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pg. 3

The Palmdale Journal

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Publication

Local News That
Directly Impacts
Our City

Volume I, Issue VI

Published by Michael and Carol Ross

July 2022



Homeless dumping in Palmdale

By Amanda Palmer

On May 7, *The Los Angeles Times* reported that Los Angeles city mayoral candidate, Representative Karen Bass, wants to “end homelessness.” She told columnist Steve Lopez about one of her solutions, “There’s a big chunk of land in Palmdale and maybe we could create a village out there.”

At the May 18 City Council meeting, Councilman Loa addressed Bass’ statement, “While I am very sensitive to the issue of homelessness, having observed it close up, I don’t think that her statement to push people up here is appropriate... It’s their policies that created this problem and they want us to fix it for them.”

Staff prepared a letter to Rep. Bass, who has not responded. The letter stated, “The Mayor and City Council of the City of Palmdale fervently denounce the prejudicial comment made regarding the placement of the unhoused population in our community. Our community is a beautiful, unique, and diverse area where families live, work, and play. The City of Palmdale is no different than any other city in the State of California. We are also grappling with housing affordability and homelessness...”

Currently, 66,436 people live on the street in tents, makeshift dwellings, and vehicles across Los Angeles County, according to a January 2022 press release from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. LAHSA is the lead agency for

the county in addressing homelessness and manages over \$300 million annually in federal, state, county, and city funds.

Due to the pandemic policies, no official homeless counts took place in 2021. LAHSA promised to release the 2022 results this summer. They define the homeless as an “Individual or family who has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation.”

According to the LAHSA data, from 2016 to 2020, the homeless count in Palmdale and Lancaster doubled. 2020 numbers display 2,342 homeless, the majority placed in Lancaster. In 2016, the combined count for the cities totaled 1,093.

As destitution climbs steadily along highways, in the desert, and even in parks, residents do not need the numbers to tell the story. Slapdash structures and peripheral debris clearly indicate the growth of the homeless population.

One local resident, Char Lee commented, “I feel like the number is always growing in LA. What efforts are they making? People who are visiting notice it when they come to visit from other states.”

Assistance comes from several governmental sectors. In September 2021, the State passed legislation to provide \$22 billion to enhance its response to people

See HOMELESS on Page 2

An American Symbol: The Gadsden Flag

By Mario Presents



July 4, 1776 is an important date and the iconic American Flag, adopted on June 14, 1776 is well known. But different flags once represented the various colonies, some of which are still proudly

flown today. One of the most recognizable and recreated of these is the Gadsden Flag: bold yellow with a coiled rattlesnake, ready to strike. At the height of the Revolutionary war, sea-faring soldiers carried this flag into battle. These soldiers would later become the first Marines.

Indigenous to America, self-sufficient, and able to protect itself; the rattlesnake embodied the sentiments of a people struggling for freedom. Some angry colonists, disgruntled with British rule, suggested sending boat loads of rattlesnakes back to England. Patrick

See GADSDEN on Page 2

More than enough signatures collected to place George Gascón recall on November Ballot

By David Nurse

The final day for collected signatures, Wednesday, July 6, 2022, put the recall of George Gascón on the ballot. Recall DA George Gascón, the main group behind the effort to recall Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón, submitted 717,000 signatures of the needed 566,857, according to a press release from the group.

According to the Recall DA George Gascón group, “As soon as he was sworn into office, District Attorney George Gascón began issuing directives to his prosecutors, instructing them to go soft on crime, coddle criminals, and trample upon the dignity and rights of crime victims.”

As reported prior, the issue hits close to

home for Palmdale citizens. Hannah Tubbs, previously James Tubbs, sexually assaulted a 10-year-old girl in 2014 in the bathroom of a Denny’s restaurant in Palmdale. Gascón refused to seek the transfer of juvenile defendants to adult court, so 26-year-old Tubbs was sentenced to two years in a juvenile facility rather than serving time in a jail for adults.

Vickie Speed and Tania Owens are a duo that have helped to spearhead these recall efforts. As the deadline approached, Speed grew concerned that there wouldn’t be enough signatures for the recall. However, she stated that after the death of Sgt. Michael Paredes, 42, and Officer

See RECALL on Page 3

NYSRPA v. Bruen verdict impact on Los Angeles residents

By Franklin Castillo

The verdict in New York State Rifle and Pistol Association v. Bruen was handed down by the Supreme Court in late June. The court found New York’s requirement for “proper-cause” to receive a license to carry is unconstitutional. What does this mean for California and Los Angeles County residents? Will more concealed carry permits be issued?

NYSRPA v. Bruen is a case presented to the Supreme Court which questions the merits of issuing a concealed carry permit under the “may issue” pretense which does not guarantee a permit even when requirements have been met. On the other hand, “shall issue” states view any cause when requesting a permit as “good cause” and will issue the permit as long as the states’ requirements are met.

Requirements vary by state. Some include filling out a form, paying a fee, and various other factors like fingerprints, background checks, firearms training, psychological evaluation, shooting proficiency and/or personal interviews.

NYSRPA v. Bruen challenged the constitutionality of the “may issue” system. This occurred after two parties were declined permits because government officials deemed their general desire for self-protection insufficient to show “proper cause” to establish a

heightened need.

The High Court overturned the idea of a “may issue” system of permit selection with a 6-3 vote. The justices Breyer, Kagan, and Sotomayor cast the dissenting votes, citing a long list of statistics showing firearm related harm and recent mass shootings.

Justice Thomas stated his opinion, “the Second and Fourteenth Amendments protect an individual’s right to carry a handgun for self-defense outside the home.” He later said, “Since Heller and McDonald, the Courts of Appeals have developed a “two-step” framework for analyzing Second Amendment challenges that combines history with means-end scrutiny. The Court rejects that two-part approach as having one step too many. Step one is broadly consistent with Heller, which demands a test rooted in the Second Amendment’s text, as informed by history. But Heller and McDonald do not support a second step that applies means-end scrutiny in the Second Amendment context. Heller’s methodology centered on constitutional text and history. It did not invoke any means-end test such as strict or intermediate scrutiny, and it expressly rejected any interest-balancing inquiry

See PERMITS on Page 2

Help Wanted

Currently everyone on staff is a volunteer. Our readership is growing and we need more volunteers to stay afloat until these positions can be paid. We welcome local writers, print layout designers, and website layout designers. Please consider joining our team!

All submissions to *The Palmdale Journal* are greatly appreciated and will be printed at the discretion of the editors. Submission of a piece grants the editors permission to edit and print it. The articles do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors or owners. Thank you.

ThePalmdaleJournal@proton.me

Contents

Page 1-3
News & Information
Page 4
Arts & Culture
Page 5-6
Features & Columns
Page 7
Valley Voices (Op/Ed)
Page 8
Classifieds

Care Net and The Women's Clinic; the desert's safe havens

By Sabeth Perry

In the wake of the political strife occurring around the recent Supreme Court decision, pro-life pregnancy centers across the nation face threats and pressure to close down. Despite this, most will remain open and stay the course to serve their community and the women who need them. The Antelope Valley is home to two such places, The Women’s Clinic of the Antelope Valley in Palmdale, and Care Net Women’s Resource Center in Lancaster. *The Palmdale Journal* spoke with the Executive Directors of both facilities, Stacy Ralston of The Women’s Clinic and Karen Roseberry of Care Net, to learn more about their services and how

they are coping with the recent activity. Roseberry stated that, “We are taking extra security precautions.” She is thankful for local law enforcement agencies who keep a close eye on the center. California “sister” centers have already been targeted with vandalism. “In the context of people who work here.. we trust that God has brought us here for such a time as this, we feel honored to be here,” Ralston said, fighting back tears of gratitude. Though there are concerns, safety guidelines are being implemented at both facilities to reassure the staff and their clients that they are being well cared for.

The importance of the centers remaining open weighs heavy on both Roseberry and Ralston. “Because we live in California, it will get worse. We live in a state that is promoting infanticide. We want to anticipate having a national influence,” Ralston explained. The centers are gearing up for those who will be coming in from out of state in order to seek abortions. They hope women will find their way over to either center and find love and compassion. Their goal is not to condemn or judge these women, but to welcome them with open arms, as many are coming heartbroken, seeking a procedure they know little about.

Both centers provide a safe, confidential and caring environment to pregnant women, whether they are abortion minded or not. The centers offer all services for free; pregnancy testing, nursing assessments, and limited ultrasounds, which can determine the age of the baby and detect the heartbeat. Clients can expect to speak with a trained Advocate who will go over all options, and provide accurate and truthful information, in order to make wise decisions for all concerned. The centers also offer an “Earn While You Learn” program which educates clients (along with the client’s parents or the baby’s

See WOMEN CENTERS on Page 3

Palmdale expresses frustration over county's homeless problem

HOMELESS from Page 1

suffering from mental health issues on the streets. The State is also responsible for running the Housing and Homelessness Branch through the CA Department of Social Services. Currently, large cities like LA receive \$336 million a year. Counties receive \$224 million, according to the CA Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council document. In a March 14, 2022 press release, HUD awarded California over \$5 million, more than double any other state in the nation, to help people move into permanent housing with access to supportive services, with \$155 million allocated to LA County. From that, Antelope Valley Domestic Violence Council received \$626,396 and the Antelope Valley Assistance Program received \$233,625 because they provide Continuum of Care services. CoC programs promote the strategic use of resources to address homelessness under

the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, passed into law in 2009. Furthermore, on June 22, 2022, HUD announced providing intervention with \$322 million in CoC Program grants and \$43 million to fund approximately 4,000 new housing vouchers. Everyone agrees that the crisis needs addressing. A Palmdale resident blamed low wages, a lack of affordable housing, and a lack of assistance for those with mental health issues, noting the amount spent on the military versus helping the needy. LAHSA’s 2019 count estimated that 25% experience serious mental illness. Regarding Bass’ solution for a Palmdale homeless village, he exclaimed, “Why don’t they fix the crumbling homeless village in LA first?!” One Palmdale teen is aware of an evident issue that plagues the homeless community, “If you stop the drug problem, the homeless problem will be

solved.” LAHSA reports 27% of homeless are addicted to drugs. Another frustrated resident pointed to the current LA mayor, Eric Garcetti, and his policies. “In his inaugural speech, Garcetti rang the dinner bell. At the time, the numbers were 30 thousand.” According to the LAHSA report in November 2013, there were 29,682 in Los Angeles. “We spend billions and don’t see any improvements.” To curtail the homeless crisis, the City of Palmdale is “streamlining the permitting of greatly needed, new, affordable homes and exploring equitable housing solutions that will benefit current and future residents,” according to the response written to Bass. With rising inflation costs, high cost of rent, and uncertainty in the economy, help is available. The City of Palmdale lists resources for mental health services, food distribution programs, and more. Valley

Oasis is an Access Center for adults experiencing homelessness and can be reached at (661) 942-2758. America’s Job Center of California provides comprehensive employment and training services to all job- seekers. They have locations in Lancaster and Palmdale.

The Palmdale Journal

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The Palmdale Journal is a town newsletter and entertainment periodical. It is a publication that offers an additional and distinct narrative, reporting and providing information on local politics, and how national, state, and county news impacts our city. The driving force is to provide a free flow of information that may sometimes be discluded or suppressed, providing a dissenting perspective on current events, an effort to get back to our own message. We hope to influence involvement by local residents, building up and sharing a common interest, relating together socially, and promoting truth and freedom in the process.

This is a record created by the community and for the community, the people of Palmdale. We hope that you will join us in this movement to tell our story.

Sheriff Villanueva eases the process for License to Carry permits

PERMITS from Page 1

akin to intermediate scrutiny.” This “two-step” approach allowed states to make the decision to turn down a permit under the “may issue” system. Now that the Supreme Court has opened the state to becoming a “shall issue” state, will it be easier to get a concealed carry permit? In the immediate future, nothing will change in California. CA Attorney General Rob Bonta stated, “States still have the right to limit concealed carry permits to those who may safely possess firearms... In the wake of mass shootings in Buffalo and Uvalde, and with gun deaths at an all-time high, ensuring that dangerous individuals are not allowed to carry concealed firearms is more important than ever.”

Currently there are 12 different assembly or state bills in the state legislature to limit use, access, and ownership of firearms. AB 1621 and AB 2571 have just been signed by Governor Newsom, and AB 311, AB 1594, AB1769, AB2156, SB 915 and SB 1327 are waiting to be signed by the Governor. California is already one of the most restrictive gun states in the nation, with one of the highest crime rates. These bills anticipate criminals will follow gun laws. Although the Supreme Court ruling does not impact California, Los Angeles County Sheriff Villanueva has loosened the system to issue more permits in the county due to climbing crime rates. While the system is still highly restrictive,

Sheriff Villanueva said in a recent announcement, “People in Los Angeles County are no longer required to explain why they need to be armed when applying for permits to carry guns in public.” During a live social media broadcast Villanueva stated, "We are retooling our operation to a shall-issue standard." The efforts by Sheriff Villanueva are some of the best shown, so far, in reducing the restrictions on law abiding citizens to carry firearms, “Because we have less cops on the street, more crooks, less consequences — you know, what could go wrong with that combination, right?” Villanueva continued, “We're recognizing the threat to residents is increasing. So we’re responding accordingly.”

GADSDEN from Page 1

Henry’s first Virginia regiment in 1775 carried the slogans “LIBERTY OR DEATH” and “DON’T TREAD ON ME” alongside the coiled serpent. When intercolonial disagreements threatened unity, *The Gazette* printed the dismembered snake with each section representing a colony and the words “JOIN OR DIE.” The Gadsden Flag, with its 13 rattles representing the 13 colonies, officially charged into battle in February of 1776, capturing British cannons and accompanying artillery in the Bahamas. Using the pen name “American Guesser”, Benjamin Franklin also affirmed the rattlesnake as a symbol for the American Spirit. Vigilance, assertiveness, individualism, unity and liberty define a nation; but a flag is more than a flag when it represents your foundation.

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Local pro-life centers stand their ground amid controversial Supreme Court decision

WOMEN CENTERS from Page 2

father) about pregnancy, life skills and parenting, and gives rewards so the client can shop for baby clothes, diapers, car seats, and other supplies in the facilities’ boutiques. The Women’s Clinic offers these services up to 12 months and Care Net goes up to 2 years.

Neither center offers OB/GYN care, but they do give referrals to connect clients with a trusted doctor for the necessary medical attention they will need. Care Net also has a father mentorship program that provides young fathers with guidance and support. They also provide a post abortion recovery healing class that embraces women who have been through past abortions and are now coping with the after-effects.

The majority of the clientele served are women between the ages of 18-28. They also see teenagers and women well into their 40’s. Most are single, but people may be surprised to know that many married women with children come through those doors looking for guidance. Some come from low income backgrounds, lacking insurance, or are recently separated, and find themselves as single parents and afraid of what the future holds. These women are seeking council, mentorship, encouragement and just trying to work through overwhelming feelings. Ralston and Roseberry both echoed the same words, “There is no judgment here. This is a safe place for any woman to come and be treated with kindness and love.”

The centers do not offer abortion

services or referrals for pregnancy terminations. Their mission is clear. It is to be a safe haven of help for any woman who finds herself pregnant and to give the most accurate and truthful information they can to educate women on the choices that lay before them. With that, the hope of saving an unborn human life is always on the forefront. One way of doing this is by offering free limited ultrasounds so their clients can see the developing baby growing inside of them. A nationwide study showed that approximately 80% of abortion-minded women who are given an ultrasound, chose to continue with their pregnancy.

“There are women and men who are now raising beautiful, amazing children because they were able to come and be loved and respected, and treated with dignity and given honest information, given the tools to make a great decision in their lives,” Ralston said with enthusiasm.

Unbeknownst to much of the public, there is an array of resources to help women and their families navigate an unplanned pregnancy. Care Net and The Women’s Clinic connect their clients with those resources which can include OB/GYN care, adoption agencies, counseling and mentorship, information on access to college grants and more.

Care Net and The Women’s Clinic do not run on government funding or seek government grants, which would limit their ability to be faith based facilities. They rely on the generous giving of

private donors, churches, businesses and other organizations. The centers also receive backing from their partners. Care Net is part of a nation wide organization and The Women’s Clinic is an affiliate with many larger pro-life organizations.

Their greatest need is financial support, and they are thankful for all donations from everyday people who want to help. They are both in search of a part time registered nurse willing to volunteer for a few hours during the week, and radiologists who can read ultrasounds. They also need people willing to volunteer their time for fundraising events. Care Net would love a handyman who can do small jobs and The Women’s Clinic would love to have groups of women come together to give baby showers. They both hold annual fundraisers as well. More information can be acquired through their newsletters, social media and websites.

They would love to see the pro-life community unite, working side by side to support each family.

Roseberry concluded, “The fundamental values of Americans and Californians is defending the defenseless, defending the voiceless, defending those who need protection. What we have going on right now is an attack against those who are the most vulnerable. We were all at that stage at one point in time. We had someone who protected and defended us and was our voice... and that’s exactly what we should be doing. We are supposed to defend those who can’t defend themselves.”

Karen Roseberry, Executive Director of Care Net Women’s Resource Center



Stacy Ralston, Executive Director of The Women’s Clinic of the Antelope Valley



Gascón recall underway

RECALL from Page 1

Joseph Santana, 31, (who were shot and killed as they responded to a report of a stabbing at a motel in El Monte), 159,000 signatures were collected in a short amount of time.



Vickie Speed at Bravery Brewery Event

Owens stated that even if they got enough signatures, the recall could be either on the November ballot or a special session in December 2022 because of the June 6th collection deadline. Owens also stated that 30 of the 80 counties that voted no confidence in Gascón were democratic counties.



Tania Owens at Bravery Brewery Event

In regard to the DA’s role in crime, Speed stated smash and grab, carjacking, and home invasion are “coming to a city near you” and “people don’t feel safe.”

Joshua Spivak, a senior research fellow at UC Berkeley Law School’s California Constitutional Center wrote *Recall Elections*. In his book he stated that, “If people are angry enough to get the signatures, and those same people are angry enough to do the work then that candidate is in a heap of trouble.” The recall campaign raised 8 million dollars to help get the required signatures.

Courtney's Playground opens in Palmdale

By Amanda Palmer

PALMDALE - In a moving ceremony on June 22, 2022, the City of Palmdale and community partners dedicated its first fully inclusive play system at Marie Kerr Park, designed to support the physical, social-emotional, cognitive, sensory and communicative needs of all children. According to the City's website, “As a National Demonstration Site, it meets the evidence-based best practices of the 7 Principles of Inclusive Playground Design to ensure that both physical and social inclusion can occur at the highest level.”

Instrumental in its construction, Greg and Joanne Triana, Courtney’s parents, shared their story. In October 2001, a light pole in a local grocery store parking lot fell and hit Courtney when she was just 10 years old. The terrible accident landed Courtney in AV Hospital. Courtney was flown to UCLA for treatment. She continued to be hospitalized at Children’s Hospital LA and Pacifica Hospital for therapy. With the family determined to bring Courtney home, the hospital finally released Courtney in November 2003 with a tracheotomy and a G-tube.

The Triana’s did their best to make



Courtney’s life as normal as possible and traveled the United States, taking Courtney to 28 states and on an Alaskan cruise. Then, Courtney passed away October 14, 2014. The family is now trying to visit all 50 states to honor her.

At the dedication ceremony, Courtney’s brother, Greg Jr., shared, “When we first looked at this park to see, they told us it was ADA compliant. My first thought was, 'no way you can push a wheelchair through wood chips' and that’s when we started getting into this and looking at it from a different point of view. When I see inclusive, I include everybody, as in wheelchairs included. So, we came together as a team... and put

something together that everyone can use.” He continued, “Just remember, when you are out there playing, and you see a butterfly or see a chirping bird, that’s Courtney playing with you.”

The inclusive playground is 1,834 sq. ft. and the music area is 574 sq. ft. It includes full rubber surfacing for accessible routes, ramps, a sensory rich rocking experience, inclusive whirl with zero entry to support cooperative and social play, and musical instruments.

To access Courtney’s full story in her own words, you can search Courtney’s Playground on the city's website. You can also watch the full ceremony on the city's YouTube Channel.

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Arts and Culture

What is left to create when there is nothing new under the sun?

A Community Member Spotlight Column by Melissa Chavez

In this month’s issue, *The Palmdale Journal* features local artist John Zender whose latest exhibition, *Inheritance*, was featured at The Palmdale Playhouse. As the city is famously known to have a large population of citizens who have migrated from cities all over the state, it is quite special when talented artists such as Zender end up in our backyard.

Sitting with Zender was the equivalent of entering into an anteroom with many doors that lead to rooms, all unique in and of themselves, but still quite fitting to the theme of the house. Although Zender may appear unsuspecting at first, wherever the conversation leads, he will surely have a story or insight that grabs you by the shoulders, and guides you into the mind of this wonderfully creative artist, not to understand him, but to gain an uncommon perspective on ordinary subjects.

His talent for intermingling various elements does not come as a surprise once you learn about Zender’s history. Orphaned, rejected, and just a young child, he turned to the streets to find a sense of family. Though the circumstances weren’t ideal, hindsight allows Zender to appreciate the unique opportunity he had to grow up in various cultures, which include Chinese, African American, and Mexican Aztec, seen in the different stages of his life’s work.

The first question presented to Zender spoke to the misinterpretation of his work

and what he feels is the biggest misconception regarding his art. To this, Zender answered, “The most important thing about the work that is not really understood by people is two things: 1. I’m trying to put historical context within the artwork, from the Renaissance to now. Every single art movement. I’m trying to follow the pattern of what the art world has already done and showcase how that is influencing my work. 2. Including a contemporary version of an interpretation that hasn’t been done in the past.”

Read that twice as you may miss the significance. As an artist, Zender is not seeking notoriety. There is nothing new under the sun. Instead, he attempts to take the knowledge and outpouring of previous movements and artists and create his art from what he acquired from it all. It is his interpretation, and therefore, it's neither right nor wrong, only his pure expression.

From this, it was irresistible to address religion and the nature of his art. There were religious leaders from our valley that had a problem with his work, deeming it demonic and unruly. Yet, it is awful to uniform, or categorize, biblical imagery to be prim and proper. The book of Revelation describes the image of a lamb with seven horns and seven eyes. Could this image ever be beautiful if not for its significance?

Likewise, Zender’s art is intended not only for beauty, but also for substance. The

soul influenced by culture, the physical influenced by how we govern our bodies, and spirituality which is our right standing with God, culminate in Zender’s work. Thus releasing the beauty of what he feels we constantly neglect– our human nature.

He expresses his concern on this matter by saying, “We’re continually moving towards a lack of human connection with each other. Now, due to Covid, we have less affection. So with my work, I want to sort of say, ‘these are the things that the world is putting on you. But we have to go back to the completion of our existence as humans. The way God created us here on earth. Which is to be a complete person.’”

He adds that as we pursue wholeness, we must be well-balanced. “You can be super spiritual but lack the connection to your soul or your physicality. Doing so will leave you malnourished, and very self-righteous,” he explains. Zender says this from experience as the last 40 years have taken him through an artistic journey from which he gleans for his present and uses it to sow the future.

About *Inheritance*, he states, “I have three images that represent the body, soul, and spirit. Each one breaks up 10-year periods. The graffiti-urban is a 10-year period of my life that was very self-centered. To me, it was God showing me how far you can go if you lean into the following self-gratification. The second period is the soul component, which is

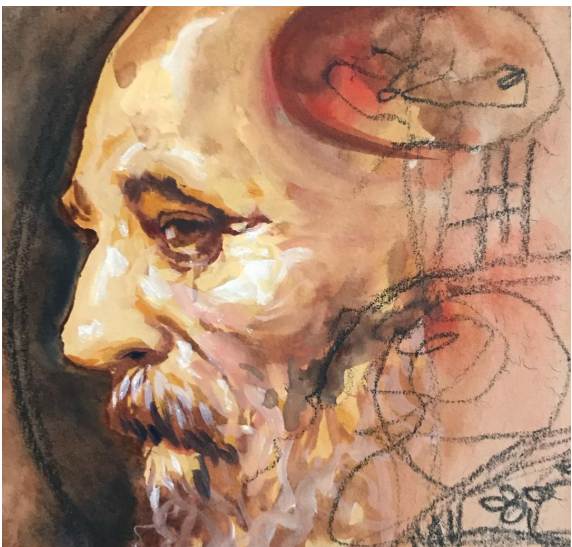
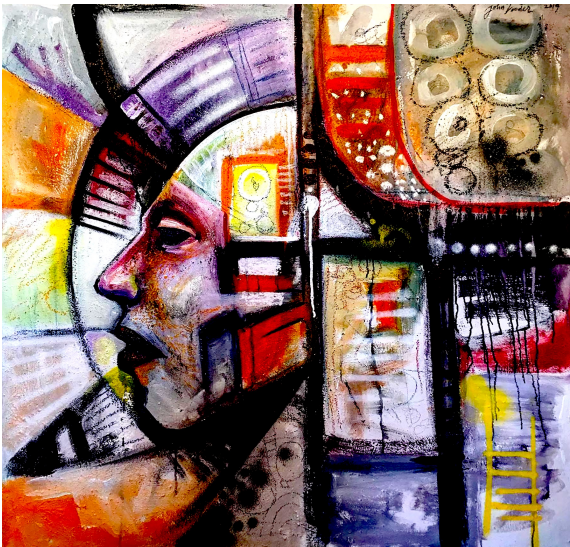
cultural. I did ten years of the cultural, Mexican American, Chicano, and Native American cultures. Anything indigenous was always fascinating to me. The last of the three images depict the 10- years of spiritual abstraction.”

For each of those ten years, the synergy lacked between all three components until this current phase of Zender’s life. This fourth period led him to create the exhibit, a collaboration with his son, Deon Zender.

In closing, the question was posed to Zender, “Who or what do you have in mind when you are creating?” Zender answered, “I’m not thinking about the ones alive right now because I believe that the current person in this time and age is not thinking the way I am. I’m thinking 20 years ahead. So, the persons that I have in mind when I’m painting are my son’s children. Because I know that by then, he’ll catch up to what I’m trying to say. Many of my contemporaries want instant gratification. I don’t do that. I’m painting for those not even alive yet.”

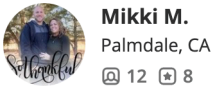
In synchrony with past artists who left an inheritance for artists like John Zender, he finds the urgency to leave an inheritance and legacy for those that are to come. Planting lessons learned from hardship, trials, errors, and successes, for those who have yet to experience the wonder of the journey of being alive.

To keep up with Zender, visit his website at JohnZender.com



Photos courtesy of The Palmdale Playhouse and John Zender websites

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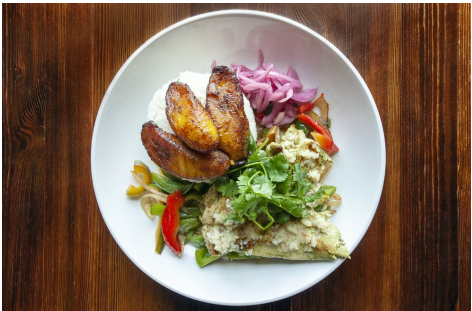
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Pooja B.
CA, CA
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★★★★★ 4/21/2022

Great ambience , delicious Cuban cuisine and very generous portion sizes. We are there twice in a single day and were very pleased with the wide variety of food choices



Features

Not a Victim Column: The Star-Spangled Banner

By Adriana Salcedo

The Star-Spangled Banner has been sung throughout generations in America, holding the power and ability to bring stadiums to a halt in reverence of our flag and in just a few minutes, well up our hearts with pride as we sing about the nation’s miraculous victory. Yet, despite it being tradition and constantly performed, there is very little talk about the inner heart behind this song.

In the War of 1812, attorney Francis Scott Key penned the poem that would become our national anthem. The closing stanza of that work affirmed what Americans strongly believed:

Blessed with victory and peace, may the Heaven-rescued land
Praise the Power that has made and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."

The phrase “In God is our trust,” became a national truth during the Civil War but more than that, the nation’s declaration. According to David Burton, a political activist who was a strong evangelical Christian, "In 1861, Rev. M. R. Watkinson of Pennsylvania wrote to the Secretary of Treasury, imploring him to add an official recognition of God to American currency... Rev. Watkinson desired to bring America under Divine protection.

The Secretary of Treasury agreed, thus enshrining what earlier generations had long acknowledged: America is one nation under God.” American currency broadcasts that message each and every day to nearly every country on the planet. Our country, with its faults and errors, trusts in the Lord.

As we analyze our country today, we can be thankful that our currency still declares this, but it is time for we the people to echo this. America is special in that in our most trying of times, we recognize our need to trust in God. This, dear reader, is what keeps us from victimization. Knowing that God will bring breakthrough, keep us moving forward, fighting for our city and each other. As that star-spangled banner yet waves, let us stand under its shade, together as one.

Sincerely,
Adriana Salcedo
Beauty for Ashes International



Our Mission: Out of the Ashes. Beauty Arises Women around the world struggle daily to find their beauty and self-worth. Beauty for Ashes. Internationalemerged out of a pursuit to empower women so that their confidence is not washed away when the day is over; rather, their self-worth be their permanent state of being. Established in 2017, our mission is to empower women's self worth from the inside out through our community-based programs, organic beauty products, and health and wellness activism. We strive to bring God's light into the dark beauty industry to help women exchange their ashes for beauty. Want to hear more or partner with us? We are located inside Butler's Coffee and would love to chat with you.

Dinner Table Conversations

A Parenting Column by Denize Verduzco

Families sitting around the dinner table, eating, and conversing is a staple that depicts the American home in the 1950s. However, within the last 30-40 years, family therapist and executive director of the Family Dinner Project, Anne Fishel, has noted a decrease in families sharing a meal. Due to busy lives, only about 30% of families manage to do so regularly.

The benefits of enjoying a family meal go far beyond quality time. Conversations around the dinner table have a way of bonding families together. From sharing highlights, failures, and sentiments about the day, it is a great opportunity for open dialogue between both parents and children. Studies indicate that dinner conversations can be a great tool to build vocabulary in children, as they are more likely to learn new words through conversation versus hearing a book read out loud. A bigger vocabulary can lead to stronger reading skills and a healthier approach to challenging words.

In addition to improved literacy, Anne Fishel goes on to say that “there have been more than 20 years of dozens of studies that document that family dinners are great for the body, the physical health, the brains and academic performance, and the spirit or the mental health, and in terms nutrition, cardiovascular health is better in teens.” Cooking at home tends to be healthier as less sugar, preservatives, and fillers are added to the food. Plus, there is a greater likelihood of having protein, vegetables, and fruit in the meal, allowing for a well-balanced diet.


With the influx of mental health issues troubling teens, eating healthier and going back to family dinners can help manage the illness. When surveyed, teens ranked eating dinner as a family a top priority on their list. 80% mentioned that

Local barbershop honors American heroes

By Dawn Hardesty

Transport yourself in time to the Reagan years with a trip to Corinna’s Barber Shop (3807 Sierra Highway) in Acton, California. The ambiance is rugged and western, with old fashioned barber chairs, barber pole and a hitching post. A walk through the door takes one back to an era that honored service men and women. Three large flags honor Law Enforcement, Military and Fire Service Personnel. Al, an employee since the shop first opened and veteran of the 101st Airborne Division, US Army, and a retired law enforcement officer, proudly exhibits the shop. “I honor the men and women,” he said, “for their sacrifice for their chosen career.” Customers who identify with service careers willingly add patches to the flags on display.


The American flag with the blue stripe represents active and retired law enforcement from California and out of state. Patrons who understand those careers come to hang patches upon this flag in a voluntary show of support and solidarity. Various agencies represented, among them: CHP, LA SWAT, LA K-9, Redondo Beach K-9, Hollywood LAPD, LA Airport Police, LAPD Bomb Squad, Riverside County, Palm Desert and San Fernando law enforcement agencies. Patches also come from Indiana, Texas, Milwaukee, Arizona, Maricopa Country and Eureka.



The American flag with the red stripe celebrates fire service personnel. A grateful community decorated it with patches, some from as far away as Chicago and New York.



The Military flag with the green line across it also displays pictures of military personnel and the personal memorabilia of loved ones who have served their nation and ours. The military, Al reminded us, “afford us liberty and freedom.”



Corinna opened her Barber Shop 14 years ago. Her customer base incorporates all walks of life, ethnic and religious groups, and yet customers find common ground in the symbols of American freedom. The Acton community stays united in their respect for those who work to secure that freedom for all of us.

The Human Connection: Silent Cry

A Health and Wellness Column by Sabeth Perry

Due to the recent Supreme Court decision on abortion rights, pro-choice supporters panic, while others respond with alternative solutions. One such alternative is the abortion pill, namely, the mifepristone-misoprostol regimen. This alternative is said to be potentially suitable for self-administration.

President Biden signed an executive order on July 8, 2022. The executive order states, “[to] Protect Access to Medication Abortion: Health and Human Services will take additional action to protect and expand access to abortion care, including access to medication that the FDA approved as safe and effective over twenty years ago.” But how safe is this medication?

According to the Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the abortion pill poses a “four-times higher risk of complication than surgical abortion in the first trimester.” A study posted on the fda.gov website concluded that from 2000-2018 nearly 4,200 cases of adverse side effects were reported by women, including 1042 hospitalizations, 599 blood loss experiences requiring transfusions, and 412 infections (69 severe), and 24 maternal deaths.

The actual numbers are likely much higher since the year 2016, the FDA only required the reporting of deaths. Another factor for low reporting is that many women were likely to go to the emergency room for treatment, and the hospitals were not required to report these cases to the FDA. Side effects experienced included, but were not limited to, excessive bleeding, extreme abdominal pain, vomiting, and undiagnosed ectopic pregnancies.

The pressure to make the abortion pill more accessible is concerning for many licensed health care professionals. The abortion industry pushed for the FDA to lift a set of safeguards called R.E.M.S. (Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy). In 2016, the FDA agreed to make the changes. This decision included absolving reports on side effects, except death. It also allowed for less qualified “healthcare providers” to fill prescriptions. The FDA also eliminated requirements for a second office visit to confirm the completion of the abortion and to confirm that no health complications had arisen.

The foreseen dangers of mass distribution of the abortion pill have been disregarded by many who advocate for it. Here are the facts on how the medication works and the possible ramifications of its use. The Abortion Pill process also referred to as chemical abortion, medication abortion, medical abortion, and the RU-486 is a drug regimen that involves two drugs. One of the drugs is mifepristone (Mifeprex), and the second is misoprostol. The Abortion Pill regimen kills

the pre-born baby by inhibiting the crucial progesterone hormone, thus essentially starving the baby to death.

This drug regimen is most commonly administered in the first ten weeks of development, though some abortion clinics will allow for later terms. It takes approximately 24-48 hours for the drugs to be consumed and take effect. Once they start working, severe cramping, contractions, and often heavy bleeding begin, and eventually, the body forces the dead baby out of the woman’s uterus.

This process can be intense and very painful. Bleeding and contractions can last a few hours to several days. During this process, the woman can lose her dead baby without notice-- sitting on the toilet, in bed, anywhere. When the baby becomes fully expelled, its tiny remains may be in pieces. Therefore, the woman may see her dead baby in the pregnancy sac. If she looks carefully, she can even count the fingers and toes, usually seen at nine weeks. Many women will bleed for several days. Some find themselves self-diagnosing, unsure if what they are experiencing is “normal.” 1 out of every 100 will require hospitalization.

Aside from the physical effects, a review posted in the *British Journal of Psychiatry* analyzed the mental health effects of abortion on post-abortive women. The 22 studies found these women to have “higher rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts compared to women who didn’t have abortions. Women who had abortions were also found to have higher rates of substance abuse than women who did not abort. A surgical abortion is traumatic enough, but in a chemical abortion (by pill), a woman may see the remains of her dead child.”

A quick note: if the first abortion pill, mifepristone, is taken and there is a change of heart, there is still a chance to reverse the process before it is too late to save the unborn baby before the second pill is taken. The process is called Abortion Pill Reversal. Information about the reversal is available online.

Many women have suffered in silence with regret, guilt, and physical and emotional pain. Studies show this is a unique experience for each and the underlying reasons as to why they decide to go through with it or their remorse are different. These silently crying women must feel the support of churches and local pro-life pregnancy centers with loving people willing to talk, with arms open wide. In turn, the churches and centers should show women compassion by accepting them where they’re at, despite their choices, and giving them the truth so they can make informed decisions. This approach should be the priority of a loving community.

Palmdale History, Part 4: The Impact of Aerospace

By Franklin Castillo

In 1962 the City of Palmdale formed and began populating. Though the population started slow, it began expanding due to the completion of the 14 Freeway. Additionally, the aerospace industry helped attract residents since it already had a presence in the area since before World War 2.

In the 1970s, there was an effort to build a commercial airport for public use, and with the jostling of developers, county, state, and federal bureaucrats, it was so. The airport has opened and closed many times throughout the years and is currently without operation. The city of Palmdale has taken over the services of the airport terminal since 2013.

The last few decades brought many new advances to the city. Outside of government failures, there were initiatives to expand the airport into an extensive transportation hub. The plans include the idea of a multi-terminal airport attachment to the new High Desert Corridor Freeway. It would also include high-speed train services from Palmdale to various locations such as Las Vegas, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. All plans for such an expansive hub have been in different starting phases for years, none of which to date have made it past the land purchasing phase.

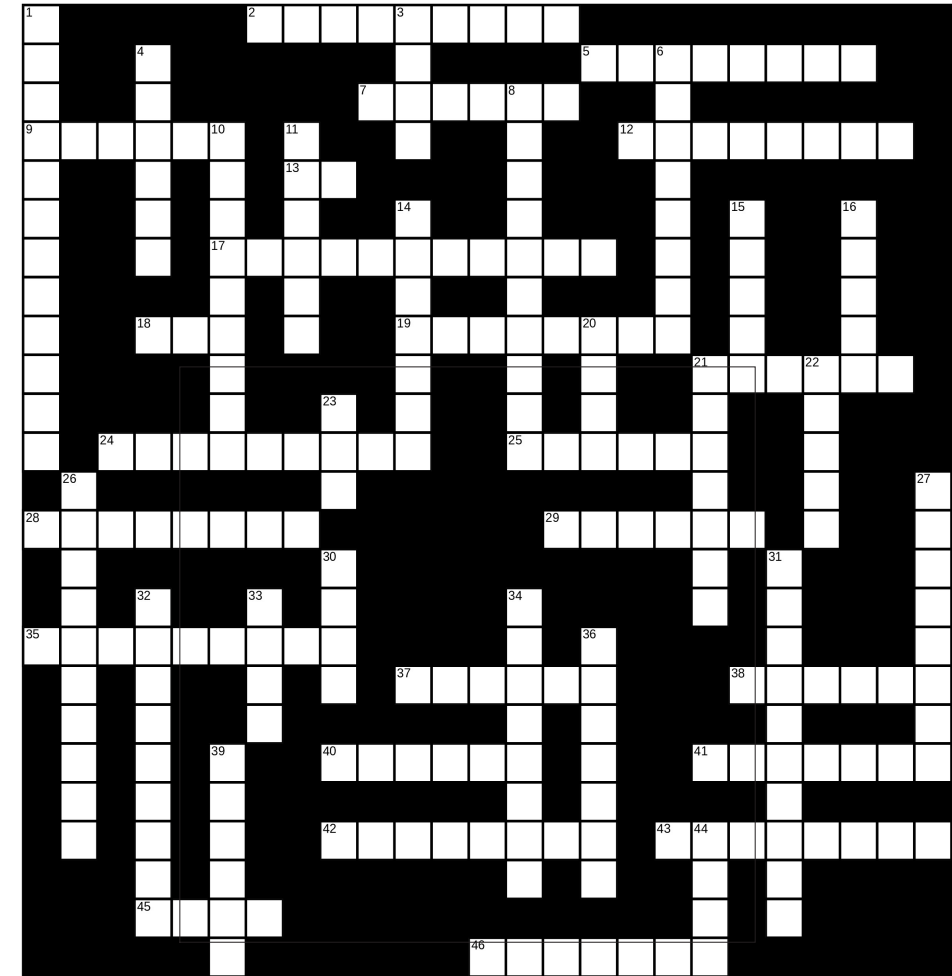
The idea seems like a dream to most, but the reality of a project of this magnitude happening would be amazingly expansive for the entire Antelope Valley. As it stands, a halt occurred to the latest plans to bring a high-speed train through the area due to the mismanagement of billions of dollars of funds by the state.

While transportation projects have been flailing for decades, aerospace has been booming. Palmdale is home to many aerospace projects and contractors, such as Lockheed, Northrop, and NASA, which all have locations here in town and many notable projects. To name a few, some of these projects are the SR-71 Blackbird and the B-2 Stealth Bomber. Projects in the process now are the F-22, the F-35, and the NASA SOPHIA project. Aerospace has always been a significant factor in the growth of Palmdale and the valley. For this reason, Palmdale is called “The Aerospace Capital of America.”



The B-52 Stratofortress with the Boeing 747 at Joe Davies Heritage Park in Palmdale

July Crossword Puzzle By Jennifer Maccarone



Across

- 2 Ike Turner, Morpheus, Furious Styles, Pops; born July 1961
- 5 Nickname for the U.S. flag
- 7 Next month
- 9 Sweet and messy campfire treats
- 12 Slang term for camping in an RV
- 13 Cools and circulates the air, abbreviation
- 17 Kids build these on the beach
- 18 Bill, the science guy; born July 1955
- 19 Flavored ice on a stick
- 21 BBQ treat in a bun
- 24 Took "one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" in July 1969
- 25 Lightweight shoe with straps
- 28 First African-American Supreme Court Justice, born July 1908
- 29 A public procession
- 35 Spectacular explosions
- 37 Two piece suit
- 38 Country that gave the Statue of Liberty to the U.S.
- 40 Blade, Nino Brown; born July 1962
- 41 The United States of ____
- 42 A break for some R&R
- 43 On the 100 dollar bill
- 45 50 of these for each state
- 46 "...Life, ____ and the pursuit of happiness."

Down

- 1 The supreme law of the land

June '22 crossword puzzle answers can be found online at ThePalmdaleJournal.com

Down

- 3 Red, white and ____
- 4 13 of these for each original colony
- 6 First state admitted to the union
- 8 Shield your eyes from the sun
- 10 She sells these by the seashore, allegedly
- 11 Star Spangled ____
- 14 Temporarily residing outdoors in a tent
- 15 July in Spanish
- 16 Bandmate to John, Paul and George; born July 1940
- 20 On the cob, a delicious ear with butter
- 21 British term for vacation
- 22 Princess of Wales, born July 1961
- 23 Hot, long days in July; often called the ____ days of summer
- 26 1st U.S. President
- 27 A sunburn-soothing gel
- 30 43rd U.S. President who declared war on terrorism, born July 1946
- 31 Amendment granting citizenship to formerly enslaved people born in the U.S., ratified in July 1868
- 32 Often credited as the maker of the first U.S. flag
- 33 "...The land of the ____ and the home of the brave"
- 34 Wear this at the beach or pool
- 36 Casting a line for a bite
- 39 Escaped from slavery in July 1849, aka "Moses"
- 44 Beautiful red July birthstone

Valley Voices

Letter to the Editor: California Drought Solutions

By Gary Possert

In 1902, the California Aqueduct system was conceived to supply water to Southern California. Simplified, the people needed more water, wanted more water, and authorized local officials to bring more water into the region. This is how the Government was intended to work. Government gathered the resources to get the needs of the people met. In 1913, the first water flowed from the Owens Valley into the Los Angeles area. It was a massive beginning to a great aqueduct infrastructure project.

Today, our needs are similar. We need more water, but the government meets that need by restricting and punishing the very people it is elected to serve.

We need more water, so go and get the darn water! Don’t attempt to solve the problem by edict, instituting fee increases, fines, penalties, and restrictions. We want more water, not lectures about water waste and demands that we use less water! We don’t want to hear about why more water can’t be supplied.

I have some ideas that the government could consider. Let the people pay for it through new bond issues and/or taxes shared by all, not just property owners. Fight for federal funding. Create a new water lottery game within the existing California lottery system and use the proceeds to improve the current water infrastructure or build a new water

infrastructure. Take a large share of the marijuana trade. Use the political influence that politicians so covet, to get the water! Build and operate new, or convert some existing, water processing plants into plants that desalinate sea water.

We could increase aqueduct infrastructure or have the Army Corps of Engineers fix dams and dredge reservoirs. Get creative.

No idea should be off the table. Nature doesn’t supply enough water to Southern California, so BUY IT from areas that have surplus water available, similar to what we do with electricity during peak demand. We have an Alaskan oil pipeline. Why not also have an Alaskan/Canadian

water pipeline, or a Dakota/ Minnesota/ Great Lakes water pipeline, or a Seattle/Western Cascades supply system?

Wherever floods tend to occur, there may be extra water to be harvested, much like corn and soybean farming. We could add water harvesting to the list of agricultural opportunities in areas with excess annual water accumulation. Then we could pump this harvested water through a pipeline into existing rivers and streams for downstream transport and drain it into the aquifers.

If we have the will, we can meet this challenge. We need water. We want water, so GO GET THE WATER!

Letter to the Editor: Roe vs. Wade

By Steven Harris

There is a battle going on. Some say it is a battle of good versus evil, which may be true. I look at things not as good or evil but as balanced or unbalanced. Things that are not balanced tend to fall, and in my opinion, the world appears to be falling apart because things are off balance. In the U.S.A. you are either on one side or the other, and there seems to be no happy medium.

When the potential ruling to reverse Roe vs. Wade was leaked, Supreme Court justices were getting death threats. When the reversal of Roe vs. Wade became official, the harassment the judges suffered was even worse.

The left would like you to believe that abortion is illegal everywhere, but it is not. Just like some states do not allow gambling some will not allow abortions. Companies that are flipping the bill for

employees to get abortions, should consider that it would be nice if they would fly employees to Las Vegas if they live in states with no casinos. If a person does not want to risk losing money, they do not gamble, and if a woman does not want to risk getting pregnant, she would be wise to choose not to have sex.

From what I understand, the reason why companies are paying for female employees to get abortions is that they do not want to pay for maternity leave, because it costs more than an abortion costs. In 2016, Merrill Lynch disclosed a cost of over \$6,000 for one employee to use parental leave. In 2018, a table in an American Action Forum article broke down the cost to states for their residents to use parental leave. Each state spends millions of dollars on parental leave programs. If abortion was pushed as the

preferred method of dealing with pregnancies, consider the funds that each state would have at its disposal. With the average cost of early abortions being around \$500 or less with medical insurance, employers also would save thousands.

The most conservative people I have met understand why a woman would want an abortion if she were raped and pregnancy was the result, but how long does one wait after being raped and discovering a pregnancy occurred before deciding whether or not to get an abortion? Seven months, eight months, before ending the life of an innocent human being?

If a woman is healthy, most would agree that she must do what is best for her but in no way should abortion be used as a form of contraceptive. Most people that I

hear on the left are pro-death, not pro-choice because it seems abortion is the only option they are willing to entertain but not adoption or parenting.

Studies consistently reveal that people of color obtain the most abortions, which is off-putting. If you are in the streets protesting and vandalizing in the name of abortion you are insensitive, have mental issues, and should be viewed as an enemy of the state. There are women bragging about the number of abortions they have had. Some women are throwing abortion parties. Keep the abortion(s) to yourself. We live in a world where not everyone is wired correctly because if they were wired correctly they would see that abortion is one form of population control. People do not see it because they are brainwashed and do not understand what they’re fighting for.

Gays Against Grooming

By Mario Presents

The association of gay people and perversion of the youth is a stigma often whispered but rarely discussed. Headlines featuring athletic coaches, pastors, or peers inappropriately touching children reinforces the prejudice that the LGBTQ community is preying upon kids. Most gay/lesbian/bisexual adults live their adult lives away from the young and understand that sexuality is not a topic discussed with kids that are not their own.

Gay parents especially understand the importance of acceptance among peers,

but also the protection of innocence in their own children. Every demographic needs to speak up against the perversion happening to the youth of this nation because sexual trauma never fades.

Stories of the “committed bachelor” or wearers of “comfortable shoes” dot history and the day to day lives of most people. Gay men, women, and the sexually queer exist as a minority population within a greater world. Some feel that in order to fully experience the adult freedom afforded by this lifestyle, a space without children is necessary and

the LGBTQ night scene provides the perfect opportunity. Regardless of sexuality, the bar and nightclub atmosphere operates under strict laws regarding the underage and places heavy penalties for violations. These spaces are not for children.

Sexual predators are in nightclubs, churches, and school campuses across the country. These individuals are not limited by gender, or sexual identity because we see women preying on boys, men preying on girls, and teens preying on each other. When caught, we see light sentencing by

judges, and high recidivism.

When a person is sexually assaulted, they lose more than their innocence and therapy only goes so far. The world at large suffers when the youth are traumatized, and a grown person walking down the street naked holding only a rainbow flag is traumatizing, for anyone. Pride is no longer a place for families. Every demographic has one common thread, the future, and we Gays Against Groomers stand against anyone who willingly poisons, taints, or disrupts the natural flow of a person’s sexual identity.

I plant Seeds in the Soil of the American dream

A poem by Melissa Chavez

America, ever since I can remember
I’ve heard stories of
mothers leaving babies,
Fathers leaving families
Just in the hopes to reach your borders
Risking their lives,
they leave all that they have
because they’ve heard
That here, in America
--there’s freedom
and the chance for an underdog to rise

Yet, the ones that dwell under your sky
and find shelter in your foundation
Despise the nation that has protected them

They write angry,
“Dear, America” letters
But still allow their tormentors
to keep influence
The very ones that cause their demise
Are the ones they idolize,
And It just doesn’t make sense--
How you keep providing liberty
For those that spread cancer to it

But– Isn’t that so like you?
And Isn’t that so like God?
To give free will,
even if it’s used against Him
When I think of you, America
I’m reminded of where I came from--



And how just at seven years old
I realized:
“Wow, what a privilege
to trace heritage throughout generations”

You see, my bloodline may not have
started here--
But my story is rooted here.
In the land of the free,
in the home of the brave,
I plant seeds in the soil
of the American dream
Building my life on the legacy of
founding fathers
The freedom we’ve found here is
incomparable
In this land of opportunity, where the
American Spirit is unbreakable,

We owe our thanks to those that
considered our lives defendable-
As they fought for the rights that our
creator deemed inalienable.

You’ve given me the freedom
to pursue liberty,
And I’ve resolved to use that
to pursue yours freely.
They’ve tried to sow a great scarlet letter
on your red, white, and blue
But I believe that Hosea
is being instructed to pursue you,
What I mean is that I know the Lord
will turn his face towards you.

God bless America,
To whom I’ve pledged my allegiance to.



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