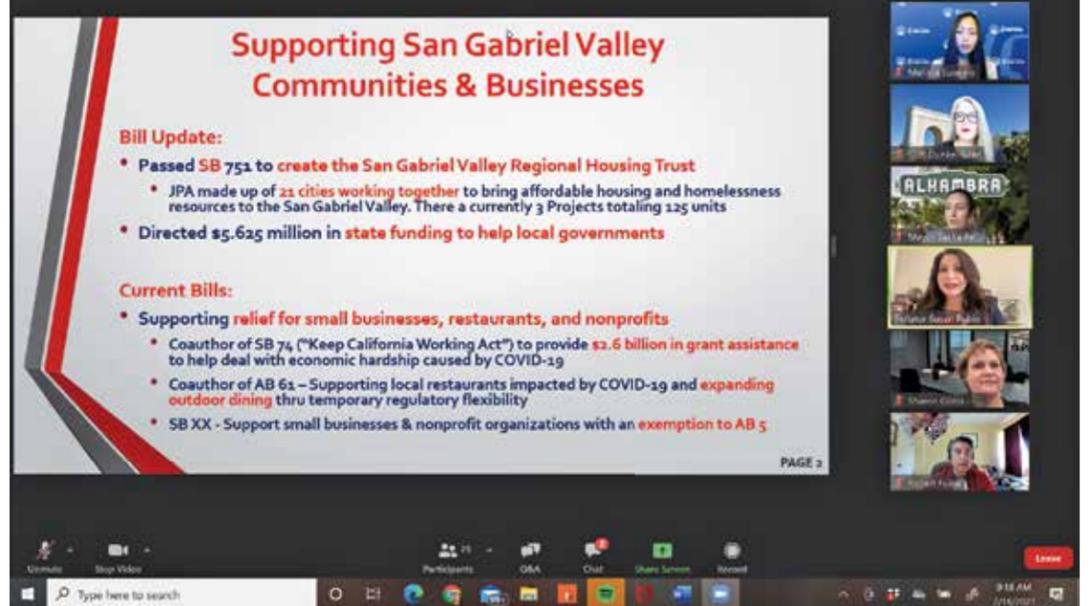




Hundreds of people receive free flu shots during a drive-thru clinic at Cal State LA in November 2020. The flu shot clinic and Cal State LA's participation in the COVID-19 vaccination effort are part of the university's We Are Healthy LA initiative, a collaboration with community partners to provide basic needs and help ensure health and safety during the pandemic. (Photo credit: J. Emilio Flores/Cal State LA)



Cal State LA named as COVID-19 community vaccination center

Cal State LA is the site of a new federal community COVID-19 vaccination center. The federal government partnered with the state of California to launch two new community vaccination centers: East Oakland at the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum and on Cal State LA's campus. The centers are part of the Biden administration's effort to scale up COVID-19 vaccine distribution nationally. "In the Eastside of Los Angeles, we launched a large site on the campus of California State University, Los Angeles," White House COVID-19 coordinator Jeff Zients said during a Feb. 3 briefing. "This is one of the most diverse public universities in the country, serving a large Latino community."

>> see **VACCINATION CENTER** Page 9

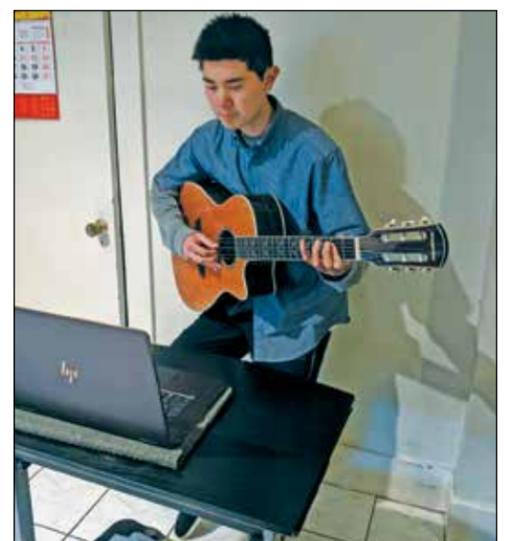
Alhambra Chamber of Commerce presents 'Back to Work Alhambra' webinar

Joining the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce for its ongoing "Back to Work Alhambra" webinar series were State Sen. Susan Rubio; Alhambra Mayor Sasha Renée Pérez; Melissa Eusebio, health educator, County of L.A. Dept. of Public Health; and Anders Covey, public health deputy, office of County of Los Angeles Supervisor Kathryn Barger. Presentations and updates were made with time for Q&A. The event was hosted on Zoom and Facebook Live.

Sen. Rubio updated on several pieces of legislation aimed at assisting businesses and individuals hit hard by the COVID pandemic. Mayor Pérez reported on how Alhambra is helping its businesses and residents during this challenging time. Ms. Eusebio gave an in-depth overview on how the COVID vaccine works, with an update on the next phase of vaccine availability. Mr. Covey gave an update on changes to COVID. The next Back to Work Alhambra webinar is scheduled for March 16.

District launches virtual afterschool clubs

Most Alhambra Unified School District (AUSD) TK-8 schools have an After School Education and Safety (ASES) program to provide afterschool support and enrichment to eligible students. Like all other district programs, ASES has had to pivot to a virtual format this year. Under the leadership of Duane Russell, director of school operations and programs, and Linda Nakagawa, instructional specialist, ASES has supported more than 600 students this year through a variety of online enrichment lessons. To reach even more students, the ASES is launching ASES Adventures Club this month to help students who miss socializing with other students. These clubs are offered free to any TK-8 AUSD student and include the supplies necessary for the activities. Options include art, crafts, science, literature, music, world culture, and technology. Each class will be limited to 25 students per



Marguerita Youth Specialist Edward Zha will lead the Music Fun club where students will explore the basics of music through string instruments and the keyboard.

>> see **VIRTUAL AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS** Page 14

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Mayor's Corner



By Mayor Sasha Renée Pérez

As I enter my third month in public office, I want to express how grateful I am to serve as your mayor. It has been such an incredibly humbling experience to serve my hometown. It is the highlight of my day to meet new and longtime Alhambra residents. I look forward to meeting more of you virtually and socially distanced in the months to come.

This year has been an incredibly busy for us thus far. The city has worked hard to gather community feedback and create a vision for Alhambra's future. We've hosted forums and surveys around the housing element, zoning update, and Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA). In early March, we'll have a strategic planning session between councilors to establish our goals for the years to come.

I am so excited to pave a new road forward for Alhambra!

Vaccine update, Cal State LA site opens

I would like to give a special thank you to L.A. County Supervisor Hilda Solis, Gov. Gavin Newsom, and President Joe Biden for working hard to provide our residents with an accessible COVID-19 vaccine location at Cal State LA. This will ensure that our senior residents can receive the vaccination without having to travel far distances.

Cal State LA's COVID-19 vaccination site opened Feb. 16. It will serve 6,000 people a day and follow the tiered priority distribution system. Drive-thru vaccinations are offered in Lot 5. Vaccinations

of those with walk-up appointments take place in Structure A. For those who use public transportation, shuttles are available from the campus Transit Center to Structure A.

Vaccinations will be made by appointment only at <https://myturn.ca.gov/> or by calling 833-422-4255. To learn more about COVID-19 vaccinations please head to <https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccines/>.

The County of Los Angeles will continue to provide the COVID-19 vaccine at other site locations. Kaiser Permanente and CVS pharmacy have also begun providing vaccines to members and non-members. For more information on scheduling your vaccine appointment, please visit my new COVID-19 resource web page at <https://www.sashareneeperez.com/appointments>.

AAUW Speech Trek Contest

On Feb. 13, I served as a judge for the Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Speech Trek Contest. Each high school student prepared a five- to 6-minute speech on the topic: *Has Social Media Helped or Hindered the Breaking Down of Barriers for Women and Girls?* The students prepared passionate speeches that left all attendees feeling inspired. The experience reminded me of my time on the Speech and Debate team as a student at Mark Keppel High School.

Congratulations to Speech Trek Contest winner Dara Dispanurat. Miss Dispanurat will receive a \$100 prize and represent the Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch at the statewide contest where she will compete for a \$1,500 prize.

US Bank Opening

U.S. Bank has opened their first branch in Alhambra at Albertson's supermarket. We are excited and grateful to have them as a partner in our community. U.S. Bank has already hit the ground running by providing Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan assistance to all small businesses in Alhambra for free and to those not currently banking with U.S. Bank. Approximately \$285 billion has been set aside for additional lending federally, including the ability for eligible businesses to request a second round of funding through the program. U.S. Bank plans to offer both first and second PPP loans under the new rules.

In addition to supporting our local businesses, they have given back to our



Celebrating U.S. Bank's opening, located inside Albertson's. From left, Julie Davis, Mortgage Officer; Daniel Burgin, District Manager; Sasha Renée Pérez, City of Alhambra Mayor; Michael Win, Branch Manager; Katherine Lee, City of Alhambra Vice Mayor; Julie Sigala, Banker; Catherine Pan, Mortgage Officer.



AAUW Speech Trek Contest.

community. In late January, U.S. Bank and Lunasia donated lunch to our health care workers at Alhambra Hospital. They've also proudly supported the Asian Youth Center and Alhambra Teachers Association in their emergency food programs.

Valentine's Day fundraiser with Yang's Kitchen

On Valentine's Day, Yang's Kitchen hosted a fundraiser in support of local non-profit API Forward Movement. API Forward Movement has regularly distributed emergency grocery bags to families in need feeding 37,593 people. To support their efforts, every meal purchased from Yang's Kitchen on Valentine's Day contributed toward 5 pounds of farm fresh produce and a dozen eggs to a family. I was happy to stop by and pick up some delicious food and drinks to support their fundraiser.

Thanks to Yang's Kitchen's efforts API Forward Movement will be able to serve even more families in need!

NASA lands its Perseverance on Mars

Congratulations to all our Alhambra residents who work at California Institute of Technology Jet Propulsion Laboratory, including Eric Sunada and Alessandro Buscicchio, for successfully landing NASA's Mars 2020 Perseverance! JPL managed the successful mission and confirmed touch down in Jezero Crater at around 3:55 p.m. EST (12:55 p.m. PST) on Feb. 18.

About the size of a car, the 2,263-pound (1,026-kilogram) robotic geologist and astrobiologist will undergo several weeks of testing before it begins its two-year science investigation of Mars' Jezero Crater. While the rover will investigate the rock and sediment of Jezero's ancient lakebed and river delta to characterize the region's geology and past climate, a fundamental part of its mission is astrobiology, including the search for signs of ancient microbial life.

Library offers Alhambra Reads 2021

Reading is alive and well at the Alhambra Library, 101 S. First St. This spring, the library will feature a program called "Alhambra Reads 2021." In March, participants will read the book *Rising Strong* by Brené Brown.

Here is a partial summary of Ms. Brown's book: "Social scientist Brené Brown has ignited a global conversation on courage, vulnerability, shame, and worthiness. Her pioneering work uncovered a profound truth: Vulnerability — the willingness to show up and be seen with no guarantee of outcome — is the only path to more love, belonging, creativity, and joy. But living a brave life is not always easy: We are, inevitably, going to stumble and fall."

Look for Ms. Brown's new podcast, "Dare to Lead" as well as her ongoing podcast "Unlocking Us!" Beginning in March, join neighbors in a series of lectures, to-go kits, and outdoor activities designed to get participants

thinking and exploring.

Alhambra Reads 2021 is designed to be the start of a wellness and self-care journey that begins with reading and ends with transformative action. To participate, reserve a complimentary copy of *Rising Strong* by e-mailing refstaff@alhambralibrary.org or by calling the library at 626-570-3212. Only one book per household, while supplies last, may be reserved. There will be more Alhambra Reads events in April and May, including speakers and fun outdoor events around town. Find out more at <https://alhambralibrary.org/alhambra-reads-2021>.

Book to Action is a program of the California Library Association, supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

ALHAMBRA READS 2021

BRENÉ BROWN, PH.D. #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

RISING STRONG

HOW THE ABILITY TO RESET TRANSFORMS THE WAY WE LIVE. LOVE, PARENT, AND LEAD

BOOK TO ACTION
PUTTING WORDS INTO ACTION

Featuring *Rising Strong* by Brené Brown

WE ARE ALHAMBRA SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES

Adjusting to the



Alhambra businesses have pivoted and adjusted their daily structure to serve you safely. CDC compliant practices have been adopted on site to ensure protection and prevention from the Covid 19 virus.

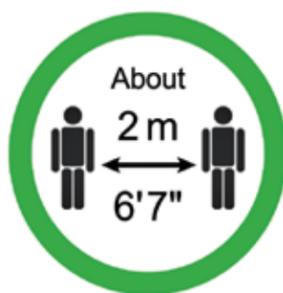
CUSTOMERS ARE ASKED TO DO THEIR PART BELOW:



Wash Hands Thoroughly



Use Soap or Hand Sanitizer



Keep Safe Distance from Other People



Stay at Home if Sick



Use Face Mask or Respirator

TO FIND OUT WHAT RESTAURANTS AND BUSINESSES ARE OPEN, SCAN THESE QR CODES:

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City offers Ultimate Teen Basketball Challenge

High School level students are invited to join the Ultimate Teen Basketball Challenge. The contest takes place Friday nights between 4:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. from March 26 to May 7.

Visit cityofalhabra.org and click on Recreation Services to register. The \$30 registration is for all seven weeks. Prizes will be awarded to first and second place winners in each division weekly. Divisions are Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors.

For more information, call 626-570-5081



Saving Water Means Saving Money!

Increased Rebate Amounts for Clothes Washers and Rain Barrels

By Mark Paulson, Director, Division I (Alhambra) San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

It's winter, it's cold, we get more rain than usual and water use declines this time of year. Yet, it's a good time to plan ahead to save water...and save money... by checking for leaks, turning off outdoor sprinklers, making sure we are efficient in our use of indoor appliances, taking shorter showers and turning off the water when we brush our teeth.

The San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District has offered a rebate program for many years for a variety of water-saving appliances and equipment. Many residents have cashed in and reaped the benefits of lower water bills and money in the pockets. Winter is a great time to plan ahead in advance of the warmer, drier months when water usage spikes upward. The decisions you make now will save you water and money later in the year.

Beginning March 1, 2021, and continuing until June 30, 2021, the District is increasing the rebate amounts for two of our most popular rebate items – washing machines and rain barrels. We want to help you and “flood the market” with more water saving devices that use less water and electricity, use less detergent, and capture water that could wind up in sewer drains or cause erosion around your

home. The illustration shows the variety of rebates available and shows the \$25 bonus rebate amounts for water-efficient washing machines and rain barrels.

If you're in the market for any of the appliances or equipment shown on the illustration, take advantage of our rebate program, and increase your savings on clothes washers and rain barrels whether you purchase in person or online. Residents who pay their water bill to the cities of Alhambra, Monterey Park and Azusa are eligible to participate. Visit our website (www.sgvmwd.org/Conservation/Rebates) for further information to help you apply and know which products qualify for the rebates.

If you take action today, you should be enjoying that rebate, extra cash and water savings within 8-10 weeks time. If you have any questions, please call us (626-969-7911) or email us (info@sgvmwd.com). Thank you and stay safe!





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LIMITED TIME ONLY FROM MARCH 1, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021


**AROUND
ALHAMBRA**

Published by the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce.

A monthly publication with a circulation of 40,000, Around Alhambra is mailed to every business and residence in the City of Alhambra and to all interested local, state, and county officials.

We welcome comments, press releases, and community interest stories and will make every effort to include all appropriate information. Articles submitted and printed in Around Alhambra do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce or its Board of Directors. Please e-mail submissions to djenkins@alhambrachamber.org.

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It's *The Little Things* at Bun 'n Burger

The Little Things, starring Denzel Washington, Rami Malek, and Jared Leto, is the latest Hollywood movie to use Alhambra as a backdrop for its story telling. As early as 1937 Hollywood was coming to Alhambra to film in its unique neighborhoods. In that year, the movie *Hollywood Hotel* used the Alhambra Airport as the setting for the iconic song, "Hooray for Hollywood." Alhambra's streets and homes have been scouted and used by film and TV producers ever since.

Now there is a new movie in Alhambra's movie resumé. A Warner Brothers film, *The Little Things* is a crime, drama, thriller film that was written and directed by John Lee Hancock. "Kern County Deputy Sheriff Joe Deacon (Denzel Washington) is sent to Los Angeles for what should have been a quick evidence-gathering assignment," the studio said. "Instead, he becomes embroiled in the search for a serial killer who is terrorizing the city."

As soon as Detective Deacon gets to L.A., he goes to his favorite coffee shop, which is of course Bun 'n Burger. In a scene shot at night, Denzel Washington's character sits alone at his favorite booth sipping his cuppa joe. Seen from the outside, the scene is classic film noir.



Since the movie *The Little Things* is set in the '90s, Bun 'n Burger, which has been in Alhambra since 1941 with its iconic Art Deco design and neon sign, was perfect for a visual flare that suggested the famous detective movies of the late '40s.

Vanessa Montes, one of the owners of Bun 'n Burger, remembers the day in September 2019 when Hollywood came calling. After a few location scouts found their way to the corner of Main Street and Valencia, they decided they had found just the right spot. On the appointed day, the film crew began showing up at 6:30 a.m. to begin setting up. The director wanted a night shoot, so everything was made ready for the big scene.

Since *The Little Things* is set in the '90s

the little coffee shop, which has been in Alhambra since 1941, with its iconic Art Deco design and neon sign was perfect for a visual flare that suggested the famous detective movies of the late '40s. Denzel Washington showed up at 8 p.m. Main Street was momentarily blocked off, and filming began. It is a short scene but served to establish his character's past in Los Angeles and suggested his lone wolf approach to crime solving.

When the shooting was complete, Washington graciously took pictures with Vanessa and her family. The crew struck the set, cleaned up, and were gone by 9:30 p.m. Just another day in Alhambra. It was a good day for Alhambra's own Bun 'n Burger.

Jo's Garage now open at Kerechuk building

BY GLENN BARNETT

Many of us miss Billie and Natalie at Kerechuk Motors located at 120 E. Valley. Now there is a new kid on the block at that site. He is Javier Mendez, and he is a lifelong car guy. During his high school years he learned from his father the importance of taking care of the family car. His dad taught him how to change the oil, charge the battery, check the fluids, and much more. He learned the basics for his career working on cars right at home.

That childhood experience led him to a career in the automotive business. In 1992, he hired on at a body shop in San Gabriel where, as the youngest employee, he served a real apprenticeship. He was put right to work sweeping the floors. It wasn't long before he was assigned to the parts department and soon became its manager. After that he was promoted to be a service consultant and soon became the service manager.

Along the way he met and befriended other car guys. One of them was Alhambra's own Denis Kerechuk. When the shop at 120 E. Valley became available, Mr. Mendez took the next step in the automotive business. After 30 years of auto repair experience, he has become the owner of his own shop and is now open for business as Jo's Garage.

Javier is experienced with all types of cars, foreign and domestic. That includes hybrid and even the all-electric vehicles and light trucks. He has the tooling for all makes and models. But as he, and every other car guy, readily admits, "You never have enough tools."

Find out what Denis Kerechuk already knows, that Javier Mendez is a top flight mechanic. Book an appointment with Javier for your car care maintenance or repair.

For more information, check out the Jo's Garage website at <https://josgarage.com>, or call Javier at 626-872-0705. Jo's Garage is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and closed on weekends. Saturdays 8 a.m. to noon until further notice. Closed Sundays.



Javier Mendez opens Jo's Garage.



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In Alhambra, the man to see is Kevin Knight. Mr. Knight and his wife have lived in Alhambra for five years. Their five children, including two sets of twins, are beginning their educational adventure in Alhambra City schools. He is a licensed independent insurance agent, which means he doesn't work for just one company but has access to many different insurance companies and plans. He has the knowledge to navigate the system to determine which plan would best suit the concerns his clients have about the future.

There are a lot of questions that go along with life's financial concerns. It is important



Kevin Knight, Family First Life, has the knowledge to navigate the system to determine which insurance plan would best suit the concerns his clients have about the future.

to hire someone who knows the business. When ready, contact Mr. Knight. His office offers services in English and Spanish.

For more information, call 310-254-6908, or e-mail kevin@ffroyalty.com. The website is <http://ffroyalty.com>. The address is P.O. Box 7488, Alhambra 91802.

Tax Tips

Identity Protection Pin Program expanded to all taxpayers

In January, the IRS Identity Protection Pin (IP PIN) Opt-In Program was expanded to all taxpayers who can properly verify their identity.

An IP PIN is a six-digit number assigned to eligible taxpayers to help their Social Security number from being used to file fraudulent federal income tax returns. This number helps the IRS verify a taxpayer's identity and accept their tax return. The online "Get AN IP PIN" tool immediately displays the taxpayer's assigned number.

This tool uses Secure Access authentication to verify a person's identity. Taxpayers should review the "Secure Access requirements" before they try to use the Get an IP PIN tool.

There are other ways to get an IP PIN if someone is unable to pass the Secure Access authentication. Taxpayers with income of \$75k or less should complete Form 15227 and mail or fax it to the IRS. An IRS employee will call the taxpayer to verify their identity using a series of questions.

Taxpayers who cannot verify their identities remotely or who are ineligible to file Form 15227 should make an appointment to visit a "Taxpayer Assistance Center." Bring two forms of picture identification. This is an in-person identity verification. After the taxpayer passes authentication, an IP PIN will be mailed to them within three weeks.

Taxpayers should never share the IP PIN with anyone but their tax provider. The IRS will never call to request the taxpayer's IP PIN, and taxpayers must be alert to potential IP PIN scams.

Here's what taxpayers need to know before applying:

- The Get and IP PIN toll became available in January.
- This is the preferred method of obtaining an IPPIN and the only one that immediately reveals the PIN to the taxpayer.
- Taxpayers who want to voluntarily opt into the IP PIN program don't need to file Form 14039, Identity Theft Affidavit.
- The number is valid for one year.



Michael Aston is an Enrolled Agent engaged in his family business at Alhambra Tax Center, 1009 E. Main St., Alhambra. Alhambra Tax Center has served Alhambra residents since 1970. He can be reached at 626-282-1084. Tax questions, or any other questions, can be e-mailed to michael@alhambratatxcenter.com. To view previous topics, read his blogs at www.alhambratatxcenter.com.

Each January, the taxpayer will be sent a new number.

- It must be entered correctly on electronic and paper tax returns to avoid rejections and delays.
- A taxpayer with either Social Security or Individual Tax Identification Number who can verify their identity are eligible for the program.
- Any primary or secondary taxpayer or dependent can get an IP PIN if they can prove their identity.
- The IRS plans to offer an opt out feature to the IP PIN program in 2022.

This article is from the IRS Tax Tips 2020-168 from Dec. 9, 2020.

If IP PIN is for you, my suggestion is for you to wait to apply after you have filed your 2020 tax return to prevent any delays on your 2020 filing.

Any taxpayer who already has an IP PIN because of identity theft can retrieve their IP PIN by going to the "Get an IP PIN" tool at irs.gov.

Apply for Veronica Thee Service Award

The Veronica Thee Service Award recognizes young women who make the community and world a better place through volunteer efforts. The award is named after Veronica Thee, who took pride in being a Soroptimist for 40+ years. She was known as the "smiling lady." She had an open heart and loving spirit.

Three awards will be given out for a total of \$3,600 and \$100 to each non-profit organization. Candidates for the award should visit www.soroptimistalhambra.org for more information and to download an application. The deadline to turn in applications is March 15.



Talbot Insurance Agency Inc. State Farm Insurance Regina Talbot, Agent, 626-357-3401
Insurance License #: OG05807

How does my homeowners insurance policy handle earthquakes?

Most standard homeowners, condo owners, or renters insurance policies don't cover earthquake damage to property and personal belongings. Federal and state financial assistance after an earthquake will probably not cover all your replacement costs. Even if your neighborhood is declared a disaster area, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) can only offer limited assistance through grants, and only to those who qualify.

In California, insurers offer earthquake insurance as a separate option to their standard homeowners policy for an additional premium. Premiums vary depending on statistical and risk-assessment factors. Rates are lower in areas with lower seismic activity. You can use the California Earthquake Authority (CEA) premium calculator to determine rates in your area.

What should I look for in an earthquake insurance policy?

As when buying any type of insurance, purchase the coverage that works best for your budget and individual needs. Ask yourself these questions:

- **What's the cost to replace my possessions?** Replacement costs for major appliances and other expensive items in your home could add up to a substantial sum.

- **Where would I live if my residence were uninhabitable?** If your home sustains structural damage, you might have to vacate the premises and stay in a hotel while repairs are being done or your home is rebuilt.

- **How much is my home worth?** Your earthquake coverage should match the level of coverage on your homeowners insurance to help ensure your home is covered in case it needs repair or be replaced.

- **What about personal property?** Your earthquake coverage may not cover

personal property. Homeowners insurance does not typically cover personal property damage from earthquakes. You might want to consider a personal article policy.

How do I know what to insure?

A home inventory is a useful way to record your most valuable assets ahead of any loss and provide a better idea of how much coverage you might need. Keeping an accurate property inventory will help facilitate the claims process in the event you have to file a claim. A visual record of your possessions, such as a video walk-through of your home or a series of photographs, can help establish proof of ownership. Make a list of everything of value in your residence. Keep documentation of major purchases, including receipts, credit card statements, and appraisals. These documents can be scanned for digital storage or kept in a safe off-site location, such as a safe deposit box. And once you've created your home inventory, be sure to keep it updated.

How do I get earthquake insurance?

A majority of the world's biggest earthquakes take place along the U.S. Pacific Coast, stretching from Southern California to Alaska. Though California has one of the highest earthquake risks in the country, only 12% of the state's homeowners have earthquake insurance, according to a Bloomberg news report. To help encourage more Californians to purchase earthquake coverage, the California Earthquake Authority™ (CEA) was created in 1995. The CEA is a nonprofit, privately funded insurer created by the state's government to help make earthquake insurance more affordable. This mini-policy option is available through most California insurance carriers.

For more information, contact State Farm Agent Regina Talbot at 626-357-3401.

WELCOME OUR *New* CHAMBER MEMBERS!

Carol's Nail Salon
106 S. First St.
Alhambra, CA 91801
626-576-5512

Carol's Nail Salon is a full service professional salon for ladies and gentlemen. We offer full set, fills, nail designs, manicure, pedicure, and waxing at great prices.

Welcome!

ZenBusiness
5900 Balcones Drive, Suite 5000
Austin, TX 78731
844-493-6249

Zenbusiness.com/California-llc/ ZenBusiness makes it easy to start, run, and grow your business. We are a small business that is excited about helping other entrepreneurs realize their dreams of creating and growing a successful business. By making business formation easy and affordable, we hope to foster a small business community where owners can connect on a local and national level and help each other grow.

Virtual Networking



Welcome
New
Members

alhambra
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Virtual  zoom

Wednesday, 3/31/2021 @ 9:00 a.m.

Congratulations on becoming a member of the
Alhambra Chamber of Commerce
Get to know your Chamber better



As a Chamber member you are now a working partner with over 300 other businesses that are looking to find creative ways to improve their performance and bottom line. Join us and your fellow new members as we highlight the various services the chamber offers to grow your business and brainstorm ways to support each other during this turbulent time.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZwkduGgrj0sHtPuohAUdJafjTx2NsDmDea4>

The Alhambra Chamber of Commerce *thanks these members for renewing their memberships and for their continued support:*

American Legion Post – 139

24 N. Stoneman Ave.
Alhambra, CA 91801
626-576-9584
Member since 1997

Arlen Vartanian, DDS

100 E. Huntington
Drive, Suite 211
Alhambra, CA 91801
626-282-4195
Member since 2020

B & C Physical Therapy

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626-782-7611
Member since 2018

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Member since 2018

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Suite #1
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626-284-3300
Member since 2012

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403 W. Valley Blvd.
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Member since 2008

Perry, Stephen

Member since 1989

Primerica Financial Services – Sam Yue

San Gabriel, CA 91776
626-230-7192
Member since 2008

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15 N. Curtis Ave.
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626-300-0006
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Soroptimist Intn'l/ Alh./SG/SM

P.O. Box 343
Alhambra, CA 91802
626-625-8301
Member since 1993

The UPS Store

560 W. Main St. Suite C
Alhambra, CA 91801
626-284-8298
Member since 2005

TonyMoly

108 S. First St.
Alhambra, CA 91801
626-281-2000
Member since 2017

Wondries Toyota

1439 W. Main St.
Alhambra, CA 91801
626-289-8000
Member since 1982

Thank You!

To renew your membership with a credit card, please phone the Chamber at 626-282-8481.

Medicare's rules can be confusing, mistakes costly

Medicare covers the bulk of your health care expenses after you turn 65. But Medicare's rules can be confusing and mistakes costly. If you don't make the right choices to fill in the gaps, you could end up with high premiums and big out-of-pocket costs. Worse, if you miss key deadlines when signing up for Medicare, you could have a gap in coverage, miss out on valuable tax breaks, or get stuck with a penalty for the rest of your life.

Costly Medicare mistakes you should avoid making:

Keeping your Medicare Part D Plan on autopilot

Open Enrollment Period for Medicare Part D and Medicare Advantage plans runs from Jan. 1 to March 31. So for members who enrolled during Annual Enrollment (Oct.15 to Dec 7) and didn't like their plan, can switch one more time. The cost and coverage can vary a lot from year to year — some plans boost premiums more than others, increase your share of the cost of your drugs, add new hurdles before covering your medications, or require you to go to certain pharmacies to get the best rates. And if you've been prescribed new medications or your drugs have gone generic over the past year, a different plan may now be a better deal for you.

Forgetting that you can sign up for Medicare at 65

If you're already receiving Social Security benefits, you'll automatically be enrolled in Medicare Part A and Part B when you turn 65, although you can turn down Part B coverage and sign up for it later. But if you aren't receiving Social Security benefits, you'll need to take action to sign up for Medicare if you're at least 64 years and 9 months old. You have a seven-month window to sign up, from three months before your 65th birthday month to three months afterward (you can enroll in Social Security later). You may want to delay signing up for Part B if you or your spouse has coverage through your current employer. Most people sign up for Part A at 65, though, since it's usually free — although you may want to delay signing up if you plan to continue



Katherine Yu Simms has supported seniors in making difficult and important decisions for many years. She can be reached at 323-854-2868, or e-mail kyusimms@rey-top.com.

contributing to a health savings account. If you work for an employer with fewer than 20 employees, you must sign up for Part A and usually need to sign up for Part B, which will become your primary insurance. Ask your employer whether you can delaying signing up for Part B.

Going out-of-network in your Medicare Advantage Plan

If you choose to get your coverage through a private Medicare Advantage plan, which covers both medical expenses and prescription drugs, you usually need to use the plan's network of doctors and hospitals to get the lowest co-payments, and some plans won't cover out-of-network providers at all except in an emergency. As with any PPO or HMO, it's important to make sure your doctors, hospitals, and other providers are covered in your plan from year to year. You can switch Medicare Advantage plans during Annual Enrollment from Jan. 1 to March 31.

As your Medicare Insurance agent consultant, I can help you compare out-of-pocket costs for your medications and general health condition under the plans available in your area as well as verifying doctors, specialists, hospitals, and other providers are in network.



On Jan. 22, representatives of U.S. Bank, including Branch Manager Michael Win and Julie Sigala, met with Alhambra Hospital Medical Center Marketing Supervisor Blanca Andrade and Simon Marcus, RN, Sr. Nursing director, and Gladly Varghese, RN, director of ICU/CCU. They were joined by City Councilmember Adele Andrade-Stadler to deliver 150 meals of delicious dim sum treats to the frontline workers at the hospital.

U.S. Bank supports staff at Alhambra Hospital

Even before U.S. Bank opened inside the Albertsons Market at 2400 W. Commonwealth Ave., they were already reaching out to serve the community.

On Jan. 22, representatives of U.S. Bank, including Branch Manager Michael Win and Julie Sigala, met with Alhambra Hospital Medical Center Marketing Supervisor Blanca Andrade and Simon Marcus, RN, Sr. Nursing director, and Gladly Varghese, RN, director of ICU/CCU. They were joined by City Councilmember Adele Andrade-Stadler to deliver 150 meals of delicious dim sum treats to the frontline workers at the hospital. There were two separate deliveries to assure the meals stayed warm. Half of the boxed meals were delivered for the lunch shift and the other

half for the dinner shift.

U.S. Bank even thought of a way to double their service to the community. The meals were all purchased from an Alhambra restaurant, the popular Lunasia Dim Sum House, source of some of the best dim sum in the San Gabriel Valley. Lunasia was the first choice of the hospital staff.

"We wanted to help the community in two ways," said Mr. Win. "First we wanted to thank Alhambra's front line health providers who have served us so well this last year, and secondly we wanted to support an Alhambra business that is doing its best to stay open during the pandemic."

U.S. Bank is off to a good start in Alhambra. Drop by the new branch office and get acquainted.

Medicare Open Enrollment Period
January 1 - March 31, 2021



Important Medicare questions

- 1 When am I eligible?
- 2 What are my choices for Medicare and supplements?
- 3 How much do the plans costs?
- 4 When and how do I sign up?

I speak Mandarin and Cantonese
Katherine Yu Simms
Medicare Insurance Agent
License #0M21975

St. Patrick's Day
Cell 323.854.2868



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'Alhambra Chamber Tools to Help Your Business' features Cal Savers Update

The Alhambra Chamber of Commerce's monthly Tools to Help Your Business Zoom seminar featured a presentation by Alhambra Chamber member and Ambassador Sam Yue. Sam updated attendees on the state's CalSavers program.

CalSavers is a law that requires any business in California with five or more W-2 employees to provide a retirement plan for their employees. Businesses can choose between enrolling their employees in CalSavers or set up their own plan.

Businesses that choose CalSavers will automatically enroll all their employees in a Roth IRA with a default contribution of 5% and an automatic 1% annual increase until reaching 8%. Employees may change the contribution amount or even opt out of the program. Employers are responsible in monitoring which employee is enrolled and the contribution amount per pay cycle.

The other option is to set up your own plan such as a 401(k), SEP IRA, SIMPLE IRA or a qualified pension program. This will allow the business to be exempt from CalSavers and provide your employees with

better benefits. Regardless of the company choosing CalSavers or setting up their own plan, they must still go to www.calsavers.com and register their company.

The deadline to be compliant with this law is June 30, 2021, for any business with 50-99 employees and June 30, 2022, for any business with five to 49 employees. Failure to comply with this law can potentially cause businesses to be penalized up to \$750 per employees per year.

For more information about CalSavers or to register your company, go to www.calsavers.com.

Tools to Help Your Business is presented at noon on the third Wednesday of each month on a variety of topics to help business owners in these challenging times. For more information on Tools to Help Your Business, contact the Chamber at 626-282-8481.

Sam Yue
Investment Adviser Representative with
Primerica Advisors
626-230-7192
828-656-1168



Dear Neighbor,

Nearly \$10 billion in state emergency relief for Californians is on its way. Our proposal, highlighted below, was crafted in collaboration with Gov. Newsom and will provide emergency relief for workers, their families, small businesses, students, and childcare providers. In addition, it will restore funding for public universities and colleges as well as the state's courts system. As a classroom teacher, I know this relief will also help our students from falling further behind. Information will soon be available at COVID19.CA.GOV

Next, we have to figure out how to open schools safely while protecting teachers. I will continue to work with Gov. Newsom and my colleagues to do whatever it takes to alleviate the pain felt by so many in my Senate District and the state.

The package will offer assistance to families and businesses facing devastating economic hardship because of COVID-19 and will include:

- Business tax deductions and fee relief;
- Stimulus payments for low income population;
- Child care subsidies;
- And Student aid.

*Families who previously qualified for state programs and federal relief such as CalEITC, CalWORKs, and CalFresh should read the highlights below for more information.

*Businesses that previously qualified for state small business grants, and federal PPP business loans should read the highlights below to see how this package may help.

Highlights:

Direct Relief to Individuals and Families

If you qualified for California EITC in 2020, have an Individual Tax Identification Number and were precluded from the federal stimulus, make less than \$30,000 as an individual or \$75,000 as a household, you may be eligible for a one time, \$600 stimulus payment.

In addition, if you are enrolled in CalWORKs or receive SSI/SSP and Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) you may be eligible for a one-time \$600 grant.

Immediate Relief for Small Businesses

The package extends the Small Business Relief grant program from \$500 million to more than \$2 billion. If you are Small Business owner who already applied for a loan, don't worry about reapplying. If you have not applied, please visit for more information when the application period will open again <https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/california-small-business-covid-19-relief-grant-program/>

In addition, California small businesses who received federal PPP loans could be eligible for state tax deductions up to \$150,000.

Fee Waivers and License Relief

The package provides for two years of fee relief for roughly 59,000 restaurants and bars as well as relief for more than 600,000 barbering and cosmetology businesses.

More Resources for Critical Child Care

The package adds over \$400 million in new federal funds that will provide stipends of \$525 per enrolled child for all state-subsidized child care and preschool providers.

The new federal resources will extend care for children of essential workers through June of 2022, and increase access to subsidized childcare for 8,000 additional children of essential workers and at-risk children during this time period.

Additional Aid for Individuals and Families

The package provides an additional \$24 million for Housing for the Harvest ? a program providing support for agricultural workers who have had to quarantine due to COVID-19.

The package also provides a combined \$35 million for food banks and diapers.

Emergency Financial Relief to Support Community College Students

The package provides an additional \$100 million in emergency financial aid for qualifying community college students who are enrolled in six or more units.

CalFresh Student Outreach and Application Assistance

The package provides roughly \$16 million to support outreach and application assistance to income eligible higher education students for CalFresh food assistance.

Restoration of Reductions

The package restores previously enacted reductions, effective July 1st, for the UC, CSU, the Judicial Branch, Child Support Services, and for moderate-income housing.

This relief and stimulus package is intended to help as many families and businesses as possible with immediate relief. As more specifics are released, it will be available at COVID19.CA.GOV. I will also post additional information to my website at <https://sd22.senate.ca.gov/> and my Facebook page at @SenSusanRubio

Sincerely,



Senator Susan Rubio
Senate District 22

Capitol Office
State Capitol, Room 5035
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 651-4022
Fax: (916) 651-4922

West Covina District Office
100 S. Vincent Ave.
Suite 401
West Covina, CA 91790
Phone: (626) 430-2499

VACCINATION CENTER From Page 1A

The new centers are operated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State of California through the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

"Cal State LA is ready to work with President Joe Biden, Gov. Gavin Newsom, and their administrations to provide badly needed vaccinations," said Cal State LA Provost and Executive Vice President José A. Gómez. "Our students and alumni live in communities with some of the highest COVID-19 infection rates per capita in Los Angeles County."

Cal State LA President William A. Covino noted the vaccination site aligns with the university's mission.

"Cal State LA has a long history of collaborating with and serving in the community," Mr. Covino said. "We are dedicated to engagement, service, and the public good. Our role as a vaccination center is another example of that dedication. We are grateful to President Biden and Gov. Newsom for this opportunity."

Registration for vaccination appoint-

ments is available through the state's MyTurn scheduling system.

The new vaccination centers are paired with two mobile vaccination clinics that can be deployed to multiple locations to increase distribution to areas that otherwise lack sufficient support, the governor's office said.

Cal State LA's participation in the COVID-19 vaccination effort is part of the university's We Are Healthy LA initiative, a collaboration with community partners to provide basic needs and help ensure health and safety during the pandemic.

Under the initiative, Cal State LA has worked with federal, state, and local governments and organizations including the YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles, QueensCare Health Centers, the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, and the Southeast Los Angeles Collaborative to provide influenza vaccinations and distribute more than 120 tons of food to approximately 5,000 families in the Los Angeles area.



Alhambra Hospital Medical Center once again awarded 'A' for patient safety

Alhambra Hospital Medical Center was awarded its fifth "A" in a row from The Leapfrog Group's Hospital Safety Grade. Alhambra Hospital has earned an "A" in patient safety since the fall of 2018, followed by spring 2019, fall 2019, and spring 2020, and the latest, fall 2020. Alhambra Hospital is recognized for its efforts in protecting patients from harm and meeting the highest safety standards in the United States.

The Leapfrog Group is a national organization committed to improving health care quality and safety for consumers and

purchasers. The Safety Grade assigns an A, B, C, D, or F grade to hospitals across the country based on their performance in preventing medical errors, infections, and other harms among patients in their care.

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Score recognition is representative of Alhambra Hospital's commitment to delivering the highest level of quality patient care. "Our everyday goal is to exceed our patients' expectations by delivering outstanding and safe medical care to every patient, every time," said Iris Lai, chief executive officer of Alhambra Hospital Medical Center.

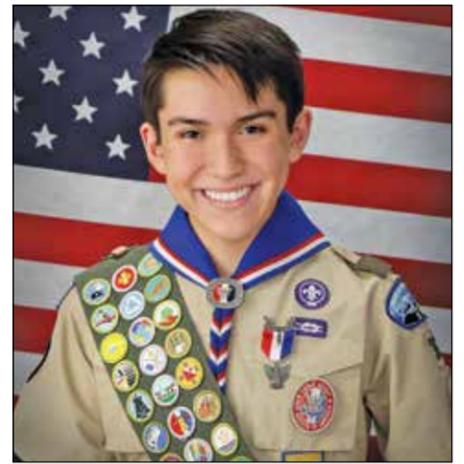
Alhambra High School student earns Eagle Scout rank

Maximiliano "Max" Mata received the Boy Scouts rank of Eagle this past September. He is a Boy Scout with Troop 361, which is located in Rosemead. To earn the rank of Eagle, a Boy Scout must complete an extensive service project that the scout plans, organizes, leads, and manages. Max's Eagle project took place prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and consisted of a beautification project for La Casa de San Gabriel Community Center in San Gabriel.

The beautification project required over 60 hours of preparation at home and on site, including a full weekend spent with volunteers during the summer's hottest weekend. He raised the funds to implement his project's goals, which included painting supplies for a perimeter fence, tools for clearing out weeds and brush surrounding the center, materials for upgrading and replenishing planters, and paint and hardware to reinforce the playground's swing set. Max managed fellow scouts, family, and friends in order to fulfill his project.

After completing his Eagle project, Max continued earning merit badges required for Eagle rank, which he completed during the pandemic lock down. The required Eagle Board of review, which consists of a panel of scout leaders from the Greater Los Angeles Area Council, was conducted via Zoom. Additionally, Max held several key leadership roles with Troop 361 and mentored younger scouts.

Max started his scouting journey as a Cub Scout while a student at Emery Park Elementary School. The rank of Eagle is the highest honor conferred by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America and is recognized as an achievement by many



Reflecting on the Eagle project, Max said, "It was rewarding to have the ability to give back to my community."

organizations and businesses. Only 4% of scouts earn this honor.

Reflecting on the Eagle project, Max said "I'm fortunate that I was able to plan and carry out my project. Having put so much effort into it and then seeing the gratifying expressions on everyone's faces at the end made the project worthwhile. It was rewarding to have the ability to give back to my community."

Now a senior and an honor student at Alhambra High, Max plans to major in biology at a four-year college in Southern California next school year.

About La Casa: Located in the City of San Gabriel, La Casa is a non-profit organization that enhances the well-being of the families it serves by providing educational and social services that promote self-sufficiency and motivation for lifelong learning.



Daylight Saving Time returns
at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 14.

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Obituary 50 – year Alhambra resident Frances Duarte passes away



Frances Duarte
Dec. 3, 1934 – Jan. 13, 2021

On Jan. 13, Frances Duarte, mother of five children, grandmother to 10, and great grandmother to nine, passed away at the age of 86 from Covid-19.

Frances was born on Dec. 3, 1934, in Anthony, New Mexico, but spent nearly her entire life in Southern California and more than 50 years in Alhambra.

Frances grew up in the wake of the

great depression, which left a lasting impression on her. She was strong, fiercely loyal, and put her family above everything else. Frances had a sprawling extended family with many cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends, leaving behind many who adored her. For Frances, there was nothing better than spending time with family watching the Dodgers and Lakers. For the people who knew her, there was nothing better than spending time with Frances.

Frances was married to her husband, Daniel, for 51 years when he passed in 2003. The two established family roots in Alhambra that have lasted four generations and counting.

Frances thoroughly enjoyed her job as a crossing guard for 15 years at Park Elementary School and retired in 2017. The City of Alhambra presented a Certificate of Service plaque to her for her outstanding work.

Frances will forever be remembered for her impeccable appearance, her warmth, her unique voice and laugh, and the legacy of a large family that will never forget her.

Los Angeles County COVID-19 vaccines — frequently asked questions



What are the side-effects of the COVID-19 vaccines?

You may get side-effects, like the ones after the flu vaccine or shingles vaccine. Side effects are more common after the second dose and in younger people. They usually do not last long, and you should feel better within a day or two.

How many doses of COVID-19 vaccine will I need?

Most of the COVID-19 vaccines that are being tested are given in two doses a few weeks apart. It is important to get the same kind of vaccine for both doses. The Pfizer vaccine is given as two doses 21 days apart. The Moderna vaccine needs two doses given 28 days apart.

Will I have to pay to get a COVID-19 vaccine?

No. Your doctor or pharmacy may charge a fee for giving the vaccine, but it will be covered by public and private insurance companies. People without health insurance can get COVID-19 vaccines at no cost. There are no out-of-pocket payments.

Will I be asked about my immigration status when I get a COVID-19 vaccine?

No. COVID-19 vaccine is being given to Los Angeles County residents at no cost regardless of immigration status. You should not be asked about your immigration status when you get a COVID vaccine.

When can I get a vaccine?

The goal is for everyone to be able to get a COVID-19 vaccination easily as soon as large quantities of vaccine are available. While supplies are limited, vaccine is being offered to different groups of people at different times or phases. Visit [VaccinateLACounty.com](https://www.vaccinatelacounty.com) to see which phase you are in and when vaccines will be offered to each phase.

When it is my turn, where will I be able to get the vaccine?

Vaccines will be given at:

- Primary care clinics.
- Pharmacies.
- Some workplaces.
- Special vaccination sites run by Public Health and county, city, community, and health care partners.

If I have already had COVID-19, do I still need to get vaccinated?

Yes, you do need the vaccine even if

you have had COVID-19. We don't yet know how long you are protected after you have had COVID-19, so it is important to have the vaccine to strengthen your immunity.

Can children get the COVID-19 vaccine?

No, people under the age of 16 cannot get COVID-19 vaccine at this time. There isn't enough information available yet about the use of these vaccines in children. People age 16 and 17 can get the Pfizer vaccine. The Moderna vaccine is for people 18 and older.

Can people with weak immune systems get a COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. Studies of the current COVID-19 vaccines did not include people with weak immune systems, so we don't know how well the vaccine will work in these people. We do know that people with weak immune systems are at higher risk of getting COVID-19 if they are exposed to it. If they get COVID-19 they are more likely to become very sick. They are advised to talk to their doctor about getting the vaccine. The studies did include people with stable HIV and people with active cancer and found that the vaccine was as safe and effective for this group as it was for other people in the studies.

Can people with allergies get a COVID-19 vaccine?

It depends. People who are allergic to things like food, pets, venom, or pollen, or people who have a family history of allergies can be vaccinated. But people who have had an allergic reaction to any ingredient in the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines or to polysorbate should not get vaccinated. People who are allergic to a vaccine or injectable therapy for another disease should talk to their doctor to decide if it is safe for them to get vaccinated.

Should I get a flu vaccine?

Yes! A flu vaccine only protects you from the flu, but at least it means you won't run the risk of getting flu and COVID-19 at the same time.

Can I stop wearing a face covering once I am vaccinated?

No! It is important to continue to take precautions like washing hands, wearing face coverings, and practicing physical distancing, even after you have had two doses of vaccine.

Academy of Special Dreams presents Wheels Up! art exhibition

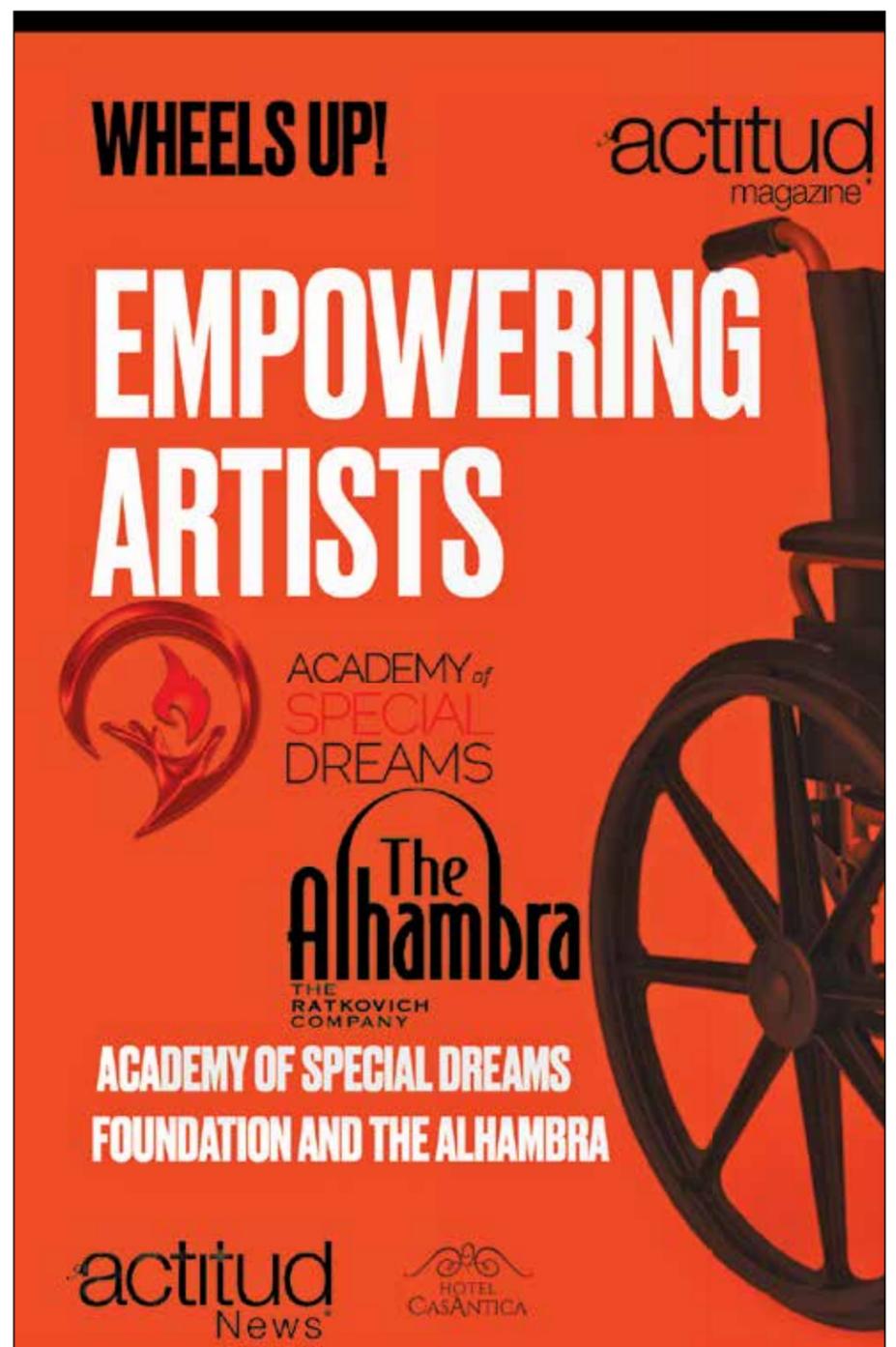
The Academy of Special Dreams Foundation presents a new inclusive art exhibition, *Wheels Up!*, in March at The Alhambra, 1000 S. Fremont Ave.

The show features a diverse group of local and international artists who represent a wide spectrum of race, ethnicity, gender, age, and abilities and who have one mission, to bring public awareness, recognition, and appreciation to inclusion in the arts. Artists include Diego Romero, Rafael Moreno, Martin Vogel, Tom

Doyle, Samuel Jimenez Diaz, Mandeep Singh Manu, and Debora Gallardo.

"Special thanks to Maru Pombo, Dory Perdomo, and ACTITUD News and our main supporters The Alhambra, The Ratkovich Company, and the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce," said curator and artist Michael Dergar, founder of the Academy of Special Dreams Foundation.

For more information, visit www.specialacademy.org.



U.S. Bank now open inside Albertsons Market

Bank locally with U.S. Bank and find a variety of U.S. Bank products and services designed to help you achieve. Enjoy checking and savings accounts, credit cards, merchant services, investment management, mortgage calculators, notary services, home loans, and more. Their team is ready to help you every step of your financial way. English, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Spanish are spoken by

their versatile staff in order to meet the needs of the community.

The U.S. Bank branch is located in Albertson's at 2400 W. Commonwealth Ave., Alhambra. For more information, call 626-349-3748. Bank hours are 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, and closed Sundays.



U.S. bank opened recently inside the Albertson's Market at 2400 W. Commonwealth Ave. From left are Michael Win, U.S. Bank manager; Sasha Renée Pérez, Alhambra Mayor; Daniel Burgin, district manager; and Julie Sigala, banker.



Live Your Dream 2021 winners: On left, Tiffany Solis, first place recipient, and on right, Kouanta Bouthavong, second place recipient.

Soroptimist Alhambra 2021 presents Live Your Dream awards

Soroptimist International of Alhambra, San Gabriel, San Marino awarded two outstanding recipients with the Live Your Dream Awards. The program is a unique education grant for women who provide the primary financial support for their families.

The first-place recipient was Tiffany Solis. After graduation with an associate in science degree this spring from East Los Angeles College, she plans to further her education by applying to nursing school. She plans to work as a registered nurse in the mental health field. Her ultimate goal is to become a nurse practitioner. She has encountered financial hardships during her life and has most recently conquered a life-long panic and anxiety disorder, which had interfered with her mobility, educational growth, and proper nurturing of her son. She is now able to help others through volunteer work, and

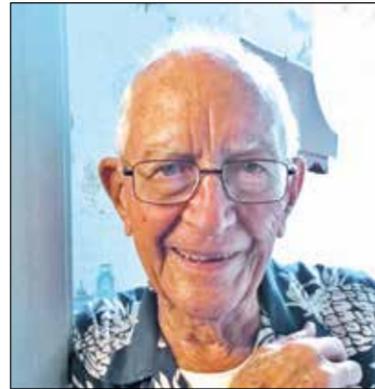
as COVID-19 is controlled, she'll be able to work once again to support herself and her son.

The second-place recipient, Kouanta Bouthavong, is also a student at ELAC. After graduation with an associate degree, her dream career is to become a registered nurse. Her choice of this profession is motivated by her desire to help others and to make a difference in their lives. A survivor of domestic violence since the age of 17, she garnered the courage to speak up and free herself from the abuse. Contracting a severe case of COVID-19 in 2020 added to her barriers to success. However, she remains steadfast in her determination to fulfill her dream by becoming a registered nurse and provide the best for her children.

To learn more about the Live Your Dream Awards program and Soroptimist, visit www.soroptimistalhambra.org.

Obituary

Longtime Alhambra resident Bart C. Jereb dies



Bart C. Jereb
July 5, 1921 – Jan. 30, 2021

Alhambra resident Bart C. Jereb died at home on Jan. 30 at age 99.

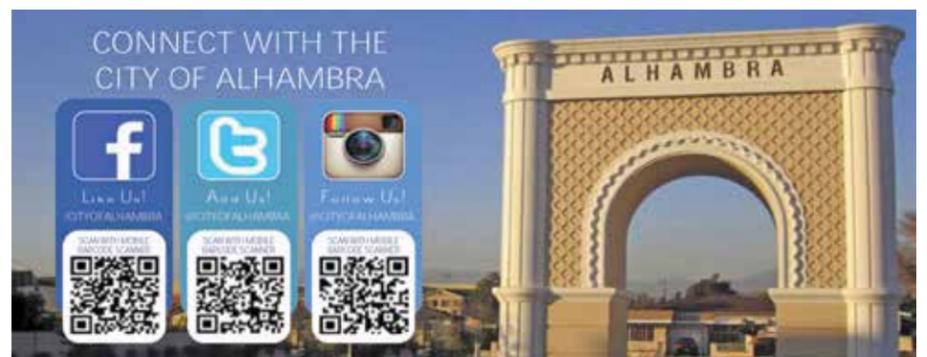
Bart was a first-generation American. He was born in Brooklyn, New York, on July 5, 1921, shortly after his parents emigrated from the former Yugoslavia. He was raised in Rock Springs, Wyoming, where he met his future wife, Ida Bergamo. He earned his bachelor of science in business from Denver University. After serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps, Bart married Ida in 1945. They and their growing family moved to Alhambra in

1952. They joined the All Souls Church parish, and their four children attended elementary school there. Bart worked primarily for trucking companies in various roles. Above all, he was devoted to his wife and family.

Bart enjoyed reading, listening to music, and playing cards. He loved the outdoors, especially walking, hiking the hills, and tending his roses. He and Ida took many trips ranging from Alaska to New York. Post-retirement he enjoyed attending lectures at Cal Tech and taking adult education classes. Bart enjoyed good health for most of his life. His family is grateful to his primary caregiver, Marivic Crump, for the tender care she provided for his last five years.

Bart is survived by his children Susan (Jon), Barbara (Brian), Debbie, and Bart A. (Reena); his grandchildren, David (Brittany), Amy, Jon, and Kristin; great granddaughters, Evi, Hallie, and Emma; his sister-in-law, Shirley; and many nieces and nephews. Bart was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Ida, and his brothers Frank, John, Lawrence, and Wenceslav.

There will be no memorial service at this time due to COVID restrictions.



San Gabriel Valley Humane Society

To inquire about these adoptable animals, contact the San Gabriel Valley Humane Society at 626-286-1159, or visit at 851 E. Grand Ave., San Gabriel. Adoption hours are 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. The shelter is closed on Mondays. Directions and photos of many more dogs and cats can be found online at www.sgvhumane.org.

The adoption fee for cats is \$99, which includes spay/neuter, vaccinations, de-worming, FIV/FELV/heartworm testing, and microchip. A \$130 - \$145 dog adoption fee includes microchip,

vaccinations, spay/neuter surgery, and de-worming, as well as a free health check-up at a participating vet (some breeds slightly higher).

Save money with the Buddy Program. Adopt two pets at the same time for a reduced fee.

The Senior for Senior Program offers pets for \$39 each.

The San Gabriel Valley Humane Society is the local, affordable choice for spay and neuter, vaccinations, and **TNR (trap, neuter, and release) for feral cats.** Check out the website for information on the adoptable pets and adoption programs: www.sgvhumane.org.

Visit us at www.sgvhumane.org



Dachshund papillon mix • Adult • Female • Small

Karen is a 5-year-old black and brown Dachshund and papillon mix. She is a little shy when meeting people, but warms up over time. Karen hopes to find a family with some patience and experience with dogs. She likes to be held and snuggled, but she can also be alert and make sure to warn of any squirrels or other dogs passing by! Karen likes going on walks and connecting with people but not so much with other dogs. Her adoption fee is \$130, which includes spay surgery, microchip, first vaccinations, and a free wellness check-up at a participating veterinarian. Call the San Gabriel Valley Humane Society at 626-286-1159 to schedule a Meet and Greet appointment with Karen. Website: www.sgvhumane.org.



Labrador and pit bull mix • Young • Male • Large

Meet Ramon. He is a 1-year-old tan Labrador pit bull mix. Ramon has lots of energy and needs someone who will be able to train him. He requires long walks and a play companion. He gets excited around people. Ramon is a very strong dog and will need a strong handler. He thinks he's a puppy, a very large puppy, and he needs a forever home. He is also good around other dogs. His adoption fee is \$145, which includes neuter surgery, microchip, first vaccinations, and a free wellness check-up at a participating veterinarian. Call the San Gabriel Valley Humane Society at 626-286-1159 to schedule a Meet and Greet appointment with Ramon. Website: www.sgvhumane.org.

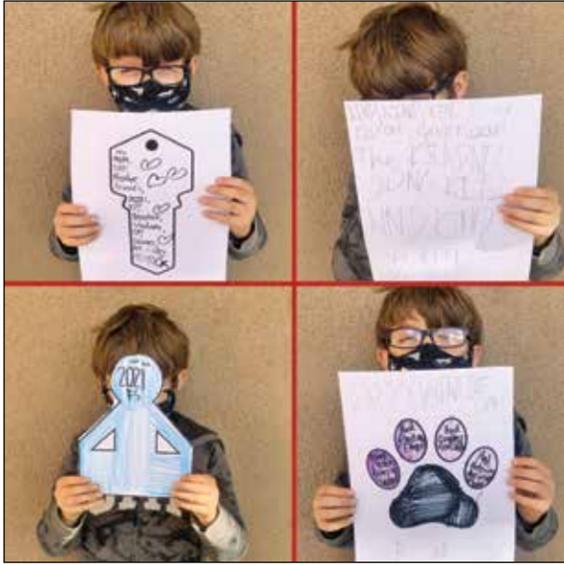


Labrador retriever and pit bull terrier mix • Adult • Female • Large

Jennifer is a beautiful 2-year-old white Labrador retriever and pit bull terrier mix girl. She is very outgoing and enjoys checking everything out, running around the yard, and playing with toys. Jennifer loves food, but is selective about the doggie friends she chooses. She prefers friends that are calm, mellow, and easy going. Jennifer is good on walks and would do great with an active family. Her adoption fee is \$145, which includes spay surgery, microchip, first vaccinations, and a free wellness check-up at a participating veterinarian. Call the San Gabriel Valley Humane Society at 626-286-1159 to schedule a Meet and Greet appointment with Jennifer. Website: www.sgvhumane.org.

Park students harness power of kindness

For almost three weeks, Park School focused on creating an atmosphere of kindness for the community through their annual Panther Kindness Frenzy. Part of the message Park Principal Carin Gasca sent home to families to kick off the event was “The last few months have been extremely tough for so many of our families and staff. Personal family losses, losses of homes and jobs, turbulence in our nation, pressures of trying to keep all the plates spinning in our homes and work, social distancing requirements and much more, have left many of our Park families and staff feeling disconnected, isolated, and sad.”



Third-grader Ian Reed is eager to spread kindness to the community and completes all five Park Kindness Frenzy tasks.

With some adjustments this year due to Distance Learning, the goal was to continue helping families and staff members to feel connected to Park School, despite the physical distance between them. Activities included creating Valentine paws, which were later compiled into a poster for a local hospital; a friendship chain link, which was hung outside the school fence; original friendship poems; and keys to kindness. Students also took the Park Kindness Pledge to spread kindness throughout their community: “I pledge to myself on

this day to try to be kind in every way. To every person big and small, I will help them if they fall. When I love myself and others too, that’s the best that I can do!”

Throughout the campaign, the photos were posted on the school website. At the very end, the photos were combined into a video that was sent to their families and staff members on Valentine’s Day. Principal Gasca reminded Park School that, “Together as a community, we can do our part to keep each other going during this difficult time.”

Monterey Highlands Career Week speakers inform, entertain during virtual recesses

During recent virtual recess sessions, Monterey Highlands students were able to hear from local community leaders like Engineer David Goetz from the Monterey Park Fire Department. PTA members organized various speakers to be part of their annual College and Career Week, and then Gateway counselor Mailin Chan combined the speaker sessions with the virtual recesses she often facilitates.

Engineer Goetz shared details about the Fire Academy, protection equipment, firefighters’ preparation, and what it takes to become a fire chief. “I really enjoyed learning all about firefighters because when I grow up, I want to be a firefighter,” declared second-grader Jacob Duran. “I learned that I need to exercise to stay in shape so I can train hard, and I’ll have to be a paramedic too. I really want to help people and the environment stay safe.”

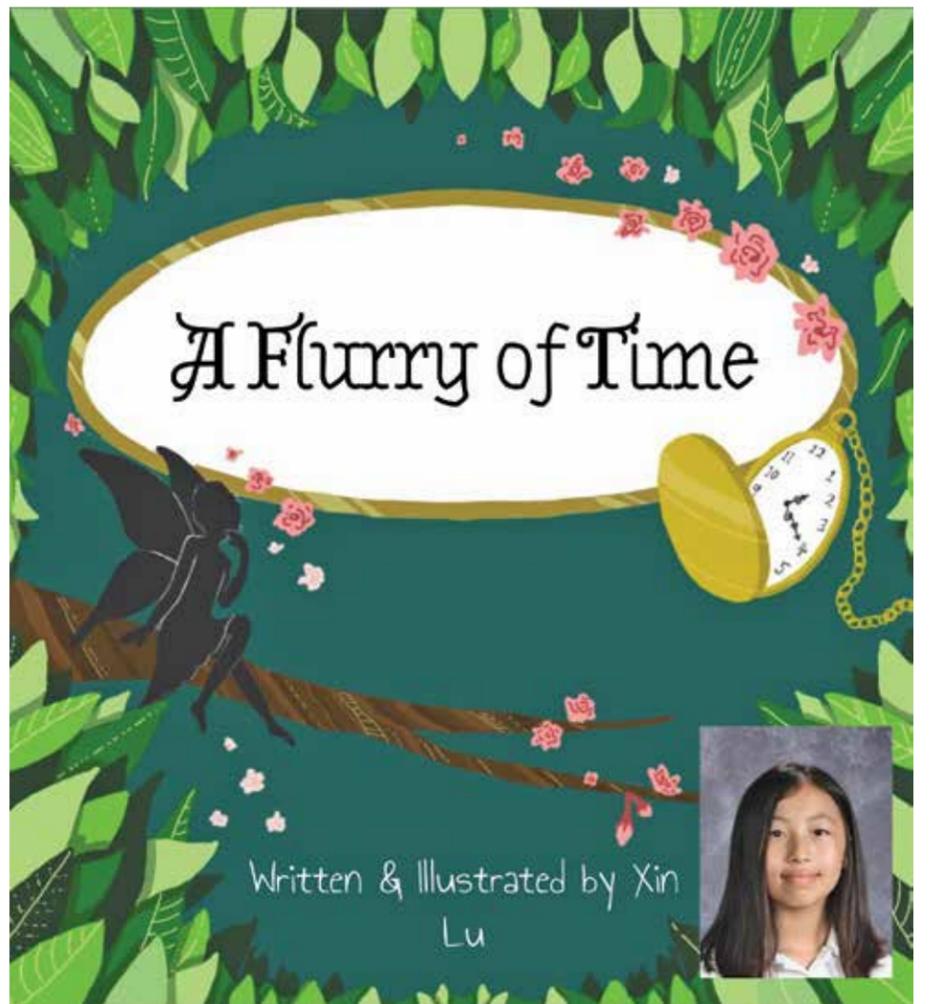
These virtual recesses, which are not always as structured as they were during College and Career Week, give students a chance to socialize and relax with their

peers while still being in a supervised environment. But this session was especially enjoyable for the students, whose only complaint was that it was too short.

“I wish I had more time to ask more questions,” lamented second-grader Joshua Tom. Joshua still wanted to ask, “Why does the firefighter sleep at the firehouse instead of their actual houses?” and “How does it feel when you go into the fire and what are the effects of breathing in too much smoke?” The students were disappointed when the end of recess came, but they hope Engineer Goetz will return again soon.



These are just a few of the students who Monterey Park Fire Department Engineer David Goetz spoke to when he joined Monterey Highlands’ second-grade virtual recess.



This beautiful book cover is one example of just how talented Xin Lu (insert) is as an illustrator.

Baldwin middle schooler on way to becoming author-illustrator

When Baldwin teacher Patricia Allaf assigned an open-ended “Passion Project” to her GATE students, seventh-grader Xin Lu took the assignment very seriously. She dedicated herself to writing and illustrating her own picture book. After a month, she completed her work and titled it *A Flurry of Time*.

Ms. Allaf was proud of Xin’s hard work and dedication and was excited to share her talents beyond her own classroom. Xin has been reading her book to the primary classes at Baldwin, and so far,

the reviews are all positive, with one first-grader emphasizing, “I thought your book was amazing!”

Principal Chris Takeshita joined in on the first primary class reading and reported, “It was great; the kids were engaged and focused. They loved the story.” He is equally complimentary of Xin’s teacher. “Ms. Allaf is incredibly creative and brings out the best in her students. It’s no wonder she was selected as the district’s Teacher of the Year.”





Wendy Endo-Soo Hoo, left, and Jody He Dowell are both longtime AUSD employees who excel at their job duties on a daily basis. AUSD is very appreciative of both of them for their dedication and commitment to excellence.

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District Game Changers represent best of the best

The Game Changer program is one of many ways students, parents, administrators, and co-workers are able to recognize the district's "shining star" staff members. The dedicated employees have been working hard and are demonstrating amazing innovation and creativity during this pandemic. The district is excited to honor its latest set of Alhambra Unified School District (AUSD) Game Changers: Wendy Endo-Soo Hoo from Brightwood School and Jody He Dowell from Marguerita School.

Wendy is Brightwood's Elementary office assistant, who works on attendance and records. She was nominated by Jane Torres, Brightwood's office manager and colleague, who reports that, not only does Wendy keep all files immaculate, she also has an excellent rapport with the parents. Wendy goes beyond her duties to assist parents and answer questions regarding attendance, enrollment procedures, and their children's records. Wendy can reassure the most anxious parent with her calm, gentle disposition. She is not only an asset to the Brightwood community, but to the Alhambra Unified District as well.

Jody was nominated by two colleagues,

Li Chen and Chris Dowell. In their nominations, they stated that Jody dove in head-first when it came to finding new ways to deliver instruction to her second-graders in the Mandarin Dual Immersion (DI) program. She adapts material she finds on the internet in ways that increase participation and engagement with her students. She has also hosted parent information sessions to discuss the results of student assessments used by the Mandarin DI program. She collaborates with her teammates regularly so that they can maintain a sense of learning community and consistency of program across the grade level team. Jody has really devoted all of her time and attention to planning and delivering the best distance learning experience possible to her students.

There are so many other AUSD staff members who deserve to be recognized too. Nominate someone to be the next Game Changer by going to www.ausd.us/badges/ and select either badge ("Above and Beyond the Call of Duty" or "Spotlight") for the nominee and fill out the short form. Game Changers are selected from employees who receive either of these badges.

2019-2020 HONOR ROLL

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HONOR ROLL SCHOOLS

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Monterey Highlands School	Brightwood School
San Gabriel High School	Emery Park School
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	Marguerita School
	Martha Baldwin School
	Park School
	Ramona School
	Repetto School
	Ynez School

EDUCATIONAL RESULTS PARTNERSHIP (ERP) HAS NAMED AUSD AND MANY OF OUR SCHOOLS TO THEIR ANNUAL HONOR ROLL.

Based on an extensive analysis of student data, the ERP Honor Roll recognized 28 districts and 2,568 schools that demonstrated high levels of student academic achievement, improvement in achievement over time, and reduction in achievement gaps. For high schools, Honor Roll recognition also includes measures of college readiness in students.

VIRTUAL AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS From Page 1A

club and will include a Fun Friday optional day, which is dedicated to games and social activities for the students enrolled in that club.

Students may participate in more than one club as long as the days/times don't conflict. For this first session, 419 students are enrolled in 745 sessions. Students who missed their chance to sign up this time still have the opportunity to

join two additional sessions. Session 2 will be held April 5 – 30, with registration happening March 3 – 16, and session 3 will run May 3 – 28, with registration happening April 5 – 16.

For more information about the ASES program, please visit their website at <https://sites.google.com/ausd.us/ausd-ases-adventures/home>.

ALHAMBRA
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CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Alhambra Teachers Association
2021 CTA Chapter Human Rights Award

Kenneth Tang, AUSD Board President
2021 CTA Pacific Asian American Human Rights Award

The Human Rights Awards are given annually to celebrate the diversity of racial equity and social justice work that CTA members create, challenge and participate in.

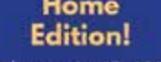
The Alhambra Teachers Association and Mr. Kenneth Tang were recognized at the 2021 Equity & Human Rights Conference's virtual award ceremony on February 26th!








2021 Equity & Human Rights Conference



Home Edition!
February 24-27, 2021



Truth Healing Action

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11 Critical Home Inspection Traps to be Aware of Weeks Before Listing Your Home for Sale

Alhambra - According to industry experts, there are over 33 physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A new report has been prepared which identifies the eleven most common of these problems, and what you should know about them before you list your home for sale.

Whether you own an old home or a brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these 11 items could cost you dearly in terms of repair. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home. If you wait until the building inspector flags these issues for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or, worse, turn prospective buyers away altogether. In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for, and knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones.

To help homesellers deal with this issue before their homes are listed, a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection" has been compiled which explains the issues involved. To order a FREE Special Report, call toll-free 1-888-300-4632 and enter 1003. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW to learn how to ensure a home inspection doesn't cost you the sale of your home.

This report is courtesy of Rudy L. Kusuma Real Estate Broker Lic# 01820322. Not intended to solicit buyers or sellers currently under contract. Copyright © 2012



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Sunday, March 21, 2021

Kindergarten Information Night

Thursday, March 25, 2021

LA County has not settled on what we can do and when we can do it so check our website for these upcoming events to learn details about in-person or Zoom options and the times they will be offered.

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VISIT THE CHAMBER ONLINE AT alhambrachamber.org

By Rev. Craig Statton, CEO, Atherton
214 S. Atlantic Blvd. Alhambra

The news for the last several months has not been good concerning the coronavirus. As Los Angeles residents, we have endured a terrible surge in infections that has impacted families, hospitals, health care professionals, and businesses throughout the Southland. This surge has changed some of our treasured celebrations like Christmas, New Years, and the Chinese New Year, and also added an element of grief and isolation to our lives during these important times. But as I write this article, I am happy to say I see signs of change; it is getting better.

Over the past several weeks, we have seen the surge begin to diminish throughout the county.

The number of positive cases is going down and the number of beds available in ICUs and hospitals is going up. Some of the restrictions on activities are being lifted as restaurants are once again offering outdoor dining. And L.A. traffic is increasing, which will make very few people happy but is a sign of change in the right direction.

For senior adults, this is all good news. They have been the most vulnerable to the pandemic as the virus can attack their preexisting health conditions. As a result, so many of them have isolated in

their homes away from their families and the activities that make their lives so meaningful. The best news for them has been the opportunity to receive the coronavirus vaccine. It is interesting that at our community as soon as we were able to offer the vaccine, over 90% of our seniors signed up to receive it. We have also seen in the news lines of seniors ready and willing to take this vaccine. Like this generation has done so many times in their lives, they are leading the way in helping us end this pandemic by being willing to be "early adopters" of the vaccine. And I am happy to say, we have only seen minor reactions to the vaccine here at Atherton. No one has had a significant health complication resulting in hospitalization.

Yet in spite of things getting better, the pandemic is not over. Even as more and more people receive the vaccine, the social measures that have been put in place are still important. I have told our community members that even after they and our staff have been vaccinated, we will still be wearing masks, practicing social distancing, and washing our hands frequently. The vaccine is not 100% effective, so these measures give us an added layer of protection as our country and world build a herd immunity against this virus.

It is getting better. As we anticipate spring, there will be more opportunities to be with family and friends. We will begin to gather in groups for picnics, birthdays, and hopefully graduations. Who knows?! We might be able to head to the ballpark to watch the Dodgers play again. Perhaps a Fourth of July celebration will not result in another outbreak, and by this fall we might even be in the stands for USC or UCLA football. If things get a lot better quickly, we might not even have to wear a mask to some of these events. But these measures, combined with the vaccine, will allow us to resume "normal" life sooner rather than later. It is getting better.

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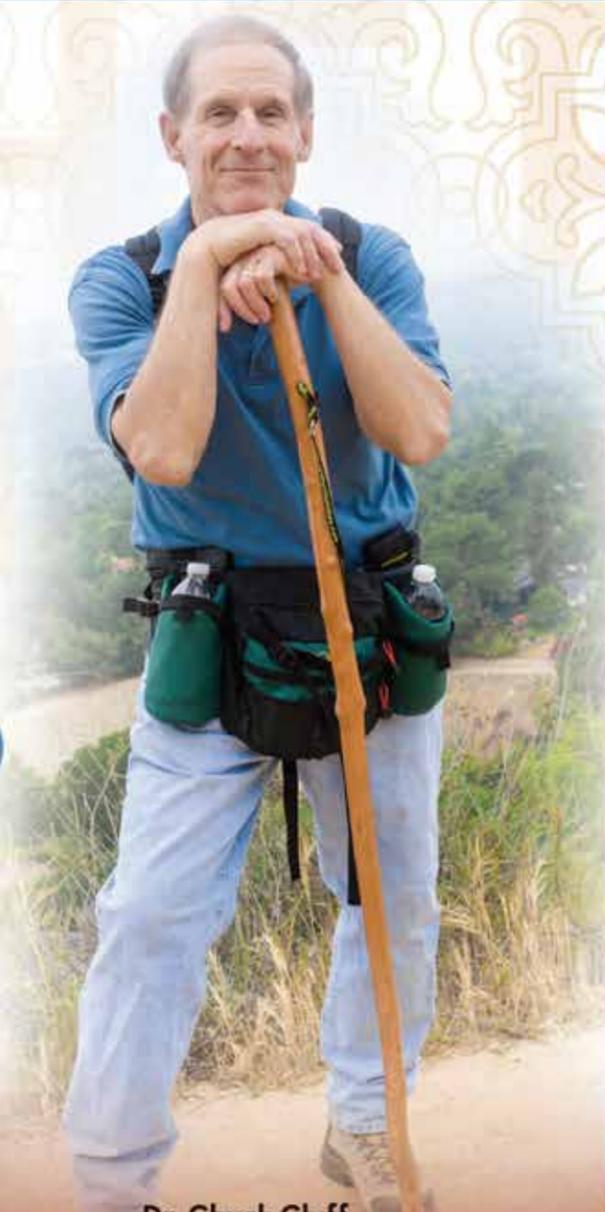
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Sharing newly acquired nutritional information

BY SHEILA YONEMOTO, P.T.

I am always looking for easier solutions, especially for serious conditions. One simple suggestion for Alzheimer's was a supplementation routine of niacin or niacinamide and vitamin B12. Alzheimer's patients apparently have deficiencies in both, and their condition can be improved with the addition of these two readily available inexpensive supplements. The recommended doses were higher than the RDA suggests, but larger doses made the difference. For niacin or niacinamide (this form does not give a skin flush), 2,000 – 3,000mg/day was recommended, and B12 was 5 mg/day.

I used niacin as the key vitamin in a detox program I did years ago, and it was quite effective in flushing out toxins from my body, but I gradually increased the dose starting from 50 mg and ending up on 1000 – 2000mg, after which my detox was complete. Some studies using niacinamide for the treatment of multiple sclerosis show amazing results. Other studies have shown good results using niacin/niacinamide for depression along with B vitamins (B-complex), vitamin C, sunshine, exercise, and eliminating sugar.

One expert, Andrew Saul, describes sugar as an anti-nutrient, basically a poison no one should eat. For diabetes, adding chromium and B-complex to your daily routine along with eliminating sugar, increasing exercise, and adding more plants into the diet would lead to improvement. He also notes that vitamin C is toxic to cancer cells, as the cancer cell is fooled into thinking that the vitamin C is sugar (or food), and once



Sheila Yonemoto, P.T., has been a physical therapist for more than 30 years, specializing in integrative manual therapy, using a holistic approach. She can be reached at Yonemoto Physical Therapy, 55 S. Raymond Ave, Suite 100, Alhambra 91801. Sheila offers a Qigong "Chinese Energy" exercise class. Your first class is FREE. Call 626-576-0591 for more information, or visit www.yonemoto.com.

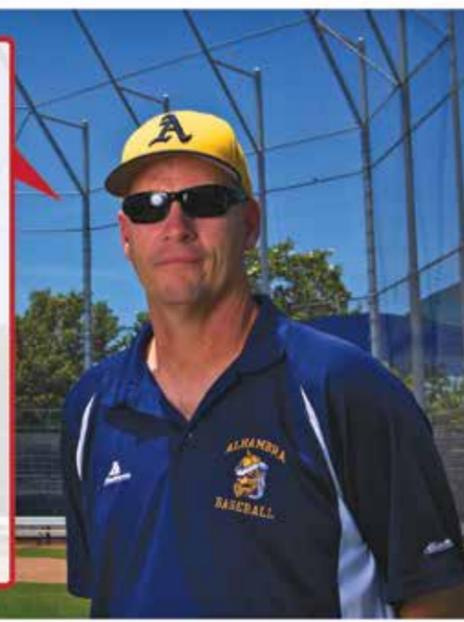
it is in the cancer cell, it creates hydrogen peroxide and kills it. Vitamin C has been studied for 50 years and does not interfere with chemotherapy or radiation therapy in cancer treatment, but does improve quality of life. For cancer, high doses of vitamin C have to be administered intravenously, 15,000 – 50,000 mg. Vitamin C has also been used successfully for sepsis and coughing up blood. Doses were also quite high at 4,000 mg every 30 minutes.

Please, do your own research if you are interested in this and want more details on how others have achieved success. My aim is merely to present other possibilities to optimize or regain your health. Remember, life is a journey and it can always be improved.

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Steve Gewecke
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Dental implant FAQs

Are you preparing for dental implants or just considering them as a potential option for tooth replacement? No matter where you are in your decision-making process, I think this information will help you.

If you have additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Are there any food restrictions with dental implants?

Once your implants are integrated and ready for use, you will be pleased to learn that there are no food restrictions. One of the great advantages of implants is that they do not move when you are chewing and eating, which allows you to eat nuts and hard foods. Implants are not sensitive to cold and sweets, so you do not have to avoid ice cream and cold beverages. However, a good general rule of thumb is to not chew on ice or use them to open or cut items just as you would not do that with your natural teeth.



Will it be painful to receive dental implants?

Immediately before placing your dental implants, you will receive local anesthesia to ensure you have a comfortable, pain-free experience. After the procedure, it is normal to feel some discomfort and soreness for a few days. Over-the-counter pain medication is usually enough to manage it. This will pass, but you should follow detailed instructions for a successful recovery, some of which includes eating softer foods in the beginning and being careful when cleaning around your implants while brushing your teeth.

Will I need a bone graft or sinus lift?

Patients who do not have enough bone density can expect to undergo a bone graft or sinus lift before receiving dental implants. This decision will be made during your initial consultation. It is at this time that we will examine your oral cavity and facial structure to determine how strong your jawbone is and whether it can hold up your implants. If not, it will be necessary to add bone minerals to these weaker areas and allow them to grow before we can begin the process of implant placement.

Do I need a CT scan?

A CT or CBCT scan can show us the exact position of nerves, where sinus cavities come close to the jawbone, and even the amount and the density of the bone itself. The scans can help dentists choose the optimal location for the implant, based on the individual findings. A CT/CBCT scan isn't always required to get a dental implant; however, it's a great diagnostic tool and is often needed when more than one tooth is missing, when the bone density is not great, or a missing tooth is close to nerve canal or maxillary sinus. Your dentist will determine whether CT or CBCT scans are needed in your situation.



Ask
Dr. Dara,
D.D.S.

Dr. Dara Gashparova, D.D.S. is located at 70 S. Palm Ave., Alhambra 91801. Readers with dental questions or concerns should contact her at 626-289-6131, or e-mail daradds@yahoo.com.

Will dental insurance cover the cost of my dental implants?

To answer this question, you will need to check your policy. Some dental insurance companies have a "missing tooth clause" or "pre-existing conditions." Under a dental plan with a missing tooth clause, insurance won't cover the cost of the implant placement procedure if the tooth was extracted or fell out before the current coverage began. Some insurance does not cover the cost of surgical placement; however, you might be surprised to learn that other aspects of your treatment like the crown connected to the implant and attachment may all be covered or at least in part. From the initial consultation to the placement of the crown, you will need to speak with an insurance representative to find out how much out-of-pocket expenses will be.

If you need help identifying how best to determine what will be covered, ask your dental office for assistance.

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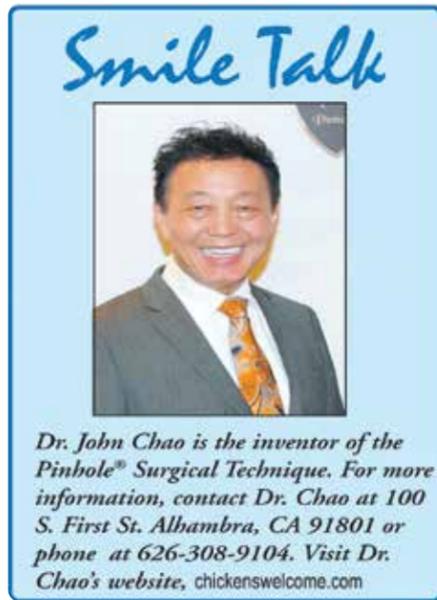
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90% of cells in body not human but needed to maintain systemic and dental health

Approximately 90% of cells in the human body are not human at all, according to a 2006, article published in *Cell*, a highly respected peer-review research journal that covers a broad range of disciplines within life sciences. This profound discovery within the field of human biology is explained by the intriguing fact that many of these non-human cells play important roles in normal human physiology. These microorganisms are involved in the absorption of nutrients into the body, synthesis of vitamins, and protection of human cells from infection. It may be said that survival of the human body (host) depends on the interaction between human and non-human cells. Therefore, it is not entirely correct to say that the human body remains healthy because it fights off bacterial invasion. Actually, it may be said that life is maintained by an interdependent, mutually beneficial coexistence between the host and non-human cells.

This dynamic balance is, by and large, maintained in biofilms, which are initially formed by host cells. This microscopically thin biological framework initially attracts beneficial aerobic microbes that would exist in communal harmony with the host cells. Unwelcome anaerobic microbes may invade the biofilms in large numbers under certain conditions, such as inadequate oral hygiene, dry mouth, and high sugar intake. The affected biofilms then become "dental plaque," which leads to cavity formation and periodontal disease. It is also known that internal (endogenous) factors such as stress and external (exogenous) factors such as smoking are associated with higher risk of occurrence of gum disease and cavities.

The take-home lesson of this understanding of this interesting aspect of oral biology is that oral health stems from a dynamic balance of the human body with oral bacteria and other microbes. This biologic balance can be maintained at a healthy level throughout an entire lifetime if healthy habits are followed on a daily basis, with professional care at regular intervals. These healthy habits include proper brushing, flossing, and use of dental aids such as mouthwashes and hydroelectric devices (water-pik, hydrofloss, etc.). Proper nutri-



tion, stress control, and low intake of sugar products are also important in guarding this dynamic balance in the mouth. However, the patient should understand that since so many factors must be in sync to maintain this dynamic balance, even with the best of homecare there is no guarantee that this dynamic balance would not change. To avoid surprises it is therefore recommended that everyone should see the dentist regularly for checkups.

An ancillary conclusion to be drawn from this up-to-date concept of biochemistry in the oral cavity is that antibiotics must not be taken indiscriminately. If antibiotics are prescribed, it is only for a particular condition, such as infection causing pain and swelling in the cheeks. Continual use of antibiotics to ameliorate recurrent acute conditions would tend to obliterate beneficial microbes as well as those causing the infection. This results in difficulty in forming a new dynamic balance that leads to more decay and gum infection. In fact, yeast and other opportunistic microorganisms may take over as a result. It is imperative that the offending tooth/teeth be treated or removed and replaced rather than depending on an antibiotic prescription when an infection recurs. Of course, it is better to prevent the problem in the first place by following good dental hygiene habits and seeing your dentist regularly for checkups and maintenance.

Physical therapy can help post COVID-19

Hello to our past, current, and future patients.

We have missed some of you in 2020 and hope you are all staying safe.

We are open and ready to address your physical therapy needs safely. The staff members here at B & C Physical Therapy have been trying our very best to keep you protected while staying open during this global pandemic. Our community and patients' safety are of the utmost importance, and we have been taking extra precautions to help prevent the spread of this virus.

As our health care system continues to combat COVID, in physical therapy we have been treating patients affected by aches and pains due to lack of exercise, movement, and interaction. This current pandemic has affected the geriatric population the most physically, mentally, and socially.

Hopefully as the condition of the world starts to improve with the release of a vaccine, this is a reminder, especially to the elderly, to keep moving about safely.

Some of those who were unfortunate and caught COVID have been feeling weaker, needing to take more rest breaks to catch their breath, and taking more time to complete daily tasks during their recovery.

The *Journal of Physical Therapy Science* reported "Physical therapy of COVID-19 patients will not only reduce the mortality

rate of patients, hospital admission time, and medical expenses, but also save medical resources. Participating in physical therapy can effectively improve the respiratory function of patients and their exercise endurance and physical strength and inhibit the occurrence of various complications or disease syndromes. Preventing various physical and psychological disorders can facilitate patients' return to family, work, and society as soon as possible and improve their quality of life." (*J Phys Ther Sci.* 2020; 32(8): 545-549.)

If you or someone you know might be experiencing some of these symptoms post COVID, ask your doctor if physical therapy is right for you. B&C Physical Therapy is here to help you regain your prior level of function.

J Phys Ther Sci. 2020; 32(8): 545-549. Published online 2020 Aug 8. doi: 10.1589/jpts.32.545

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Experience traditional homemade Mexican cuisine, patio dining at Chonito's

By JEWELYN CO

Chonito's, a family-owned Mexican restaurant located at 2505 W. Valley Blvd, serves homestyle Mexican cuisine made fresh from scratch. After 20 years in the restaurant business in South LA, Chon Gutierrez and his sons, Gilbert, Anthony, and Junior, relocated their business and opened Chonitos in Alhambra in 2012 because of a great opportunity that was presented to the family.

when the COVID pandemic began in 2020. They closed business for two days and reopened with a redeveloped process of serving food while practicing health and safety protocols to keep their staff and customers safe and well. At Chonito's, social distancing is reinforced, face masks are required upon entering the dining area, and keeping everything clean is important.

Chonito's was faced with a challenge

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CHONITO'S CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

and-go service," Gilbert said. "Before the announcement of having outdoor dining, we had planned to have a patio dining area already. Then when they allowed us to offer outdoor dining, we went through the process to obtain a permit. The outdoor dining and the takeout service have been successful. We have to do what we have to do, and we just didn't let anything get to us." Chonito's outdoor patio seating is quite enjoyable for customers to enjoy the beautiful streets of Alhambra while dining.

Chonito's has built a great reputation for serving good food and drinks that locals and visitors have enjoyed regularly. Ray Lara, who has dined at Chonito's since it first opened, said, "They have the best food in the area and have good customer service. The pozole is the best, and they make it the traditional Mexican way. We have to support and help keep our local businesses alive."

Chonito's popular brunch and lunch buffet are temporarily unavailable due to the pandemic, but their regular menu items can still be enjoyed by diners. Chonito's has a great variety of Mexican dishes on the menu from tacos, burritos, enchiladas, fajitas, grilled plates, and seafood dishes. Most popular and a must-try dish is molcajete, prepared with steak, chicken, Mexican chorizo, cactus, fresh avocado, and queso fresco served in a hot stone molcajete. Chonito's specialties such as the chile verde prepared with chunky boneless pork meat and cooked in spicy tomatillo sauce, is served with rice and frijoles de la olla, guacamole, and a scoop of sweet corn cake.

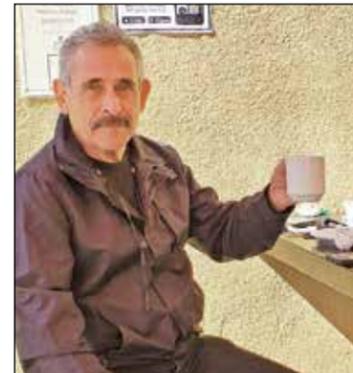
Their homemade sauces and salsa are made fresh with flavorful ingredients to

make every dish savory and mouth-watering. Diners can enjoy refreshing drinks while dining in or to go. They have wide selections of beers, Margaritas, and mixed drinks prepared at the bar. The refreshing mangonindas, cantaritos, and micheladas are Chonito's top sellers. Phone orders or takeouts are available from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Visit their website at www.chonitos-restaurant.com for restaurant hours, menu, and online ordering information. Phone in orders for pick up at 626-284-8701/626-



Mouth-watering dishes chile verde and molcajete, served sizzling hot, and a refreshing mangonada Margarita.



Ray Lara, who has dined at Chonito's since it first opened, said, "They have the best food in the area and have good customer service."

284-8601. No reservations are being taken at this time. Follow and keep updated with Chonito's on social media at @chonitosmexicanrestaurant on Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok.

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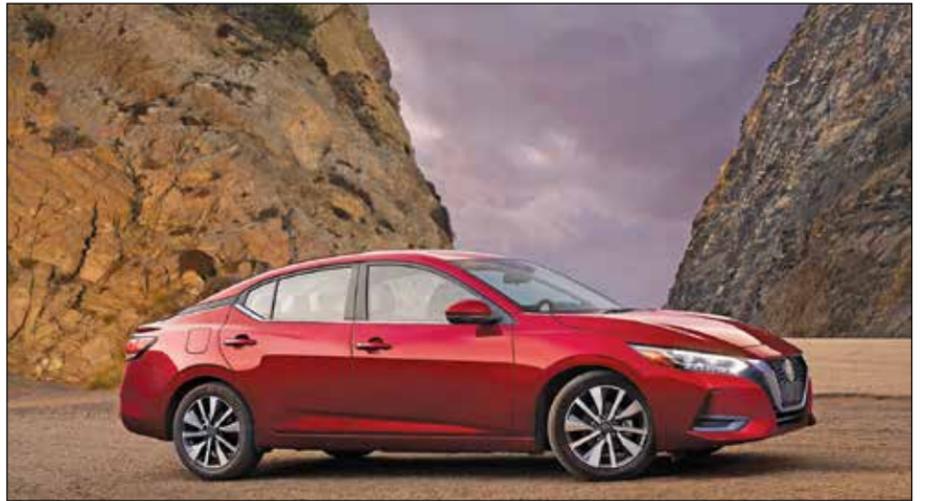
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Sentra's powerful new design shares muscular, sporty elements from models like Maxima and GT-R. It also features a refined, premium interior that sets new standards for quality and comfort.

2021 Nissan Sentra builds on award-winning debut season with available NissanConnect with Wi-Fi hotspot

The latest generation Sentra represents an exhilarating breakthrough for Nissan's popular compact sedan, with eye-catching styling, a comprehensive suite of intelligent driving technologies including standard Nissan Safety Shield® 360, advanced connectivity, and confident performance provided by a new platform and a new engine.

For the 2021 model year, enhancements include the addition of standard Apple CarPlay® integration and Android Auto™ on all grades (previously available only on SV and SR grades), available NissanConnect® Services and NissanConnect with Wi-Fi hotspot on SR grade and a new two-tone paint combination — Electric Blue Metallic with Black roof for the SR grade.

Head-turning style

It all starts with the fundamentals. The new-generation Sentra is built on a new platform that provides greatly improved proportions and stance. The body is about two inches lower and two inches wider than the previous generation, giving it a more powerful stance. The premium presence of the exterior is highlighted by Nissan's signature V-motion grille, available thin LED headlamps, and floating roof.

In front, the 2021 Sentra's striking look is created through use of sharp creases that blend into the muscular body sides. The rear has a lower roofline and wider shoulders, with wheels flush to the body enhancing the strong stance.

The available thin LED projector headlamps are matched with signature LED daytime running lights and rear combination lamp design. LED fog lights are also available. In addition, Intelligent Auto Headlights and High Beam Assist are standard on all Sentra grade levels.

Sentra SR provides a more athletic appearance with a sport-style rear spoiler, black-painted side mirrors with integrated turn signals, lower body side sill extensions,

18-inch diamond-cut aluminum-alloy wheels, dark chrome V-motion grille, and chrome exhaust finisher.

Refinement and attention to detail

The 2021 Sentra interior is more refined and more luxurious than the previous generation, creating a high-quality experience for driver and passengers unexpected in the compact sedan segment. Attention to detail and craftsmanship can be found throughout the interior, with satin chrome aluminum accents, the intuitive placement of controls, contrast seat stitching, and a standard D-shaped steering wheel. They combine to give the interior a premium, refined feel added to what is expected to be among the quietest cabins in its class.

Extra care was taken on driver touch points like the feel of the steering wheel in the driver's hand, the smooth operation of the dials and switches, and available quilted leather-appointed seats. The combined effect is an impression of premium quality well beyond expectations for the segment.

Also available are dual zone automatic temperature control, Nissan Intelligent Key®, and remote engine start.

Enhanced convenience and connectivity

The new-generation Sentra was designed to make owners feel in control and safely connected to the world around them. At the heart of that connectivity is a 4.2-inch digital multi-information driver's display and a standard 7-inch color touchscreen with Bluetooth® Hands-free Phone System, Apple CarPlay® integration, and Android Auto™.

There is also an available 7-inch digital Advanced Drive-Assist Display paired to a floating 8-inch NissanConnect touchscreen center display. Sentra also offers driver assist technologies like available Intelligent Cruise Control and class-exclusive available Intelligent Around View® Monitor for a more confident drive.

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BY MARK PAULSON

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Mark Paulson is a Realtor in Alhambra specializing in the sale and leasing of commercial real estate. He has been a real estate professional since 1976.

Settling the overdue rent dilemma

Property owners face a dilemma when deciding how to deal with overdue rent. Current unemployment levels and the extension of the eviction moratorium have allowed tenants to accumulate overdue rent with little to no legal recourse available to property owners to recoup their losses. According to a recent Census Bureau Survey, 8.9 million renters are behind on their rent, and approximately 15.9 million renters have slight or no confidence that they will be able to make their next rent payment.

Current options include eviction/litigation against tenants with large amounts of rent in arrears, forfeiting rent owed, trying to attract new tenants by reinvesting in the property, or exploring opportunities with innovative solutions made possible by new technology. Traditional methods of debt collection are expensive, and the cost to evict a tenant under these conditions typically outweighs any benefit.

Therefore, negotiating and settling overdue rent is becoming an increasingly attractive option.

Here is a summary of how each of those scenarios may play out:

1. Eviction/litigation

- Current policy environment makes it extremely difficult to evict a tenant in certain areas. A successful eviction will involve some sort of legal action by one or both parties and the accrual of legal fees.

- In order to recoup the overdue rent from an evicted tenant, property owners may need to rely on the services of a debt collector.

- After evicting a tenant and incurring all of the associated fees, property owners are still left with a vacant property and no source of income until it is filled.

- Debt collectors are only successful 17% of the time, according to the American Collectors Association.

- Legal fees and court costs start at approximately \$550 and can quickly

increase.

2. Forfeiting rent owed

- Forfeiting any rent owed will guarantee that property owners will never see that overdue rent.

- The traditional means of recovery is associated with relatively high costs (debt collectors).

- Based on median rent and the average three-month eviction process, the average vacancy costs thousands of dollars.

3. Reinvesting to attract new tenants

- After an eviction, many property owners will have to make some sort of repair or renovation to fix any damages or improve the property.

- Taking time to make repairs or renovations will extend the period of vacancy.

- Finding new tenants in the current housing market can be quite difficult and may lead to an extended amount of time the property stays vacant.

4. Negotiating overdue rent

- As opposed to forfeiting rent owed, negotiating with the tenant allows property owners to recoup a portion of the overdue rent without bearing the cost of debt collectors.

- Negotiating debt allows property owners to maintain a positive relationship with their tenants.

- Negotiating eliminates the costs associated with reinvesting in the property and searching for a new tenant.

Overdue rent is going to remain an issue for property owners as the country continues to battle the pandemic. Traditional means of collecting or settling overdue rents are expensive. Instead, to cut down on costs and limit vacancies, property owners should strongly consider negotiating overdue rent with their tenants. Negotiating overdue rent typically leads to more positive outcomes for tenants and property owners.

For tenants:

- Opportunity to settle their out-

Understanding Real Estate

By Gary Frueholz
DILBECK REAL ESTATE

Gary Frueholz is a realtor with Dilbeck Real Estate, a past member of the Alhambra Planning Commission, a certified Senior Real Estate Specialist and a Certified International Property Specialist. He can be reached at 626-318-9436 or at gary.frueholz@dilbeck.com. See his stories at www.garysstories.com.



Adding the feeling of space to your home

"Reality is merely an illusion, although a very persistent one." anonymous

The subtle difference between reality and an illusion can be a component of your home.

You can create an illusion of space in your home even though you have not increased the absolute square footage by one square inch. Magic nope, just an illusion. Or was the lack of space in the first place the real illusion? Anyway, there are ways to make your home appear larger without absorbing the expense of adding a new room.

The use of monochromatic color schemes is a clever way to create the illusion of space to a home. This means that a single base color forms the foundation of the room's color design. Various shades and tones of that color can accent the space, but there are no other colors present. Old European castles would utilize this approach, and it can even be seen in the White House.

As a rule, monochromatic color schemes are more peaceful since the human eye can more easily move around a room without abrupt interruptions by other colors. Go to a traditional color wheel and select one of the basic 12 colors and research variations of that base color.

Light and bright walls are more reflective, making a space feel open and airy, which helps maximize natural light's effect. Dark shades tend to absorb light, making rooms feel smaller.

Mirrors are another way to create the illusion of space. A mirror reflects the room interior, giving it the illusion of greater size. A mirror also reflects light and can be a great way to get more natural light into a room. Mirrors develop a more open feel and can even be used on cabinet doors.

Since kitchens are one of the smallest rooms in the house, a well-placed mirror can develop a sense of space. A mirror in the dining room works well together with a chandelier. The mirror will reflect light and make the room feel larger and more formal.

Placement of the mirror is key to Feng Shui. A properly placed mirror can increase a room's positive energy. And an improperly located mirror can accom-



Mirror and glass top tables help to create the illusion of space in a home.

plish the reverse. One place not to locate a mirror is directly across from the front door. Better to hang the mirror perpendicular to the front door.

With a bathroom renovation, choose glass shower doors over a shower curtain, which becomes a visual barrier instead of letting your eyes take in all of the space that does exist. French doors typically incorporate glass and enhance a "line of sight" that allows the human eye to avail itself of a longer view that again creates a feeling of space.

Glass can even be part of furniture. A glass top to a dining table again allows a longer "line of sight" and even creates the illusion that the place settings are floating in air. Conversely, avoid solid, blocky furniture since they possess "heavy" visual weight.

These are just a few tricks to create the illusion of space. And as you personalize your home's design with the illusion of space, you will also make it more interesting.

Gary Frueholz is a realtor with Dilbeck Real Estate, a past member of the Alhambra Planning Commission, a Certified Senior Real Estate Specialist, and a Certified International Property Specialist. He can be reached at 626-318-9436. See his stories at www.garysstories.com.

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standing debt without fear of eviction.

- Won't have to deal with third party debt collectors.

For property owners:

- Recoup a portion of the overdue rent.

- Avoid potential bad debt obligation.

- Can keep good tenants.

- Avoid eviction and tenant search costs.

- Wipe the slate clean, and move forward on good terms under a new

agreement.

- Higher success rate than traditional debt collection methods.

Traditional methods of debt collection and negotiation can become quite expensive and at times rather ineffective. However, there is a much more practical and affordable means of settling debt available on the market today. Instead of relying on debt collectors or lawyers, you can easily and efficiently settle overdue rents with all of your tenants.

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