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Head Start Teacher Receives LACOE Golden Apple

By Robert Dozmati

El Monte City School District (EMCSD) Early Head Start Teacher, Ms. Raquel Barber, was recognized at Los Angeles County Office of Education's 10th Annual Golden Apple Awards this month. Ms. Barber has dedicated over 20 years to educating El Monte's youngest learners.

When asked about the secret to keeping up with a classroom full of toddlers, in true educator fashion she credits the power of learning. "It's the smile on their faces each time I introduce something new to them," she explained. "As an educator, we have done the same activities and studies time after time, but we remember that these experiences are all new to [students]. I love hearing when our 3-year-olds transition into Head Start and teachers are impressed by how they can follow directions and have routines because of the Early Head Start experience they had."

Ms Barber participated in the Career Development Initiative, a program designed to train new early education teachers. Their commitment to



providing guidance and mentoring makes new teachers feel valued and supported. Golden Apple recipients were selected based on their ability to implement curriculum, provide exemplary adult-child interactions, demonstrate creativity in the classroom, and show continuously improving practices to be a model for others.

"We are extremely proud of the amazing work that Raquel, along with her EHS team, is doing to prepare our young learners by helping them stay engaged and by encouraging them to have a positive attitude about learning," said EMCSD Director of Child Development Programs, Juan

GOLDEN APPLE >> PAGE 7

Discover the World of Animation and Podcasting



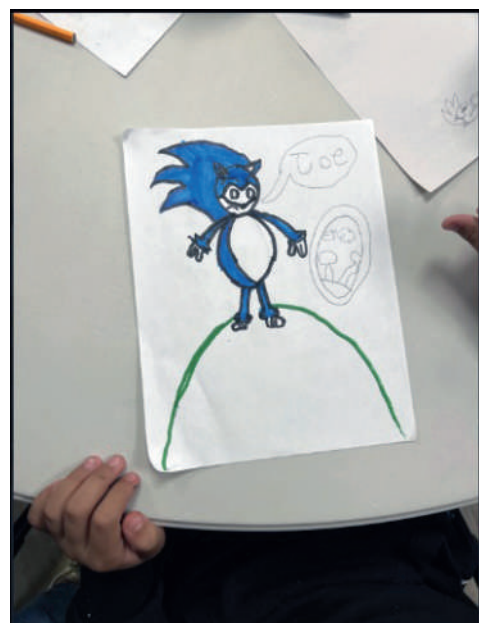
Mountain View School District (MVSD) is thriving with its extensive range of extended learning and enrichment programs, providing students with valuable opportunities beyond regular school hours. Among the exciting offerings this school year is the Saturday Cartoons and Cereal Workshop, designed to give students fascinating insights into the world of animation and potential careers in the arts and entertainment industry.

Through a partnership with the Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory, MVSD's third to eighth-grade students can participate in these free workshops, which take place on the third Saturday of each month at the Mountain View Family Center. Led by teaching artists who are practicing professionals in the field, the

workshops aim to introduce students to various career pathways and workforce development opportunities in film, art, and digital media.

The Saturday Cartoons and Cereal Workshop combines learning with enjoyment as students indulge in a bowl of cereal while watching beloved cartoons such as Bluey, Sonic the Hedgehog, Scooby-Doo, Hello Kitty & Friends, and more. During the sessions, students delve into the fascinating world of animation, exploring the different roles involved in creating a cartoon. They also have the chance to put their artistic skills to the test by drawing their own cartoons under the guidance of the teaching artists.

ANIMATION >> PAGE 7



Baldwin Park Welcomes The Wall That Heals:

A Moving Tribute to Vietnam War Veterans



The Wall That Heals, a scaled replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, will be on display in Baldwin Park from March 14-17 at 4100 Baldwin Park Blvd. Open 24 hours a day and free to the public, the exhibit serves as a tribute to the over three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during the Vietnam War. It bears the names of the 58,281 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

Baldwin Park Mayor Emmanuel J. Estrada expressed gratitude for the opportunity to host The Wall That Heals, acknowledging the sacrifices made by these heroes and their families. He emphasized that the city will honor their service and provide a space for the community to reflect and

pay tribute to Vietnam War veterans.

Jim Knotts, president and CEO of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF), expressed the organization's pleasure in bringing The Wall That Heals mobile exhibit to Baldwin Park. The exhibit offers local veterans and their families the chance to experience The Wall and serves as an opportunity to honor and remember all those who served and sacrificed in the Vietnam War. Additionally, it aims to educate visitors on the enduring impact of the war on America.

Transported from community to community, The Wall That Heals is housed in a 53-foot trailer. When parked, the trailer opens to reveal

THE WALL >> PAGE 7



El Monte Union Student Advances to Junior Olympics



Arroyo High School sophomore Richard Cobian will showcase his talents in saber fencing – and seek to inspire others in his community to develop a love for the sport – when he competes against elite fencers from across the country at the 2024 USA Fencing Junior Olympics in February.

Cobian earned his spot at the Junior Olympics after winning a gold medal during the qualifier in December.

“I started fencing because I was inspired by my mother and grandparents who all fenced in college,” Cobian said. “Once I felt I was ready, I began entering tournaments and it’s finally paying off.”

Cobian started fencing when he was a fifth-grader at Río Hondo Elementary School, which was close to his studio, the West Coast Fencing Academy. The Academy offers classes for all ages and skill groups, including recreational and competitive fencers.

Cobian specializes in the saber category – one of three disciplines in modern fencing, which are sabre, foil and epee, with each specialty using a different kind of blade and set of rules.

“On behalf of the District, we are extremely proud of Richard for his accomplishments and for putting El Monte Union on the map as a home to competitive fencers,” Superintendent Dr. Edward Zuniga said. “We look forward to continuing to watch him hone in on his craft and grow as a competitor.”



According to the West Coast Fencing Academy, fencing is one of the most popular sports within Ivy League Universities, such as Stanford and Yale, and many top-level fencers are recruited for collegiate fencing teams at these institutions.

Saber fencing is a modern sport that involves two competitors using a saber, which is a type of sword, to score points by striking their opponent with the cutting edge of the blade.

It is one of the three disciplines in the sport of fencing, alongside epee and foil. Saber fencing differs from the other two disciplines because it allows for scoring with both the cutting and thrusting actions.

As for its history in the United States Junior Olympics, saber fencing has been a part of the event for quite some time. The United States Junior Olympics includes saber fencing as one of its competitive categories.

The exact date when saber fencing became a part of the United States Junior Olympics is not readily available, but the sport has been included in the event for a number of years, providing young fencers with the opportunity to showcase their skills and compete at a high level.

Cobian said he aims to share his love of the sport with other Arroyo High students by forming a fencing club on campus. He is looking for interested supporters, starting with his cross country and track teammates.

“Once I have some potential club members, I think I can convince one of my fencing coaches to lead the club at Arroyo,” Cobian said. “My goal is to have enough fencers to eventually start competing at scholastic tournaments and represent El Monte Union.”

The Importance of Attendance: Building a Path to Success

The El Monte Union High School District is dedicated to instilling in our students the significance of attending school regularly. By equipping them with the necessary tools and resources, students have the means to achieve their goals each day.

Daily attendance not only supports academic success but also promotes responsible habits, fosters a positive school culture, and reduces the achievement gap.

Research has consistently shown that regular school attendance is directly linked to academic performance. Missing just 10% of school days, roughly equivalent to 18 days in our District, can have a detrimental impact on a student's educational progress.

Chronic absenteeism, characterized by missing two days a month, can significantly hinder a student's ability to keep up with coursework, understand key concepts, and engage in classroom discussions.

By attending school daily, students have the opportunity to actively participate in learning activities, ask questions, collaborate with peers, and benefit from valuable instruction provided by their teachers.

Consistent attendance allows students to build upon their knowledge and skills, setting them on a path towards academic achievement.

Regular attendance in school plays a pivotal role in developing responsible habits that extend beyond the classroom. By attending school on a daily basis, students learn the importance of punctuality, commitment, and discipline.

Students acquire valuable time-management skills and understand the significance of meeting deadlines and fulfilling responsibilities.

These habits, when cultivated during school years, lay a strong foundation for success in future academic pursuits and professional endeavors.

Moreover, consistent attendance fosters a sense of accountability, as

students learn that their presence and active participation contribute to the overall learning environment and the success of their peers.

The impact of regular attendance extends beyond individual academic performance. When students attend school daily, they contribute to building a positive school culture. By being present, students have the opportunity to engage with their peers, form meaningful connections, and build relationships with teachers and staff.

This sense of community fosters a supportive and inclusive learning environment, promoting collaboration, empathy, and mutual respect.

Active participation in school activities and events enhances the overall school spirit, making each student feel valued and part of a larger collective.

Regular attendance strengthens the school community, creating a positive atmosphere that fosters growth and success for all.

Addressing the achievement gap is a critical aspect of our commitment to education. Regular attendance plays a significant role in narrowing this gap.

Consistent attendance ensures that all students, regardless of background or circumstances, have an equal opportunity to learn and succeed.

By reducing chronic absenteeism, we strive to create an equitable learning environment that empowers every student to reach their full potential.

As a community, El Monte Union High School District is dedicated to working together to support our students' success.

Through collaboration between parents, guardians, and schools, an environment is created where students thrive personally and academically throughout the school year.

Attendance is the number one predictor of student success!



Health & Fitness

5 Tips to Help Older Adults Be Healthier

(StatePoint) As we age, an increasing number of us link our emotional and physical well-being to our overall health. After all, you can't do the things you enjoy if you aren't healthy.

With that in mind, Cigna and its Medicare Advantage (MA) fitness partner, the Silver&Fit Healthy Aging and Exercise Program, share these five tips to help older adults get fitter and stronger and be less stressed and happier:

Hit the gym. Exercise is a proven way to help you get fitter and stronger, improve balance, lose weight, reduce blood pressure, improve cardiovascular health, manage pain and even be more social. Many gyms offer such options as free weights, machines, pools, classes, private instructors and other amenities that can inspire you to try new things. Prefer

working out with others? Group classes can help you discover a new exercise, stick to a schedule and find exercise buddies. If you're new to exercise, remember that slow and steady is the way to build good habits, avoid injury and achieve health goals. It's always a good idea to consult your doctor before starting any new exercise program.

Can't afford gym membership? You may be surprised to learn that many MA plans offer exercise programs at top fitness centers and YMCAs for no extra cost. Check your plan for details.

Nourish your body. For optimal health, nourish your body with healthy, energizing foods, including fruits, vegetables, grains, fish and healthy oils, such as olive oil and sesame oil. Limit pre-packaged, processed foods. Set an achievable goal. Try cutting out one unhealthy food each month, such as sugary soft

drinks or chips. Your body will love you for it! Also, stay hydrated, especially when exercising.

At the same time, eliminate unhealthy habits, such as smoking or drinking alcohol in excess. With an MA plan, you may be able to get help with smoking cessation products or alcohol counseling at no extra cost.

Stress less. Stress can be toxic and debilitating. Develop a "PLAN" to deal with it. According to Cigna's Dr. Stuart L. Lustig, this includes identifying a Period of time to unwind, a Location to de-stress, an Activity to enjoy and the Name of someone with whom you can talk. Yoga, tai chi and meditation may help you cope with stress, as well as going for walks, listening to music, comedy or audio books -- or even coloring.

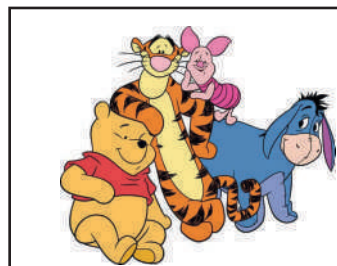
If you're experiencing extreme stress, talk to your doctor. Remember, the mind and body are connected, and stress takes its toll on physical health.

Get social.

According to a 2018 Cigna survey, loneliness in America has reached epidemic levels. Nearly half of Americans report sometimes or always feeling alone (46 percent) or left out (47 percent). Loneliness has been shown to negatively impact physical and mental health. Alleviate loneliness by taking one proactive step each week. For example, call or get coffee with friends or family, join a club or volunteer. You can also connect with other active adults on social media. Check out the inspirational health and fitness posts on the @SilverandFit Facebook page and join in the conversations.

Practice gratitude. Happiness comes with thankfulness. Think about people and things you feel grateful for, and start a gratitude journal.

By doing your best to incorporate these five tips into your life, you'll kick-start your journey toward a healthier future.



"A bear, however hard he tries, grows tubby without exercise."
-AA Milne

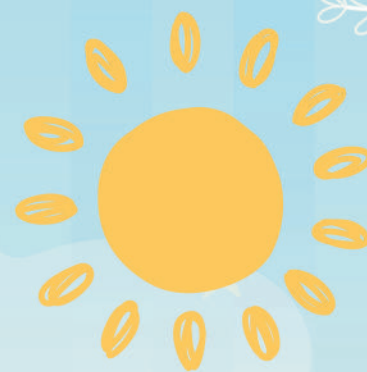
The Emotional Benefits of Exercise— Feel Good with Go4Life®

Research shows the benefits of exercise go beyond just physical well-being. Physical activities—like walking, biking, dancing, yoga, or tai chi—can help:



Reduce feelings of depression and stress

Enhance your mood and overall emotional well-being



Increase your energy level



Improve sleep

So, the next time you're feeling down, anxious, or stressed, start moving!

Get exercise ideas, motivational tips, and more from **Go4Life®**, an exercise and physical activity campaign for older adults from the National Institute on Aging at NIH.



Go4Life.
go4life.nia.nih.gov



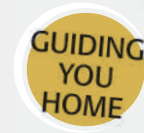
What is Your Digital Score?

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Real estate REPORT



Always Ask These Things Before Hiring a Real Estate Agent



To find the right realtor, you need to look into your options. Before you make a decision, interview a few different agents and be sure to ask the following questions.

How many homes did you sell last year?

While they may simply lack experience, realtors with few sales should be avoided. Otherwise, you may run the risk of your property staying on the market for a long time. If they work for a brokerage, make sure they report their own sales and not those of the entire company.

How long does it typically take you to sell a home?

Check with the agent for an average so you can get an idea of how fast your house will likely sell.

How will you market my home?

Good realtors know that

marketing is key. Your agent should have a solid strategy in place to sell your home, one that takes into account the local market conditions and any trends in your area. If their plan seems too generic or unclear, you may want to look elsewhere.

How easily will I be able to reach you?

Communication is key. In addition to what they tell you about staying in touch, verify whether or not they have an administrative assistant. If they have someone helping them manage their priorities, it's likely they can focus more on your needs.

Lastly, make sure to investigate the realtor's credentials. Always look up the agent you're thinking about hiring and get at least three recent references from them.

Multi-generational living: tips to make it work

Multi-generational living is making a comeback. As more retirees choose to stay in their homes as they age, and economic trends make home ownership less accessible, an increasing number of families are choosing to live together. Here are some tips if you're considering living in a multi-generational household.

Privacy

Everyone has the right to expect a certain degree of privacy in their home, and respecting it is a matter of establishing ground rules and choosing a home with the right layout.

If you're looking for a new property for your multi-generational family, make sure to discuss the situation with your realtor. A good agent will be able to help you find the right type of house. Properties with laneways are often a good idea, as they

offer built-in privacy.

Chores and upkeep

It's a good idea to ensure every member of your household is clear on what responsibilities they have in the home. The advantage of more people living under the same roof is that upkeep tends to be easier when the work is shared.

Finances

Financial matters should be discussed sooner rather than later. Whether grownup children are moving back in with their parents or the entire family is looking for a new home, there's an opportunity to pool resources. However, conversations about money should be had prior to the move so that everyone's on the same page.

With a little planning and compromise, a multi-generational household can fulfill your entire family's needs.



A Guide to Virtual Tours

The need to implement social distancing measures has driven many businesses to find new ways to serve their clients. Realtors are no different. Here's what you should know about virtual property tours.

Different types of tours

The term "virtual tour" can refer to either a tour of a property done via video chat or one conducted using 3D-modelling software. In a best case scenario, these two techniques will be used in tandem to provide homebuyers with the most complete experience possible.

Tips for buyers

Virtual tours are more flexible than in-person visits, especially because they're easier to plan and less intrusive for homeowners. The most important

thing to remember is that, in some ways, virtual tours offer more than traditional visits. Make the most of them by trying out various layouts and colour schemes.

Tips for sellers

Sellers should get their property mapped out in 3D if possible. The popularity of virtual tours is sure to keep climbing, even after the pandemic.

Video chat visits are fairly similar to in-person ones. Kick up the lighting a notch, make an extra effort to declutter, and remember image quality can vary between visits.

In addition to virtual tours, some realtors are offering virtual closing as well, adding another level of safety and convenience.



If You're Reading This...
Then So Are Your Customers

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EYE ON FINANCE

Budget-Building Resources for a More Resilient Tomorrow

Hispanic communities have been making vital contributions to the American cultural landscape and the national economy for decades.

The second largest ethnic or racial group in the U.S., Hispanics poured \$2.6 trillion into the U.S. economy in 2018, have the purchasing power of approximately \$1.7 trillion, and are the most likely among other minority groups to be entrepreneurs.

However, with the ongoing pandemic, many are finding themselves struggling financially, lacking adequate access to healthcare, and worried about their children falling behind in school given the multitude of challenges presented by remote learning.

Despite these hardships, a recent Pew Research Center poll showed that nearly 50 percent of Hispanics expect the U.S. economy to improve a year from now, a strong indicator of the optimism and resiliency that this community embodies.

“Latinos represent an important component of the United States economy and population in today’s time of uncertainty,” says Eugenio M. Alonso, president and CEO, Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Puerto Rico Inc./Florida Consumer, a nonprofit that provides financial counseling services. “Now more than ever, ensuring their right to financial wellness and the American dream is essential.”

During tough economic times, having a budget and understanding how it should be managed is the key to gaining control of one’s finances, according to financial experts.

Even for those who feel that their current financial situation doesn’t allow them to build a budget, having

an understanding of budgeting basics can help when making everyday financial decisions.

“A budget can help people tighten spending, prioritize saving, and most importantly, help them focus on and achieve their long-term financial goals. Creating a budget may sound complicated, but with a little bit of guidance and organization, everyone can do it,” says Alonso.

To get started, here are some resources to help Hispanic families feel more empowered in their budgeting journey:

Video content: For practical tips on budgeting, view the short video, “A Minute about Money,” available at youtu.be/mUwDxb0mOTs.

Resource hub: Check out Hands on Banking, a free, non-commercial financial education program created by Wells Fargo to support the needs of communities.

The site features a variety of resources on money management subjects such as building a rainy day fund, banking basics, establishing credit and more, and is available in English and Spanish at handsonbanking.org and elfuturoentusmanos.org.

Hands-on assistance: Those experiencing financial hardship and needing more guidance can seek help with a reputable nonprofit that offers financial counseling, like Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Puerto Rico Inc./Florida Consumer. To learn more, visit consumerpr.org.

As the nation moves forward, Hispanics will continue to fuel the country’s economic growth. It is vital that this deeply impacted community has the tools to succeed and recover. (StatePoint)



Smart Apps to Manage Your Money



Do you need a hand managing your money? If so, here are some apps that can help.

For saving

Coupon apps like Flipp and Reebee gather flyers and rebates from thousands of retailers to help you save money. Others, like Checkout 51 and Caddle, instead offer cash returns for purchasing specific products, regardless of where you buy them.

Another convenient way to save is to use Mylo, a Canadian app that rounds up all your purchases to the nearest dollar. For instance, \$6.41 becomes \$7.00 and the difference gets put into an investment account.

For budgeting

There’s a range of apps to help you budget and analyze your spending habits and your overall finances. Mint and Spendee are

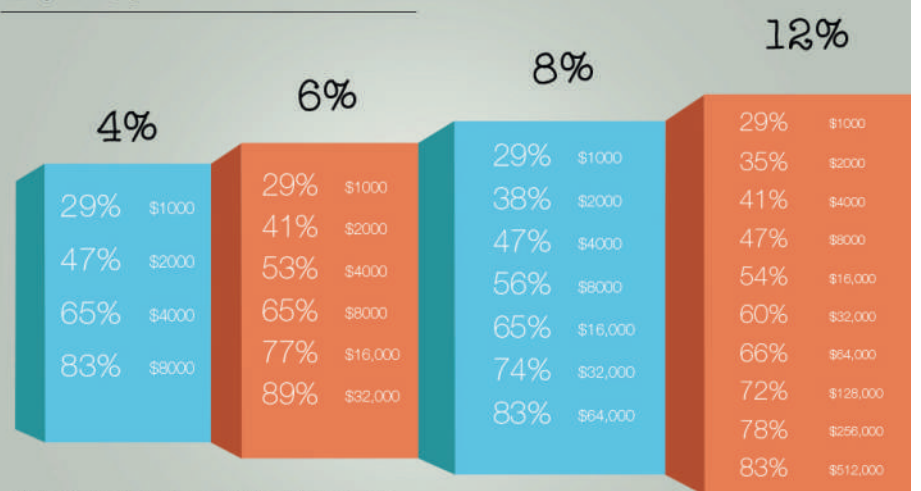
two great examples. In addition, many financial institutions offer similar apps. Depending on your needs, these apps can track your monthly spending, warn you when you may be going over budget and generally act as an on-demand financial assistant.

For splitting the bill

If you tend to split expenses with a roommate, partner or friend, then you can use Tricount to facilitate the process. Each person only needs to input the amount they’ve paid, and the app calculates how much each person should pay and who owes what to who.

Managing your finances can be a lot simpler with the right apps. However, you should always be cautious about what kind of information you share online and to only use applications created by reputable developers.

The Magic of Compound Interest



Divide 72 by the interest rate or inflation rate to estimate the number of years it takes for your money to “double” for or against you.



“A man who pays his bills on time is soon forgotten.”

~Oscar Wilde~

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Three Dot Lounge...

Cracker Barrel

by Mike McClure



...so the other day Sunshine and I celebrated National Cheeseburger Week. In case you weren't aware of it, National Cheeseburger Week is January 21-27. At least according to the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce who claim that the cheeseburger was invented 100 years ago in Pasadena. A bold claim that I don't really believe.

But according to Pasadena lore, the cheeseburger was invented at a roadside shack named "The Rite Spot" located just West of the Colorado Bridge near Colorado and Ave. 64, which was part of the old Route 66.

Supposedly 16 year old Lionel Sternberger was working the grill at the family business and he burnt a hamburger. To cover his mistake he reportedly put a slice of cheese on the burger and voila, the cheeseburger was invented.

It was such a crowd pleaser that it became an instant hit. They put it on the menu as "The Aristocratic: the Original Hamburger with Cheese". Right.

I can think of at least two other restaurants in Pasadena that claim they invented the cheeseburger. The Rite Spot is long gone. Young Lionel told that story until his death - it's in his obituary. Still today every year the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce trots out the story and several of the local eateries join in on the celebrations, each with their own versions of the classic treat.

So what the heck Happy National Cheeseburger Week.

(NOTE: Sunshine and I celebrated with a cheeseburger at the Red Robin in Rancho Cucamonga. Red Robin may not have invented the cheeseburger but I bet Lionel didn't give endless fries with his!)



Working OverTime

by Cynthia Huizar



So much to do, well we can finally say goodbye to January. Sunday after church Profe and I had lunch with my brother Charlie, his girlfriend Melanie, and my little sister Kelly. We went to "Chis and Pitts", yes there are still two of them. I loved the one in Whittier but it's gone so we went to the one in Bellflower.

In Rancho Cucamonga we have Dave's Bar-b-que and Richie's, of course there's also a Lucille's but I still like Chis and Pitts". The one in Bellflower is across the street from Dough Boys and Profe likes to shop there, he forgets that he isn't as big as he used to be, so it's two in one day when we go. The food is delicious.

At church, the Sunday school teacher told the old story of paying it forward. There are different versions, but the one she told was of the woman who gets a flat tire on a deserted road, she is out of her calling area and can't use her phone to call Triple A to come help. Desperately, she tries to wave down passer-bys to no avail.

Finally an old truck pulls over, a young fellow in worn denims gets out and asks her if he could help her. She was leery, he didn't look too well off himself but he assured her that he would be able to fix her tire and get her going.

He had no trouble with the tire and

she was ready to go in about 20 minutes. The lady tried to pay the man who said no just do something good for the next person, "pay it forward" he told her.

The woman drives for a while and sees a diner. She pulls in and goes inside to get something to eat. A young waitress was sitting at the counter going over a stack of bills and she had tears in her eyes but when she saw the woman she quickly put the bills into her purse and came over to serve her.

The young waitress smiled and was very helpful, even though it was obvious that she was upset. After eating the woman left the money for the meal and under the receipt she placed 5 \$100 bills.

That night when the waitress got home she told her husband the good news and that her tip would get them even with their bills. Then laughingly she asked him how his day had gone, he told her the same as usual except on the way home he had stopped to help a stranded motorist - a woman with a flat tire.

Some of us are lucky to be able to get together with family and friends, we need to look for the opportunity to help others who aren't so lucky or as the young man had told the lady with the flat, "pay it forward".

CROSSWORD

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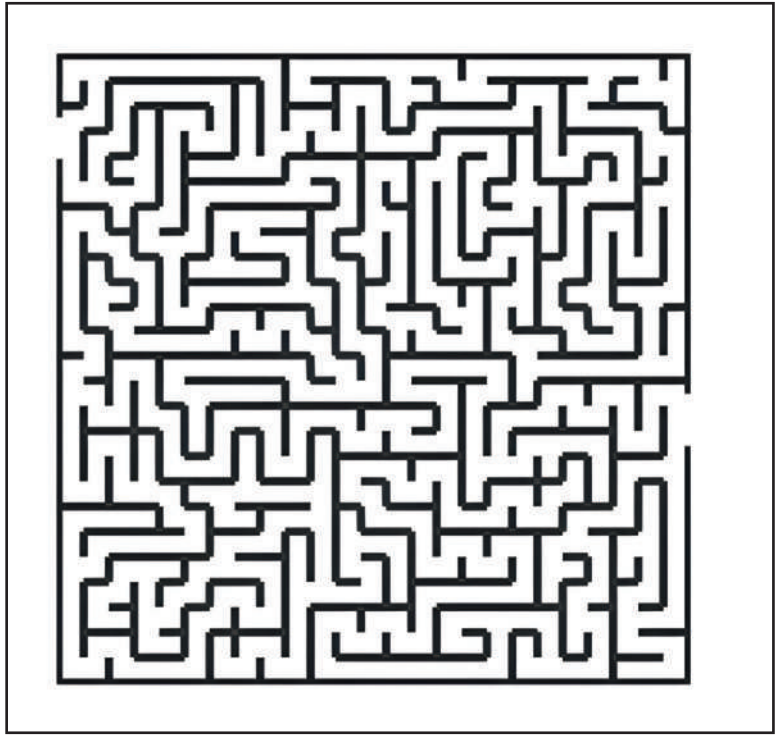
- Chlorofluorocarbon, abbr.
- Alight, past tense
- Boat mooring spot, e.g.
- Short for betwixt
- Wife's parents
- Serpentarium noise
- Time period
- Hajj destination
- Hillside, in Scotland
- "Dream on!" (2 words)
- Constricting snakes
- * ___ zone
- Bad blood
- Post-it user
- Not miss
- Street opening
- *Half-time show entertainer
- Compass point
- In spite of the fact, arch.
- Loads from lodes
- *CBS announcer and former QB
- Native American group
- Famous Bolshevik
- *Like the Super Bowl players
- Sonny & Cher, e.g.
- Ditto
- Neutral shade
- With mature appearance
- Bamboozle
- Learned one
- Religious song
- Defier
- Not top-shelf
- On the ocean
- Deviate
- Type of tide
- Peace symbol
- End of grace
- *49ers' conference
- Short for one time around
- Short for Arthur

THEME: SUPER BOWL

ACROSS

- Desert bloomers
- Request for tailor
- Paul Bunyan's companion
- Delivered by plane
- Boiling emotion
- Match play result?
- Like the North vs. the South war
- Bag, à Paris
- Nymph of lakes and springs
- *Team that never made it to Super Bowl
- *Last year's Super Bowl winner
- *Safety value
- Disfigure

- *Birthplace of NFL
 - Roofed colonnade
 - Dr. Seuss' Yertle
 - Auctioneer's final word
 - Sea eagles
 - Popular winter boot brand
 - Largest ethnic group in Rwanda
 - User's destination
 - Like Twiggy's skirt
 - Former anesthetic
 - Not all
 - Death notice
 - Like r in American English
 - Luau souvenirs
 - Opposite of WSW
 - Vatican's head
- DOWN**
- Cattle prod
 - *AFC's top seed
 - *Host state of this year's Super Bowl
 - Like allergy spray
 - Second person of be
 - Pleasant odor
 - Fervent
 - Grazing ground
 - "When pigs fly!"
 - Modeling material
 - *NFL Honors' announcement
 - Trento's Council of ___



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	4	1		9	3			
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THE WALL
From Page 1

exhibits built into its sides, creating a mobile Education Center that tells the story of the Vietnam War, The Wall, and the tumultuous era in American history. Baldwin Park is the third stop on The Wall's 2024 nationwide journey across 22 states.

The three-quarter scale replica of The Wall spans 375 feet in length and stands 7.5 feet high at its tallest point. Visitors will experience the awe-inspiring presence of The Wall as they walk towards its apex, mirroring the design of the original memorial in Washington, D.C. Visitors are also able to create name rubbings of individual service members' names on The Wall, further personalizing the experience.

The Mobile Education Center exhibit within the trailer includes digital photo displays featuring "Hometown Heroes" – service members whose names are inscribed on The Wall and have ties to the local area.

The exhibit also pays tribute to Vietnam veterans from the area through VVMF's In Memory program, which honors veterans who returned home from Vietnam but later passed away.

Video displays provide historical and educational insights into the significance of The Wall, while exhibits showcasing items left at The Wall in D.C. offer a tangible

connection to the past.

Additionally, the exhibit features a replica of the In Memory plaque, a map of Vietnam, and a chronological overview of the Vietnam War. Collectively, these exhibits aim to provide a comprehensive historical and cultural context for American experiences in Vietnam.

The 2024 national tour of The Wall That Heals is generously sponsored by USAA, with support from the Truckload Carriers Association (TCA) and Blue Beacon, enabling the exhibit to travel across the country.

Since its inception in 1996, The Wall That Heals exhibit has been showcased in over 700 U.S. communities, and has also made international stops in Ireland and Canada.

The exhibit is a program of VVMF, the nonprofit organization responsible for the construction of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. in 1982.

As the only traveling exhibit affiliated with The Wall in D.C., it features the largest Wall replica that travels throughout the country. On-site, two VVMF staff members lead volunteers, provide educational guidance to visitors and students, and ensure a reflective atmosphere at The Wall.

For more information about The Wall That Heals, please visit: www.thewallthatheals.org.

GOLDEN APPLE
From Page 1

Castillo. "She has made a very positive impact on the children and families in the Jeff Seymour Family Center community. She is a great communicator and role model and consistently strives to provide a safe, well-maintained, and healthy classroom environment."

The praise for her work continued with her team. Child Development Supervisor, Ana Heredia, shared that Ms. Barber, "goes above and beyond ensuring all children in her Early Head Start classroom obtain maximum learning experiences while reaching their developmental milestones and acquiring school readiness skills."

EMCSD Superintendent Dr. Maribel Garcia celebrated Ms. Barber's impact on shaping a community of learners. "Ms. Barber has proven to be an integral piece of our Early Head Start education program," shared Dr. Garcia. "Dedicating 22 years to some of our youngest learners is no easy task, but her passion, expertise, and tireless efforts have created a lasting impact on

the lives of countless students, shaping the future of our community. We are privileged to have Ms. Barber as a member of our team, and her Golden Apple recognition is a testament to her contributions to the field of education."

Ms. Barber's classroom was selected to showcase El Monte's new Early Head Start program in 2021 and her written child observations are used as models to train new teachers. She regularly engages parents in classroom volunteering to strengthen the home-school connection. Her best suggestion for colleagues and parents when working with young children is patience. "Patience is needed because the children will try to test you. Remembering that not all our children come from the same family dynamic. Providing the children and families a safe space to learn and explore is very important at this age. I always thank my families for allowing us to be part of their child's first school experience. If not for parents trusting us with their babies, I would not be here."

ANIMATION
From Page 1

In addition to animation, students are introduced to the exciting realm of podcasting. They have the unique opportunity to create, edit, and even host their own podcasts. Several students have already demonstrated exceptional leadership skills and a keen aptitude for the various aspects of podcasting, showing great enthusiasm for this increasingly popular field.

The Saturday Cartoons and Cereal Workshop not only provides an engaging and enjoyable learning experience but also nurtures students' creativity, critical thinking, and communication skills. Through these workshops, students gain exposure to potential career paths in the arts and entertainment industry, while also acquiring valuable knowledge and proficiency in animation and podcasting.

The Mountain View School District

is dedicated to offering students diverse and enriching opportunities that go beyond the standard curriculum. By partnering with organizations like the Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory, the district ensures that students have access to high-quality programs that inspire and prepare them for future success.

The success of the Saturday Cartoons and Cereal Workshop is a testament to the commitment of Mountain View School District in fostering a well-rounded education for its students. By providing an environment where learning and creativity thrive, the district sets the stage for students to explore their passions, develop new skills, and envision exciting career possibilities.

Story and Photo Courtesy of Mountain View School District



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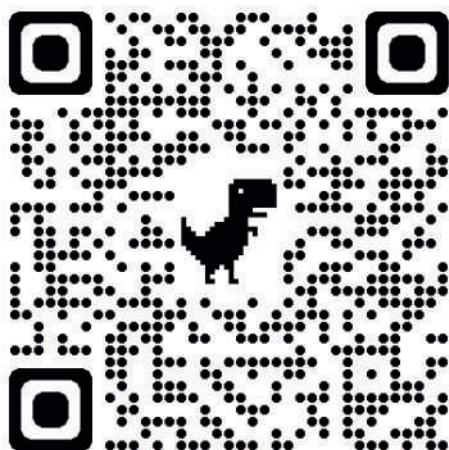
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The Center serves extremely low-income neighborhoods with high rates of poverty, unemployment and large number of elderly persons.

We invite you to visit our website for more information at www.sgvfamilycenter.org.

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