

MONTABELLO'S EGG-STRAVAGANZA BRINGS JOY INDOORS AMID RAINY WEATHER

On Saturday, March 30, 2024, the City of Montebello proved that not even a rainy day could dampen the spirit of community and celebration. The much-anticipated annual Egg-stravaganza, initially set to take place at Henry Acuña Park, was swiftly moved indoors to the Cathy Hensel Youth Center at 236 S Taylor Ave, ensuring the event went ahead without a hitch.

Despite the change in location due to the unexpected weather, families from across Montebello turned out in droves, undeterred by the rain. The event, held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., was a testament to the community's resilience and the dedication of the City of Montebello recreation and community services team. Under the adept leadership of David Sosnowski, the team worked tirelessly to adapt to the circumstances, transforming the Cathy Hensel Youth Center into a vibrant hub of Easter celebrations.

The Egg-stravaganza offered a plethora of activities designed to delight attendees of all ages. From thrilling egg hunts segmented by age group to ensure every child had a fair chance at the fun, to a bubble show, the event was packed with entertainment. Children and adults alike enjoyed crafts and activities, face painting, and snapping memorable moments with the Easter Bunny at the Photo Boothie, making the day truly unforgettable.



Photo by Ernest Peralta

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



Richard with wife Michelle and son Benny

RICHARD SANCHEZ RECOGNIZED AS THE 2024 ALL SERVICE CLUB PERSON OF THE YEAR FOR HIS COMMUNITY DEDICATION

The Rotary Club of Montebello hosted this year's All Service Club Banquet on March 20 at the Montebello Women's Club. The Rotary Club of Montebello, the Montebello Soroptimist along with the Montebello Lions Club continued a cherished tradition that spans over 70 years. This unique gathering celebrates the spirit of volunteerism within the Montebello community, honoring the dedicated individuals who contribute their time and effort to various service organizations.

Each year, the banquet recognizes the hard work and dedication of all members of Montebello's service clubs, with a special highlight being the selection of the All Service Club Person of the Year. The 2023 recipient, Kathy Heacock Nighswonger, had the distinct privilege of acknowledging the 2024 honoree, Richard Sanchez, from the Montebello Lions Club. With a commendable 9-year tenure at the Lions Club, Sanchez has actively participated in numerous initiatives, including the fireworks stand, pancake breakfasts, Casino Night, and any project aimed at assisting those in need. His favorite projects include the Christmas-At-The-Cannon Toy Distribution, Thanksgiving food baskets, and the Back-to-School Backpack and supply giveaway, showcasing his commitment to making a positive impact in the community.

Adding a touch of humor to the evening's proceedings, the banquet also featured the traditional awarding of the coveted toilet seat. This lighthearted accolade is given to the president of the club with the fewest members present, with this year's "honor" going to Oscar Becerra of the Lions Club.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

Great Way to Celebrate & Surprise Mom!

THE MONTEBELLO REPORTER
WILL BE HONORING MOTHERS IN OUR
MAY ISSUE FOR MOTHERS DAY!

Please send us your favorite photo of
your Mom and we will select random pictures
to be published in our May issue.
Send photo to info@montebelloreporter.com.

CITY OF MONTEBELLO
MONTHLY PAGES 16 & 17



MONTEBELLO
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SPOTLIGHT ON MONTEBELLO CENTER INSERT
By THE MONTEBELLO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

April 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 	2 AUTISM Awareness 	3 NATIONAL Walking DAY 	4 NATIONAL BURRITO DAY 	5 Laylat al-Qadr	6 National Tartan Day 
7 Divine Mercy Sunday	8	9 Eid al Fitr Ramadan (end)	10 NATIONAL SIBLINGS DAY 	11 NATIONAL PET DAY WORLD PARKINSON'S DAY 	12 NATIONAL GRILLED CHEESE DAY 	13 
14	15 PATRIOT DAY WE WILL NEVER FORGET TAX DAY 	16	17 HAIKU POETRY DAY 	18 NATIONAL HIGH FIVE DAY 	19	20 HAPPY 420
21	22 EARTH DAY Passover (Start) 	23	24 DENIM DAY 	25 NFL Draft Starts TAKE YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY 	26 ARBOR DAY 	27
28 SUPERHERO DAY 	29	30 Passover (End)	<h2 style="margin: 0;">NIGHT Market</h2> <p style="font-size: small;">Night market returns on Thursday starting April 11th, 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM, featuring live music from wise guys big band machine!</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Located in the parking lot behind Wells Fargo Bank on Whittier Blvd. See page 17</p>			

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LEGACY OF VISIONARIES: HONORING VARTAN FUNDUKIAN AND H. HRANT AGBADIAN AND THE ARMENIAN MARTYRS MONUMENT"

The city of Montebello mourns the loss of two individuals who played pivotal roles in the creation and preservation of the Armenian Martyrs Monument. Vartan Fundukian, one of the founders of the monument, passed away on October 30, 2023. His death was followed by that of H. Harant Agbadian, the talented architect of the monument, who died on January 10, 2024. They left a profound legacy for their community.

Vartan Fundukian's visionary spirit and unwavering dedication were evident in his role as one of the founders of the Armenian Martyrs Monument. His commitment to the Armenian community in both the homeland and the diaspora served as the impetus for the many initiatives he saw to fruition: from establishing the first Armenian monument on public land in the United States to establishing a community center in Artsakh to helping found the Armenian Mesrobian School. Through his commitment, Fundukian ensured that the monument stood as a symbol of remembrance and determination for generations to come.

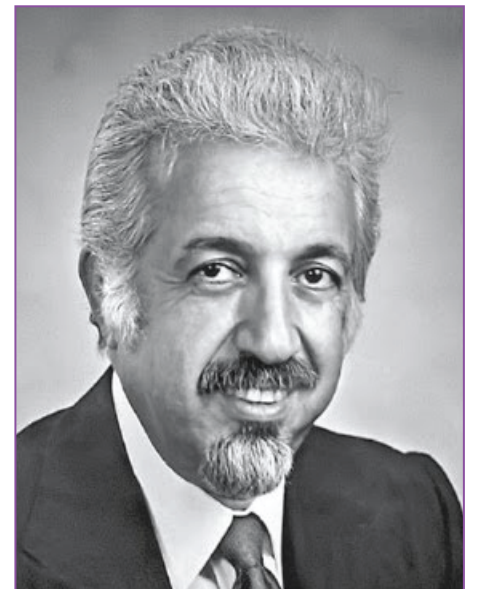
Similarly, H. Harant Agbadian's architectural prowess and creative vision were instrumental in bringing the Armenian Martyrs Monument to life. His intricate design with seven columns, each representing the of seven vilayets of historical Armenia, reaches skyward surrounded by the flame of resurrection. His thoughtful approach reflected the solemn significance of the monument, honoring the memory of the 1.5 million Armenian lives brutally exterminated by Ottoman forces. Agbadian's design serves as a timeless tribute to the resilience and strength of the Armenian people.

As we bid farewell to these remarkable gentlemen whose lives began on different continents and intersected in the United States for a common cause, it is essential to recognize that their work endures as a testament to the spirit of the Armenian people. The Armenian Martyrs Monument stands as a poignant reminder of the contributions of immigrants who find they must rebuild their lives, and symbols of their homelands, in this great country.


Their contributions have left an indelible mark on the city of Montebello and beyond, enshrining the memory of those who perished during the Armenian genocide. The work of Vartan Fundukian and H. Harant Agbadian will continue to inspire and educate future generations.



Vartan Fundukian



H. Harant Agbadian



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EUGENE A. OBREGON CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR CEREMONY IN LOS ANGELES

On March 25, the annual Eugene A. Obregon ceremony to honor National Medal of Honor Day was held at the Los Angeles Historical Plaza. It began with a caravan of classic cars driving in, led by Ray Castillo and Richard Juarez, because lowrider and bomb car culture is a very real part of Angelino culture.

It began with a speech from Vietnam War veteran and Hollywood actor Richard Yniguez, followed by a heartfelt rendition of the Star-Spangled Banner by 10-year-old Kathy Zhang. LAPD officer Johnson then did a placing of the Medal of Honor, and guest chaplain and Korean War paratrooper Robert Castillo gave a touching prayer. Honored guests Antonio Chapa, Al Neal, and Francisco Ocequeda were also introduced and gave speeches.

To tie up this beautiful ceremony, Lady Vasquez sand an inspiring rendition of Ave Maria. If you know someone who was in the military, even if they don't have a medal I, be sure to thank them. And remember, God loves you!



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In this edition of the Mayor's Corner, I'm delighted to reflect on a recent event that truly captured the spirit of empowerment and community engagement. Councilmember Georgina Tamayo and I had the pleasure of hosting a reception and award ceremony to honor our young trailblazers as Women's History Month drew to a close.

It was a joyous occasion as we recognized the remarkable contributions of our local Girl Scouts from Troop 5301, Troop 5631, Troop 71221, and Troop 4301. Their dedication and commitment to service within our community are truly commendable.

Interacting with each of these young leaders has been a privilege, and serving as their mayor fills me with pride. As a young woman representing our city, I resonate deeply with their aspirations. It has been so great to see our next generation of incredible young women grow and make a positive impact in our community.

Councilmember Gerogina and I wanted to host this event during Women's History Month to emphasize the importance of supporting women and young girls in their own spaces. Empowered girls become empowered women, and empowered women change the world!

I shared a few words of advice, which I hope our readers also find helpful:

1. Don't be afraid to try, you are all incredible and you will see just how far you can truly go. Whatever challenges you may face in life, remember that women belong in every space where decisions are made, and where change happens.
2. Surround yourself with people who lift you up; you deserve all the support and love in the world, and you deserve to be around people who see that too.

3. Lastly, always remember how amazing you are. No one can take away your value. Use your voice, take up space, roar for everyone to hear.

I am excited to witness their continued growth into inspiring women, and I eagerly anticipate the day when one or more of them stand in my place.

Your Mayor,



Scarlet Peralta



Upcoming Event
The Mayor's Art Exhibition:
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Location: City Hall Lobby



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ANGRY HORSE BREWING LEADS CELEBRATION OF WOMEN IN BREWING WITH PINK BOOTS COLLABORATION DAY

Angry Horse Brewing proudly participated in the annual Pink Boots Collaboration Day (CBD), a global event that highlights the essential role of women in brewing and related fields, coinciding with International Women's Day on March 8. The event was a vibrant celebration of diversity, education, and the art of brewing, drawing in community members, including Montebello Mayor Scarlett Peralta.

For the fourth consecutive year, attendees enjoyed a day filled with learning about the process of brewing beer, with workshops led by celebrated brewer Daniella Lopez, who recently joined the Angry Horse Brewing team. "Being part of Angry Horse Brewing has been incredibly rewarding," Lopez shared. "The sense of community and support here is unparalleled."

The highlight of the day was the introduction of "Tropicali," a unique brew created in honor of International Women's Day and in collaboration with the Pink Boots Society. This special concoction symbolized the brewery's commitment to diversity and celebrated the impactful role women play in the industry. "This special brew

represents our dedication to empowering women in brewing and related fields," McCusker stated.

The celebration didn't stop there. The evening culminated in an All-Vinyl Ladies Night, featuring an all-female DJ lineup that included Tiny Soulera, Mz. Lady of Soul, and Sweet Soul NELA, providing an unforgettable experience for all who attended.

Located at 603 W. Whittier Blvd., Montebello, CA 90640, Angry Horse Brewing not only showcased its commitment to diversity and inclusivity but also provided a platform for professional growth and recognition of women in the brewing field. The event was a testament to the brewery's ethos: "We're more than a brewery; we're a community committed to diversity and inclusivity."

Through participation in events like Pink Boots Collaboration Day, Angry Horse Brewing continues to champion diversity and inclusion, making significant strides towards a more inclusive industry.



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SPRING CLEANING YOUR ESTATE



Gia L. Pacheco, Esq.
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The spring season officially began on March 20th and if you are like most people you have engaged in the annual ritual known as, "spring cleaning." There is nothing like the refreshing feeling of a decluttered home to make you feel organized and clean. A good practice to add to your annual cleanse is a review of your estate plan or following through with your resolution to create your estate plan.

There are many significant life changes and family issues that may have an impact on how you feel about distributing your property after death. Many create their estate plan and either forget or do not realize that they may need to update certain clauses or look for changes in the laws. For example, you may have already given your son his inter-vivos (during lifetime) share for a down payment on his family home and intended to provide for him during his lifetime. Another example is where one child has predeceased the parents -does that child's share pass to his or her heirs? So, it is one thing to create your estate plan but it is better practice to revisit it often because some either forget or do not realize that they may need to update certain clauses or look for changes in the laws.

When taking the first steps, the most common question people ask is: how do I revise my estate plan?

First, estate planning is a process where you arrange how to dispose of your estate upon death and leave instructions for disbursement. It can be done by a will or a setting up a living trust. For the purposes of this article, I will use the living trust as an example. Most properly drafted living trusts have an amendment and revocation clause to account for desired changes by the Settlor/Trustor of the trust. This is the legal term for the "owner" of the trust. Both the will and trust may be amended during your lifetime. Both the will and trust may be amended during your lifetime.

Amendments and Revocation

Life changes and major family events can change how you wish to distribute your property. It is wise to revisit your estate plan every year or within a reasonable amount of time. When you change your trust it is called a "trust amendment". It is slightly easier to execute. Usually one amends their trust when he or she wants to change or add beneficiaries, change disposition of assets in the trust, or change trustees. A typical amendment to a living trust must be in writing and delivered to the trustee. The amendment will be valid as long as you follow the formalities of execution carefully.

Revocation of a trust is a little more complicated because the legal title of the trust property must to be transferred back to the owner. It is not wise to write on, strike out or hashtag any of your original documents.

Codicil

An amendment to a will is called a "codicil". It is made with the same formalities as a when executing the will. There is certain language that is necessary to reference the original will. A revocation of a will can be done by this codicil or a new will that has language expressly revoking other wills.

As mentioned before, every situation is different and will require a thorough analysis of your estate and your objectives. It is wise to consult with an experienced attorney when deciding to amend or revoke your estate plan. Happy spring!

Disclaimer: While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this article, it is not intended to provide legal advice as individual situations will differ and should be discussed with an expert and/or lawyer. The statements and opinions are the expression of author, not The Montebello Reporter, and have not been evaluated by The Montebello Reporter for accuracy, completeness, or changes in the law.



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CELEBRATING A HOMETOWN HERO: MONTEBELLO WOMEN'S CLUB HONORS BASEBALL LEGEND MARGE VILLA CRYON

The Montebello Women's Club held its much-anticipated luncheon on Thursday, March 7th, at the charming clubhouse located at 201 South Park Ave. in Montebello. The event was not just a gathering but a celebration of Women's History Month and the spirit of the baseball season. This year, the club dedicated its program to "Montebello's Hometown Baseball Champion, Marge Villa Cryon," presented by Chairman Kathleen Rabago, highlighting the legacy of a woman who left an indelible mark on the world of sports.

Special guest Pat Villa Chavarria, the niece of Marge Villa, graced the event with her presence, accepting an invitation to honor her aunt's memory and achievements. The luncheon commenced with President Kathy Nighswonger warmly welcoming

the attendees, setting the tone for an afternoon filled with camaraderie, reflection, and celebration.

Spiritual Values were eloquently conveyed through a blessing by Lindee Larsen, followed by a heartwarming Flag Salute and a Patriotic Song, also performed by Larsen. This sequence of events created an atmosphere of gratitude and respect, paving the way for the introduction of guests and the unfolding of the day's program.

The luncheon, meticulously organized by Hostess Lovey Sherman and supported by the Committee comprising Jerry Ryan, Margaret Alley, and Kathy Nighswonger, offered an Irish style buffet that complemented the enriching program. The gathering not only paid homage to Marge Villa

Cryon's extraordinary contributions to baseball, but also served as a reminder of the powerful impact women have had across various fields.

Marge Villa Cryon, known for her prowess on the baseball field, emerged as a beacon of inspiration for many, demonstrating the heights women can achieve with determination and skill. The Montebello Women's Club's decision to celebrate her legacy during Women's History Month underscored the importance of recognizing and honoring female trailblazers who have shaped our history and continue to inspire future generations.

As the luncheon concluded, attendees left with a renewed sense of pride in Montebello's rich heritage and the remarkable women who have contributed to its legacy.



MONTEBELLO CORRIDOR GRADE SEPARATION PROJECT COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE



Rendering of the planned roadway underpass on Montebello Boulevard between Los Angeles Street and Greenwood Avenue

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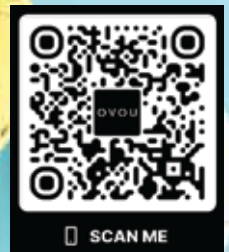
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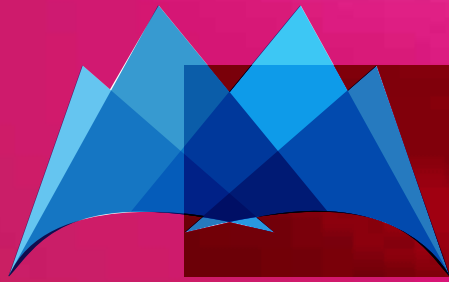


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ST. PATRICK'S MINGLE AT THE ANGRY HORSE BREWING



The Montebello Chamber and Commerce Business Council, in collaboration with the Pico Rivera Chamber, came together on Wednesday for a night of networking and fun at the 323 Chamber Inter-change Moonlight Mingle event. Hosted by Nathan McCusker and the team from Angry Horse Brewing, located in downtown Montebello, the event was a resounding success.

Guests were treated to a delightful evening of mingling, sampling a variety of beers, and indulging in delicious hamburgers catered by the local favorite, AWSOME Wings, Pizza, and Burgers. The atmosphere was enhanced with a touch of "St. Patrick's Day" ambiance, adding to the festive spirit of the gathering.

One of the highlights of the evening was the distribution of raffle prizes, which included gift cards,

wine, and the signature beer "Blarney with Friends" Irish Stout from Angry Horse Brewing. Lucky winners, chosen randomly from the pool of business cards submitted, walked away with exciting prizes, adding an element of anticipation and excitement to the event.

The multi-chamber networking event provided an excellent platform for local businesses to connect, collaborate, and foster meaningful relationships. Attendees had the opportunity to engage with fellow professionals, exchange ideas, and explore potential partnerships in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

For those who missed out on the Moonlight Mingle, the Montebello Chamber encourages them to stay tuned to their event calendar for information on upcoming networking events. Details can be found on the chamber's website at www.montebellochamber.org.

Angry Horse Brewing, the gracious host of the event, continues to be a popular destination for craft beer enthusiasts and event organizers alike. Located at 603 W. Whittier Blvd. in Montebello, they offer event rental services and can be contacted at (323) 530-0015 or through their website at www.angryhorsebrewing.com.

The success of the 323 Chamber Inter-change Moonlight Mingle reflects the vibrant business community in Montebello and the surrounding areas, showcasing the spirit of collaboration and camaraderie that defines the local business landscape.

For more information on future events and initiatives by the Montebello Chamber and Commerce Business Council, please visit their website www.montebellochamber.org.



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 MONTEBELLO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
SPOTLIGHT
 ON MONTEBELLO

**An Official Publication of the Montebello Chamber of Commerce
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Montebello Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc.
 109 North 19th Street, Montebello, CA 90640
 (323) 721-1153 • Fax (323) 721-7946
montebellochamber.org

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTARY

Many business owners wonder whether they should invest their scarce resources in a local chamber of commerce. I believe that you cannot wait for business to come to you. You have to invest your time and money to reach out to old and new customers.



By being a member of the Chamber, your business will be featured in our online Business Directory through our website. You can advertise your business in our Spotlight on Montebello. You can attend networking mingles, mixers and you can use the Chamber to host a mixer or other event of your own. The Chamber offers you these opportunities for a nominal investment.

These are a few of our upcoming events:

Our Community Expo will be held in May this year at The Shops at Montebello, use the opportunity to showcase your business before the community and consumers in an energetic environment. Not an exhibitor? Come by and wander through the booths. You may be surprised at the diverse services offered by local businesses. Call our office to get more information.

Our annual Installation Gala will be coming up in June. It's not too soon to become a sponsor of the event and to get your company top billing.

We plan on having a State of the City event in September. Sponsorships are available.

Our signature Taste of the Town event is coming up in November. This event has soon to be a great opportunity for local restaurants and eateries to showcase their products.

If you haven't attended one of the Networking Mingles, which we've held jointly with other local chambers, you've missed a great opportunity to meet potential customers.

The Chamber offers all of these opportunities for you to grow your business, but they won't mean anything to your business unless you take advantage of them.

Join the Chamber and we'll see you at our next event.

Workshop Wednesdays
 Montebello Chamber of Commerce
 Supporting the success of local businesses by providing opportunities for networking, promotion, client referrals, and introduction to the business community and public.

Business Websites
 Learn about the importance of having a modern, functional, and responsive website for your business in the digital age.

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- Website <https://www.montebellochamber.org/>

Speaker
 Andrew Martin
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EMPOWERMENT AND INSPIRATION: MONTEBELLO YOUTH LEADERSHIP CLUB CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On March 8th, the Montebello Youth Leadership Club held its 4th Annual Women's Empowerment Forum hosted by the Montebello Chamber of Commerce, marking International Women's Day with an evening dedicated to inspiration, empowerment, and community. The event kicked off with attendees enjoying a selection of refreshments and pastries, setting the stage for an engaging and uplifting experience.

The forum boasted an amazing panel of inspirational women who have made significant strides in their respective fields, sharing their journeys, challenges, and triumphs. Among the esteemed speakers were the Mayor of Montebello, Scarlet Peralta; actress and activist Chelsea Rendon; Executive Director of the Montebello Chamber of Commerce, Adriana Dugan; Cal State Long Beach Professor, Dr. Joanna Barreras; owner of Mi Piel Medspa, Genesis Duran; and neuropsychologist Dr. Mirella Diaz.

Each panelist brought a unique perspective to the discussion, weaving a tapestry of stories that highlighted the strength, resilience, and achievements of women. Mayor Peralta spoke about the importance of female leadership in politics and governance, while Chelsea Rendon discussed the impact of activism through art and how media representation can influence societal change.

Adriana Dugan shared insights into the business world and the significance of

women's roles in shaping the economic landscape. Dr. Joanna Barreras emphasized the value of education and knowledge as tools for empowerment, and Genesis Duran inspired with her entrepreneurial journey in the wellness industry. Dr. Mirella Diaz delved into the importance of mental health and the contributions of women in the field of neuropsychology.

The 4th Annual Women's Empowerment Forum not only celebrated the achievements of these remarkable women but also served as a platform for attendees to engage in meaningful conversations about gender equality, empowerment, and the collective effort required to create a more inclusive society.

As the evening concluded, the sense of unity, and purpose among the participants was palpable. The Montebello Youth Leadership Club's commitment to fostering leadership and empowering young women was evident, making the forum an inspiration for future generations.

In an era where the voices of women are increasingly being heard and valued, the forum underscored the importance of coming together to honor the contributions of women in all spheres of life. It was a reminder that every day is an opportunity to support and uplift one another, paving the way for a more equitable and empowered world.



Pictured L/R: Dr. Joanna Barreraste, Genesis Duran, Chelsea Rendon, Oliver Jimenez, Scarlet Peralta, Adriana Dugan, Dr. Mirella Diaz.

TRAILBLAZERS OF INDUSTRY: WELCH INSPIRES AT WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE



The Downey Chamber of Commerce celebrated International Women's Day in grand style with a Women's Empowerment Conference on March 8, 2024, at the Embassy Suites in Downey. This empowering event drew an audience of approximately 200 women, eager to learn from the experiences and insights of remarkable businesswomen which featured Barbara Risher Welch.

Barbara Risher Welch, the owner of Risher Mortuary & Cremation Service in Montebello and Board Member of the Montebello Chamber of Commerce, stood as a beacon of inspiration. Her speech delved into the challenges and triumphs of carving a niche in a male-dominated industry. Barbara's journey underscored the importance of perseverance, innovation, and leadership, resonating deeply with attendees seeking guidance on navigating their paths to success.

Other distinguished speakers at the event featured Lupita Infante, a renowned recording artist, Blanca Pacheco, Assemblymember, Betty Cantu the owner and Vice President of Operations at Diosa Restaurant, as well as Betty Porto, the esteemed owner and Vice President of the celebrated Porto's Bakery and Cafe.

The Women's Empowerment Conference not only celebrated the successes of these influential women but also set the stage for meaningful dialogue and networking among aspiring entrepreneurs and professionals. It was a day filled with inspiration, learning, and a collective commitment to advancing women's roles in business and society.



Betty Porto & Barbara Risher Welch

GEARING UP FOR ADVENTURE: ESSENTIAL CALIFORNIA ROAD TRIPS AND PRE-TRIP CHECKS WITH MONTEBELLO TIRE PROS

By Stepan Boyajian
Montebello Tire Pros

California is a dream destination for road trips, offering a diverse range of landscapes, attractions, and experiences that make it perfect for adventure seekers and leisure travelers alike. From coastal drives to mountainous routes, California's road trip options are as varied as they are exciting. Here are some fun road trip ideas to consider when exploring the Golden State. Here are 3 great road trip ideas:

1- One iconic road trip in California is the Pacific Coast Highway (PCH), also known as Highway 1, which stretches along the stunning coastline from Orange County to Mendocino County. This route offers breathtaking views of the Pacific Ocean, rugged cliffs, charming coastal towns like Santa Barbara and Monterey, and famous landmarks such as the Big Sur coastline and Hearst Castle. Travelers can enjoy activities like beachcombing, whale watching, and exploring picturesque seaside villages along the way.

2- For those interested in wine and culinary delights, a road trip through California's wine country is a must-do. The Napa Valley and Sonoma County offer world-renowned wineries, gourmet restaurants, and scenic vineyard landscapes. Travelers can sample award-winning wines, indulge in farm-to-table dining experiences, and take leisurely drives through rolling hills dotted with grapevines.

3- For outdoor enthusiasts, a road trip to California's national parks is an adventure not to be missed. Yosemite National Park, known for its towering granite cliffs, cascading waterfalls, and ancient sequoia trees, provides ample opportunities for hiking, rock climbing, and wildlife viewing. Other notable national parks in California include Joshua Tree National Park, famous for its unique desert landscapes and starry skies, and Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, home to the world's largest trees and scenic mountain vistas.

As the weather warms up with summer around the corner, plan on taking a California road trip. When you do, please make sure to get your car checked out before you hit the road



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Web: www.maof.org  Email: earlyed@maof.org

Hi Montebello Residents!



REMINDER: Proper waste separation is not only good for our environment but it is the law!
 Athens' "What Goes Where" interactive recycling guide is your go-to resource for correctly disposing, reducing, reusing, recycling, and composting unwanted waste material.

Visit CanIRecycleMy.com or scan the QR code:



BLACK CART = TRASH & RECYCLING

Plastic, paper, cardboard, glass, metals, food containers, & misc.

GREEN CART = ORGANICS

Green waste, food scraps, & food-soiled paper

Recreation PROGRAMS

Schedules, prices, and registration at cityofmontebello.cogran.com

Youth Evolution Soccer

Goal-Getters Wanted! Bring your little kickers to Chet Holifield for Evolution Soccer. Ages 3 to 8 are invited to join the soccer excitement. The price is \$68 per month. Secure your spot for fun-filled afternoons!



Guitar & Keyboard

Strum & Play! Let the music flow at Chet Holifield Park! The price is \$65 per month. Ages 5 and up can register for classes – don't miss out on this harmonious experience!



Youth Evolution Basketball

Score Big on Fun! Join us for Youth Evolution Basketball at Taylor Ranch. Unleash the superstar in your child, aged 3 to 8. The price is \$68 per month. Let's make it a slam dunk!



Zumba

Dance & Sweat! Shake off the stress with Zumba! Open for ages 16 and up. The price is \$45 per month. Join the fitness party and sign up for Zumba today!

Recreation Cheer

We Got Spirit - Yes, We Do! Learn the spirit of Recreation Cheer for ages 5 to 12. The price is \$25 per month. Enroll your child in a world of energy and smiles today!

NEW! Canvas Creations

Brush, Blend, and Blossom! Our beginner painting class is for ages 8 and up. The price is \$30 per session. The next session is on April 13 at Chet Holifield Park!

Yoga

Find Your Zen! Ages 16 and up can relax, rejuvenate, and discover inner peace. The price is \$35 per month. Embrace tranquility!

Tennis

Ace Your Game! Tennis for ages 8-13 at City Park Tennis Courts. Beginner or advanced, we've got a court for you! The price is \$75 per month. Secure your spot for a smashing time!

Karate-Nippon Kenpo

Unleash Inner-Discipline! Age-specific classes for 4 to 8-year-olds and 9 and up. The price is \$45 per month. Strengthen mind and body!

New classes coming soon! For more information, call (323) 887-4540.

All programs subject to change. Program must have a minimum of 5 participants to start.



COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024, 8 AM - 11 AM

Take pride in our community by celebrating Earth Day and Arbor Day!

For more information call (323) 887-4540 or email Volunteer@montebelloCA.gov



VOLUNTEER CLEAN UP SITES



- Ashiya Park, 2700 W Beverly Blvd
- Reggie Rodriguez Park, 200 W Mines Ave
- Chet Holifield Park, 1060 S Greenwood Ave
- Whittier Blvd Corridor, 715 W Whittier Blvd

Volunteer opportunities to clean our community and beautify our parks with gardening, tree planting, fresh paint, and more! Free raffle prizes and resources are available while supplies last. Sign up at cityofmontebello.cogran.com

E-WASTE AND BULKY ITEM DROP-OFF



E-waste will be collected at Montebello City Hall, 1600 W Beverly Blvd, Montebello, on Saturday, 4/20, and Sunday, 4/21, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

You may drop off your **bulky items** at Taylor Ranch Park, 737 N Montebello Blvd, Montebello, on Saturday 4/20, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

FREE COMPOST!



Athens Services will provide up to 30 gallons of free compost per resident; **ID is required**. This is a self-service event; drive up only, no plastic bags; bring shovels, dolly, and sturdy containers. Masks, gloves, and eye protection are recommended.

The compost site will be at Reggie Rodriguez Park, 200 W Mines Ave, on Saturday, 4/20, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. while supplies last.

E-WASTE COLLECTION GUIDELINES

E-waste is any consumer electronic equipment that has reached its 'end-of-life' or 'end-of-usage,' whether in full or non-working condition. It includes most electronics or electric appliances with a cord or circuit board, such as:

Computers & Devices:

- Monitors
- PC Systems
- Laptops
- Networking Equipment
- Scanners
- Copiers
- Printers
- Main Frame Units
- Toner Cartridge
- Mother Board Systems

Electronics:

- Television Sets
- Home Entertainment Systems
- VCR/VCD/DVD Players
- Fax Machines
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We also accept Car and Forklift Batteries. **We do not accept:**

Fluorescent Light Bulbs and Household Batteries
There is a service charge for Major Appliances, including Microwave Ovens, A/C, & Cooling Units.

BULKY ITEM COLLECTION GUIDELINES

Bulky items are generally considered to be too large to fit in your residential or multifamily trash container. They are unwanted, past their useful life, broken, in need of repair, or simply old, worn out, and not wanted. The following are examples of items that can be placed in the bulky items collection containers:

- Mattresses
- Box Springs
- Beds
- Bedframes
- Sofa, chairs, and recliners
- Cabinets and other furniture
- Doors
- Large play equipment
- Lawn furniture
- Tables, nightstands, and furniture

The following items are **NOT** allowed for bulky item collection:

- Appliances
- Hazardous waste
- Incendiaries
- White goods (refrigerators, washers, etc.)
- Air conditioners
- Yard waste
- Trees, leaves, branches, bushes, and grass
- Electronics
- Batteries
- Paint and stains
- Ammunitions
- Animal carcasses
- Recyclables

No commercial dumping permitted.



Montebello Senior Center, 115 S. Taylor Ave

FREE HEALTH PROGRAMS

Stress Management (Series 2)
Monday, April 15, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
Sponsored by Public Health Department


Senior Resource Fair
Wednesday, April 17, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.


CalFresh
Monday, April 22, 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Sponsored by Department of Public Social Services

Stress Management (Series 3)
Monday, April 22, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
Sponsored by the Public Health Department

Stress Management (Series 4)
Monday, April 29, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
Sponsored by the Public Health Department

FREE SPECIAL EVENTS

 **Senior Citizen Prom**
Friday, April 5, 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.
In collaboration with the Applied Technology Center

 **Sip, sip, hooray! It's tea time!**
Tuesday, April 30, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Sponsored by Olympic Pharmacy

For more info and to register, call:
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NIGHT Market

Night Market returns on Thursdays starting April 11, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m., featuring live music from the Wise Guys Big Band Machine!

Located in the parking lot behind Wells Fargo bank on Whittier Blvd.



certified farmers market
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The Montebello Fire Department is hosting a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training.

This in-person training will be conducted over eight (8) Thursdays beginning April 4, 2024.

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EGG-STRAVAGANZA CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 • PHOTOS BY ERNEST PERALTA

In addition to the free festivities, the Egg-stravaganza was further enriched by an assortment of food trucks and vendor booths. The presence of these food trucks and vendors not only catered to the taste buds and shopping desires of those present but also added a vibrant marketplace atmosphere to the day's joyful celebrations.

The successful relocation and execution of Montebello's Egg-stravaganza is a shining example of how community spirit can turn potential setbacks into memorable experiences. The event not only provided a day of fun-filled activities for families but also highlighted the strength and adaptability of the Montebello community. As the rain poured outside, inside the Cathy Hensel Youth Center, it was all smiles, laughter, and the joyous celebration of Easter traditions.



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SAVING FOR A MORTGAGE DOWN PAYMENT? TIPS FOR FIRST-TIME HOME BUYERS

A universal challenge for most aspiring home buyers is saving enough money for a down payment. Trying to save while continuing

to pay rent, buy groceries, and provide for your family while costs steadily climb isn't easy, but with clear goals and strategic planning, it is possible.

Crunching the numbers: You should aim for a deposit of at least 5% of your ideal property value, although some first-time home buyers shoot for between 10% and 20% to take advantage of better mortgage deals.

Also, take into account extra fees like closing costs or legal fees. Depending on where you buy, and the property price, there may be extra costs to factor into your savings goal.

Budgeting: Once you've determined your savings goal, look for opportunities to cut costs (that morning Starbucks run, cable subscriptions you don't use, dining out multiple days a week, etc.). Get creative with different shopping methods, like buying second-hand clothing or home goods from online platforms like Poshmark or eBay instead of going overboard at the mall.

If you're co-buying the home with someone, like your spouse or other family member, discuss income and debts, and be prepared to discuss your finances intimately (including all credit card debts, student loans, etc.) with lenders.

Using tech: There are a variety of free budgeting apps to help monitor incoming and outgoing funds and highlight any overspending to help you cut back. Set up autopayments on bills so you don't get hit with late fees and consider setting up auto-transfers to a separate savings account each payday.

Seeking support: If you are planning to receive any gifts from relatives, have the conversation early and make arrangements so you can be sure you can count on these funds when needed. Be sure to discuss delicate details, like whether or not the money is a gift or a loan that needs to be repaid. If the funds are a gift, you need to let your lender know. Keep in mind that Gift from Employers, Non-Profit Entities, and close family friends may also be considered.

You may also want to consider living with friends or family while saving up, especially as rental costs continue to soar.

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COMMUNITY HEROES INSPIRE YOUNG READERS AT OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL PARISH SCHOOL

On March 6th, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish School celebrated Read Across America in a truly inspiring fashion. As part of the festivities to honor National Reading Month, the school invited an esteemed group of community members to share their love for reading with the students. This unique gathering included members of the Montebello Fire Department's MCAP Team, the newly formed Community Resource Officers Team from the Montebello Police Department, Courtney French and Elizabeth Peralta from The Shops of Montebello Community Events Team, and Former Mayor Kimberly Cobos-Cawthorne.

The event underscored the power of community collaboration in encouraging young minds to embrace the joy of reading. Dominique Preciado, Principal of OLMM Parish School, expressed profound appreciation for the impact this initiative has had on the students. "It's heartwarming to see our children inspired by the dedication and service of these heroes," she remarked. The participation of Jonathon Shupe, a former student who returned as a firefighter to read to the kids, added a special touch of excitement and pride to the day.

By witnessing the commitment of local heroes and leaders, the children are encouraged to dream big and pursue their passions with determination. The Read Across America event at OLMM Parish School serves as a bringing together different sectors of the community can create meaningful and lasting impacts on the lives of young learners.



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PUKA NACUA'S IS L.A.'S ROOKIE OF THE YEAR WITH HIS RECORD SETTING SEASON

By Stu Jackson

L.A. Rams - Puka Nacua's record-setting rookie season has authored its biggest historic chapter. With his 7-yard catch in the third quarter of the final game of the season against the 49ers at Levi's Stadium, the Rams wide receiver broke Bill Groman's NFL rookie record of 1,473 receiving yards which had stood since 1960. Additionally, Nacua's 6-yard catch on the same drive in the third quarter broke Jaylen Waddle's 2021 NFL rookie record for receptions. Nacua now has 105, surpassing Waddle's 104 from that year.

"As much as (the records) will say 'Puka Nacua', I wish it could say all 11 guys out there," Nacua said postgame. "It really takes all 11. They should all feel that award just as much as I am."

That 6-yard catch brought Nacua to 1,486 receiving yards on the season. Nacua finished with four catches for 41 yards and one touchdown overall before being pulled after getting the receptions record. Quarterback Carson Wentz said the Rams would "do their best" to get Nacua those records on the final game.

"Don't do anything dumb," Quarterback Wentz said with a chuckle, when asked at postgame what was going through his mind as they tried to do so during the final game of the season. "We just kind of thought it should come naturally. It was pretty sweet to get that first touchdown for him. I think he needed one more yard at that point though, so, it was fun. I have never gotten a chance to play with him, too, so to see him in person, the plays he made - obviously we missed a couple, him and I, definitely on me - but it was fun to see that. It felt like a weight was lifted off my shoulders, I knew that was a big responsibility of me to help him get that record. Pretty impressive kid, impressive record, obviously you guys have probably seen it for a while it's been standing. Happy for him." Making the moment even more special for Nacua was the chance to share it with his family - including mother, Penina, who was in attendance at Levi's Stadium and was brought near the Rams sideline to share a moment with Nacua after he set the records. After the game, Puka handed his mom, Penina his record-breaking ball.

His mom kept his record-breaking touchdown balls from in high school when he broke a pair of those records, and Puka noted there's a room downstairs in the family's home that has "a bunch of old pee-wee football trophies" as well as some of his other brothers' gear.

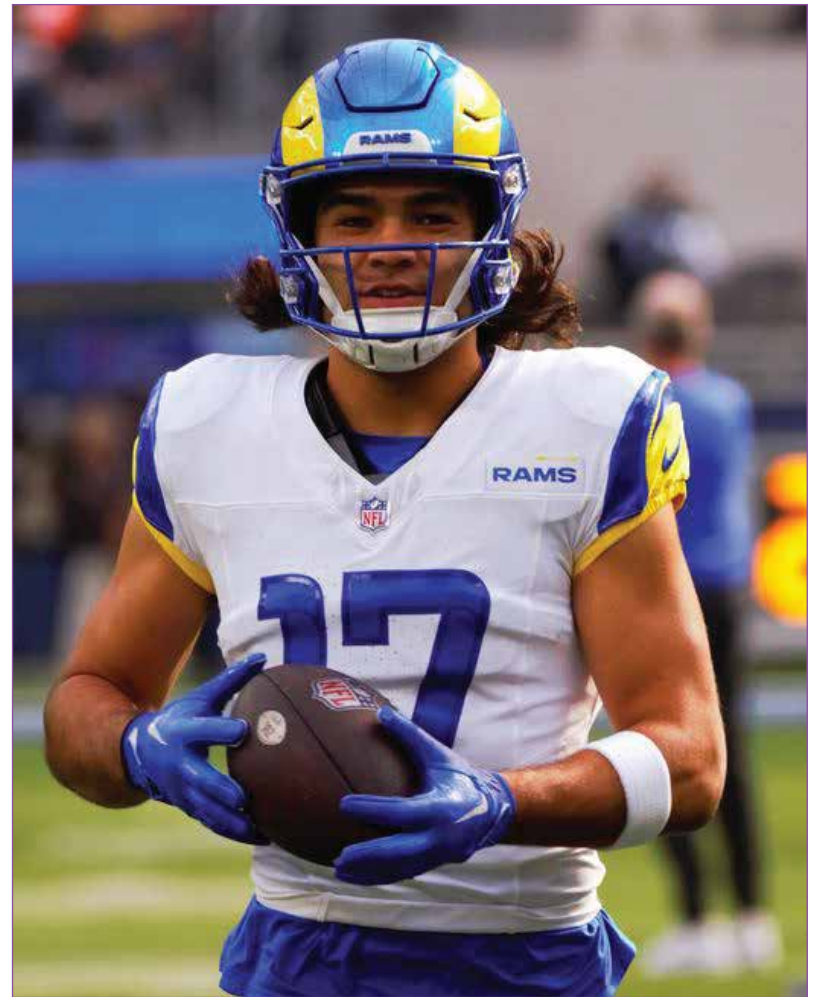
"So I don't know where it will go in the ranking," Nacua said with a smile. "I think my brother Kai's got some gear that will be sweet. I know he's ranked up there because he's the first one, but hopefully I'll make the wall somewhere."

This historic occasion also seemed to be when he realized the gravity of his season, because of where it took him at the end of his press conference when asked about it:

The memory of his late father, Lionel, and late grandmother, Fa'aTamali'i S. Tafua.

"Today, actually, for the first time, I'm looking at just some some pictures of my family," Nacua said. "My dad started coaching my little brothers on a Green Bay Packers team in Las Vegas, so that's also

a part of reason I was a Packers fan. But just looking at family pictures and just wishing that my dad could be here to watch this moment in this game, because knowing that my family was gonna be out here. But just feeling like a calmness and a peace(ful)ness over (me), because he was watching, him and my grandmother, I know were up there. I hope they to get to watch every game, but they were out there enjoying this one with me, because there was a peace and calmness throughout the game that I was able to feel that was different from other ones, and I know they were out there with me, so it was sweet."



Photos by Fred Zermeno

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RICHARD SANCHEZ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The event was masterfully emceed by the incoming Rotary President, Denise Hagopian, who ensured the evening was nothing short of amazing. Attendees enjoyed cocktails served by George Pacheco and Sarkis Sandukhtyan, engaging in lively socializing before indulging in a Mediterranean-style buffet, desserts, and the chance to win raffle prizes.

The annual All Service Club Banquet not only serves as a testament to the enduring spirit of volunteerism in Montebello but also as an invitation for others to join the ranks of these commendable service clubs. By supporting local community needs through active participation in any of Montebello's service clubs, individuals can make a lasting difference in the lives of others, further strengthening the bonds of community and camaraderie.



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