurses, and the focus became ways to educate students in these fields as quickly and safely as possible. Local community college students were praised for their eagerness to take on the challenge and serve in a moment of tremendous need. At the same time, colleges and universities closed their doors to "stop the spread." Long recognized as leaders in online education, community colleges once again lead the way in developing courses and educational delivery systems that were safe and effective and would keep students on track to achieving their goals. As the summer progressed,

the message from educators to students was that, even though college campuses were closed, teaching and learning was still happening. Students were encouraged to not waste a year on inaction, but to seize the moment and earn a degree or certificate while they waited for the COVID-19 storm to pass.

This fall, thanks to tech-savvy students and innovative teachers, students are learning and achieving in some of the most unlikely programs using remote and hybrid instruction. These include performing arts, automotive technology, nursing and nearly all other disciplines across the curriculum.

COVID-19 will no doubt continue to impact us as 2021 unfolds. Rest assured that community colleges will continue to provide safe, effective and often exciting academic offerings, as we resolutely march forward into a brave new year.

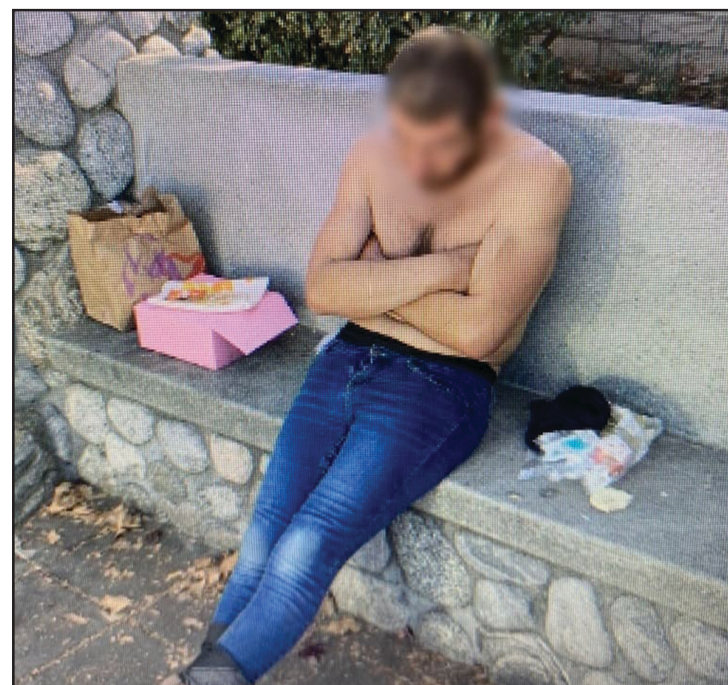
About the Author:
Dr. Edward C. Ortell is Professor Emeritus at Pasadena City College and a community college textbook author. He has served as the Executive Director of the Pasadena Education Association and as a member of the California Community College Trustees (CCCT) state board of directors.

Theft Of Stolen Samsung Tablets From Restaurant Leads To Arrest

LAVERNE - On Thursday, January 14th, San Dimas resident Juan Martinez entered the Grill House, located at 1204 Foothill Blvd., and took three Samsung tablets used for ordering food.

La Verne police officers responded, and recognized Martinez on security video footage. Approximately 45 minutes later another officer located Martinez not too far from the business based on the description provided by the original officer. Martinez was in possession of the stolen tablets.

He was arrested and taken into custody.



The suspect, Juan Martinez of San Dimas was recognized by La Verne Police through security video footage.

Photo courtesy of the La Verne Police Dept.

Be Mine Drive-In Bingo!

ARCADIA - Feeling cooped up in the house? Come out and join us as we safely play Drive-In Bingo at the Community Center in the parking lot - 365 Campus Drive. The cost is \$5 to play, and each participant will be given five (5) game cards for a chance to win gift card prizes. All participants must register prior to the event, be in the same household if they are sharing a vehicle, and must wear face coverings. The 50+ Drive-In Bingo Event will be held on Friday, **February 5** from 10-11:30am, and you can

register now! Spring into Bingo will take place on Friday, April 2 from 10-11:30am and you can register beginning February 4. Please register online at ArcadiaCA.gov/Recreation or contact the Community Center at 626.574.5130.



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Guest Speaker:
 Jeff Prang
LA County Assessor

What You Need to Know About COVID-19

EXPANDED LIST OF COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting

Call your provider if you are experiencing even mild illness. If you need a provider, you can call 2-1-1 and they can connect you to one.

For more information, visit: publichealth.lacounty.gov/coronavirus

LACoFD Sees Sharp Decline Of Internal Covid-19 Cases As Second Phase Of Vaccine Program Underway

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - The Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD) has experienced a drastic decline in the test positivity rate and number of individuals out sick with COVID-19 within its workforce.

"With a nearly 75 percent acceptance rate in our Department, the COVID-19 vaccine is allowing us to keep our first responders on track to stay as healthy as possible during these most challenging times of the pandemic," said Fire Chief Daryl L. Osby. "With the second dose of the vaccine now being given to our team members, this will provide another layer of protection and allow us to continue to seamlessly provide the highest level of care to our patients."

The LACoFD's Emergency Medical Services Bureau coordinated its first vaccination clinics Countywide in late Decem-

ber 2020, administering more than 3,000 vaccines to team members. At the time, the Department was reporting COVID-19 test positivity rates equivalent to that of the County's rate of 18 percent. In the weeks since the first vaccination clinics, the Department has steadily reported and documented steep declines in its COVID-19 test positivity rates from its highest weekly average of 18 percent to its current rate of 5.6 percent.

"As expected, the vaccine began to have its impact seven to ten days after the first vaccines were given," said LACoFD Medical Director Clay-

ton Kazan, M.D. "As the County continues to surge, new cases among Department personnel began dropping precipitously as did our test positivity rate. This is the first time in the entire pandemic that our data diverged from that of the County."

This week, LACoFD physicians, pharmacists, nurses, nurse practitioners, and paramedics administered the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine to team members, including Fire Chief Daryl L. Osby who joined other first responders at Fire Station 54 in the City of South Gate.

Watershed Restoration Projects Receives Federal Authorization

ARCADIA - The end-of-year Federal Funding and Coronavirus Relief Bill included a provision authorizing planning with the Army Corps of Engineers to restore creeks and wetlands in the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel Watersheds in Los Angeles County. The Rio Hondo and San Gabriel Watershed Restoration Project is managed by the Cities of Arcadia, Bradbury, Duarte, Monrovia, and Sierra Madre, along with partnership from the County of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District. The authorization was made possible due to the leadership of Congresswoman Grace Napolitano (CA-32), Congresswoman Judy Chu (CA-27), Senator Dianne Feinstein (CA), and Senator Kamala Harris (CA) in the bi-annual bill that authorizes Army Corps projects, which was added to the funding and virus relief bills that were signed into law on December 27, 2020.

The Rio Hondo and San Gabriel Watershed projects will

capture, retain, and treat stormwater, restore lakes and wetlands, and recharge the area's groundwater basin. Upon completion, the projects will provide ecosystem restoration, water conservation, and recreation for generations to come. The authorization allows the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel Watershed Restoration Project coalition to partner with the Army Corps of Engineers to further develop the projects.

"On behalf of the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel Water Quality Group, we would like to thank Congresswoman Grace Napolitano, Congresswoman Judy Chu, Senator Dianne Feinstein, and Senator Kamala Harris for their stewardship on these projects and for water resources in our region and nation," said Dominic Lazzaretto, Arcadia City Manager. "With this key authorization by Congress, we look forward to funding and completing these projects that will benefit our communities and the environment."

Supervisors Call For Measures To Begin Expanding Vaccination Efforts

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - Seeking to support the County's efforts to address the COVID-19 pandemic and the tragic impact on its residents, Supervisors Kathryn Barger and Janice Hahn are calling for additional flexibility in vaccinating as many residents as possible and a process to begin vaccinating those 65 and older.

"Efficient and effective distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine to our residents and communities is the most critical hurdle in our ability to recover from this virus," said Supervisor Barger. "While we continue to prioritize the vaccination of healthcare workers who have been on the frontlines caring for our vulnerable residents, we must add flexibility to this process and begin efforts to vaccinate those 65 and older."

"Governor Newsom has encouraged all counties to open up vaccination appointments to

residents 65 and older so that we can protect our residents who are most vulnerable to this virus," said Supervisor Hahn. "L.A. County needs to follow the State's lead without further delay."

Los Angeles County, in accordance with California guidelines, continues to vaccinate its healthcare workers as the priority population in Phase 1A. The County expects to complete this phase in the coming weeks given the size and scope of the region. The state recently announced accelerated prioritization of residents 65 and older in response to further recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control.

While the County still prioritizes the vaccination of healthcare workers, it is crucial to implement flexibility to vaccinate as many residents as possible and a process to begin vaccinating those 65 and older. Su-

perisors Barger and Hahn are calling for the County to begin vaccinating those 65 and older as soon as possible.

The County must ensure that its frontline healthcare workers are protected and limit the spread of COVID-19 from staff in its healthcare facilities. Nevertheless, more than 70% of COVID-19 related fatalities have been among residents over the age of 65, and the immediate vaccination of the County's most vulnerable neighbors cannot be delayed.

This is in line with guidelines from Dr. Anthony Fauci who has encouraged opening vaccination eligibility to people aged 65 and older, stating "when people are ready to get vaccinated, we're going to move right on to the next level, so that there are not vaccine doses that are sitting in a freezer or refrigerator where they could be getting into people's arms."

Public Health Announces First Confirmed Case of U.K. Coronavirus Variant in Los Angeles County

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) has confirmed the first case of COVID-19 variant B.1.1.7, the same variant discovered in the United Kingdom (U.K.), in an individual who recently spent time in Los Angeles County. The individual is a male who traveled to Oregon, where he is currently isolating. The variant was confirmed by Quest Laboratories in Washington state.

Although this is the first confirmed case of the U.K. variant in Los Angeles County, Public Health believes that it is already spreading in the community. Public Health is continuing to test samples. Viruses constantly change through mutation, and new variants of a virus are expected to occur over time. Sometimes new variants emerge and disappear. Other times, new variants emerge and persist. Multiple variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 have been documented in the United States

and globally during this pandemic.

In the U.K., the variant B.1.1.7 emerged with an unusually large number of mutations. The variant spreads more easily and quickly than other variants. Currently, there is no evidence that it causes more severe illness or increased risk of death. This variant was first detected in September 2020 and is now highly prevalent in London and Southeast England. It has since been detected in numerous countries around the world, including the United States and Canada. The Centers for Disease Control conducts routine analysis of SARS-CoV-2 genetic sequence data to support public health response. The DPH lab is also regularly analyzing specimens for variants, including the U.K. variant, and, to date, has not identified other cases linked to this specific variant.

Presence of the U.K. variant in Los Angeles County means virus transmission can

happen more easily and residents must more diligently follow the safety measures put in place to prevent additional cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. This includes wearing a face covering properly over your nose and mouth, physically distancing, and not gathering with people from outside your household. With community transmission at an all-time high, staying home as much as possible is the best protection. The same strategies that we've been using to help slow COVID-19 will only be effective in slowing spread of the U.K. variant strain of COVID-19 if they are used by everyone all of the time.

Individuals infected with the U.K. variant will test positive for COVID-19 with current SARS-CoV-2 tests. However, to distinguish the variant strain from the traditional strain, laboratories can look for certain gene patterns and report to the local public health department for confirmation.

As COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout Continues, Residents Reminded to Stay Home to Stop the Spread

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - As of Thursday, more than 279,000 doses of vaccine including more than 219,000 first doses and more than 60,000 second doses have been administered to healthcare workers and residents and staff at skilled nursing facilities in Phase 1A. The County is in the process of offering vaccinations to all remaining healthcare workers in Phase 1A. While many frontline healthcare workers have already received their first dose, we estimate an additional 450,000 healthcare workers need to be vaccinated.

There are many healthcare partners vaccinating healthcare workers, including select pharmacies and health clinics. To

bolster vaccination efforts for remaining healthcare workers who are eligible for a vaccine in Phase 1A, Public Health is opening five new large-capacity vaccination sites across the county for frontline healthcare workers in Phase 1A. Healthcare workers must register for an appointment in advance and must bring identification with them that clearly shows where they work and that they qualify when showing up for their vaccine. Healthcare workers should visit the signup website to register.

With support from our many partners and the opening of the large-capacity vaccination sites, Public Health anticipates the remaining healthcare workers will

be vaccinated with their first dose in the next two weeks. Beginning next week, Public Health will be working with healthcare providers and pharmacies to get ready to vaccinate people 65 and older once our vaccine allocation increases. This way we can continue with our commitment to vaccinate healthcare workers while getting ready for Phase 1B.

To learn about the vaccination phases, determine when you can get vaccinated, and sign-up for our COVID-19 vaccine newsletter visit www.VaccinateLACounty.com.

While the vaccination process is underway, it is imperative that everyone continues to follow the straight-forward measures needed to prevent spread of the virus--wearing a face covering, avoiding gatherings, keeping your distance, and washing your hands frequently. Individuals with underlying health conditions and those that are older should remain in their home and not be around others unless seeking essential medical care.

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Free Money on a Credit Card All The Lonely People

I thought I was following D.C. discussion on the CARES Act and second round of support money. All of a sudden, I received a credit card looking piece of plastic that tells me I need to call an 800 number to activate the card to access "YOUR" funds. Reading more, I discover it is no longer the CARES Act, it is now COVID-related Tax Relief Act of 2020 and is no longer a check but a Visa Economic Impact Payment Card enabled by Money Network.



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

never got to me, and I was someone else calling in for me? It does say if your card has been lost or stolen to call an 800 number, but how would I know that if I never received it? Just like the vote by mail cards that were sent out - If you don't live at this house and have moved, please mail this card back with your new address.

It has 800 numbers and websites to check to get the answers needed. But we've learned this past year, and in my former work environment, many families struggle with their kids' education, and now with online learning, because they've not been able to afford computers, routers, internet service, printers, what many of us take for granted as regular household appliances. How does the homeless population get this card and check all this stuff out at websites and eipcard.com if they have questions?

When President Trump started the CARES Act, it was to provide almost instant help for families and keep businesses afloat so they could keep people em-

ployed, a roof over their head, food on the table, basic essentials, and money circulating to keep the economy, if not booming, at least alive. A check in the mail was quick, easy and gave people instant money and feeling a little more secure. I wasn't aware this second round of COVID support money was going to be a credit card and way too complicated for people stressed out and struggling. My interpretation: Use it free for domestic or international purchases at point of sale, but if you deposit it in a bank account and withdraw money, there's a charge. Free the first ATM or over the counter withdrawal, but pay a \$2 fee for the second transaction; and, \$3 if withdrawals are international. Why international to deal with the American COVID? I'll call that 800 number and ask. ATM inquiries about the balance on this card will cost you 25 cents each time. If you deposit the money in your account, make a withdrawal, it's free the first time but will cost you \$5 the second time. Guess this isn't free money after all.

The card, issued by MetaBank, Meta Financial Group, Inc is based in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and Dallas, Texas, with 10 bank branches nationwide, is FDIC secured and Glen Herrick is the CFO, formerly with Wells Fargo risk management group and the student loan division.

Three pieces of paper with a piece of plastic and charges to use it unless it is used at point of sale where products and charges are tracked. What happened to go green?

There is a difference between solitude and loneliness. There are those in every community who appear totally satisfied with being left alone. They are never rude; they just are content with their isolation.

But in every community there are also desperate people, lonely not of their own choosing. They may be widows or widowers. Their nest may at last be empty, or perhaps it never resounded with the laughter of children. There are those who continuously reach out, but no matter how often they have taken the risk of being ignored, they keep trying—without success.

Among the lonely, what about the thousands of the homeless whose presence may immediately evoke our distaste without the faintest understanding of what they may have lost. So they sleep on our streets, and few give a care. We just want them to go away. Their very disability is an affront.

This year has witnessed the creation of a whole new body of lonely sufferers. COVID-19 created over a quarter of a million empty Christmas dinner table places. In some cases there was more than one family member to be mourned. What is more, Christmas is usually a precious family time, and even though Americans had been discouraged from traveling, mostly to reunite families, airports were mobbed by people traveling at their own peril. And for many of the millions who remained isolated, the pain of being separated from loved ones was—and remains—just too painful to admit.

This lonely loss has hit Wendy and me. As our years are running



Charles H. Bayer

out, not to see and hold children, grandchildren and now great-grandchildren has been terrible. One day at a church convention I saw a very old friend accosted by a young woman who said, "Dr. Van Boskirk, I have always wanted to know you," and he, supported by his cane, replied, "You had better hurry." If these young children want to know us, they had better hurry. So, loneliness has descended on apartment 204.

Perhaps there must go out a call to each of us to be particularly aware of all the lonely people while they may be hesitant to reach out, their pain is real.

Isn't there always room for one more friend? Well, the year has been tough on all of us as fewer and fewer have escaped the dark domination of loneliness. So why not reach out to some lonely person out there?

A generation ago the Beatles riveted the world's attention on two lonely people whose names you may have forgotten. Eleanor Rigby sat by her window waiting for someone to love her, but no one ever came. She silently cleaned the church hall following someone else's wedding. And when Eleanor Rigby died, there were no mourners. Father McK-

enzie wrote sermons no one cared to hear, and was Eleanor Rigby's solitary servant at her death. So alone, he was reduced to spending silent hours darned his socks, just as her name was buried with her body.

Ah, look at all the lonely people

Ah, look at all the lonely people

*Eleanor Rigby
Picks up the rice in the church where a wedding has been*

*Lives in a dream
Waits at the window*

Wearing the face that she keeps in a jar by the door

*Who is it for?
Father McKenzie*

Writing the words of a sermon that no one will hear

*No one comes near
Look at him working*

Darning his socks in the night when there's nobody there

*What does he care?
Ah, look at all the lonely people*

*Eleanor Rigby
Died in the church and was buried along with her name*

*Nobody came
Father McKenzie*

Wiping the dirt from his hands as he walks from the grave

*No one was saved
All the lonely people (ah,
look at all the lonely people)*

*Where do they all come from?
All the lonely people (ah,
look at all the lonely people)*

*Where do they all belong?
So we pray, "Lord allow us
solitude, but save us from loneliness."*

*Contact Charles Bayer at
candwbayer@verizon.net*

MY TURN: SCOTUS Irresponsibility Has Plagued Our Post Election Era

Some real blame for the problems that have erupted as we approach the inauguration falls squarely on the shoulders of Chief Justice Roberts.

In times of tension and strife in a divided nation, a Supreme Court deliberation is necessary in order to provide clarity and the calming effect it could have on the country. The SCOTUS had an opportunity to make a ruling, or at the least, provide an opportunity for a ruling, by addressing the Texas and the Pennsylvania lawsuits on election fraud. It might well have deterred a lot of the problems we have experienced in the last couple of weeks. There was clearly a violation of the Constitution, but, in spite of that, the establishment elements in this country, including the Supreme Court, have chosen to let the fraud pass for "the good of the nation."

That, in itself is a joke, because what "good of the nation" will be accomplished when a large portion of the country doesn't believe they can honestly vote anymore. This is no longer about President Donald Trump or his supporters, this is about the Constitution and the rule of law and



Charles Lopresto

the integrity of our most basic process--voting. Deliberating in some capacity on these possible and probable fraudulent activities is not only in the SCOTUS wheelhouse, but is imperative in these times of national stress.

In the football term, Justice Roberts has now "punted" twice on two of the most important aspects of our political and social landscape- the healthcare conflict, which takes up about one-sixth of our economy (and now comes into question as we have faced a Covid pandemic) and the concept of voter integrity, which is at the heart of our Constitutional rights.

I will go as far as saying the Chief Justice has performed a

dereliction of duty and skirted his responsibility.

Furthermore, valuable time was wasted as the Texas and the Pennsylvania lawsuits, as well as questions coming out of Arizona, Georgia, Michigan and Minnesota, and even Nevada, were put off making any meaningful investigation nearly impossible, time-wise. And sadly, how do we know that same election fraud didn't carry over into the second Georgia election that was critical to the make-up of the Senate? The trust in certain people like the Governors and the Attorneys-General that stood in the way of the Constitutionally applied responsibilities of the state legislatures and very questionable activists like Stacey Abrams should have had better scrutiny. But then again, time was lost.

I have lost any respect for Justice Roberts and the void that was left by Justice Scalia's death is wider and deeper than we could have originally imagined. Any strife, violence, dissension and distrust that we experience in this fraudulent new administration will be partly considered "blood on the hands of" Justice Roberts. Unfortunate.

Guest Commentary: No Hotel at West Covina's BKK Landfill?

By Brian Jobst

West Covina's City Council had given hotel developer Singpoli until October 31, 2020 to close escrow and purchase city owned land at the BKK landfill. The land sale did not occur.

Since late 2016 Singpoli had pursued the land deal for an "international destination hotel." Singpoli's original plan called for an amusement park and a hotel. That was followed by a revised plan for thoroughbred racehorse training tracks and 1,110 stables along with the hotel. Singpoli's latest proposal retained the 400-room hotel, though racehorse training had been replaced with features like an outdoor amphitheater and zip lines.

West Covina City Manager Dave Carmany did not respond to a request for comment about why the land sale did not occur. Councilman Tony Wu, the Council's most ardent supporter of Singpoli's proposals also did not respond to the same request as did West Covina's new Mayor, Letty Lopez-Viado.

Mr. Kin Hui the Chief Executive Officer of Singpoli has also remained silent about what hap-

pened. Singpoli's media representative for the BKK hotel project states that he no longer works for Singpoli.

While City officials are maintaining silence, it's possible that some explanation of why the land sale did not occur may have to be made to State Auditor. The recent Auditor's report about West Covina's deteriorating financial condition includes the City asserting that the BKK land sale to Singpoli would assist in replenishing the City's dwindling general fund. The City's response to the State Auditor's report is due in later this month.

Singpoli's proposed project, referred to by opponents, as the "Landfill Hotel" was to have been built directly adjacent to California's largest toxic hazardous waste landfill, a landfill that is also unlined. The public health and safety risks that poised, as well as potential destruction of nearby sensitive native California habitat led to years of contentious opposition to Singpoli's proposed hotel by local residents, particularly those in West Covina and Walnut.

During West Covina's City

Council on July 21, 2020 the City Clerk read into the record 280 statements from residents in opposition to Singpoli's proposed hotel. No residents spoke in favor of the hotel.

While the City Council's and Singpoli's next steps at BKK are unclear, regulatory agencies that oversee BKK are proceeding with their plans for BKK.

Recently CalRecycle issued a Stipulation Order to the City West Covina. It requires the City to fulfill public health and safety obligations at and around the landfill, ones that the City had neglected for years.

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control is proceeding with plans to upgrade primary safety systems at BKK such as the landfill gas and contaminated groundwater extraction and processing systems. These systems include hundreds of wells and miles of piping.

The U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife is continuing to press the City to meet its unfulfilled commitments for habitat restoration that were a condition for development that's already occurred at BKK such as Big League Dreams and the failed golf course project.

Mr. Jobst is a 32-year resident of West Covina and co-founder of Livable West Covina, a civic group opposed to intensive development at the BKK landfill and focused of public health and safety associated with the landfill.

Beware of Vaccine Scams

It's a **SCAM** if someone offers to sell you the COVID-19 vaccine or a chance to get vaccinated before it's your turn.

FACTS:

- COVID-19 vaccine is being distributed in a fair and transparent way. Vaccine is only being offered to healthcare workers and people who live in long-term care facilities right now.
- COVID-19 vaccine will be given to Los Angeles County residents at no cost and regardless of immigration status.

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. Articles should be in Word format while photos should be in jpeg.

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Concerns About Inflation

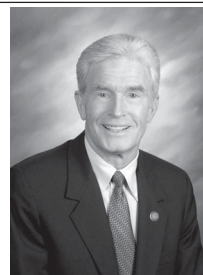
Joe Biden has referred to the latest coronavirus aid package as a "down payment" for dealing with the pandemic. Another stimulus bill providing more funding for tests, vaccinations, aid to cities and states, plus a third round of direct payments could add up to trillions of dollars! Why wouldn't that prompt worries about inflation as well as massive federal deficits.

The U.S. hasn't seen significant inflation in almost 40 years! Since the 2008 financial crisis the economy has experienced very low inflation and even some limited deflation. A moderate level of inflation occurs naturally in a growing economy, yielding slightly higher prices that encourage businesses to invest, as well as wages and interest rates to go up.

Central bank officials have indicated they will tolerate inflation levels higher than 2% to juice the economy and move toward full employment. However, if inflation rises at a faster rate than desired it could be harmful for investors. Inflation much above 2% could also force the Fed to tighten policy sooner than expected.

"The bottom line is that it will take a long time for average inflation to reach 2%," Chicago Fed President Charles Evans said last Monday. "To meet our objectives and manage risks, the Fed's policy stance will have to be accommodative for quite a while." However, others like Bill Dudley, the former president of the New York Fed, made waves last month by suggesting inflation might come back "much more quickly than the consensus suggests" due to pricing differentials as well as the lingering effects of the pandemic.

In A Nutshell
What's up in the Economy?



KEN HERMAN
Economic Analyst
& Former Glendora Mayor

As for fundamentals, one of the most important is the global nature of inflation. The spread of vaccines and end of lockdowns should unleash demand, but it will also unleash supply. In countries where governments are not as generous in propping up income, production could boom while demand will take time to recover. Weak emerging economy inflation (meaning the lack of inflation) will also likely hamper inflation growth in the US and Europe. As a rule of thumb, US recessions crush inflation for years and globally synchronized recessions are even more disinflationary.

Regarding global economic growth, it does not look so good in the European arena. However, Wall Street does not see slow growth spreading to the US. Bloomberg News reports economists are abandoning European growth forecasts as a new, more contagious COVID strain spreads on the continent and lockdowns tighten. Double dip recession is now the EU consensus. EU growth fell in the first and second quarters last year. Growth returned in the third. The fourth quarter economic decline is expected to be -1.5%, while the first quarter consensus is -4.1%! That would equate to a fairly severe EU recession on the heels of a severe drop just last year.

The strength of German manufacturing and exports are expected to help the EU's largest economy escape the Q4 drop. But even if Germany avoids the recession, the rest of Europe is not expected to be so lucky.

The most successful international and US vaccination campaigns (in terms of percent of population vaccinated) are those with the fewest restrictions. Recently, the CDC urged states to open vaccination to everyone over 65. Fortunately, NY dropped its complicated approach in favor of an aged-based one. In NYC, the city's COVID app, which was terrific in directing people to test sites in recent months, tells people where to go for a vaccine shot, but does not indicate who is eligible or how many people can be actually be vaccinated. Hopefully the vaccination pace will improve in all states once officials settle on a workable plan and execute it.

Nevada (my state of residence) recently opened up an online process for older people to get vaccinated soon at multiple designated locations. A reservation is required before anyone can show up to get their first COVID-19 vaccination. This registration process in Nevada is currently limited to those of us over 70 years old. Several of my neighbors have COVID-19 vaccinations scheduled during the first half of February. This is a good sign that vaccination availability for at least higher risk people will soon be ongoing throughout the USA!

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

What changes, that could affect my finances, will be happening with a new President taking office?

There will be changes, just as there are with each change in President. These changes will become evident soon enough. Hopefully, these inevitable changes will be good for America. As with any change, we will have to make adjustments. I strongly encourage you to continue to focus on getting out of debt, saving for emergencies, and planning for your retirement years. (To be continued.)

Do you think it's a good time to start a business?

It helps the economy when someone sees a need, starts a company, and creates jobs. Before making a decision to start a business, gather the facts for Federal, State, and local taxation and regulations. In recent years, Federal tax laws favored businesses by offering a lower tax rate and more deductions. At the same time, the government officials in Sacramento, California have reacted by increasing business taxes and utilities, and adding more rules and regulations. Businesses, large and small, have been moving out of California. Covid has complicated running a business. Numerous businesses are permanently abandoning brick-and-mortar buildings and having their employees work remotely.

I wanted to invest in my Roth during 2020. Is there any way for me to still do this now?

If you qualify to put money



Julia Yoder

into a Roth IRA, you can make your 2020 investment until April 15, 2021. You will still be allowed to make your 2021 Roth IRA investment contribution, too.

As a veteran, can the VA help with my long-term care?

Taking Care of Tomorrow, A Consumer's Guide to Long-Term Care, by the California Dept. of Aging, has a short paragraph about this. "The Veterans Administration (VA) provides a wide variety of services for aging veterans through traditional hospital programs, VA nursing homes, and the State veterans' homes. The VA also offers other programs including home care, adult day care, mental health care, day treatment centers, prescriptions, physical therapy, vision, and caregiver-support programs. The VA has reduced some of its services due to budgetary constraints, not all veterans are eligible for these services, and it's important to inquire before you need assistance. For information, call 1-800-827-1000."

Is there really a safe place to

invest?

An individual's age and life-changing circumstances cause fluctuations in their risk tolerance. The stock market can be quite risky, especially if you do not have enough years before retirement to recover losses. Your investments at a bank are not necessarily FDIC insured. (Ask your banker for their FDIC brochure, and read the disclosures on your bank statement.) The contents of your safety deposit box are not insured by the bank nor by FDIC. Life insurance companies are closely watched and rated (Standard & Poor's, Moody, others), are required to have a much higher percentage of their money "liquid," (quickly available), and typically back their investors' dollars by having their own widely-diversified investment portfolio. Nowadays, life insurance (especially with a built-in cash accumulation account), and certain equity-indexed, or fixed annuities are good places to put your money.

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

Necessity of Communication

The world finds itself in a place that modern civilization hasn't seen before (well we call ourselves modern and civilized) with business uncertainties, questionable news information, and a hyper political atmosphere that makes conducting business tiring and treacherous.

With the passing of time and increasing competition, an organization, however established it may be, needs to change and or must move forward. For an employee, a change could mean different work culture, obsolete technical knowledge, or changing management techniques. Because of such reasons change is not a welcome alternative for many; such cases should be handled with utmost care and careful communication only. To complicate matter even more remote work puts a twist on the so-called working environment that many are still not use to.

The role of communication in the success of any business function is a well-documented fact. Its efficacy is ushering change is also evident from the fact that often organizations choose people with better communication skills to lead a change initiative, with the hope that they will be able to gain widespread support across the organization.

Before we look into the virtues of communication, let's look closer at the process of change management. Managing change is essentially a methodical approach used for a proper and effective transition of individuals, teams, and organizations from a current undesired state to a desired state in the future. Essentially change management comprises of both, organizational change management as well as individual change management process and if these practices are effectively used, they can lead to a better more efficient and profitable organization.

Generally, employees go through three phases before successful implementation of a change is done:

- Fear - This is usually due to a high level of internal rumors resulting from lack of proper communication from higher level management. A common example can be a fear of job cuts or of



Michael Allawos
Principal Consultant
Global Management Consulting Services

increased personnel responsibilities.

- Frustration - In many organizations, full details about a change are kept confined to the higher management only. Employees could get frustrated by the level of secrecy and may retaliate by showing resistance towards change.

- Acceptance - This is the final transition towards a change. In given time, employees understand and learn to appreciate the need towards change. This acceptance acts as a final catalyst for an easy and efficient change implementation.

To effectively communicate a change, some general guidelines should be followed:

- Trust: Before undergoing a change, it is of the foremost importance for an organization to inform its employees about the change. Trust is an important factor in asserting that a change is taken with a good attitude. An untrustworthy person, if given the responsibility to convey the change, would create a sense of uneasiness among the employees and or team members can cause a loss in productivity and morale which then leads to unnecessary rumors, and a higher attrition rate.

- Hard Logic: It's the general nature of human beings to be resilient towards change. We search for stability and are happy in such circumstances. Only good communication and a compelling logic would enable an employee to understand the benefits of a change. Seminars, Conferences and general meetings could be conducted to deliver such knowledge.

- Acknowledge Success: When profits or good production results from a change, it is nec-

essary for an organization to communicate such laurels to the employees. This could confirm the effectiveness of the change and would ease further problems, if any.

A key to success is also to listen to those around you and taking to heart what they have to offer. I was recently asked to provide a solution to a messaging issue by providing three talking points. I provided the talking points with the messaging to go along, but at the end of the day no messaging was ever sent out with no reasoning or explanation. Follow through and closure is extremely important and valuable.

Change management process with efficient and sincere communications can help circumvent all the commotion and make executing changes a quick and hassle-free process.

Allawos & Company has helped countless individuals and companies alike reach their goals and discover new potential.

About Allawos & Company, LLC

Allawos & Company is a comprehensive global management business-consulting firm, tuned to enable organizations to identify and exploit opportunities through creative engagement built on a foundation of decades of senior management experience.

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We service the aerospace industry to healthcare, semiconductor to farming and most industries in between. Our comprehensive consulting services improve the client's condition and leaves behind the tools for growth.





THE CAR GURU

WHAT YOU "AUTO" KNOW

By Gene Morrill - Certified Automotive Specialists

Drips and Puddles

Those annoying under the car drips can leave your driveway and garage floor a mess...in fact everywhere you park becomes a victim to this mess. They are also a sign that something is wrong and needs to be taken care of. The only drip you don't need to be concerned with is the condensation from your air conditioner. Everything else is a signal that there is a problem. The small drips are giving you fair warning that if ignored, serious problems are in your future. Here are a few examples:

- A reddish brown drip may mean one of three things; leaking transmission, over tightened pan gasket or a leaking front seal.
- A green or orange-red drip suggests a cooling system problem such as leaking hose or radiator.
- A brown to brownish-black drip that is thick in consistency is more than likely engine oil. This is not a huge problem if it is slight but when it grows to puddle size it is a sign of something serious and if not kept under control could mean severe engine trouble.
- A leak that looks like tea and feels oily is brake fluid. This type of drip or leak is always serious!

If you notice a puddle three inches or larger under your car don't ignore it. Get it to the professionals as soon as possible. A puddle between one and two inches isn't as serious...yet...unless it is brake fluid. Don't put off having it looked at too long though...it

could become a much more serious problem.

It is a good practice not to ignore drips because if left unchecked those drips will turn into puddles that get bigger and bigger until you no longer have a small problem, you have a major problem. Make an appointment with us today, and your car's health care professional at Certified Automotive Specialists will stop the drips. Remember, minor problems come with mi-

Business Person and Employee of the Year

IRWINDALE - Irwindale Chamber of Commerce is now accepting applications for Business Person of the Year! This is for all our Entrepreneurs who have shown resilience in 2020!

All nominees must be members in good standing with the Irwindale Chamber of Commerce. Please complete the nomination form and return it no later than January 27, 2021

Citizen Of The Year

IRWINDALE - Calling all Irwindale Residents!

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

nor price tags...major problems come with major price tags...maybe even the cost of a new engine!

Prevention is always the best medicine for your vehicle.

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The Chamber is also accepting applications for Employee of the Year! Let's appreciate your employees for all their hard work.

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

For more information and a nomination form, email Amanda@IrwindaleChamber.org

ary 5, 2021. Awards will be presented at the Irwindale Chamber of Commerce Virtual Annual Installation Dinner Thursday, February 18, 2021.

For more information and a nomination form, email Amanda@IrwindaleChamber.org

Around the Valley & Senior News

"TIME JOCKEY" - Cabrillo Landing

By Joe Castillo

California Discovery... In 1542, Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, a Portuguese captain, set sail from Mexico north along the now western United States coast just to explore whatever he could. Flying under the flag of Spain, Cabrillo sought a location which he could safely drop anchor and would protect his ships. As he traveled along the coast, he came across a well-protected bay and dropped anchor adjacent to a short peninsula surrounding the bay. The location became known as Point Loma, and the bay is known today as San Diego Bay. The date was September 28, 1542, and it was the first time any one other than the indigenous people had seen or set foot in Alta California.

Cabrillo's ship was named the "El Salvador" and when Cabrillo and his men disembarked, they noted their first historic steps. Described as "Closed and very good", Cabrillo was able to see the entire bay from their vantage location which became known as Ballast Point. He named the bay

and location San Miguel, an important name which the Spanish explorers also used in naming the area and mountains around Mission San Gabriel as well the Mission San Miguel.

Cabrillo had set sail from Navidad, Mexico with three ships: "El Salgado", "La Victoria" and "San Miguel". After his landing at Point Loma, following Spanish sailor traditions, the captain of an expedition voyage would name an island or some other location after his ships. On Cabrillo's voyage, "San Miguel" was the name used for the bay at what is now known as San Diego Bay. "La Victoria" was used to name the island off what is now known as Orange County and named it "Victoria". Today, that island is known as San Clemente Island.

As the expedition continued to explore the California coast, another island was encountered and it was named "San Salvador" which was later changed to Catalina Island. Over the next couple of months, Cabrillo visited the various islands along the

Southern California coast, then returned to "San Salvador" (Santa Catalina) to make repairs to his ship. Cabrillo slipped and fell injuring his leg, which later became infected and led to Cabrillo's death. He was buried on the island in January 1543 and his men returned to continue their voyage north.

Today, Point Loma is home to the Cabrillo National Monument along the peninsula protecting San Diego Bay. There is a statue of Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, along with a California Historical Landmark plaque which commemorates the site of the first Europeans to land in California. Cabrillo and his voyages took place over 480 years ago but today his achievements are still commemorated and recognized along the coast of California....

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

Seen or Heard Around Town And in The Valley

By Ed Torres

1. "Recall Gov. Newsom", people declared on Saturday January 9, 2021 in downtown Glendora because the governor is destroying small businesses through his regulations, while he and his friends do not abide by them; and furthermore, because he allows "Big Business" companies in the neighborhoods to operate freely, but cracks down on the independent "small fish" businesses who do not have political clout.

2. Big Tech companies such as TWITTER, APPLE, GOOGLE, FACEBOOK wield almost unlimited power nowadays; so much that if they do not like someone's political views, they can ban them from using their systems - they ban people (and companies) unilaterally and arbitrarily, even if these folks and smaller companies are not talking about promoting criminal activity, but are simply expressing legal political views that Big Tech companies do not like...

That is similar to if the telephone, gas and electrical companies forbade citizens to use their utilities because they disagreed with peoples' political views - or like if the airlines, bus & train companies, and the Gold Line, for example, forbade someone from riding because that person might have expressed a legal, political view permitted under the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution... Think about that... Every American and all citizens of the world should be afraid of what is happening in The United States of America right now.

3. On January 13, 2021 in the U. S. House of Representatives there was a "speed dat-

ing" style fast second IMPEACHMENT of President Trump, shown on T.V. -- so that all Americans and the world could see what judiciously "thoughtful" discussions and debate in a great country such as America the Beautiful are conducted in Washington, D. C.,. Seriously?... At that rate there could have been maybe a dozen more IMPEACHMENTS of the president before he left office and really, really impressed the nation and the world! (?)

4. It seems too many American colleges and other places of education are not instilling in students the value of respect for different lawful views - and that allowing all students and citizens to express their legally protected views without repercussions is one of the utmost responsibilities of educational institutions.

5. Many "White People" in this country, it seems, have convinced themselves or been convinced by others that they need to hate themselves and feel guilty for being White...

6. There are some as well who say that any and all "White People" are "white supremacists"; and that, therefore, they are all dangerous human beings...

7. Regardless of one's political party affiliation, on January 6, 2021 it was unbelievable to see that a couple of "crazies" so easily broke a window to the Capitol of the U.S. of America as if it were made of cellophane wrap, then led a bunch of other crazies into the Capitol!... Surely it should be harder to break into America's Congressional building than into someone's wrapped Easter Basket... Who put in those

windows, "The Three stooges"?

8. Ex Democratic U. S. Senator from California Barbara Boxer reportedly has been "exposed" recently as having been a registered foreign agent for a Chinese company that has been banned in the U.S.A. because that company has engaged in espionage or surveillance... And ex Republican U.S. House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner from Ohio reportedly in the recent past was a lobbyist for the Chinese Communist government... "Yes", the Chinese Communist government... It seems that too many American politicians -- regardless of their political party -- forget about loyalty to "their Homeland" when they are offered big fat pay checks by foreign countries.

9. "Laissez Faire" was an economic doctrine or way of thinking that was popular in the 1700s-1800s - in general, it promoted that businesses had the right to do anything and everything, regardless of detrimental consequences to individuals and countries... It was curtailed, eventually, because of the harmful effects it had on society, such as companies forcing little children to do risky work in factories -- and allowing bigger companies to undermine (in immoral ways) the rights of smaller ones in order to force them out of business... Now Big Tech companies as well as "Financial Giants" on Wall Street seem to be relying on that outmoded doctrine to restrict competition in various ways (such as banishing PARLER "off the internet") - and many elected officials seem unwilling to curtail their power because there are too many immoral politicians receiving millions of dollars in contributions from employees of those companies.

10. But, in spite of the shortcomings of many self-serving individuals and big businesses, it seems most Americans think that The United States of America is still the greatest country in the world, and will remain so unless the many people who continue trying to tear it down and trying to convince others of what a deplorable place it is lose support.

Comments to Ed Torres: honnod1@yahoo.com

The Inauguration, How Did It Go??? I Don't Know Yet, But...

Since this piece is written before the inauguration, I hope everything went well.

I have heard there was all kinds of Intel about demonstrations and potential riots during the changing of the guard. Not sure where they're getting this information from, but I have heard from the news media that the Democrats are expecting this to happen. Trump has ordered thousands of National Guard and other personnel for security during this process.

I have a number of social media accounts and I'm not picking up on the same stuff that they are. Can't help but think that they are just saying this so they can have extra protection. Personally, I don't have a problem with this. It serves 2 purposes. The first, it does provide the protection. Next, it provides an audience for Biden's inauguration.

As for myself, I do not foresee any extremely major issues during this process. I hope I am not wrong with this and I hope that the people did in fact keep their cool.

People ask me if I trust this election and the way the voting process went, I have to tell them, "No I did not". If people can hack your Facebook page, they certainly can easily hack that electronic voting system. As for the mail in vote, people may have voted for one person and then later wanted to change their vote, it's a little too late. As for people voting without showing an ID, in my opinion that is just wrong. Also, with votes showing up



George Ogden
That's just the way it is!

where that particular person did not participate in that particular election is another indicator. I have a friend that moved to South Carolina and built a home some time back and he got curious and checked on his voting status here in California and found out that he had voted in the last few elections when he was not even here.

Do I think that the end result of the way the votes went would have changed if there was full accountability of every vote? I just don't know. Maybe not. But again, I am not satisfied with any confirmation of any of the votes by the people.

As for the end result that they say it is, well, there you have it. As for Trump he will depart after 4 years. As for the Democrats to continue to go after him for some type of impeachment after he is out of office to me is a humongous waste of our time and money. He is gone. In my opinion, he will not run again in 4 years as they claim he's going to do. I think he is done with this for a couple of reasons. Number 1, he is getting up there in age, and 2, I don't think he's going to have the same interest as he did

in the past.

As for Biden, I have trouble with him and his personal life and what I have seen him do. I usually make a joke... if you can't handle your own personal life what makes you think you can run the United States of America. However, you can do this with the people that you surround yourself with. I will treat the new president with respect, even though I may not have supported him. I will stand when he comes into a room to show my respect for the presidency. As for showing respect for Trump, I would do the same even though I may not have supported him as well. I will say this, without question, he has been one of the most colorful presidents we've ever had and as I said when he got elected it will be a four-year comedy show. I actually downloaded the various achievements that Trump did while he was our president. Many I recognized and forgot about. He actually did a lot and it kind of surprised me because I remembered many of it. I can't help but feel that he self-destructed over the last couple of months. It was pretty sad. I do however thank them for 4 years of service and also taking his pay as president and donating it to veterans' programs. I wish him well and I think it will be fun to follow his next few years to see what comes of him.

By the time you read this, we will have a new president and we should all wish him the best.

"That's Just the Way It Is!"

Emanate Health Named Top-Ranked Health Care System Employer in the Country by Glassdoor

The recognition is based solely on the input of Emanate Health employees, who elected to provide anonymous feedback about the company

COVINA - Glassdoor released its list of "Best Places to Work" in 2021, and Emanate Health was named the 1# ranked health care system in the United States, and the No. 19 ranked company in the country.

Emanate Health received the Glassdoor Employees' Choice Award, now in its 13th year, which is based solely on the input of employees, who elect to provide anonymous feedback by completing a company review about their job, work environment and employer on Glassdoor, the worldwide leader on insights about jobs and companies.

"I feel extremely proud of our dedicated employees for their unwavering commitment to our mission," said Rob Curry, CEO, Emanate Health. "The past year has challenged our staff—emotionally, physically and professionally like none other. Everyone has made untold sacrifices to treat our patients with compassion, especially those with COVID-19, which manifests itself every time they began a shift."

Emanate Health was ranked above six other hospitals and health systems named in the list of 100 companies.

"COVID-19 is in the driver's seat and every employer has been impacted. This year's winning employers have proven, according to employees, that even during extraordinary times, they'll rise to the challenge to support their people," said Christian Sutherland-Wong, Glassdoor chief executive officer.

"I want to personally thank those who took the time to share your experiences about working at Emanate Health, as its willingness to share your feedback that contributed to this win," Curry said. "This award is a symbol of the belief you have in our mission and our commitment to fos-

tering a workplace of excellence. It's the people factor and culture of excellence that we strive for every day."

On Glassdoor, current and former employees voluntarily and anonymously share insights and opinions about their work environments by sharing a company review, designed to capture a genuine and authentic inside look at what a specific job may be like at a particular company. When sharing a company review on Glassdoor, employees are asked to rate their satisfaction with the company overall, and key workplace factors like career opportunities, compensation and benefits, culture and values, senior management and work/life balance. In addition, employees are asked to describe the best reasons to work at their companies as well as any downsides.

Glassdoor's Best Places to Work were determined using company reviews shared by U.S.-based employees between Octo-

ber 22, 2019 and October 19, 2020. During the year-long eligibility period, employers considered for the large list must have received at least 75 ratings for each of the eight workplace attributes (overall company rating, career opportunities, compensation and benefits, culture and values, senior management, work-life balance, recommend to a friend and six-month business outlook) taken into account as part of the awards algorithm. The final list is compiled using Glassdoor's proprietary algorithm, led by its Economic Research Team, and takes into account quantity, quality and consistency of reviews. Complete awards methodology can be found here: <https://www.glassdoor.com/Award/index.htm>

For the complete list of the Glassdoor Best Places to Work winners in 2021, please visit: https://www.glassdoor.com/Award/Best-Places-to-Work-LST_KQ0,19.htm.

SoCalGas Distribution Riser Integrity Project

DUARTE - SoCalGas is performing an inspection of above-ground natural gas equipment called an anodeless riser within the City of Duarte through February 28. Anodeless risers are the industry standard method for transitioning from plastic natural gas service lines to steel natural gas meter set assemblies.

If there is damage to a riser, an authorized SoCalGas contractor will install new coating and possibly small plastic vaults to protect the riser and the coating from accumulating soil or other debris. The homeowner

will not be responsible for any costs if a riser needs to be replaced.

It is important for homeowners to provide SoCalGas and its contractors access to the area around the meter to perform the inspection and services that are requested.

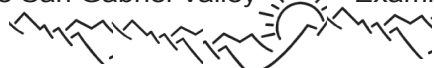
SoCalGas will not be shutting off any residential gas, nor will they be making entry into any homes.

If you have any questions, or to report a pipeline emergency, call SoCalGas at 1-800-427-2200.

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Glendora Community Coordinating Council Humanitarian Awardee

GLENDORA - Debbie Deal has been an active volunteer in the Glendora community for years and continues to be volunteer warrior. She has volunteered for 30 years with the Glendora Community Coordinating Council serving on every position from President to membership to the Holiday Baskets chair. Debbie has also been a long time member of the Glendora PTA serving many positions on the local and council level, served on the Christmas parade committee, EYE-DAS boosters, the Glendora Public Library and Kiwanians to name a few. She has a servant's heart and puts her all into everything she does. Glendora Community Coordinating Council is very proud and honored to recognize Debbie with January's Humanitarian Award.

The GCCC is always looking for volunteers from the city to be recognized each month. If you have a nominee please visit our website at www.glendoracoordinatingcouncil.org for a form and contact information.



Debbie Deal - Glendora Community Coordinating Council January's Humanitarian Awardee

Make Your Home a Sanctuary – Even If COVID-19 Arrives on Your Doorstep

Winter has brought with it a resurgence in COVID-19 cases. And while the rollout of preventive vaccines has begun, the manufacture and delivery of sufficient doses to inoculate all Americans will take months. Because the disease can be unpredictable, everyone should take precautions to mitigate its spread, especially when it makes an appearance at home.

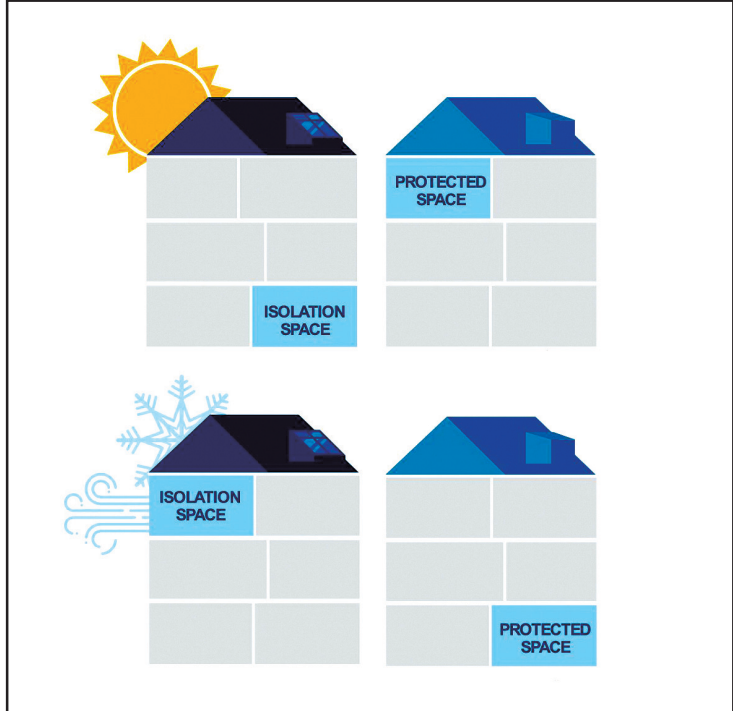
While the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends physical distancing, mask-wearing and other health-related measures, the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) also recommends additional guidance when a household member is known to be infected, to help reduce risk to other household members. Filtrete Brand, a leading air filtration brand of 3M, has also made some of this information available at Filtrete.com/3M.

First, prepare a clean sanctuary within your home, either an isolation space – for someone who has contracted COVID-19 – or a protected space – for someone who may be at high risk of getting the coronavirus.

Location is especially important. When the weather is warmer, the ideal isolation space should be on a low floor; in cooler months, a high floor. However, for protected spaces, the location should be just the opposite: on a high floor in warmer weather, and on a low floor in chilly weather. The reason for this is to prevent having air naturally gravitate towards protected spaces as a result of seasonal temperature differences.

Earmarking space is a good start. To further optimize the space for preventing the spread of infection, you can address these key elements as applicable to your home, understanding there is variation in home construction, HVAC systems, and climate:

- Windows: Keep windows closed as much as possible throughout the home. In an isolation space, use a window-installable product to provide exhaust ventilation. In a protected space, supply filtered, outdoor



air.

- Doors: For an isolation or protected space, always keep the door closed. For added safety, install a draft stopper under the door or hang plastic sheets in front of the room's entrance.

- Vents: If you have a forced-air heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system, seal all vents in the isolated or protected space. By doing so, you'll prevent its air from entering other rooms. However, if the room you select has the home's only HVAC return vent, it may be wisest to choose another room.

- Portable heating/cooling: If you're able to seal off all vents, you may require a portable room heater or air conditioner so that thermal conditions can remain comfortable.

- Private bathroom: If possible, designate a private bathroom for use only by the occupant of the separate room. For a protected space, only run the bathroom exhaust fan when the facilities are in use. For an isolated space, run the bathroom exhaust fan continuously at high speed.

- Air purification: A system such as the Filtrete Air Purifier with HEPA filtration can help capture unwanted air particles, including viruses and bacteria, in a protected space. Be sure to change the filter regularly, per instructions or according to the device's electronic filter life indicator. While Filtrete Air Purifier Filters don't stop or prevent

the transmission of COVID-19, they do improve indoor air quality.

For more information on preparing a clean sanctuary at home, visit www.Filtrete.com/3M.

To stay up to date, consult the CDC and other health authorities, as well as ASHRAE for the latest guidelines, updates and recommended precautions around COVID-19. (StatePoint)

Shawn Montano's Office in the Sky - Neon Signs

By Jayam Rutnam

Shawn Montano is the owner operator of Classic Neon Signs & Crane. He has been in the business for over 40 years, born and raised in the Glendale area.

From a very young age Shawn watched and learned every aspect of the sign business. His grandfather, Raymond Barker, was a hand lettering sign man after WW2. Ray was one of the founding pioneers in what was a quickly growing neon industry in Southern California.

As a young boy, Shawn would play in the neon sign shops. He was introduced to Rio Score in 1978 at Alert Lite Neon. He began to learn how to bend glass, while cleaning the shop. His friends Dennis and Jerry Thomas then started the business, American Neon. Through the next couple of years, Shawn was doing TV neon and learning all about the trade.

In 1980 Ray introduced Shawn to Brite-Lite Neon which was an IBEW Union neon sign shop run by James Mastopietro and Rick Cincis. He started as a shopman doing work with plexiglass, sheet metal, and wiring. Within a couple years, he was working on a 60' ladder truck, and the 64' Garland Crane where I earned my union card as a sign serviceman. Rick Jr. was his journeyman who truly taught him the trade. Shawn was shown how to use a block and tackle pulley to drop over the roof to repair neon signs. His first day over a roof, he came back to the shop and James asked Jr. "So, how'd he do? Like a duck in water!" It was then, that Shawn says he knew he had found his calling. "I loved working in the air! The heights made me feel alive!"

In 1987, Shawn purchased his first boom truck and began his own sign business. Doing AM/PM markets and many other amazing projects. From repair to complete restoration of neon signs. Television and movie



Shawn Montano gives a "high sign" while installing a Neon Sign in the San Gabriel Valley

projects on the studio lots etc.

When LED lights began replacing neon, the jobs dried out. He started with Local33 and found himself at NBC. Working in the electrical department where he maintained all stage lighting, power, specialty set-ups for concerts and TV shows. Unfortunately, NBC's Burbank studio was majorly affected by the Universal Merger, and so was Shawn's job there. He went back to familiar territory working on high rise buildings with American Neon, and side by side with Leonard Campbell owner of

Campbell Crane. "This brings us to the present. I now have started Classic Neon Signs and Crane. I'm back doing what I know and love, offering services that reach beyond the sign business. I enjoy doing this job, the high buildings, restoring old classic neon signs of years past. But most of all, I always have the best views from my office in the sky!" The name of Shawn's business is Classic Neon Signs he can be reached at 747-246-8980. His motto is "No Job Is Out Of Reach."

Baldwin Park Drive-Thru Food Distribution

BALDWIN PARK - The City of Baldwin Park in collaboration with County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, LA Regional Food Bank, LA County Federation Labor, Labor Community Services LA, and UFCW Local 1428 hosted a Drive-Thru Food distribution at Morgan Park on Wednesday, January 13. They provided thousands of households with dry goods such as pasta, rice, a box filled with fresh produce, frozen chicken and hand sanitizer.

During the past 11 months of the pandemic, the City has committed to providing much needed assistance to residents. The services include but not limited to, providing food to residents, weekly meal delivery to senior citizens, access to COVID-19 testing sites in our city, as well as providing small



Photo courtesy of the City of Baldwin Park

business grants.

For information on current available programs please visit www.baldwinpark.com.

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Soroptimist International of Azusa-Glendora Serves the Community in Extraordinary Times

GLENDORA - COVID-19 may have halted Soroptimist International of Azusa Glendora (SIAG) annual outreach efforts to improve the future of women and girls, but it has not stopped them from continuing to support their communities.

"Last spring, when it became apparent that our in-person events designed to educate and inspire women, girls and others would not be possible due to COVID-19, our club made the decision to support organizations that were providing much needed resources to our communities," said Shannon Lancaster, SIAG president. Those resources included food, shelter, clothing, personal necessities, counseling for victims of domestic violence and support for low income parents with young children.

SIAG holds several community outreach events each year, including Self-Esteem, a workshop for fifth grade girls; Per-



Soroptimist International of Azusa Glendora presents new pajamas for women and children who are victims of domestic violence to YWCA/WINGS Shelter. Photo taken at last year's annual pajama collection drive.

sonal Growth Luncheon for intermediate school girls who have overcome significant challenges; Dream-It-Be-It, a workshop for high school junior and senior girls focusing on

careers; and Live Your Dream, which presents several \$2,000 awards to women who are head-of-household and enrolled in an academic or vocational program that will lead to

employment.

A new event, Cherish the Child had also been planned for 2020. The event would have been open to parents and children and provided information



Soroptimist Intl. of Azusa Glendora presents \$1,000 check to Our Neighborhood Homework House for Mother's Literacy Project. L-R: Soroptimists Marilyn Grinsdale, Shannon Lancaster and Bonnie Fox; Jennifer Hicks, director of Our Neighborhood Homework House; and Soroptimist Lori Ulloa.

from leading experts on human trafficking and child abuse.

"We had already been providing annual support to outstanding community organizations," Lancaster said. Those include YWCA/WINGS Shelter, House of Ruth, Azusa Food Bank/Pathfinder Ministries, Glendora Welfare, Our Neighborhood Homework House, Glendora Shepherd's Pantry and Shoes that Fit. "Given the unprecedented need resulting from the pandemic, our club chose to donate additional funds to these organizations," she added. Lancaster estimated this year's donations would be

more than \$15,000.

For their next philanthropic venture, SIAG is gathering new pajamas for women and their children who, due to domestic violence situations, are forced to flee their homes with only the clothes on their backs. The pajama collection is an annual SIAG effort done in coordination with YWCA/WINGS.

For information about how to donate new pajamas or for information about any of the activities or events hosted by the Soroptimist International of Azusa-Glendora, please contact: Shannon Lancaster at (626) 482-9886.

West Covina's John Hughes Makes VFW Donation



John Hughes presents a check for the West Covina VFW Post 8620 to VFW Post 8620 Commander George Ogden.

By Staff Writer

WEST COVINA - West Covina's John Hughes who was very well known throughout West Covina and has been a longtime supporter of veteran's organizations as well as being a member of the West Covina Elks Lodge had heard about the financial issues with the West Covina Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8620. He wanted to help out and he contacted the commander, George Ogden, and had the commander

meet him at South Hills Country Club in West Covina. He wanted to make a sizable donation to the VFW to assist them with their finances.

John Hughes had heard about what had happened when the government closed down everything including the veteran's organizations. The

VFW had to refund nearly \$68,000 to those people who had previously rented the facility for their special events. Most businesses that were shut down lost their future revenue. Organizations such as the VFW and the American Legion which rent out their facilities to survive and to help out the veterans and the community lost both, savings and future revenue... not only had to pay back their clients but also lost any money coming in.

This basically crippled these organizations and John Hughes wanted to do something that would help out a little. He presented the commander with a check and he was greatly appreciative for his donation to the VFW.

John Hughes was very instrumental in the MDA and Fourth of July events for the city for many years. It all started when a family member

was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy. They had a fundraising chili cookoff at the Elks Lodge in West Covina and from there it snowballed into a huge event at Cameron Park in West Covina high school and fireworks show for the Fourth of July. Later it was moved to Edgewood high school. It was an extremely successful event and raised large amounts of money for the MDA and often John Hughes and others appeared on the Jerry Lewis telethon fundraising program.

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