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## WALNUT

### WVUSD Science Olympiad Team Bring Home Top Awards

All middle, high schools advance to state finals

BY KELLI GILE

**Walnut**— After months of preparation, Walnut Valley USD Science Olympiad teams came away with an impressive cache of gilded medals during the Los Angeles regional competition.

All three middle schools and both high schools will now advance to the Southern California State Finals at Caltech on April 6.

Chaparral scored a 3rd place finish, Suzanne took 4th place, and South Pointe followed in 5th place during the Division B middle school contest among 40 teams at Rio Hondo College.

Chaparral's team, advised by science teacher Bob Patterson, won 1st place awards in nine of the 23 individual competitions including Disease Detectives, Dynamic Planet, and Mystery Architecture.

"The success of our team is due to the dedicated efforts and team spirit displayed by our students, and the amazing support of our parents," Patterson said.

In Division C, Diamond Bar High's total scores earned 3rd place and Walnut High took 4th place among 50 high-performing teams in the contest.

"Our Science Olympiad team is currently preparing for the next competition and is eager

see **Walnut** page 2

### Golf with Your Local Sheriffs in Chino Hills



PHOTO COURTESY: BEDNEYIMAGES

BY WALNUT-DIAMOND BAR  
SHERIFF'S BOOSTER CLUB

**Chino Hills**- The Walnut-Diamond Bar Sheriff's Booster Club will host a golf tournament in Memory of Deputy Steven Belanger on Monday, April 1, 2019. If you would like to contribute and/or cannot attend and would like to donate, the Booster Club is looking for 150 promotional items for their golf tournament.

The registration will be at 9:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. and followed by a Shotgun Start of 11:30 a.m. on April 1 at the Western Hills Country Club, 1800 Carbon Canyon Rd., in Chino Hills. A luncheon will immediately follow the tournament.

"Thousands of hours are donated annually by our department's volunteers, explorers, reserves and disaster communication specialists," Captain Alfred Reyes said. "From vacation checks and traffic control to color guard and keeping disaster communication equipment ready in case of emergency, these are a few of the many services they provide

the community."

Prizes for the longest drive, closest to the pin and hole-in-one will be awarded during the luncheon. The cost for a single player is \$100.

Sponsorship opportunities are available as follows:

Platinum sponsor - \$3,000- Includes 16 players/four teams, recognition during the awards luncheon, repeated advertising of your company in Our Weekly newspaper and during the tournament, name placement on event signage and a recognition certificate from the Walnut-Diamond Bar Sheriff's Booster Club.

Gold sponsor - \$2,000- Includes 8 players/two teams, recognition in Our Weekly newspaper, recognition during the awards luncheon, name placement on event signage and a recognition certificate from the Walnut-Diamond Bar Sheriff's Booster Club.

Silver sponsor - \$1,000- Includes one team of four players and a recognition certificate from the Walnut-

see **Golf** page 2

### City of DB is Holding a Poster Contest for Arbor Day



PHOTO COURTESY: CITY OF DB

BY CITY OF DIAMOND BAR

**Diamond Bar**- The City of Diamond Bar invites all students to celebrate Arbor Day 2019 by participating in their annual art contest. Local artist may use any art medium of their choice to create a poster depicting the theme "Trees are Terrific: for our Health and Happiness." Judges will select a first-place (\$50

Target gift card), second-place (\$25 gift card) and third-place (\$15 gift card) winner. Winners will be invited to receive their prize at the Earth Day 2019 Celebration. All poster entry forms must be submitted by Friday, April 12 before 4:30 p.m.

Contest Entry Form: All fourth or fifth graders who live or go

see **Contest** page 3

## INLAND EMPIRE

### Eastvale Ranks #12 Safest City in California



PHOTO COURTESY: CITY OF EASTVALE

BY CITY OF EASTVALE

**Eastvale**— The City of Eastvale was proud to announce that they have been ranked on the Top 50 Safest Cities in California list for 2019, based on a study conducted by SafeWise. Eastvale was ranked 12th among the 482 cities in California.

To identify the fifty safest cities in California, SafeWise reviews FBI crime report statistics and population data.

Their evaluation is based on the number of reported violent crimes (aggravated assault, murder, rape, and robbery) in each city. If there was a tie between cities, they also factored in the number of property crimes (burglary, arson, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft). To be equitable, they also calculated the rate of crimes per 1,000 people in each city. This made

see **IE** page 2

## Our Featured Businesses

### A 'Growing' Concern for Over 40 Years

BY MICHAEL ARMijo

**Ontario, Eastvale, Corona**- For those of you who know Eastvale's history, you're pretty knowledgeable about how abundant the ground grows green grass and fresh vegetables. Our history tells us how. Our land is very fertile.

Sunshine Growers, which currently has locations in Ontario and Corona, will soon be opening in the City of Eastvale. So now is a



Visit Sunshine Growers online at [www.sunshinegrowersnursery.com](http://www.sunshinegrowersnursery.com) or you can call them at: 951.736.6000 (Corona), 909.923.7277 (Ontario) or 909.797.9270 (Yucaipa). See page 8 for their current deals.

see **Sunshine** page 3

### Make Your Backyard Extreme

BY MICHAEL ARMijo

**Ontario**- Companies come and go, so longevity is key when you're modifying your home, both inside and out. Extreme Backyard Designs is a testimony of longevity as their family run business has been designing outdoor entertainment centers with name brand components for over 20 years.

"A key component to staying in business so long is to treat people the way we would want



Extreme Backyard Designs is located at 2330 S. Vineyard Ave in Ontario. They can be reached at 909.930.6111 or online at [www.extremebackyarddesigns.com](http://www.extremebackyarddesigns.com). See ad on page 8.

see **Extreme** page 3

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## Write to Us

Do you have any comments, questions or concerns about the community?  
Write a letter to the Editor.

**SGV-IE News**  
Please contact us at:

**LETTERS:**  
382 N. Lemon Ave #402  
Walnut, CA 91789

**E-MAIL:**  
editor@anapr.com



# Eastvale ranks #12 safest city in California

IE from page 1

it easier to directly compare the likelihood of these crimes occurring in cities with vastly different populations. Learn more about how SafeWise ranks their Safest Cities reports by visiting: [www.safewise.com](http://www.safewise.com).

“We are proud to be recognized as the 12th safest city in California! As the City Council and I met last year, we decided to continue with having Public Safety as a top priority in our strategic plan,” Mayor Todd Rigby said. “We have and continue to make significant investments in public safety to include Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) Cameras, the Street Light Acquisition, our Neighborhood Watch Program, additional Motorcycle Officer, and additional patrol hours to name a few. As these investments are implemented, we hope to continue to rise on that list of safest cities in the state. We are sending a loud message to criminals and our residents, that Eastvale will continue to invest in our community to protect and keep our residents safe.”

The City of Eastvale would like to remind its residents and businesses to be vigilant by reporting suspicious and criminal activity as soon as it is seen to the Eastvale Police Department. If you see something, say something. Maintaining a safe environment is a team effort and city is grateful for their team that is made up of our Eastvale Police Department, residents, businesses, and partnering agencies. Together, they’re the best.

The City of Eastvale was founded on October 1, 2010 as an independent local government agency, governed by a five-member, elected City Council. The City of Eastvale serves over 64,855 residents and encompasses 13.1 square-miles in western Riverside County. The City is strategically poised between Interstate 15 and California State Routes 91, 60, and 71, making access easy for residents, visitors and businesses alike. Eastvale is a young and dynamic community filled with economic opportunity, tremendous growth, and strong values. For more information on the City of Eastvale, please visit: [www.EastvaleCA.gov](http://www.EastvaleCA.gov). ■

# WVUSD science olympiad team bring home top awards

Walnut from page 1

to demonstrate their hard work and knowledge at the state level,” said Diamond Bar High math teacher and advisor Dawn Daza.

Quail Summit Elementary students scored the gold medal and earned the second highest score in the competition among 66 teams in the Division A competition held at Occidental College on February 25.

Additionally, Castle Rock and C.J. Morris Elementary Schools brought home the silver awards.

“This group of dedicated 4th and 5th grade young scientists studied all year, put in hours

of research, and conducted experiments,” said Quail Summit’s elementary learning specialist Leann Legind.

“They displayed teamwork, character, perseverance, and great critical thinking skills - and we are so proud of them!”

After competing all day in the rain, the elementary division’s awards ceremony was cancelled due to the inclement weather.

And although most teams headed home before the final results were announced, Quail Summit students decided to wait 90 minutes for the final tally of scores.

“We worked too hard – we’re staying!” they chimed. ■

# Golf with your local sheriffs in Chino Hills

Golf from page 1

Diamond Bar Sheriff’s Booster Club.

Other sponsorship opportunities include- Soft drink/ Beer Cart Sponsors for \$1,000, Hole-In-One sponsor for \$500, Goodie Bag Sponsor for \$500, Closest-to-the-Pin Sponsor for \$400, and Tee Sign Sponsorship for \$100.

Captain Alfred Reyes encourages community members to join this fun and

meaningful tournament to continue to help provide the needed uniforms and equipment to the people who volunteer their time to improve the service and security to the cities of Walnut and Diamond Bar, and the unincorporated communities of Rowland Heights, Covina Hills and West Covina.

For information and reservations, contact Sgt. Darren Luter, volunteer coordinator, at (909) 595-2264, or Gil Rivera, booster club member at (909) 967-4525, [GRiveraEmail@gmail.com](mailto:GRiveraEmail@gmail.com). ■



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## Community Events

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### Walnut-Diamond Bar Sheriff’s Booster Club Annual Golf Classic

**When:** Monday, April 1, 9:30 am  
**Where:** Western Hills Country Club, 1800 Carbon Canyon Rd., Chino Hills

**Details:** The Walnut-Diamond Bar Sheriff’s Booster Club will host a golf tournament in Memory of Deputy Steven Belanger. A luncheon will immediately follow the tournament.

**Contact:** Sgt. Darren Luter @ (909) 595-2264

#### Breakfast with the Bunny

**When:** Saturday, April 20, 8:30 am & 10:30 am

**Where:** Diamond Bar Center, 1600 Grand Ave., Diamond Bar

**Details:** Children and their families are invited to hop on over to the Diamond Bar Center on Saturday, April 20 to take part in the City’s inaugural Breakfast with the Bunny event. In addition to breakfast, participants will enjoy posing for a photo with the Bunny and taking part in a variety of spring-themed crafts and games. There are two sessions available – 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Pre-registration is strongly rec-

ommended as seating is limited.

**Cost:** \$10

**Contact:** (909) 839-7070

#### Healthy Diamond Bar

**When:** Saturday, April 20, 9:00 am to 11:00 am

**Where:** Summit Ridge Park, 1425 Summridge Dr.,

**Details:** The City is kicking off the new year with a comprehensive community wellness initiative, Healthy Diamond Bar, aimed at encouraging and facilitating healthy habits for residents of all ages and fitness levels. One Saturday a month, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., you are invited to swap screen time for green time and take part in a free, fun and healthy activity or event – come alone, bring a friend or the entire family! Events are open to all ages and fitness levels, and per-registration is not required. Throughout the year and beyond, the City will introduce fun programs and opportunities designed to support individual and family well-being as well as overall community wellness. Connect with Rec Event – Recreation Open House

**Cost:** FREE

**Contact:** (909) 839-7070 or email [recreation@diamondbar-ca.gov](mailto:recreation@diamondbar-ca.gov)

#### Easter Egg-Citement

**When:** Saturday, April 20, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

**Where:** Chino Hills Community Park, 3280 Eucalyptus Ave., Chino Hills

**Details:** Hop on down the bunny trail and join us for an "Eggstra-Special" day filled with adventures and surprises. Spend time with family and friends and create wonderful spring memories. Participate in a variety of activities including egg hunts, pictures with the Easter Bunny, crafts, musical entertainment, a craft fair, and refreshments to purchase. No outside baskets or bags allowed. The City will provide bags for egg hunts.

**Contact:** (909) 364-2700

#### Peddler’s Market: Community Rummage Sale

**When:** Saturday, May 4, 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

**Where:** Walnut Senior Center, 21215 La Puente Rd., Walnut

**Details:** Local residents have cleaned out their closets, garages and sheds. Come on down to shop for that special "treasure" you’ve been looking for. With over 30 vendors, you’re sure to find something you’d like to call your own. Be sure to tell a friend and we look forward to seeing you there.

**Cost:** \$35 for 2 parking stalls / \$50 for 3 parking stalls.

**Contact:** Kim Watts at 909-598-6200

#### "Bubble Run" 5K Fun Run

**When:** Saturday, April 6

**Where:** Pomona Fairplex, 1101 W. McKinley Ave., Pomona

**Details:** If you’ve done a traditional 5K, you know they can be a bit lackluster. But the BUBBLE RUN™ is like running through Willy Wonkas’ factory. Clad in white t-shirts, adults, kids and strollers run, walk, dance and play across 3 miles of absolute fun! Waves start every 3-5 minutes. Then, at each kilometer, participants will run through the Foam Bogs where there is enough colored foam to cover you from head to toe! Bubble-teers and charity partners will also be there to help make sure you get your share of the frothy goodness. Each of the four Foam Bogs are represented by different colored foam. So what if you should accidentally "taste the whimsy?" They don’t taste as great as they are fun, but not to worry. The foam is 100% safe. **Cost:** FREE

**To Register:** [www.active.com/pomona-ca/running/distance-running-races/bubble-run-pomona-free-2019](http://www.active.com/pomona-ca/running/distance-running-races/bubble-run-pomona-free-2019)

**More Info:** [www.bubblerun.com](http://www.bubblerun.com)

# Make your backyard extreme

Extreme from page 1

ourselves to be treated,” said James Deeley, founder of the family business. With so many years in business, you not only get quality products, you also gets years of experience of getting things done correctly and creatively.

Extreme Backyard Designs can provide custom Barbeque islands, outdoor fireplaces, fire pit tables, spas, patio furniture, and many other items all wholesale to the public.

“We are college and trade school educated and enjoy the interaction and satisfaction of transforming backyards into a family’s personal oasis,” Deeley said. “Since we buy at such a large volume, we always have monthly specials on our

website.”

The Extreme Backyard Designs staff are the most knowledgeable and friendly people in the area, as they are centrally located on the corner of the 60 Freeway and Vineyard, right across from the newest Kaiser building.

“We believe what makes a business thrive is to provide the best quality components, a superior level of customer service, while providing an affordable price,” Deeley said.

Serving all of Southern California, Extreme Backyard Designs is located at 2330 S. Vineyard Ave in our neighboring city of Ontario. They can be reached at 909.930.6111, or you can view their website at [www.extremebackyarddesigns.com](http://www.extremebackyarddesigns.com). ■

# A 'growing' concern for over 40 years

Sunshine from page 1

good time to grow your goods in a fertile environment, ridding yourself of the pesticides and the high cost of organic greens. But Sunshine Growers doesn’t stop there. They offer a variety of plants and outdoor supplies to spruce up your backyards and gardens.

The City of Eastvale is also on board as the Eastvale Planning Commission approved the development of a new 20,000-square-foot greenhouse and retail store for a new plant nursery at Sunshine Grower’s new location on Riverside Drive, east of Hamner Avenue in Eastvale.

“We are thrilled that Sunshine Growers has chosen to expand their business in our young and growing community,” said Mayor Clint Lorimore. “I am certain that our community will benefit from the variety of plant options that Sunshine Growers will provide, and I look forward to seeing how Eastvale homeowners will beautify their landscaping

following the opening of this new business.”

This locally-based, family-owned business will be moving from Ontario, bringing jobs and approximately \$4-million in taxable retail sales to Eastvale. Sunshine Growers is a family of wholesale and retail nurseries that sell quality plant material to the community and to landscape contractors. When they open, Sunshine Growers will be the only full-service plant nursery in Eastvale, providing a great local option for the community to continue to enhance landscaping around their homes.

“We grow a variety of Plants, Groundcover, and color so we can have a big advantage over the retail nurseries and chain stores,” said Russell Lepper, Spokesperson for the chain.

To find out more please sign onto [www.sunshinegrowersnursery.com](http://www.sunshinegrowersnursery.com) or visit them on Riverside Drive east of Hamner Avenue. Or you can call their Corona store at 951.736.6000, Ontario store at 919.923.7277, or their Yucaipa store at 909.797.9270. ■



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Email: [GenaLeeC21@gmail.com](mailto:GenaLeeC21@gmail.com)

# City of DB is holding a poster contest for Arbor Day

Contest from page 1

to school in Diamond Bar can participate in the annual art contest.

Artwork must be hand-drawn on letter-size paper (8 1/2 x 11 inch), and may be in color or black and white, and created using crayons, colored pencils, markers, watercolors or any other medium. Glue, stickers, and glitter are not allowed.

The top three entries will be selected and displayed at the event and artists will receive a Target gift card (\$50 for first place, \$25 for second place, and \$15 for third place).

Posters may be dropped off at, or mailed to, Diamond Bar City Hall located at 21810 Copley Drive. A completed entry form must accompany entry.

Contest Rules

1. All entries must be original artwork created by a student who is currently in the fifth grade. A student may enter the contest only once.
2. Entries must be done on paper with sufficient clarity to allow for duplication, displaying, and framing.
3. The first-place winner's

artwork will be framed.

4. The student's first and last name must be written or signed in the lower right-hand corner on the front of the poster.
5. Entries must be cone in marker, crayon, paint pens, watercolor, ink, acrylic, colored paper, and/or tempera paint.
6. Collages are not acceptable (Do not glue anything on your poster.)
7. Computer or photo generated art and/or printing is not acceptable.
8. Entries should not display the names of commercial products, companies, or organizations.
9. The poster must be related to the contest theme in some way. The theme: "Trees are Terrific and Energy Wise" must be on the poster. All words must be spelled correctly.
10. Entries should not be matted, mounted, laminated, framed or folded.

For more information or questions contact the City's Environmental Services Division at 909-839-7015 or [greendb@diamondbarca.gov](mailto:greendb@diamondbarca.gov) or visit their website <https://www.diamondbarca.gov/760/Earth-Day-and-Arbor-Day>. ■

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**Lemon Creek Cleaners**  
360 N. Lemon Ave.  
(909) 594-7504

**NY Pizzeria**  
364 N. Lemon Ave.  
(909) 594-5000

**Osuna's Mexican Food**  
18746 Amar Road  
(626) 810-4101

**Post Box Plus**  
382 N. Lemon Ave.  
(909) 595-5924

**Walnut Senior Center**  
21215 La Puente  
(909) 598-6200

**Starbucks**  
20373 Valley Blvd.  
(909) 468-5109

**UPS**  
20687 Amar Rd # 2  
(909) 444-1303

**Walnut City Hall**  
21201 La Puente Rd.  
(909) 595-7543

**Walnut Hills Optometry**  
18736 E. Amar Rd.  
(909) 594-1153

**Walnut Library**  
21155 La Puente Rd.  
(909) 595-0757

**Walnut Sheriff's Station**  
21695 Valley Blvd.  
(626) 913-1715

**DIAMOND BAR**

**Barro's Pizza**  
21000 Golden Springs  
(909) 598-2871

**Diamond Bar City Hall**  
21825 Copley Drive  
(909) 839-7000

**Diamond Mail & Shipping**  
1249 S. Diamond Bar Blvd.  
(909) 861-1290

**It's A Grind**  
1223 S. Diamond Bar Blvd.  
(909) 861-5120

**Paco's Tacos**  
1131 Brea Canyon Rd.  
(909) 595-0044

**Crunch Fitness**  
1132 S. Diamond Bar Blvd.  
(909) 444-0142

Continued on page 7

**"YOU MISS 100% OF THE SHOTS YOU DON'T TAKE"**

-WAYNE GRETZKY

City of Diamond Bar

# Day of Service

Saturday, May 18, 2019

8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.



painting, planting, mulching & cleaning

check-in, T-shirt pickup, post cleanup  
lunch & Volunteer Fair take place at:

## Sycamore Canyon Park

22930 Golden Springs Drive



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[diamondbarca.gov/healthydb](http://diamondbarca.gov/healthydb)

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WALNUT-DIAMOND BAR SHERIFF'S BOOSTER CLUB

## ANNUAL GOLF Classic



In memory of  
Deputy Steven Belanger

APRIL 1, 2019

**WESTERN HILLS COUNTRY CLUB  
CHINO HILLS**

1800 Carbon Canyon Rd.  
Chino Hills, CA 91709

**CONTACT**

Sgt. Darren Luter  
(909) 595-2264

OR  
Booster Club Member, Gil Rivera  
(909) 967-4525



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Arbor Day 2019  
Poster Contest

"Trees Help Our Wildlife Thrive"

The City of Diamond Bar invites students to celebrate Arbor Day 2019 by participating in a poster contest! Judges will select a first-place (\$50 Target gift card), second-place (\$25 gift card) and third-place (\$15 gift card) winner. Winners will be invited to receive their prize at the Earth Day 2019 Celebration.

- Who?** Fourth and Fifth grade students, who are Diamond Bar residents or attending a Diamond Bar based public school, are eligible to participate.
- What?** We are looking for posters that emphasize Arbor Day! The posters must represent the City's 2019 Arbor Day Poster Theme: "Trees Help Our Wildlife Thrive". Draw a picture demonstrating how trees help our wildlife thrive.
- Where?** Winners will be honored Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> during the City's Earth Day Celebration, taking place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the AQMD parking lot located at 21865 Copley Drive.
- When?** All original entries must be received by **Friday, April 12, 2019**.

Earth Day/Arbor Day Poster Contest Rules

1. All entries must be original artwork created by a student who is currently in the fourth or fifth grade. A student may enter the contest only once.
2. Entries must be done on paper with sufficient clarity to allow for duplication, displaying, and framing.
3. The first-place winner's artwork will be framed.
4. The student's first and last name must be written or signed in the lower right-hand corner on the front of the poster.
5. Entries may be done in marker, crayon, paint pens, watercolor, ink, acrylic, colored pencil, and/or tempera paint.
6. Collages are not acceptable. (Do not glue anything on your poster.)
7. Computer or photo generated art and/or printing is not acceptable.
8. Entries should not display the names of commercial products, companies, or organizations.
9. The poster must be related to the contest theme in some way. The theme: "Trees Help Our Wildlife Thrive" must be on the poster. All words must be spelled correctly.
10. Entries should not be matted, mounted, laminated, framed, or folded.



Arbor Day 2019 Poster  
Contest



Artwork must on standard 8 1/2" by 11" paper  
Posters may be full color or black and white, and made with crayon, colored pencil, watercolor, pen, marker, or paint.  
Please refrain from using glue, adhesives, glitter, etc. as this can be damaging to other posters.  
We regret that we will not be able to return your entry.

Please submit entries to the following address:

**City of Diamond Bar**  
**Environmental Services/Attn: Alfa Lopez**  
21810 Copley Drive  
Diamond Bar, CA. 91765  
Phone: (909) 839-7015

Please email contest related questions to [greendb@diamondbarca.gov](mailto:greendb@diamondbarca.gov)

Please print neatly  
Teachers/Parents may fill out form for students.  
**Please remove and tape this form to the back of each entry**

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email \_\_\_\_\_

City of Diamond Bar

# BREAKFAST

with the

# BUNNY!

**SATURDAY, APRIL 20**

**10:30 AM**

**DIAMOND BAR CENTER**  
**1600 GRAND AVE.**

Kiddie Crafts & Games

**Photo with the BUNNY!**

## BREAKFAST

**DON'T WAIT! LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE.**

INFO: 909.839.7070 OR

[WWW.DIAMONDBARCA.GOV/SPECIALEVENTS](http://WWW.DIAMONDBARCA.GOV/SPECIALEVENTS)

CROSSWORD	
THEME: EUROPE 101	
ACROSS	DOWN
1. Wise man	1. Soccer ____
5. Recipe amt.	2. Oman man
8. *Overseas flyer's fatigue	3. Wild ox of India
11. Like traditional storytelling	4. Treat badly
12. Jasmine or university in Houston	5. *Like many roofs in old Spain
13. In an unfriendly manner	6. Like reptile's skin
15. Log splitter	7. Montblanc and such
16. Dashing style	8. Right to a property
17. Best of the crop	9. "Sad to say..."
18. *European Union capital	10. Fitness venue
20. Charged particles	12. Bring to consignment store
21. *Like Pigalle or De Wallen?	13. Cake layer
22. Genetic stuff	14. *Part of former Yugoslavia
23. Jewish village	19. Caterpillar hairs
26. Between a walk and a trot	22. i topper
30. Formula One ride	23. *Bluebill duck in Europe
31. Even though	24. Middle Eastern sesame treat
34. Itty-bitty bit	25. Judge, e.g.
35. Full of pep	26. Put a hex on
37. *Artifact from Ancient Greece, e.g.	27. *Paris' Moulin ____
38. Stir fry	28. Weasel's aquatic cousin
39. Eye part	29. Chinese weight units
40. *Euroseptic's decision	32. Dog nemesis
42. Salon product	33. Before, archaic
43. Ernst to Young	36. * ____ City, the smallest country
45. Those who chronicle	38. Astrologer's concern, pl.
47. #20 Across, sing.	40. *London's Big ____
48. The City of a Thousand Minarets	41. Stupid ones
50. Chip and Joanna Gaines' hometown	44. Pirate's necklace
52. *High speed carrier	46. Bottom lines
55. Tibetan priests	48. Witch's spell
56. Small cave	49. Something in the air
57. Seed coat	50. *Cold War divide
59. Skirt shape	51. In the middle of
60. Theories	52. Knight's breastplate
61. Human parasites	53. *La Scala sound
62. *Like many European structures	54. *American tour guide
63. *Black or Ligurian, e.g.	55. Pathet ____
64. Japanese vodka	58. "Fantasy Island" prop

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# Tax Season Tips to Avoid Scammers and Robocalls



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### By STATEPOINT

It's tax season. The time of year when phone scammers get particularly aggressive trying to trick you out of your hard-earned money. And scam calls and robocalls are a growing problem for everyone. Here are a few tricks to help you dodge scammers and give you peace of mind.

#### Know the Signs

Scam call technology is always changing, so it's important to stay vigilant against scammers' attempts to get you to answer your phone. Every year, they make millions off innocent victims with new techniques. Their latest method, known as number-spoofing

technology, could fool even the savviest consumers into answering the phone. Number-spoofing makes a scammer's number appear as either a familiar number with a local area code or even come up on Caller ID as the "IRS." If you don't answer, they may also leave "urgent" callback voicemails via robocalls. Recognizing these tactics can help you stay safe. If you suspect a call (or a voicemail) is a scam, hang up. If you want to be sure, don't call back the number provided but instead, look up your local IRS Customer Service number on the Internet and call the IRS directly.

#### Use Protection Tools

Check out what technology

your wireless company offers that can protect you from scam and spoof calls. For example, T-Mobile offers free scam and spoofing protection for customers with Scam ID and Scam Block. These tools are made available to all postpaid customers and live on the T-Mobile network, so no app is required. As soon as a call reaches the network, it's analyzed and if it's scam, the incoming call is tagged as Scam Likely. If customers want to stop scam calls completely, they can turn on Scam Block. With these tools in place, in the last two years, T-Mobile has alerted customers to over 10 billion Scam Likely calls. And in 2019, T-Mobile reports warning customers of 225 million Scam Likely calls each week. Others wireless providers usually also offer customers app solutions to help identify scam calls for a small monthly fee. Check with your provider to see what is available.

New standards from the Federal Communications Commission, called STIR/SHAKEN, are also helping protect consumers. T-Mobile's implementation of STIR/SHAKEN, Caller Verified, lets you know when a call made on the T-Mobile network is authentic and not intercepted

by scammers and spammers. Once other wireless providers implement STIR/SHAKEN, Caller Verified will work on calls made across networks.

#### Know Your Rights

While scam-blocking technology can help you filter out scam and spoof calls, it's also important to know your rights. Many of these calls use intimidation tactics to scare consumers into divulging sensitive information over the phone. The IRS website notes that they will always make attempts to reach you via postal mail first and they will never ask you for a specific form of payment. You should know that you always have the right to formally contest the amount owed, and the IRS will not make threats against you or your family regarding arrest or deportation. If you have any elderly or susceptible family members, talk to them about how to avoid such scams and consider setting them up with the latest technology to help them stay safe.

This tax season, be wary about the calls that you receive. With up-to-date information and new technology, you can protect your pocketbook from scammers. ■

Continued from page 3

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