Unprovoked attack on Whittier police officer raises questions

By Joe Vinatieri

WHITTIER—Everyone in Whittier needs to be aware of an unprovoked attack last weekend on one of our police officers. Why is this so bad? As you will see, this violent offender had just been arrested for carrying a loaded handgun, had a felony warrant, was locked up, and was set free pursuant to a judge’s order. Why did a judge do this? He or she must not have known of our history. Here are the facts.

Whittier Police Department officers responded to a call of a person acting erratically and agitated towards members of the public at a business in Santa Fe Springs in the morning of October 2. When officers arrived, he was acting erratically and in the process, told officers he had a loaded firearm on him. Officers safely took him into custody and did in fact recover a loaded handgun from him. The suspect was transported to the WPD jail and booked for weapon charges and the outstanding warrant.

As part of the county’s Pretrial Risk Assessment Program (PREP) which started in March, all arrests are reviewed remotely by a duty magistrate (judge), to assess suitability for a release, with a promise to appear in court at a later time, instead of remaining in custody. On the evening of October 2, the WPD received an order from the court through PREP, to release this individual with a future court date.

The decision of the trial court in this case is of paramount importance, and the release of those individuals who are subsequently released to commit further crimes is an important role.

A few hours after his release, he ended up at a local hospital for a medical issue. While he was at the hospital, several of our officers were in a patrol vehicle and officers were wise of the release, but because the original arrest was at a hospital, we had no means to arrest him. Later that night, our officer was transported to our WPD jail and booked for battery on a police officer. That arrest included a criminal based upon a pilot project utilizing a judicial algorithm assessment. Everyone in Whittier needs to be aware of what’s going on, the direction our courts and Legislature is moving and each person needs to ask himself/herself, “with these ‘reforms’ am I safer? Is my family safer?” The answer is obvious…

Serina Vargas was selected for Rio Hondo College female Athlete of the Year.

By John M. Sherrill

WHITTIER—Another major recently concluded two outstanding seasons with Rio Hondo College.

The award was voted on by all of the Roadrunner coaches, and they felt Vargas was an outstanding contributor with academics playing an important role.

Vargas, a forward, helped lead the team to an undefeated South Coast Conference championship (#1) and scored 10 goals and six assists.

But, more importantly, Vargas maintained a high level in the classroom. She graduated with an Associate degree in criminal justice with an overall 3.6 GPA.

The team qualified for its sixth national tournament but didn’t play due to its last appearance ever.

“Those two years, I really don’t know what I would have done for the school if she didn’t come,” said Steve Burns, who played Brad on the hit TV show “Home Improvement.”

Marie Kondo turns 39.

John “Home Improvement,” turns 39.

Emma Watson turns 30.

Steve Jobs turns 50.

Jack Daniel's “Monk” star turns 36.

Sharon Osbourne turns 57.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell below 9,000 for the first time in five years.

Notable Birthdays

1936: Che Guevara, the guerrilla leader and prominent communist figure in the Cuban Revolution, was executed by the military junta of church and state. He was 62.

1946: Eugene O’Neill’s four-act drama “The Iceman Cometh” opened at the Shubert Theatre in New York. It was the first major triumph of his career, which earned him four Pulitzer Prizes and six Academy Awards from 12 nominations.

1776: The Massachusetts Bay Colony. The first generator at the Boulder Dam (later the Hoover Dam) began producing electricity.

1936: Albert Einstein, the leading scientist of his generation, announced that he had developed a method for splitting the uranium nucleus. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1921 but he was denied it by Germany during World War I. He was 65.

1931: The U.S. court held the Chicago White Sox to the World Series. Eight members of the Black Sox were later banned from professional baseball after fixing the results of the game.

1950: Eugene O’Neill died. He had written 17 plays from 1916 to 1946.

1963: The first operation at the Boulder Dam (later the Hoover Dam) began operating, delivering electricity to Los Angeles.

1990: David Letterman was named in an association with the E. Spencer Coaches' Award.


2006: North Korea announced it had conducted its first nuclear weapons test.

2001: Universal announced it was acquiring YouTube for $1.6 billion.

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Newsom signs bill requiring diversity on corporate boards

-- Gov. Gavin Newsom signed landmark legislation last week that requires diversity on corporate boards in California.

The bill requires publicly held corporations headquartered in California to have at least one director from an underrepresented community by the close of 2021. Bill authors include Assemblymembers Chris Holden, Cristina Garcia, and David Chiu, with Assemblymember Eloise Gomez Reyes and Senator Ben Hueso as principal co-author.

“Takana-Hoshijo is also proud of the teams’ academic success. “One of the biggest benefits of the AB 979 bill is that it will take the top academic award, but also on the field,” she added.

PIH Health named a Most Wired’ hospital

-- PIH Health is pleased to announce that The College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME) Hospital and Health Systems Survey has named PIH Health Whittier Hospital and PIH Health Physicians as 2020 CHIME Digital Health Most Wired recipients. The CHIME Digital Health Most Wired program conducts an annual survey to assess how effectively health care organizations apply and advance technologies into their clinical and business programs to improve health and care in their communities.

“PIH Health is honored to earn the Most Wired recognition once again,” said Jason Fischer, PIH Health Chief Information Officer. “This recognition is a testament to our ongoing commitment to providing quality care by providing the latest technologies advancements in health for the communities we serve.”

A total of 30 organizations were recognized in the 2020 Digital Health Most Wired program, which this year included general Most Wired, ambulatory Most Wired, Long Term Care Most Wired and International. The survey assesses the adoption, integration and impact of technologies in healthcare organizations at all stages of development, from early development to industry leading.

Each participating organization received a customized benchmarking report, an overall score and scores for individual levels in eight segments: infrastructure; security; business/disaster recovery; clinical integration/interoperability; population health; patient engagement; and clinical quality/safety. Participants also received certification based on their overall performance, with level 10 being the highest Expert Performance Excellence Award.

PIH Health Whittier Hospital and PIH Health Downey Hospital were awarded the 2020 Most Wired Recognition Award, and PIH Health Physicians received a Most Wired level II Certification Quality Award.
An alternate view on California's ballot propositions

By Mairead Callanan

Many of the election suggestions are given in response, and often in contradiction, to the recommendations given by Main Street. While it is important to be informed, it is also crucial to consider both sides of every issue. One perspective is often the most accurate, but never always the most fair or just. These articles aim to provide a range of perspectives, as opposed to definitive solutions.

Proposition 14: The Price of Alzheimer's

What it does: Proposes a ballot initiative to amend the Constitution of California to repeal Proposition 20, a tax on commercial and industrial properties. While Prop 20 is held up as a source of funding for education and public services, it is widely criticized for disproportionately affecting working people and families of color.

Consider that 19 other states, including D.C., allow 17-year-olds to vote in the primary election if they will be 18 by election day. California has a constitutional ban on voting for people under 18. By voting NO on Prop 14, you will help to bring California in line with other states and give 17-year-olds a voice in their future. This proposition is supported by organizations such as Next Generation, Californians for Justice, and the California Alliance for Educational Equity.

Proposition 15: The Price of Alzheimer's

What it does: Proposes a ballot initiative to amend the Constitution of California to repeal Proposition 20, a tax on commercial and industrial properties. While Prop 20 is held up as a source of funding for education and public services, it is widely criticized for disproportionately affecting working people and families of color.

Consider that 19 other states, including D.C., allow 17-year-olds to vote in the primary election if they will be 18 by election day. California has a constitutional ban on voting for people under 18. By voting NO on Prop 14, you will help to bring California in line with other states and give 17-year-olds a voice in their future. This proposition is supported by organizations such as Next Generation, Californians for Justice, and the California Alliance for Educational Equity.

Proposition 16: The Price of Alzheimer's

What it does: Proposes a ballot initiative to amend the Constitution of California to repeal Proposition 20, a tax on commercial and industrial properties. While Prop 20 is held up as a source of funding for education and public services, it is widely criticized for disproportionately affecting working people and families of color.

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Proposition 18: The Price of Alzheimer's

What it does: Proposes a ballot initiative to amend the Constitution of California to repeal Proposition 20, a tax on commercial and industrial properties. While Prop 20 is held up as a source of funding for education and public services, it is widely criticized for disproportionately affecting working people and families of color.

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You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at his e-mail address: StanXwords@aol.com. Or write him at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762. Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like a reply.

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

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You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at his e-mail address: StanXwords@aol.com. Or write him at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762. Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like a reply.
Obituaries

Eddie Van Halen

Eddie Van Halen, one of the greatest rock musicians in history, died Tuesday from throat cancer. He was 65.

Eddie and his drummer brother Alex formed a band in the early 1970s that would become Van Halen in 1974. The original classic line-up included David Lee Roth on vocals and Michael Anthony on bass.

Van Halen would become hard rock superstars with hit songs like “Jump” and “Hot for Teacher.” The band continued to record hits when Sammy Hagar took over for Roth in 1985.

Eddie Van Halen was known for his tapping technique where he played with both hands on the neck of the guitar. Outside of Van Halen, he did the iconic solo on the Michael Jackson song, “Beat It.”


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He was a fan of reggae and had moved to Jamaica in the late 1960s with his manager. They started a record label called JAD Records where he met Bob Marley and other reggae greats.

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Before Jamaica, Nash was a singer on the Arthur Godfrey radio program and had a top ten hit on the Ed Sullivan show in 1959 with “Let’s Pretend.”

Nash was not exactly a one-hit wonder though his most popular song by far is the reggae influenced pop song “I Can See Clearly Now,” which was a million selling record in 1972.

“I Can See Clearly Now.” Nash wrote and produced the song that was a million selling

Johnny Nash

Johnny Nash, a singer best known for his 1972 number one hit “I Can See Clearly Now,” died Tuesday at age 80.

Now.

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“I Can See Clearly Now.” Nash wrote and produced the song that was a million selling record in 1972.

“He was the best father I could ever ask for,” Wolfgang wrote in a tweet. “Every moment I’ve shared with him on stage and off stage has been a true gift from this loss.”

“Every moment I’ve shared with him on stage and off stage has been a true gift from this loss.”

A son, Wolfgang. He is survived by his current wife, Janie, and a daughter, Alana.

Rudolph Archer

Rudolph “Val” Archer, one of the last remaining Tuskegee Airmen, the elite group of black pilots and support staff who served during World War II, died Sunday at age 91.

At 18, he joined the U.S. Army and was assigned to the Tuskegee Airmen, where he trained as an aerial mechanic and aircraft instrument operator. Archer continued his military career in the U.S. Air Force after World War II ended, serving in the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

He became a colonel and later served as an instructor for Titan’s Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) Squadrons.

Archer was known for his leadership and his ability to guide and inspire others. He was a role model and an inspiration to many.

He was married previously to actress Valentina Ironelli, they had a son, Wolfgang. He is survived by his current wife, Janie, and Wolfgang.

“Val was the best father I could ever ask for,” Wolfgang wrote in a tweet. “He was the best father I could ever ask for,” Wolfgang wrote in a tweet.

“I want it to be a part of this business and to express myself and get some kind of acceptance by making people happy,” Nash said in a 1975 interview. “I’ve had a kind of freedom, more of my career to record and do what I like to do. Now it’s being accepted… the ultimate form of acceptance being the number one record and all. That feels great… but it doesn’t mean that I’m gonna go on and do a big ego musical trip.”

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Thank you to Everyone working on the Front Lines of this Pandemic

Thank You: All Doctors, Nurses, Police Officers, and Firefighters.
You are keeping us safe and fighting your hardest to maintain the peace.

Thank You: All Restaurants, Grocery Stores, and Delivery Drivers
You are keeping us fed and safe in our homes, while going through this crisis.

Thank You: All Financial Institutions and Public Transportation Workers
You allow us to stay afloat, by making sure we have access to our funds, and by making sure we can still get to where we need to be.

Thank You: All Military Personnel
You are keeping us supplied with medical beds, and equipment. You are also keeping up the fight for all of us to keep our freedoms.

Thank You: All Custodial and Maintenance Workers
You are truly the unsung heroes. You make sure everything is sanitized and in working order, so that everyone else can still do their jobs.

So again Thank You to ALL of you, from the bottom of our hearts.
South Whittier School District partners with Care Solace

WHITTIER — South Whittier School District has selected Care Solace to support behavioral and mental health referrals for its students with the support of the Los Angeles County Probation Department.

Care Solace’s case navigators work with school attendees, students and families to provide a more personalized approach and to connect students with providers and programs that address their individual needs. Care Solace recently expanded its Care Solace Schools program to South Whittier, a comprehensive social emotional and behavioral health and mental health intervention program designed to improve the social and emotional well-being of young people.

“Care Solace’s case navigation system uses a database of behavioral and mental health support services available in the community, such as local therapists and programs in minutes. Families of SWSD will now have access to personal and confidential support for their children, where experts guide families through processes related to insurance, provider coordination, school and family dynamics.

“Supervision is key to building strong families and healthy communities,” said Superintendent Martin Plourde. “Care Solace’s mission is to ensure that students receive timely, high-quality support for their social, emotional and behavioral needs. We are excited to work with Care Solace to help our students and families connect to the resources they need to succeed.”

Care Solace provides the network necessary to help families, students, and community partners navigate and access solutions that strengthen the health and safety of our learning community.

“By partnering with a mission-driven school district like South Whittier, we’re creating a new pathway for families to get verified community-based resources in times of need. There are solutions that need to be identified and put in place for our students,” said Chad Castruita, founder of Care Solace. “We couldn’t be more proud to support South Whittier students and the well-being of their community.”

Care Solace is now available to SWSD families and staff. For more information about Care Solace and other support offered by SWSD, please visit https://www.lacountyarts.org or call their 211/LAC211 at 888-211-9599.

Library offering free flu shots

WHITTIER — Flu season is here. To help residents stay healthy, LA County Department of Public Health has announced that free flu immunizations are available at LA County Library locations throughout the county in the months of October and November.

No appointment or insurance is required. Open for everyone 6 months of age and older, including healthy adults. Pregnant women, children, adults 65 years of age and older, individuals with chronic medical conditions and those with disabilities are among those individuals who are especially susceptible to influenza, its complications and associated complications.

To view the complete list of dates, times and library locations available at LA County Library locations, please visit LACountyLibrary.org. For additional sponsorship and registration information, contact Stephanie Salas at Stephanie@bgcw.org or at (562) 945-3787 ext. 102.

After-school program helps students find authentic voice through art

Our students,” Whittier High Assistant Principal Allison Huntley motivates dozens of students a week — many of whom are on academic probation. SAF Studios and the Skirball Cultural Center, SAF artists and teachers students through empathy and authenticity.

mentorship, service and leadership training. Its facilitating artists and raise self-awareness, using creative writing, visual arts, like we can all connect or relate to similar situations or problems that talk about things I could never imagine talking about at school. I feel much confidence in me. They never judge me. In open discussion, we school open discussion sessions. Morales quickly discovered that her positive focus and talk of self-expression through the creative arts. (SAF). Initially, Morales was unmoved by the intervention specialists’ skeptical when, as a freshman on academic probation, she was asked to attend a special presentation by the Spirit Awakening Foundation. Spurred by her friends, Morales began attending weekly SAF after-

Salas at Stephanie@bgcw.org or at (562) 945-3787 ext. 102.

Boys & Girls Club hosting virtual marathon challenge

WHITTIER — COVID-19 pandemic has battered our community’s health, but it’s not just the individuals who contract the illness who suffer; the pandemic impacts the entire community, particularly low-income children such as those served by the Boys & Girls Club of Whittier.

At the Boys & Girls Club of Whittier, we believe that social and emotional wellness is essential for students, and that’s why our virtual marathon challenge is more important than ever.

Our goal is to get Whittier moving and have or to more kids, families and community members walk or run 26.2 miles over 30 days. Thanks to our sponsors, this event is free to register and participate. To register, simply go to www.bgcw.org/challenge.

For additional sponsorship and registration contact Stephanie Salas at Stephanie@bgcw.org or at (562) 945-3787 ext. 102.

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Start the fall season on a healthy note: get your flu shot
By Jaime Diaz, MD

While the annual impact of seasonal flu popularity in comparison to the nearby 7 million Americans who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, our local communities have had their best flu season in nearly 10 years. The Southern California flu season has been quite mild compared to seasons past, as flu deaths have decreased by 20% compared to the previous season. This is likely due to the widespread use of flu vaccines, which have been shown to be highly effective in preventing severe illness and hospitalization.

Flu shots are available at Kaiser Permanente Southern California facilities and other local healthcare providers. It is recommended that all people aged six months and older receive a flu shot every year.

Flu symptoms:
- Fever or chills
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Muscle or body aches
- New or worsening cough
- Nasal or sinus congestion or clogs
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Upset stomach or diarrhea
- Vomiting

If you are feeling sick, it is important to contact your healthcare provider to determine if you have the flu or another illness. Early treatment with antiviral drugs can be very effective in reducing the severity of flu-like symptoms and can prevent complications.

COVID-19 symptoms:
- Fever or chills
- Dry cough
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Loss of taste or smell
- Muscle or body aches
- New onset of a sore throat

If you have any symptoms of COVID-19, please stay home and avoid contact with others. Contact your healthcare provider to determine if you need to be tested for COVID-19.

Flu shots are vital in preventing serious flu complications and reducing the spread of flu in our communities. By getting vaccinated, you are protecting yourself and those around you, including the most vulnerable populations such as young children, older adults, and people with certain chronic conditions.

Let’s start the fall season on a healthy note. Get your flu shot today!