

April 2024

Volume 16 Issue 2

City of

# EASTVALE NEWS.com

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www.City of Norco News.com



## HERE WE GROW

### Businesses Coming to Eastvale

#### STAFF REPORTS

**Eastvale** – There are so many new businesses coming to Eastvale and new additions to the city! City Officials announced that Slice House by Tony Gemignani is coming to the Cloverdale Marketplace. They are expected to open in Fall 2024. “Slice House is where artisan pizza meets fast casual dining. They currently have over 30 restaurants and

see **Grow** page 5

## Eastvale Walmart Breaks Ground

#### STAFF REPORTS

**Eastvale** – Walmart and Eastvale city officials recently broke ground for an expected 170,995 sq. ft. Walmart Supercenter coming in Spring 2025. The Walmart Supercenter will be located at 14100 Limonite Avenue and will include a 16-pump fuel station. It is also expected to create around 300 new jobs for Eastvale and its surrounding areas. “We are tremendously excited to have officially broken ground on our newest Supercenter,

which will be the first Walmart in the city,” said Walmart’s Regional General Manager, Frankie Ahumada. “While we are looking forward to bringing a new shopping experience to residents, we are also steadfast in our commitment to being a strong and dedicated partner to the Eastvale community.” The new Supercenter will “reflect Walmart’s Store of the Future concept, with expanded product selections and innova-

see **Walmart** page 4



Photo courtesy: City of Eastvale

Walmart and City Officials recently broke ground last month for the new Walmart Supercenter. After a long wait, it is expected to come to Eastvale in Spring 2025.

## Stay Alert Eastvale

#### STAFF REPORTS

**Eastvale** – April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month and the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department (RCSD) wants to remind you to put safety in the driver’s seat. The RCSD Jurupa Valley Station stated they will be actively looking for drivers throughout the month who are in violation of the state’s hands-free cell phone law. “In today’s fast-paced life, it

is common to lose focus while driving,” Deputy Brian Parham said. “Distracted Driving Awareness Month is a crucial reminder that even a moment of inattention or a quick glance at the phone can lead to serious consequences. Let’s get off our apps and keep our eyes on the road. Before starting the car, silence your phone or

put it in the glove box, trunk or back seat. Anywhere you can’t reach.” A department news release stated that a 2023 California Statewide Public Opinion Survey determined that 74% of drivers’ biggest concern was distracted driving due to texting. “In 2021, there were at least 140 people killed in dis-

traced driving traffic crashes in California. The numbers are also likely underreported because law enforcement officers may not always be able to tell that distraction was a factor in a crash.” Residents should keep in

see **Alert** page 4

## OUR FEATURED BUSINESSES

### Animal Care Services: A Family Orientated Small Animal Hospital

#### STAFF REPORTS

**Norco** - The newest small animal hospital in Norco is Animal Care Services (ACS). Established and opened in 2022, ACS is a brand-new business in an established building. Providing exceptional pet care to the residents of Norco and the surrounding areas is the guiding force of the entire staff. The Director of Operations has been an RVT (Registered Veterinary Technician) for many years and has

see **Animal** page 4



Visit Animal Care Services at 3119 Hamner Ave, Norco, CA 92860 and can be reached at (951) 371-7120. You can also visit their website at [www.animalcareservices.com](http://www.animalcareservices.com).

## Crime Recap

#### STAFF REPORTS

**Eastvale** - In the last month, there were several incidents in the neighboring city of Jurupa Valley. This information is courtesy of the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department. Incident: Fatal Traffic Collision Date: April 8 Location: Jurupa Valley Details: On Monday, April 8, 2024, about 3:01 PM, deputies assigned to the Jurupa Valley Sheriff’s Station responded to the area of Sierra Avenue and Karen Lane, Jurupa Valley, regarding an abandoned vehicle in a ravine at the top of a hill. When deputies arrived, they discovered evidence of a collision and an unoccupied vehicle. Deputies searched the area and did not locate any other vehicles. Deputies did locate two males in a field who were unresponsive and with obvious signs of death.

Both males were pronounced deceased at the scene. The Jurupa Valley Sheriff’s Station Traffic Collision Reconstruction Team responded to the scene and assumed the investigation. The cause of the collision is still under investigation and it is unknown if alcohol and/or drugs were a factor in the collision. The identity of both males will not be released at this time, pending notification to the next of kin. Anyone who witnessed the traffic collision or has any information about this incident is encouraged to call Deputy John Shepherd of the Jurupa Valley Sheriff’s Station at (951) 955-2600 or the Riverside County Sheriff’s Office dispatch at (951) 776-1099. Incident: School Violence Threat Arrests Date: April 4 Location: Jurupa Valley

see **Recap** page 4

## Sell Your Casa With Gil Rivera

#### STAFF REPORTS

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see **Casa** page 4



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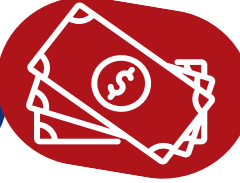
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# The Light At The End Of The Tunnel



Michael Armijo

While at the ATM drive-through, a woman straddled both lanes in a two-lane isle. I've been there a thousand times and not one person has ever straddled these lanes, they just pick one. Sometimes the line moves quickly, other times you have to wait while the cars next to you move right through. It's a gamble, but we make a decision and we accept it.

Maybe it was the long day or maybe I just felt short-tempered, but while the woman straddled the lanes, I went around her car, and I picked the left lane. She got out of her vehicle and told me; "I've been waiting, you can't go around me." I explained the unwritten policy of the drive-through ATM machine. She

angrily got back into her car and waited again. As I drove up to the machine, I felt so uncomfortable. I knew she never should've sat there and straddled both lanes, but who am I to react to her misdirection? The uncomfortable feeling made me sick inside, I knew that I never should've gone around her. So I backed up, allowed her to go first, calling out to her; "I'm sorry, go ahead of me." She pulled up to the machine, finished her transaction, and her last words were; "Thank you for being fair."

I believe the true essence of being a complete individual begins with the ability to communicate. The ability to express yourself and present issues, views, and concerns in a dignified, fair, and an understandable manner. To simply be a human being.

Simple people do not get caught up in the unfairness in life. They do not listen with anger and respond with vengeance. They see light and are drawn to it. They're clear individuals that can respond with solutions and not just complain. They respond instead of react. And it's their simplicity that keeps them humble and dignified. Simple people see or experience tragedy and work

through it and not around it. This keeps them complete and understanding.

I also believe in responsibility. Not to just go to work, pay the mortgage, and get the kids to school, but also to enforce responsibility inside, not just on the surface. To not just promote a good life but to actually live it from the inside outward. In a person's life, responsibility also includes our jobs, our actions towards society, towards our fellow man. Not to act like a good person, but to actually think, feel, and believe in the goodness of being a good person.

When I pulled in front of the woman at the ATM machine, I knew she was misdirected, and yet I reacted to her misdirection instead of responding to it. If it meant that much to me to not wait behind someone who couldn't make a decision, I should've communicated with her. And if it didn't mean that much to me, then I just should've waited behind her and not given it another thought. Instead, I almost ruined her entire day, and who knows what that could've done to her family and

friends.

I believe that we, as a society, need to remember how important and how powerful we really are. We need to understand the true meaning of sharing experiences, applying yourself, being honest, open, and sincere. It will bring you peace when you remember that you have so much to contribute to life, let's not waste it on bitterness, anger, frustration, or unfairness. Instead, let's focus on the good things.

The power we hold within ourselves is worthless when we misdirect our hearts by allowing our minds to take over. I believe the truest form of life is not just having the power to get your way, but having the power to help others find their way. And when we see this powerful light that shines from within, we can capture it and allow those rays of sunshine to help our heart glow with a magnificent gleam that reminds us that there really is a light at the end of the tunnel.

*This article was written by Michael before he passed in October 2020. His articles are placed in his memory.*

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# Animal Care Services: a Family Orientated Animal Hospital

## Animal from page 1

taught and trained RVT students at a well-respected So. Cal university. Currently, ACS has five licensed RVT's on staff supporting two full time veterinarians and helping to train the abundant veterinary assistants. Dr. Victoria Impett and Dr. Kimberly Simpson bring a collection of experience and expertise to the staff, with skills in soft tissue surgery, ultrasound and radiology and enhanced diagnostic skills. The entire staff, including service desk, boarding, grooming salon and spa, maintenance and administration have been handpicked

for their work ethic and compassionate attitude towards the clients and their pets.

The building that houses ACS is unique and impressive. At over 20 thousand square feet, it contains an in-house pharmacy, a well-equipped lab with state-of-the-art diagnostic capability, new diagnostic equipment as well as ultrasound and radiology, two modernized surgical suites, seven exam rooms, a well-designed medical treatment area, a fully staffed and modern boarding facility, and ample parking. The size of the ACS hospital was designed to be an efficient working hospital and a teaching facility. The

education of ACS clients is paramount as it supports a closer human-pet bond. The size of the ACS building allows for the hosting of continuing education classes for other veterinarians and RVT's; taught by experts in varying veterinary disciplines. This philosophy of giving back to the community and the profession via education has always been a key principle of the vision of ACS.

ACS has been selected by Norco Animal Services for veterinary care, L.A and Riverside County Sheriff's departments for boarding canines, various rescue organizations, and professional training programs in-

cluding Platt College. Platt College's Veterinary Technology Program trains students who desire to become RVT's. The program utilizes the surgical facilities at ACS to enable surgical scrub nurse and anesthesia monitoring training for their students.

Animal Care Services offers full service veterinary care, boarding and grooming services. The staff consists of a team of professionals and individuals that are compassionate and dedicated to preserving and enriching the bond between pets and their human families. They promote education and are guided by em-

pathy, honesty, commitment, collaboration and unwavering determination to serve the needs of patients, clients, and team. Their commitment is to continually evaluate how they are doing, with the aim of increasing client satisfaction by improving the quality of animal care through teaching, research, and the implementation of new technology.

Animal Care Services is located at 3119 Hamner Ave, Norco, CA 92860 and can be reached at (951) 371-7120. You can also visit their website at [www.animalcareservices.com](http://www.animalcareservices.com). View their ad on page 7 for a new client coupon.

## Stay alert Eastvale

### Alert from page 1

mind that the current law states "drivers are not allowed to hold a phone or electronic communications device while operating a vehicle, even when stopped at

a red light. This includes talking, texting or using an app. Using a handheld cell phone while driving is punishable by a fine and violating the hands-free law for a second time within 36 months of a prior conviction for the same offense will result in a point being added to a driver's record."

The news release stated that "if you have an important phone call, text or email, or are in a situation with other distractions, such as looking up directions, pull over to a safe parking spot to complete the task without putting yourself and others at risk. Other distractions can be

eating, grooming, reaching for something that fell on the floor, putting on or taking off clothing, talking with passengers, or children in the back seat."

"A driver's focus should be on the road, not their phone," Sergeant Rafael Lopez said. "That text, phone call, email or

social media post is not worth the risk to yourself and other people on the road."

Funding for distracted driving enforcement is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

## Sell your casa with Gil Rivera

### Casa from page 1

Rivera's Sellers love the fact that he offers a discounted commission, but with full service. Rivera's offer of 4% Total Commission for Sellers includes 2.5% to the Buyer's Agent and 1.5% to Rivera's office. Most Realtors negotiate a 6% commission because they have to split the fees with their brokerage. But, as Rivera is the Broker, he passes on the savings to the Seller. This will save Sellers thousands of dollars in commission fees. His team offers full service for that discounted rate including high quality flyers, professional

photos, open houses (as allowable by Seller), and extended advertising coverage on the Internet and social media.

Now, more about what you're getting from Gil Rivera at SellYourCasa.com: It's important to know all aspects of your business. For Gil Rivera from SellYourCasa.com, he absolutely knows every aspect of buying and selling a home. He is a reliable, experienced, and an affordable Realtor, Broker, and Certified Appraiser.

Rivera sells houses, condos, and two to four unit investment properties in Riverside, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, and Orange counties.

He just recently sold another home in Eastvale last month. He also does real estate appraisals for banks, estates, trusts, divorces, attorneys, refinance, home purchases, and probate/inheritance for tax purposes. In addition, Rivera has assistants that work with him who are fluent in Spanish and Chinese, helping to reach people of different dialects all over Southern California.

Rivera's philosophy is to "treat my clients the way I want to be treated." In fact, Rivera said that he became a Realtor because he did not like the way his Realtor treated him when he was buying his home. Rivera

shows respect for his clients at all times. He listens to what they say, so that he can better serve them.

Rivera also does not push his Buyers into a sale. Rivera said, "I always tell Buyers: 'You will know right away when we walk into the house that's meant for you'. Whether it takes a week or months, my Buyers will always be satisfied with their purchase and never pressured into it."

Rivera's current promotion is, "We will SELL your house in four weeks at highest value! We only request a listing period of four weeks, while most other Realtors ask for a six month listing." Rivera says

that "Buyers need to know that they do not need to pay their Realtor any fees for representing them on a purchase. The Buyer's agent is paid by the Seller, not the Buyer.

Check out Rivera's website at <http://www.SellYourCasa.com> to see how many different cities Rivera has sold in and for additional information about his company. You can also call the toll free number at (877) 888-SOLD (7653), or cell phone number (909) 967-4525. He also currently has large freeway billboard signs throughout the San Gabriel Valley and Inland Empire. Call today for a free market evaluation.

## Crime recap

### Recap from page 1

Details: On Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 3:20 p.m., a Jurupa Valley Sheriff's Station school resource deputy assigned to a middle school in the 8000 block of Galena Avenue, Jurupa Valley, received a report of criminal threats made by a 12-year-old student towards his classmates. With the assistance of the Jurupa Valley Station Investigations Bureau and Jurupa Valley Special Enforcement Team, a thorough investigation of these criminal threats was immediately initiated. Deputies and investigators responded to a residence in the 5000 of Baldwin Avenue, Jurupa Valley. As a result of the investigation, three un-

secured assault rifles, one handgun, and several hundred rounds of ammunition were located within the residence and seized as evidence.

Rolando Sida Sr., a 42-year-old resident of Jurupa Valley, was arrested and booked into the Robert Presley Detention Center for possession of assault weapons, unsecured firearms accessible to minors, and child endangerment. The 12-year-old juvenile was also arrested and booked for criminal threats. This is an ongoing investigation, and no additional information will be released at this time.

If you have any information regarding this investigation, contact Deputy C. Johnson at the Jurupa Valley Station by calling 951-955-2600.

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TEXT OR CALL

# Here We Grow

Grow from page 1

stadium kiosks up and running across the Western United States," stated the City. "Slice House will occupy part of the space used by Rubio's Coastal Grill."

Another addition to the Cloverdale Marketplace will be Handel's Ice Cream. They will also occupy part of the location previously used by Rubio's Coastal Grill. "Handel's Homemade Ice Cream has been made fresh daily at each store since 1945 and uses an abundance of the best ingredients available to make the best ice cream on the planet!" said the City. They are expected to open in Fall 2024.

In addition, Cravings Food Hall hosted their official Grand Opening on Saturday, April 20, 2024. They featured a lion dance, live music, face painting, balloon twisting, exclusive promotions, and more. Cravings Food Hall is located at the The Station in the Goodman Commerce Center by 99 Ranch Market.

The City is not only expanding in businesses but they're also expanding in merchandise! Eastvale Essentials is their brand-new city merchandise line. "Our collection of must-have items capture the unique charm and character of our beloved city," stated city officials. "From stylish apparel and accessories to one-of-a-kind souvenirs, each product tells a story of Eastvale's rich history, diverse culture, and thriving community. These items allow residents to embrace the essence of our community everywhere they go!"

The logos in the collection were hand-picked by the Eastvale City Council. But the City is looking for one more logo to add to the collection and are inviting the community to submit their options. If you'd like to submit a logo, email your design to [mkortsen@eastvaleca.gov](mailto:mkortsen@eastvaleca.gov) by May 1. The community will then be able to vote on their favorite, and it will proudly join the collection for the entire community to enjoy. The items are now available here: <https://www.bonfire.com/store/eastvale-essentials/>

Lastly, the City of Eastvale and JCSD recently announced that the city has officially been recognized as a Tree City USA. "This means that our community has demonstrated a commitment to caring for and managing its public trees and is part of a dedicated network of more than 3,600 communities throughout the country," stated the City. "Our hope is that this recognition would help spread awareness of the many benefits of trees in the community. Thank you Tree City USA for this amazing recognition!"

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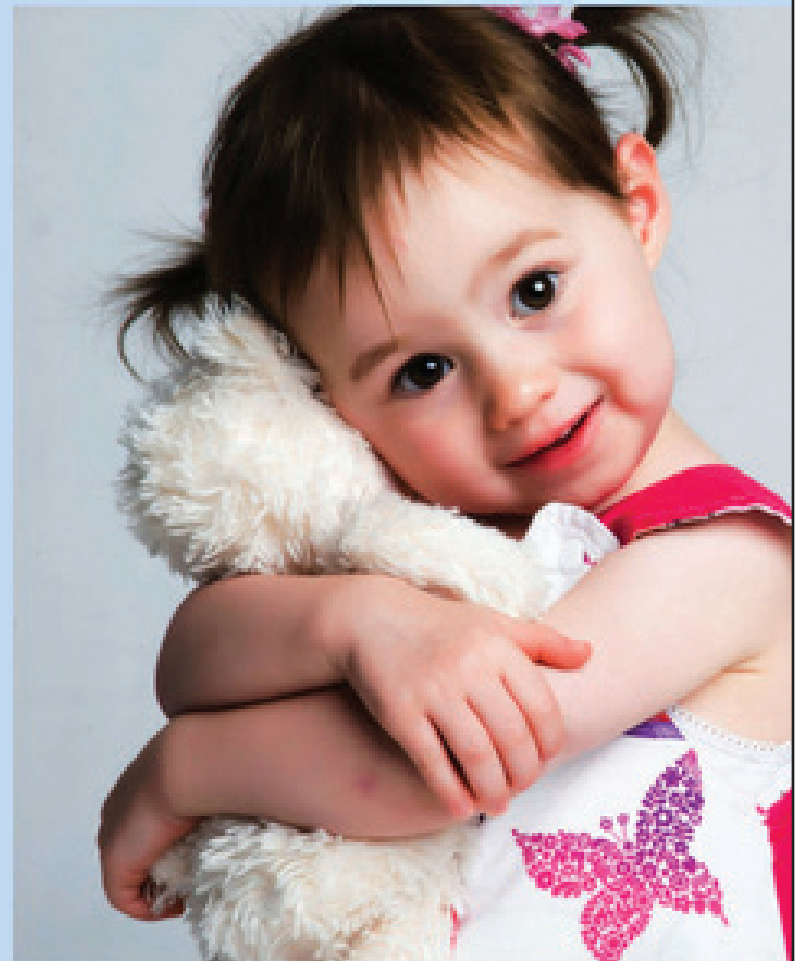
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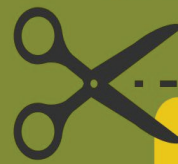
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# Upcoming Local Events

## Staff Reports

**Eastvale** – There are several new events coming up these next few months. Save the date for these community events!

**FREE RTA Ride for Earth Day**  
When: Monday, April 22

Details: In honor of Earth Day, take a step for change and ride all RTA's fixed route and GoMicro buses for FREE on Monday, April 22. RTA is proud to join other transit agencies to celebrate

## Stay alert Eastvale

### Alert from page 1

tive technology to help associates better support customers and make shopping more convenient and enjoyable," stated a City news release. "In addition to the new fuel station, the Supercenter will offer Walmart's Online Grocery Pickup and Delivery services, a full-service deli, meat and bakery departments, pharmacy, vision center, and a fresh produce department with a wide range of organic fruits and vegetables."

"Today marks a significant milestone for Eastvale as we break ground on our new Walmart Supercenter," said Eastvale Mayor Christian Dinco. "This venture promises new job opportunities and essential goods and services, but it also reflects the City Council's commitment to economic growth. We look forward to the positive impact this partnership will have on our vibrant city."

The store is expected to employ more than 250 new associates for full-time and part-time positions. "Applicants interested in careers at Walmart can apply online at Walmartcareers.com," stated the news release. "At Walmart, associates have access to competitive wages, affordable benefits, access to a free college/trade education through Walmart's Live Better U from the first day of hire, and the chance to build a career. More than 75 percent of Walmart's store management teams started as hourly associates and 40 percent of those promotions went to associates within the first year of their employment."

Earth Day by offering free rides and urging commuters to help the environment by leaving their cars at home and trying public transit for the day. Simply hop on the bus and ride for free. No pass required!

**FREE CERT Basic Training**

When: April 26th to April 28th

Where: Eastvale City Hall (12363 Limonite Avenue)

Details: Learn essential disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact your area and trains you in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Register today: <https://www.eventbrite.com/.../spring-2024-eastvale-cert...> Limited seating is available

**Move Through Motivation Scholarship 5k Run/Walk**  
When: May 11, 2014 at 7:30 a.m.

Where: Eastvale Community Park

Details This isn't any ordinary 5k. All proceeds from this event will go to local students in the form of scholarships. If you'd like to support the community in this way, register at [movethroughmotivation.com/events](http://movethroughmotivation.com/events)

**FREE Residential Clean up and Paper Shredding**

When: May 11, 2014 from 8

am to 12 pm

Where: Ramirez Intermediate

Details: Hosted in collaboration with Waste Management, participants can drop off acceptable items and shred up to 4 banker boxes per household. Remember to bring a photo ID and either this flyer or a WM bill as proof of residency. Check the graphics to see the list of acceptable and nonacceptable items. For further details, reach out to Waste Management at 800.423.9986.

**International Food Festival**

When: May 18 from 12 p.m. to 9 p.m. and May 19 from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Where: 7447 Scholar Way,

Eastvale

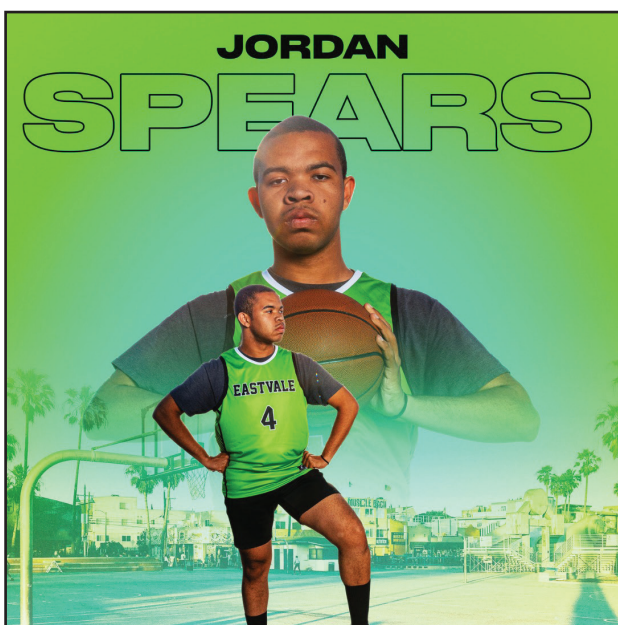
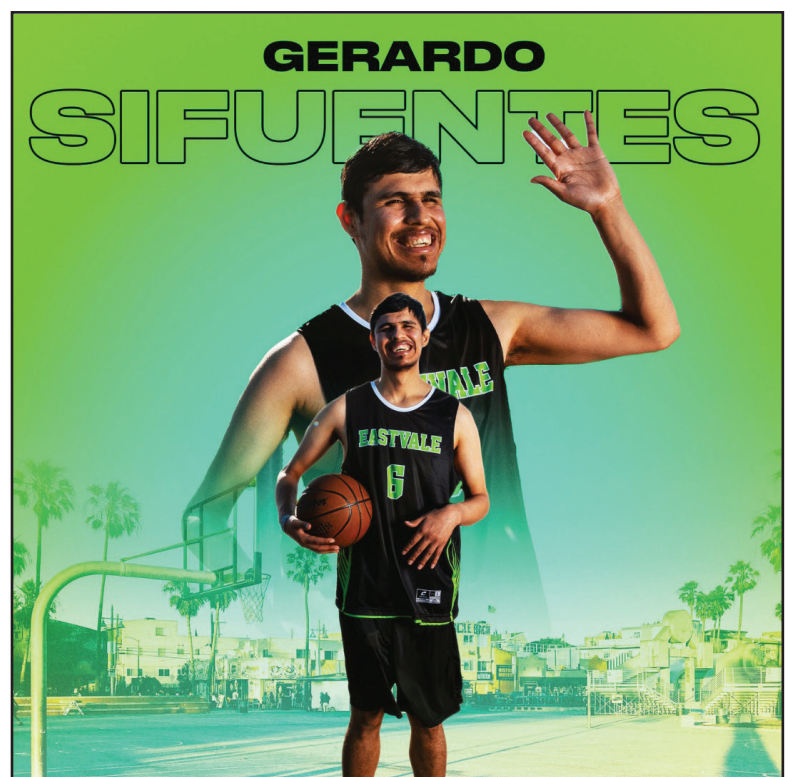
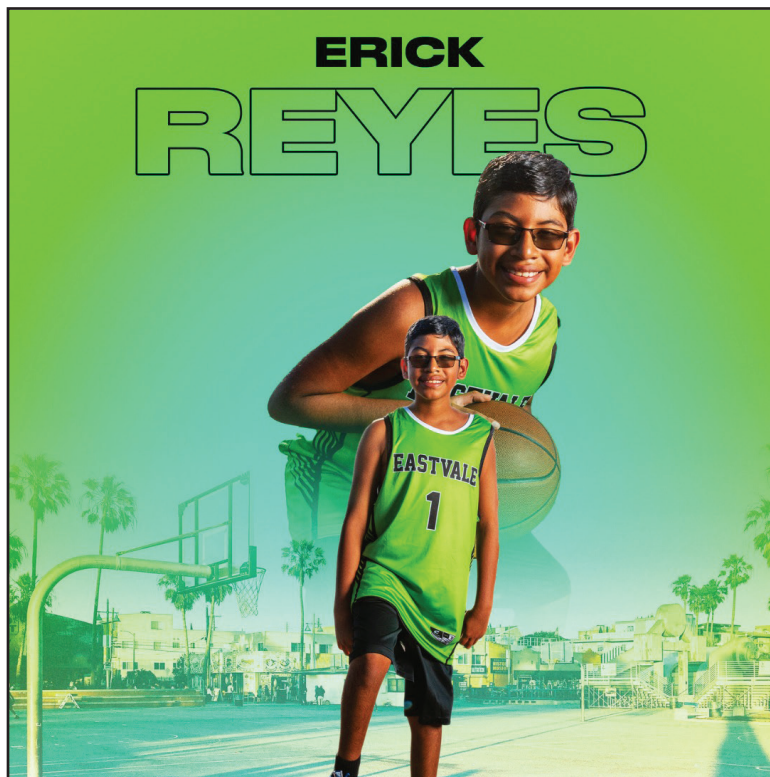
Details: The 3rd annual festival will be filled with live music, cultural performances, craft vendors, kids' activities, games, a Beer Garden, and a diverse range of delicious global cuisines. All vendor questions and requests can be directed to [events@eastvale-ca.gov](mailto:events@eastvale-ca.gov).

**Animal Care Services Open House**

When: Saturday, May 18th from 10 am to 3 pm

Where: 3119 Hamner Ave., Norco

Details: Meet their staff, tour their facility, and enjoy a fun-filled day



All Photos courtesy: Edgar Garcia

Early last month, Eastvale's Special Olympics team kicked off their basketball season. Photographed by Edgar Garcia are the following dedicated athletes: Ruby Goh, Terrance McCoy, Erick Reyes, Gerardo Sifuentes, Jordan Spears, Jake Stinson, Rylee White.



## Stand In Faith

Pastor Dennis Morales

*"Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong..." 1 Corinthians 16:13*

This is the final encouragement to a church from the Apostle Paul. Paul planted the Corinthian church, but the church had issues that needed addressing. The final comments to them is a calling to "stand fast." This is actually a military term meaning to "hold your position" or "to refuse to be defeated." There is to be no retreat. Paul is encouraging the Corinthian church to remain strong in the faith because

opposition will come. Trials will ensue. Are you going through a time of drought? Are you going through a time of discouragement? Paul says, "stand firm and be brave." I believe we need to share this encouragement all the more today. I am reminded how "Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore, he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself." This Scripture says God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief

of the eunuchs (Daniel 1:8-9). Under Babylonian rule, Daniel turned his back on the luxuries of the king's court because eating defiled food would have been a compromise of his faith. God honored Daniel's stand and he earned the respect of the chief of the eunuchs, because Daniel's courage impressed him. Daniel stood for God and was strong. He didn't seek man's approval, but God's will. If we allow ourselves to be dissuaded from doing anything unless we have complete approval, it almost assured we will never accomplish anything

of value. Instead of being discouraged by opposition, we should take comfort in (God's faithfulness) and keep on doing what is right. Whatever you find yourself up against today, remember that "one," with God, is the majority. "If God is for "you" who can stand against you (Romans 8:31). He sees what you don't see. Faith is trusting and believing God. God does the impossible (Matthew 19:26).

Calvary Chapel Eastvale meets Sundays, 8:30am and 10:30am at the Eastvale Community Center. [www.calvaryeastvale.org](http://www.calvaryeastvale.org).



## The First Bible

Mark Hopper

I was a senior at Saguaro High School in Scottsdale, Arizona when I was looking around a local book store. A younger student I knew came in with several girlfriends. Her name was Gena. She wanted to buy a Bible for herself.

She asked me what version of the Bible I would suggest. Don't misunderstand – there is only one Bible. But there are a number of different versions and translations. The King James Bible was popular in the 1960's but it was rather difficult to understand because it was written in English that was spoken in the 1600's. There were

more recent translations like the Revised Standard Version and the American Standard Version. One of the more modern versions at that time was the Phillips Bible. It was easier to read and helpful for people who had not read the Bible very much. She seemed to like that one.

After she left with her friends I bought a copy of the Phillips version and gave it to her at school a few days later. She was very surprised and very thankful for this simple gift. I have seen Gena and her husband Larry a number of times over the following decades. They became influential leaders in the Young Life ministry and several local

churches in Scottsdale. Every time I saw them she thanked me for the Bible I bought for her when she was a freshman at Saguaro High.

I wonder if you own a Bible. I wonder if you have ever read the Bible. It is the bestselling book in history. Many people have never read the Bible for themselves. It seems so big and intimidating. But I remind them it is a library of 66 books. Don't try to read it from front to back. I suggest they select one book in the table of contents and read one chapter-a-day. If you follow this plan you can read the whole Bible in three years. I always recommend starting in the book of Mark since that is my name.

If you simply read one chapter each day you will read the book of Mark in half a month. Put a check mark in the table of contents to remind you what you have read. Then select another book like John or Acts. Slow and steady – one chapter-a-day and one book at a time. Try a book from the Old Testament like Genesis and Exodus.

There is a passage in the Bible that says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105). The Bible is God's word written for us to read and follow. Let me encourage you to find a Bible and read a chapter-a-day. You will be glad you did and I will too!

Mark Hopper has published



his newest book "Let Me Encourage You More - a new book with an encouraging article for every day of the year. Order your copy at [markh@efreedb.org](mailto:markh@efreedb.org).

## Autism Awareness

Melody Kraemer

Did you know that World Autism Awareness Day is an internationally recognized day on April 2? Though in my world, Autism awareness is every day. Every day I wake up, just like other moms and dads who have special needs kids. Unless you know the road and journey we are on, it's not easy to understand the ins and outs of the day and the struggles we face.

I may not speak for all parents with kids on the spectrum, but I have talked to too many. We feel isolated, alone, and overwhelmed. Yes, we have friends, but friends and family

have also left us alone because "you are busy," in their words. Let me say this and scream it to the highest mountains; we need you. I have asked many parents of kids on the spectrum what people can do for them; how can you not feel so alone and isolated? Most of the responses returned the same; they wanted to feel connected. Here are some ideas I received to help with that connection.

You have no idea what a simple, Hi, I'm thinking of you does for one spirit.

1) Call, text, or even send an email. Granted, you may not get a response back right away; please understand. But know

you are appreciated, and that simple message did wonders.

2) Invite us out and include us in your group outings; most likely, we won't be able to go, but the thought of being included helps with the loneliness.

3) If you have a moment, babysit for us if you know our child. An hour's break can do wonders for the soul.

4) Ask if you could run an errand for us.

5) Bring us a cup of coffee, or offer a meal, send pizza.

6) Take a moment and get to know our kids. They are amazing.

As parents, we are that lonely child sitting at that cafeteria

table, hoping that someone will talk to us. We teach our kids to reach out to that child sitting there; let's not forget that as adults and reach out to those parents who feel lonely, consumed with their autistic children, and overwhelmed with life.

Proverbs 27:9 TPT

Sweet friendships refresh the soul and awaken our hearts with joy, for good friends are like the anointing oil that yields the fragrant incense of God's presence.

Melody Kraemer is the Editor and Publisher of [AutismMomAdventures.com](http://AutismMomAdventures.com) Follow her on Instagram @So\_Cal\_Autism\_Mom\_Adventures and



[Facebook.com/autismmomadventures](https://www.facebook.com/autismmomadventures) For more information or general encouragement, feel free to email her at: [autismmomofboys@gmail.com](mailto:autismmomofboys@gmail.com)

## Focusing On What's Right in Your Life



Nancy Stoops

For years my patients have asked me to provide them with coping skills. Over the years I

have offered many but learning to focus on what's right about your life is the most powerful coping skill and tool I know. It is the very thing that causes gratitude verses self-pity. As many of you know I have lost everybody in my biological family. One brother committed suicide, the other brother was murdered, my father passed from pancreatic cancer and I've also lost my mother too. When I share my story people are always astonished because I'm such a positive and happy person. For decades I have learned to focus on what's right in my life. I don't focus on the

death and grief instead I focus on all the blessings in my life. Truth be told I'm honored and grateful for each and every day I have in this world. Despite the tragedies of my life, I have travelled all around the world, I have two published books on Amazon, I have a thriving private practice, I have had three amazing therapy dogs, and I have had many close-up experiences with large wild animals and have had the pleasure of working with healers from all around the world. I also have one amazing son and two phenomenal grandchildren and a loving husband of forty-two

years. I am truly blessed!

So now think about all the good that you have in your life verses the bad. Make sure that you're practicing gratitude verses self-pity. I promise if you do you will see phenomenal changes in your life and your mindset. Please don't deny yourself your best version of you and your best life. Having the correct mindset can literally cause miracles in your life. Being your best self can help you find Nirvana on earth!!!!

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, 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. You may e-mail Nancy at [nancystoops@verizon.net](mailto:nancystoops@verizon.net). You may purchase Nancy's books *Live Heal and Grow* and *Midnight the Therapy Dog* at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

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