

# OURWEEKLYNEWS.COM

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## IE News

### Sheriff's HOPE Helps Homeless Mother And Children

#### STAFF REPORTS

**Victorville** — On Thurs., June 25, HOPE Team Deputies were contacted by Jeremy George from the Victor Valley Rescue Mission in reference to a woman, Tijuana Franklin, who came to their shower

[see IE page 6](#)

## OC News

### Nation's Birthday Celebrated With A Bang

#### STAFF REPORTS

**Santa Ana** — Join the Mayor and City Council for family style fun and a spectacular fireworks show at the City of Santa Ana's 2015 Independence Day Celebration. The event will be held at Centennial Park on Sat., July 4, from 4

[see OC page 11](#)



IMAGE COURTESY: GOOGLE

*Happy Independence Day from Our Weekly News! Have a safe and happy holiday.*

## Huff's Attempts To Veto Bill In Vain

#### STAFF REPORTS

**Senator calls Mandatory Vaccination SB 277 an "Unwarranted Insertion of Government" — Brown makes it a law**

**Sacramento** — Senate Minority Leader Bob Huff (R-San Dimas) called on Governor Jerry Brown to veto mandatory childhood vaccination legisla-

tion headed for the Governor's desk after passing off the Senate Floor on Mon., June 29. In a veto request letter sent to the Governor, Senator Huff called

[see Veto page 5](#)

## OnStar Helps To Stop Carjacking

#### STAFF REPORTS

**San Dimas** — On Sun., June 28, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputies responded to the 500 block of W. Arrow Highway regarding a carjacking call.

The victim, a 74-year old man, told Deputies that he was yanked out of his 2015 Chevy

[see OnStar page 6](#)



IMAGE COURTESY: WIKIPEDIA

## CHPD Arrest Two In Carjacking

*Carjacking couple arrested after elaborate crime spree*

#### STAFF REPORTS

**Chino Hills** — On Thurs., June 25, Chino Hills Deputies arrested a carjacking couple and were able to recover the victims' vehicle, money, stolen electronics and cell phone, as well as the firearm used in the crime.

According to the San Ber-

[see Arrest page 8](#)

## Walnut Council Recap

#### BY RAYMOND MENDOZA

**Walnut** — The City Council started its June 24 meeting by honoring Mt. SAC softball player of the year, Celina Felix, who plays catcher for the local community college. Mayor Nancy Tragarz said she and the other council members were proud to have Felix play for Mt. SAC and represent the City of Walnut. Tragarz congratulated her on her accomplishments and also encouraged other young adults

[see Council page 5](#)

## Our Featured Businesses

### Apex Lawyers, Inc.

*Law doesn't need to be as complicated as some firms make it out to be*

#### BY CLAIRE LEWIS

Apex Lawyers, Inc. is a full service boutique law firm that strongly believes

[see APEX page 8](#)



Apex Lawyers, Inc. is located at 21671 Gateway Center Drive, Suite 108, in Diamond Bar. They can be reached at (909) 860-0342, or visit [www.apexlaw-inc.com](http://www.apexlaw-inc.com) for more information. See their ad on page 7.

### Summer Details At Alamo Car Wash

#### STAFF REPORTS

**Walnut** — You're a busy person with a lot to do. You need a car wash, an oil change, a haircut, and you haven't even had lunch yet. You could run all over town trying to get all of this done, or you could get it all done at one stop: Alamo Car Wash and Detail Center.

Dan Gerstner and his wife, Sylvia,

[see Alamo page 8](#)



*If you want to see the difference in the way Alamo Car Wash and Detail Center can make your car look and run, visit them at 784 N. Nogales Street in Walnut. For more information, including business hours, call them at (626) 965-7922.*

# Weekly News

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**PUBLISHER**  
ABC Public Relations

**EDITORIAL**  
Editor In Chief:  
Kimberley Sander

Staff Writers, Photographers,  
Editorial Team:  
Michael Armijo  
Raymond Mendoza  
Felicia Oblea  
Sarah Sanchez  
K. P. Sander

**PRODUCTION**  
Felicia Oblea

**SOCIAL MEDIA & WEB CONTENT**

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IMAGE COURTESY: BILL OF RIGHTS INSTITUTE

## Five Skills Adolescents Need

### How to lead a successful and satisfying life

BY LINDA MORNELL

Teenagers spend a good chunk of their learning time immersed in such subjects as algebra, history, biology and geography. But the march toward a successful and satisfying adulthood involves more than the ability to add numbers or read and analyze complex material.

Equally vital are skills that help young people develop character and give them the courage and fortitude to deal with the many challenges life will throw at them. During the physical, emotional and intellectual explosions of the adolescent years, it's critical that teenagers develop a belief in their own ability to succeed. People who truly believe they can perform well are more likely to view difficult tasks as something to be mastered rather than something to be avoided.

Skills and values that help lead adolescents to a more satisfying life can range from respecting their parents to understanding that making mistakes is part of life. Here are just five of the many skills that can make a difference:

- Learn to listen. The willingness to listen is a direct reflection of how much we value each other. Nothing teaches young people more about how to become good listeners than having a mentor or other adult who consistently and intently listens to them. The ability to listen with intention and compassion creates and enhances qualities like curiosity, empathy and altruism.

- Understand and manage stress. Recent research indicates that the adolescent brain is highly sensitive to stress. It is essential that young people understand the role stress plays in their lives and the difference between healthy and unhealthy outlets for handling that stress. Healthy outlets for stress include exercise, talking, crying, creative pursuits and venting anger through words and exercise in safe environments. Unhealthy outlets include withdrawing and bottling up feelings, overeating or restricting food, inappropriate aggressive behavior, relying on passive activities like TV and video games, alcohol and drug use, premature sexual activity, and blaming others.

- Embrace anger. Young people (and perhaps adults as well) who want to achieve

success often try to keep a lid on negative emotions. Despondent individuals can find relief when they are given permission to appropriately vent their anger and frustration.

- Reject the victim mentality. Many young people struggle at times with feeling like victims. That especially can be the case for those growing up in poverty. In truth, they often are victimized. They may live in a dangerous neighborhood with highly stressed and single-parent families, and every day they are confronted with the harsh realities of poverty. The challenge is for young people to separate their experience of literally being a victim from the tendency to develop a victim mentality. They can't control the former, but they can control the latter.

- Value humor. Adolescents are turned off by sarcasm from adults, but they have a great appreciation for humor. Learning to laugh at one's self is an important skill for us all.

*Linda Mornell is the founder of Summer Search (www.summersearch.org), a nonprofit organization that provides disadvantaged young people with challenging summer opportunities and life-changing mentoring.*

## Did You Know?

By K.P. Sander

Fourth of July – fireworks, picnic, barbeques, parades, vacations...baseball, hot dogs and apple pie! Our nation's birthday is cause for celebration and remembering that our freedom was hard won and is much cherished.

Imagine the celebration commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence back on July 4, 1776. The legal separation of the original Thirteen Colonies from Great Britain happened just two days earlier, and the American Revolution finally had its reward.

According to Wikipedia, the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence, and a poignant statement – penned principally by Thomas Jefferson – was brought forth to forever capture the decision:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."

These words contained in the Declaration are so powerful that they have been called "one of the best-known sentences in the English language [containing] the most potent and consequential words in American History." Abraham Lincoln made this view of human rights the foundation of his political philosophy.

Interestingly enough, three of our nation's founding fathers - who became U.S. Presidents - died on July 4: good friends John Adams and Thomas Jefferson died within five hours of each other in 1826 (on the 50th Anniversary of Independence Day); and James Monroe in 1831.

The Declaration of Independence became the cornerstone of building this great nation, and the political upheaval rejecting the authority of the British monarchy became victorious in the founding of the United States of America.

This Fourth of July, remember our history and those that gave all for our freedom and independence.

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# Community Events

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Chino Family Market Night

**When:** Wednesdays, now through Aug. 19, 5 to 8:30 p.m.  
**Where:** City Hall lawn; 13220 Central Ave., Chino  
**Details:** Entertainment, activities and food, appropriate for all ages  
**Contact:** (909) 334-3258 for more information (including vendor set up)

### Summer Smiles - Summer Day Camp 2015

**When:** Now through Aug. 19, Mon. - Fri., 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
**Where:** Mt. Calvary Lutheran School, 23300 Golden Springs Drive, Diamond Bar  
**Contact:** Call Director, John Battaglia, (909) 861-2740, ext. 4

### Free Summer Lunch Program

**When:** Now through Aug. 21; Mon. - Fri., 12 to 1 p.m. (subject to change on Tues/Thurs).  
**Where:** Community Building Park, 5443 B St., Chino; and Monte Vista Park, 13196 Monte Vista Ave., Chino  
**Details:** Children 18 and younger are welcome to enjoy a free, nutritious lunch with fun activities this summer. The City of Chino is providing this in collaboration with the USDA and the California Department of Education.

### To The Point Summer Dance Camp

**When:** Advanced - July 6 to 10, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Intensive - July 6 to 17, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
**Where:** To The Pointe Dance Productions, 14058 Euclid Ave., Bldg. A, Chino, 91710.  
**Details:** Advanced (7 - 12 years) \$150 (\$140 by July 1); Intensive (13 - 20 years) \$275 (\$265 by July 1); bring healthy snacks/lunch, plenty of water; dress code.  
**Contact:** Call (909) 628-4242, or visit [ttpdance.org](http://ttpdance.org)

### West Covina Movies in the Park

**Where:** Civic Center Courtyard, 1444 W. Garvey Ave; and Shadow Oak Park, 2121 Shadow Oak Drive; West Covina  
**Details:** Join the City of West Covina and the West Covina Firefighters' Association for a FREE family event series. Bring your family, friends and a blanket and enjoy a relaxing evening under the stars.  
 July 07 - How to Train Your Dragon 2 (Civic Center)  
 July 14 - Rio 2 (Civic Center)  
 July 21 - Big Hero 6 (Shadow Oak)  
**Contact:** (626) 919-6966 or visit [www.westcovina.org](http://www.westcovina.org) for more information.

### Baldwin Park Summer Concert Series

**Where:** Cesar E. Chavez

Amphitheater (inside Morgan Park), 4100 Baldwin Park Blvd., BP; 7 p.m.

**Details:** Bring the whole family to enjoy this summer concerts, free to the public.

July 09 - DSB (Journey Tribute Band)

July 16 - MALO (Latin Rock)

July 23 - Mariachi Divas (Female Mariachi Band)

July 30 - Brenton Wood (Soul & Oldies)

**Contact:** Department of Recreation and Community Services, (626) 813-5245

**Contact:** (909) 334-3270 during normal operating hours, Wed. - Sun., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; or visit [chinoyouthmuseum.com](http://chinoyouthmuseum.com).

### Vacation Bible School

**When:** July 20 to 24 (mornings)  
**Where:** Faith Lutheran Church, 505 East Bonita Ave., San Dimas

**Details:** Children K through 6th Grade will learn about "Everest: Conquering Challenges With God's Mighty Power." \$30 per student; \$50 max per family.

**Contact:** Lia Gyore at (909) 962-7060; email [liagyore@hotmail.com](mailto:liagyore@hotmail.com); or visit [www.faithsd.org](http://www.faithsd.org).

lunch and tasty beverages - all for just \$20 (bring extra cash to exchange for quarters). Lots of fun!

**Contact:** (909) 525-8828 to RSVP; or send check or money order to Diamond Bar Woman's Club, PO Box 4035, DB 91765.

## REGULAR EVENTS:

### Alcohol and Addiction Intervention Information

**When:** Third Tuesday, monthly; 6 p.m.

**Where:** Aurora Charter Oak Hospital, 1161 E. Covina Blvd., Covina

**Details:** Free information sessions about the intervention process, a powerful tool to combat alcoholism and addiction. Attendees can expect to learn what the intervention process consists of, when an intervention is appropriate, and what local resources are available. Space is limited and reservations are recommended.  
**Contact:** Call (626) 859-5269, or visit [www.charteroakhospital.com](http://www.charteroakhospital.com).

### Free Acupuncture for Veterans, Active Military, First Responders

**When:** Every Tuesday at 5 p.m.  
**Where:** 12598 Central Avenue, Unit 113, Chino, CA 91710.

**Cost:** Free  
**Contact:** (909) 590-4183 or [www.healingcirclecommunityacupuncture.com](http://www.healingcirclecommunityacupuncture.com)

### Jack Newe's Farmers Market sponsored by SGV Regional Chamber of Commerce

**When:** Every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Where:** Mt. San Antonio College Campus, Parking Lot B, 1100 N. Grand Avenue, Walnut CA 91789

**Cost:** Free Admission/Parking  
**Features:** Seasonal organic produce, breads and cakes, olive oils, cheese and spreads, a variety of nursery plants, hand-crafted items and jewelry, fresh-popped Kettle Corn and grilled food plates.  
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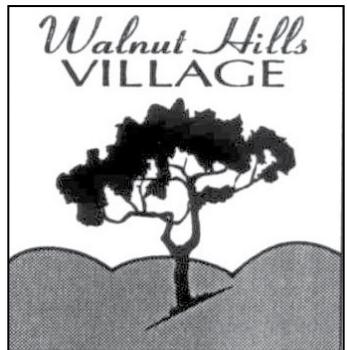


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# CH Construction Project

**Major paving work on Butterfield Ranch Road now in effect**

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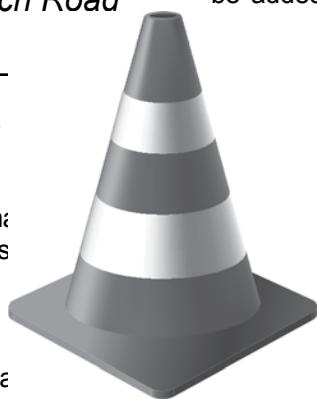
**Chino Hills** — second phase of major road improvements on Butterfield Ranch Road began on Mon., June 29, when Hardy & Harper, the City's contractor, started the process of rehabilitating and paving the roadway between Shady View Drive and the Vila Borba residential project, as part of a \$950,000 project.

During the week of July 6 to 10, the contractor will repave the roadway with asphalt overlay. One lane of travel will be maintained in each direction at all times. Once the paving is

completed, traffic signal loops will be reinstated, striping will be added, and a buffer bike lane will be striped to protect three-foot buffer between cyclists and traffic. The project started in May with the installation of accessible sidewalk ramps in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The first phase of the project repaved Butterfield Ranch Road from Pine Avenue north to Soquel Canyon Parkway last summer. The final phase will rehabilitate and repave the section in front of the Vila Borba project once the developer completes work in the roadway.

The overall project will construct over \$1.8 million in street improvements and is funded by the Gas Tax.



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# Walnut council recap

## Council from page 1

in the City to remain active in sports.

The Council then approved the minutes for the May 12 Budget Workshop, and the May 27 and June 10 City Council meetings, before moving onto the Public Hearing section.

Both Public Hearing items were approved by the Council, the first being an ordinance for small residential rooftop solar energy systems and inspections, while the second was for an adoption of the 2015 Congestion Management Program local development report.

The Council approved several of the items on its Consent Calendar, including Resolution No. 15-34 for claims and demands in the amount of \$644,478.84; the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) unfunded pension liability lump sum repayment; the appropriation for post-employment benefits (OPEB) fund; the approval of agreement between the Los Angeles Gateway Region Integrated Regional Water Management Joint Powers Authority and the City of Walnut for cost sharing for the NPDES permit requiring monitoring of harbor toxic pollutants; and the approval of a one-year contract with Continental Building Maintenance, Inc. for City-wide janitorial services with no rate increases.

The Council also spoke about a license agreement between the City of Walnut and Verizon Wireless, over the establishment of a new telecommunications facility. The topic had been brought to the attention of the Council before, and was met with extreme opposition from Walnut residents.

Many residents attended the City Council meeting just to speak out against the placement of the telecommunications facility, which was planned at Snow Creek Drive (in Snow Creek Park), with concerns about health, safety and lack of need for the facility. After much discussion, the Council decided to continue its discussion on the item, with the possibility of a different location. The Council approved to discuss the item during its July 22 meeting.

The Council also denied the Great Enlightenment Lotus Society use of the Walnut Senior Center, which was its final Consent Calendar item.

Next, the Council approved the 2015-16 Walnut Successor Agency Budget totaling \$3,969,290, before hearing from the Mt. San Antonio College Development Task Force. Community Development Director, Tom Weiner, outlined the proceedings of the task force, which has 15 Walnut residents meeting two times each month to speak about issues concerning Mt. SAC. The task force asked for \$6,000 from the City's general fund reserves for a City-wide mail notification about the college's proposed parking structure, and for the Council to continue to fight Mt. SAC from taking legislative steps in Sacramento allowing the College to make construction efforts a reality with less residential involvement. However, the Council balked at the \$6,000 price tag and instead agreed to have the City's staff look into alternate cost saving measures that would inform the public about Mt. SAC and its construction plans.

The Council then adjourned with plans to meet on July 8, at 7 p.m., in the Council Chambers at 21201 La Puente Road.

**SUCCESS** isn't just about what you accomplish in your life - it's about what you **INSPIRE** **OTHERS** to do.

The City of Chino Hills Presents...

## Concerts in the Park

Summer 2015

**June 24** Abba Fab ABBA Tribute

**July 1** Independence Celebration The Springsteen Experience Bruce Springsteen Tribute

**July 8** Soto Latin & Funk

**July 15** Spazmatics 80's Night

**July 22** The Ravelers Classic Rock

**August 5** Jumping Jack Flash Rolling Stones Tribute

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Este evento es gratuito para los primeros  
300 aplicantes aprobados

Pick up applications starting May 4 from front desk at the Police Station 490 W. Mission Blvd. or Crime Prevention @ City Hall, 2nd Fl 505 S. Garey Ave. Child's proof of school enrollment or residency is required.

Puede recoger aplicaciones a partir del 4 de Mayo en el Departamento de Policia 490 W. Mission Blvd. o en City Hall 505 S. Garey Ave. en el 2do. Piso. Comprobante de la escuela y residencia del nino es obligatorio.

For questions call Pomona Police Crime Prevention Unit at 909-620-2318. Hosted by Pomona PD, City of Pomona, Community Engagement & LA Co. Fairplex. This event is not endorsed or supervised by Pomona Unified School District.

Para mas informacion puede hablar a la division de Crime Prevention al 909-620-2318. Este evento esta patrocinado por el Departamento de Policia de Pomona, Community Engagement & LA Co. Fairplex. Pomona Unified School District no lo patrocinia ni lo supervisa. GREAT-Gang Resistance Education & Training.

# Huff's attempt to veto bill

## Veto from page 1

SB 277 an "unwarranted insertion of government into an area that has rightly been the domain of parents."

"The sweeping nature of SB 277 is all the more problematic when one considers the actual magnitude of the recent measles outbreak that spawned the bill," wrote Senator Huff in his veto request to the Governor. "In a state of nearly 39 million people, only 131 measles cases are likely linked to this outbreak. This can hardly be considered a breakdown of 'herd immunity.'"

Senator Huff also argued that the need for SB 277 was premature; noting that previous legislation introduced by the author (AB 2109 in 2012) actually led to a decrease to the use of personal belief exemption (PBE) requests. The prudent course, Senator Huff stated, is to monitor the effectiveness of AB 2109 over several years to see if PBE usage continues to decline.

"If this downward trend does not continue, then and only then, should an extreme measure like SB 277 be considered," Senator Huff wrote in his veto request letter to the Governor. "A strong case can be made that our current policy works. Now is not the time for this measure (SB 277)."

Despite the efforts of Senator Huff and others, Gov. Brown signed this legislation into law on Tues., June 30. This bill eliminates vaccination exemptions based on religious or personal beliefs and will require all children entering kindergarten to be vaccinated unless a doctor certifies that a child has a medical condition preventing it. The legislation is reportedly prompted (in part) by an outbreak of measles traced to the Disneyland Resort late last year, and ultimately spread to more than 130 people in California, as well as other states.



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## Sheriff's HOPE helps homeless mother and children

### IE from page 1

program at the Victorville Fairgrounds. Franklin informed George of her current situation - living in her car with her 11-year old son and 9-month old daughter. Franklin is a single mother who simply cannot stretch her income over the course of a whole month. She was staying in a hotel up until recently, when her money ran out.

Franklin had been pursuing assistance on her own for several weeks, working with the homeless housing navigator at the Transitional Assistance Department. She was told,

however, that this program will not have funding until after July 1. The HOPE team immediately began contacting area service providers, as they could not allow Franklin and her children to live in their car any longer.

HOPE Deputies contacted several organizations that did not have room, but were lucky when Catholic Charities in Apple Valley stepped up and were willing to help. Franklin was extremely appreciative of the help and was guided to their office, where she completed the necessary paperwork to be assisted. Deputies made sure that she had plenty of diapers and formula and

was directed to seek help from the Rescue Mission when critical items become needed again. Franklin was reluctant to ask for help and was very thankful for this opportunity she was given.

The HOPE Team is thankful for people like George, who refers the needy to the HOPE Team and truly has the heart for the less fortunate population. A big thank you also goes to Alejandra Diaz at High Desert Catholic Charities, who really came through when nobody else could. Diaz called Deputies to confirm that Franklin will be housed and to thank the Sheriff's Department for bringing them together.

## OnStar helps to stop carjacking

### OnStar from page 1

Silverado by a white male in his 20s, who struck him, knocked him to the ground, and stomped on his head. The victim fought back, but the suspect was able to overcome him and drove off in his vehicle.

The vehicle had OnStar auto

security and safety service, which was activated. Walnut Station Sheriff's Deputies were able to locate the vehicle in Diamond Bar, and followed it onto the southbound 57 Freeway where a brief pursuit ensued.

OnStar then remotely disabled the vehicle, causing it to slow down to 5 miles per hour. The suspect - Joshua Fronti-

no-Deaton - exited the vehicle on his own, complied with Deputy orders, and was taken into custody. The pursuit did not result in any collisions or injuries.

The victim was treated at a local hospital for his injuries.

Frontino-Deaton was arrested for carjacking, and is currently being held in lieu of \$100,000 bail.

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Thanks to all those that are conserving!

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5-15 GALLONS  
per load

FILL THE BATHTUB HALFWAY OR LESS  
saves  
12 GALLONS  
per person

## CHPD arrest two in carjacking

### Arrest from page 1

hardino County Sheriff's Department, Esteban Silva Carrillo, 42, of Pomona, and Genesis Soto, 24, of Pomona were arrested after an elaborate crime spree that spanned from Pomona to Chino and Chino Hills. Chino Hills Detectives took the lead on the case, as Deputies were the first to find the suspects and take them into custody.

Carrillo and Soto met the victims at a store in Pomona to buy electronics the victims had loaded into their car. Carrillo and Soto told the victims they wanted to purchase the electronics and made their way from Pomona to the area of Pine Avenue and the 71 Freeway. One of the two victims got into Carrillo's grey Mercedes with both suspects, while the other victim waited in his car near the 71 Freeway.

Carrillo and Soto robbed the victim who was in the car with them and left him in a ru-

ral area near Euclid and Pine avenues in Chino. A person who witnessed this called police and Chino Police responded to the robbery. Chino Police immediately released a broadcast to surrounding law enforcement to be on the lookout for the suspects' gray Mercedes.

Minutes later, Chino Hills Detectives received a report of a carjacking. Carrillo and Soto returned to the other victim, who had been waiting in his car, pointed what was later to be determined to be an air-soft pistol at the victim and stole his car. Silva left driving the victim's stolen vehicle as Soto followed him in the gray Mercedes. The victim was able to get the license plate of the gray Mercedes and report it to Deputies. The victim also gave a very detailed description of both suspects.

Deputies immediately responded to an address in a mobile home park in the unincorporated area of Montclair where the Mercedes was reg-

istered. The Sheriff's Department Aviation Division assisted in the area check. Carrillo and Soto were found walking in the mobile home park, in the direct vicinity of the gray Mercedes, and taken into custody without incident.

Electronics and one of the victim's cell phones were recovered from the suspects' gray Mercedes. The victim's vehicle was found at a park in Ontario near the corner of Riverside Drive and Campus. The air-soft firearm was recovered, as well as additional evidence linking the suspect's to the various crimes.

The Chino Police Department is conducting a parallel investigation regarding the robbery of the other victim that occurred in the city of Chino.

Carrillo and Soto - who is on parole for home invasion robbery - were booked at the West Valley Detention Center for carjacking. Investigators will also seek charges of robbery and conspiracy to commit robbery and carjacking.

## Apex Lawyers, Inc.

### APEX from page 1

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## Alamo Car Wash

### Alamo from page 1

opened Alamo more than 18 years ago, and they have run the business with a simple philosophy ever since.

"Our philosophy is to always have satisfied customers. We want them to be satisfied with what we do here, and 99.9 percent of the time, they are," Gerstner said.

Situated in a four-acre complex at the corner of Nogales and Francesca Drive in Walnut, Alamo features a hand car wash, a Mobil gas station and an Xpress Lube oil change center, as well as restaurants, a beauty salon, dentist's office, locksmith and a bookkeeping service.

"We even have a shoeshine guy. It's really a one-stop shop," Gerstner said.

Alamo offers full-service hand car washes and detailing, which includes waxing, buffing and interior cleaning; as well as an express wash - just \$6.95 - for people on the go. And now is the perfect time to get your vehicle va-

cation-ready for summer with an oil change and detailing to help protect against the high temperatures.

Asked why people should visit Alamo instead of other area car washes, Gerstner said, "I don't know what other car washes do, but I know what we do. We're very picky about service and the little details. And usually, when the car comes out, it's cleaner than it's ever been."

Package washes are popular, Gerstner said, especially the Silver Package Wash. It includes an air freshener, sealer wax, polish wax, rainbow wax, clear coat sealant and Armor-All on the tires.

"If people need something at the last minute, like greeting cards, we have a wide selection they can choose from while they're waiting for their car.

We also carry just about any kind of auto accessory you might need," Gerstner said. And, a multi-wash book is a great gift for anyone with a car.

Alamo's oil change service is also extremely popular, and

runs just \$30.99.

"Our quick lube service is very complete and includes transmission, power steering, brake fluid, cooling system and fuel emissions services. Plus, oil change customers receive a free car wash."

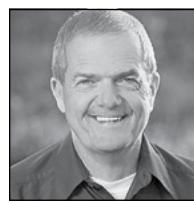
Gerstner admits that Alamo is not the cheapest place to have your car washed or serviced, but maintains that the services they offer make them competitive with just about anybody else.

"We offer a higher level of service than many other places, and that's why we've been so successful. People love their cars - their car is like their baby. We see customers who come in twice a week, and their cars look clean, but they still want them washed here," Gerstner explained.

If you want to see the difference in the way Alamo Car Wash and Detail Center can make your car look and run, visit them at 784 N. Nogales Street in Walnut. For more information, including business hours, call them at (626) 965-7922.

# Let's Go To The Movies

By PASTOR MARK HOPPER



The City of Diamond Bar provides free movies at Sycamore Canyon Park every Wednesday night in the summer. They also have a free concert before the movie. It is a nice place for people to gather and enjoy.

We will also have Free Summer Movie nights once a month at our church again this summer. Each evening includes FREE pizza, popcorn, juice drinks and candy.

We will be showing "Tangled"

on July 10, and "Planes: Fire & Rescue" on August 7 – beginning at 6:30 p.m.

It takes a lot of people to put these evenings together. We have parents of young children, empty nesters and college students leading these events. Many of these leaders come early to help with set up and serve the free food. Others stay late, long after the movie is over, to put our worship center back together. It really is a team effort.

My favorite part of the evening is getting to meet the parents and kids who come. We frequently have new guests who read about the Free Movie Nights in the local paper or who

are invited by another family in our church.

Let me suggest that you clip out this article and put it on your refrigerator to help remind you about the Free Movie Nights at our church this summer. If you come, I hope you will allow me to meet you and introduce you to some other young families in our church.

Let's go to the movies this summer!

*Pastor Mark Hopper is from the Evangelical Free Church of Diamond Bar, 3255 South Diamond Bar Ave. Sunday services are 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. For more information, call (909) 594-7604 or visit [www.efreedb.org](http://www.efreedb.org).*

# Designing Your Own Life

By NANCY STOOPS



Why do you let everybody run your life? Why do you feel you have

no choices and that life can't ever get better? What is it that seems to keep you stuck? How many times have you asked yourself these questions? Let's see if we can't answer some of them.

I think we let others run our lives because we feel we don't know how to, and out of fear we allow others to run things for us. In terms of feeling we have no choices, I think it's just a bad habit of limiting our expectations and not having faith in ourselves.

I believe we stay stuck because we get comfortable even if we are miserable. It also

takes a lot of energy to change and many times we don't want to put forth that kind of energy. The alternative is to do nothing and to just stay stuck.

We ask ourselves the same questions over and over and at the time, we tell ourselves this time we will finally change. I believe people mean it at the time they say it, but then they get lazy when it comes to actually doing the work involved to get to where they want to be.

Please stop assigning blame to everyone and everything else for why you don't have the life you want. We all have things that get in the way of our journeys, but it's also up to us to overcome that adversity that literally stops us dead in our tracks.

I get so tired of people telling me they can't when I know they can if they try harder and fight for the life they want. People are always putting off

having the life they want by telling themselves once they get though this or that, life will improve and be what they want it to be.

The truth is that all they are really putting off is life!

*This article was written by Nancy Stoops M.A., M.F.T. Nancy is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. She has a private practice in Diamond Bar and is currently accepting new clients; she is also a motivational speaker who can inspire your employees or group members. Nancy runs free family support groups, including a group on loss for seniors, and groups on how to manage anger. For more information about any of these services feel free to contact her at (909) 229-0727, or via email at [nancyjstoops@verizon.net](mailto:nancyjstoops@verizon.net). Nancy's books, "Midnight the Therapy Dog," and "Live, Heal and Grow," are available at Amazon.com.*

# Straight Talk With Danice

A Letter From Jen

By DANICE AKIYOSHI, N.D.



**Q:** I was out for a business meeting on Saturday night that was about ten minutes from my parent's house. I decided to visit and didn't call in advance. As I walked up the driveway, I could hear my mom and dad laughing on the patio. I let myself in with my key and headed toward the patio. I was pretty surprised to see my parents in a party mode

like I have never seen before. In order to avoid embarrassment for all of us, I left without making my presence known. My cheeks are still burning. My parents never did these things when my sister and I lived at home. Should I pretend like I never saw this?

**A:** Yes, you should pretend that you never stupidly interrupted the privacy of other adults. When parents are finally done raising their children they often go back to enjoying themselves in ways that are inappropriate when youngsters are around. Never show up anywhere uninvited or unannounced. If your family shares house keys it's probably for emergency reasons at this point

in your lives. Is it also possible that you might be caught in a private situation if your parents decided to let themselves into your home uninvited and unannounced? Learn from this one, Jen. Please be respectful and keep their business to yourself.

*Danice Akiyoshi is a Naturopathic Doctor and the head of Candid Coaching Service. She offers personal coaching services relating to all types of issues and concerns. This is a letter she received from an anonymous reader. To send a question to Danice, email her at [straighttalk@candidcoachingservices.com](mailto:straighttalk@candidcoachingservices.com). You can also visit her website at [www.candidcoachingservices.com](http://www.candidcoachingservices.com).*

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# Arriving Hopeless, Returning Inspirational

**Former inmate returns as guest speaker for Education Based Incarceration Merit Program**

**STAFF REPORTS**

**Los Angeles County** – On Wed., June 17, female inmates housed at the Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF) received a spark of inspiration when former inmate, Jamina Johnson, returned as a guest speaker in a testimonial presentation for the Education Based Incarceration (EBI) Merit program. After some troublesome experiences and much soul searching, Johnson returned to the jail facility, this time bringing hope and motivation with her.

Johnson shared her personal history with complete strangers, in hope of stirring up something inside at least one of them. She revealed that, despite being the daughter of a preacher and being raised by two loving, hard-working parents, she inched her way down a dark path, which led to a whirlwind lifestyle of crime, drugs and gangs.

Johnson revealed the chronology of her decline to her listeners: It began in April 2008, with her first round of incarceration for the charge of Robbery. She received a two-year sentence in state prison. Not long after her release, Johnson returned to jail in 2010 for a parole violation.

After a string of contacts with law enforcement, Johnson's pivotal point came in October 2012, during yet another booking into the Los Angeles County Jail system. Her latest charge, Possession of a Stolen Vehicle, turned into a 17-month sentence. She'd had enough.

"It all began on my birthday in October 2012," recalled Johnson. "I was getting high with people... and the next thing I knew, I began running down the street naked and high on PCP."

While serving her sentence at CRDF, Johnson finally acknowledged her lifestyle had spiraled out of control. She was at rock bottom and wanted to change her lifestyle, but didn't know how.

Finally, she made the decision to leave her old ways behind and rebuild herself, using education as her foundation.

Johnson's self-restoration

project began with enrollment in the Education Based Incarceration (EBI) Merit program, formally established in 2010. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department commitment to community based policing is shown through the EBI program, which uses a comprehensive educational curriculum, consisting of both traditional and nontraditional educational opportunities.

The EBI program is designed to reduce institutional violence as well as reduce recidivism by increasing the educational, civic, social, economic, life skills, and engagement of its participants. Inmates become students who are able to attend academic, vocational, and life skills courses during incarceration, and be occupied with positive activities.

In addition to book learning and practical application, Johnson took personal examples from the EBI program staff who taught, as well as modeled, the importance of time management, good work ethics and professional conduct.

Johnson fully understood it would take hard work and determination to reinvent herself. She saw the option to graduate with a certificate in culinary arts, painting, or fashion - or



PHOTO COURTESY: LASD

even earning a high school General Education Degree - as an opportunity for improvement. Johnson successfully completed the program and graduated.

Johnson was released in February, 2014. Today, she is back in jail, but this time of her own volition. As she spoke, Johnson held the attention of every inmate in the audience. She was able to directly connect with the women because they shared similar circumstances. In turn, the women were able to relate to her and see the potential to improve their own quality of life, if they desired it.

"Every day is now new, and I'm imperfectly perfect. If it weren't for this arrest, I might be dead," said Johnson. "I felt like I was trying to get to the second story with no stairs, but the staff and EBI program were

my stairs that helped get me to the next step."

Captain Maria Gutierrez followed Johnson's speech with more words of encouragement, "It's time to start living! Take off those negative labels and choose to wear positive ones. Be courageous and take the opportunities here to invest in yourself!"

Applause and shouts of joy from the audience erupted in appreciation of Johnson's testimony and in celebration of prospects for new futures.

"I feel I am not alone, even though I am a felon. I can accomplish something in life. I now have hope," said one inmate after listening to Johnson.

For more information about Education Based Incarceration, visit their website at: <http://shq.lasdnews.net/pages/tgen1.aspx?id=EBU>.

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# Walnut Valley #1 in So Cal!

Best schools for your buck

By KELLI GILE

**Walnut** – Walnut Valley schools are the most impressive in Southern California according to the Best School Districts for Your Buck report issued on June 29.

Walnut Valley Unified School District (WVUSD) is ranked #1 by the financial advisory organization, NerdWallet. The report studied 153 unified and secondary school districts by affordability to live there, standardized test scores, college readiness, and student-to-teacher ratio. All information was provided by the California Department of Education.

WVUSD tops the list with one of Southern California's strongest graduation rates – 98.30% – as well as a high SAT average of 1722. The 2013 median home value in WVUSD is \$597,800.

"I am so proud of our students, teachers, staff, parents,

and community. It takes a lot of commitment to get to this level. It's truly a team effort!" said Board Member Cindy Ruiz.

Some of the best school districts in the nation are found in sunny Southern California. But it is one of the priciest places to live. For example, in Orange County, the median housing price is upward of \$700,000, according to the California Association of Realtors.

NerdWallet researched So Cal schools to find great facilities for families and affordable homes. A total of ten counties in the region were compared from San Luis Obispo, Kern, and San Bernardino counties to San Diego and Imperial counties.

Nearly 14,600 students attend 15 WVUSD schools, where there is a student-to-teacher ratio of about 24:1. Diamond Bar and Walnut high schools offer International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement programs. Castle Rock and Cyrus J. Morris elementary schools



PHOTO COURTESY: WVUSD

Walnut High School Class of 2015 super star seniors, Jefferey Huang, Louisa Lee, Samantha Wu, and Ted Zhu.

offer International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme.

Many schools have been honored as California Distinguished Schools and National Blue Ribbon Schools, and this year, Walnut Valley's three middle schools – Chaparral, South Pointe, and Suzanne - were designated California Gold Ribbon Schools, the award given during the hiatus of the distinguished schools program. In addition to general academics, the

District also features targeted learning in areas such as Chinese languages, STEM, health, design, performing arts, college prep and advanced placement.

In addition, WVUSD was ranked 6th in the entire state, out of over 1,000 school districts, in the 2015 Best Schools for Your Buck in California report in March.

See the full report at <https://www.nerdwallet.com/blog/cities/best-school-districts-southern-california-2015/>.

## PUSD To Expand Language Programs

By JULIETTE FUNES

**Pomona** – Pomona Unified School District plans to expand dual-language immersion programs and full-day kindergarten programs, and boost spending for secondary athletics, online Advanced Placement courses and technology support as part of its 2015-18 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP).

The plan - a requirement of the state's school funding system - guides District efforts in improving student learning, with particular emphasis on foster youth, English learners and students who are socio-economically disadvantaged. It identifies goals for each year, strategies to achieve those goals and funding sources.

"During the course of our outreach efforts, we have found that the priorities of our parents, community members and stakeholders include rigorous academics and programs to ensure all students – including our foster

youth, English learners and socio-economically disadvantaged – are college- and career-ready by the time they graduate high school," said Board President Andrew Wong. "This plan builds on our District's successful programs and creates new avenues for student support."

The 2015-18 plan pledges to continue programs that have shown success in improving graduation rates and reducing absenteeism, dropout and expulsion rates, including professional development, the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) college preparation program, reducing student-teacher ratios in elementary and middle school math and English Language Development sections, improving access to technology and broadening the course of study.

The District will expand its dual-language immersion offerings to include an English-Spanish program at Montvue Elementary School and an English-Mandarin program at Pantera Elementa-

ry School. Full-day kindergarten will be added at 11 additional schools. All elementary schools will now have the program.

The District will also bring new programs forward, including a literacy focus program and extra support for arts and music programs. Schools will add learning support by way of more nurses, counselors, school site specialists and math coaches for elementary and high schools. Funding for technology devices and additional computer technicians will also be increased to boost student and adult learning.

Pomona Unified developed the LCAP after analyzing a District survey that drew more than 3,000 stakeholder comments, reviewing data on student performance and consulting parent, faculty, staff and student groups, including the Associated Pomona Teachers Union and California School Employees Association during more than 20 meetings between January and June.

Stakeholders asked for con-

tinued safe and clean schools, increased staff and a broader range of coursework, technology and health services. Top bright spots included PUSD staff; the rigorous academic courses offered; the academic and social/emotional support provided to students; parent involvement; and Adult/Career Education.

Other avenues the District expects to explore in the future include more science labs, school modernization projects and disaster preparedness.

"This year, the District has had a number of amazing successes, and we believe that with these expanded programs and new actions, our students will continue to excel in reaching their college and career goals," Superintendent Richard Martinez said. "I want to thank our students and families, our teachers and staff and our community partners for generously contributing their thoughts and time to help us create a plan that truly reflects local control and accountability in education."

## Nation's birthday celebrated with a bang

OC from page 1

to 9:30 p.m.

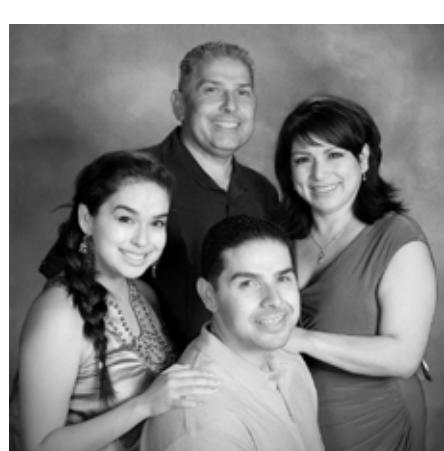
"Santa Ana's annual tradition on the 4th of July is to have fun, show your patriotism, picnic at the park, enjoy great music, learn about history, and watch a spectacular fireworks show over the Centennial Park lakes," said Santa Ana Council Member, David Benavides.

The Independence Day celebration will feature live performances by the Full Spectrum Band and Santa Ana High School. The celebration will also feature a History Walk with costumed characters from our nation's history educating children, a kid's zone play area with three bounce houses and games, Civil War cannons, and recognition of our Armed Forces. The fireworks show will begin at 9 p.m. Bring a picnic basket or enjoy the various food vendors throughout the park. Admission is free and guests are encouraged to arrive early to find a spot in the park.

Council member, Roman Reyna, who leads a group of youth to volunteer in helping produce the event, said, "I am particularly thrilled that every year we get Santa Ana Youth more and more involved in these types of events. This is the best way to engage and motivate our youth to become leaders."

Centennial Park is located at 3000 W Edinger Ave, in Santa Ana. For more information, contact Enrique Marban at [Emarban@santa-ana.org](mailto:Emarban@santa-ana.org), or call (714) 571-4254.

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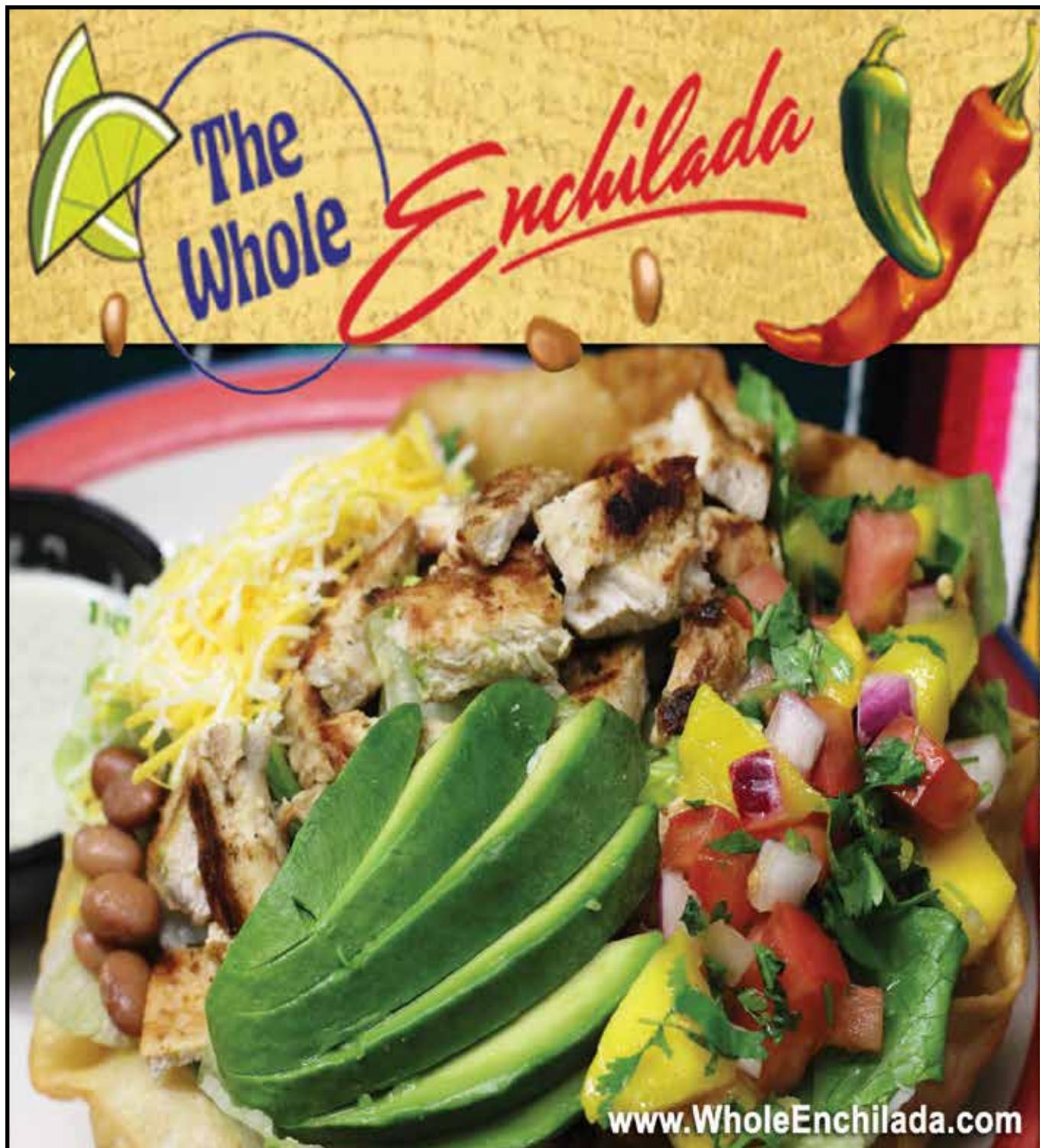
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