## PWBA & USBC Hall of Famer Loa Boxberger Dies at Age 81

ARLINGTON, Texas – Loa Boxberger, a member of the United States Bowling Congress and Professional Women's Bowling Association Halls of Fame, died Sunday, Dec. 20 in Carefree, Arizona. She was 81

Boxberger earned induction into the USBC Hall of Fame in 1984 for Superior Performance, and she joined the PWBA Hall of Fame in the Pioneer category in 1997.

She claimed six professional titles during her career, including one major at the 1978 USBC Queens.

From Russell, Kansas, Boxberger captured her first professional win in 1967. She earned victories in back-to-back editions of the Japan Pearl Cup in Tokyo, winning the coveted event in 1970 and 1971.



Loa Boxberger

Her win at the tour's season-opening Brunswick Red Crown Classic in 1974 served as a groundbreaking moment in women's bowling as the first nationally televised PWBA tournament. Boxberger received a then-record \$12,500 for the victory.

Beyond the individual spotlight, Boxberger also found team success at the USBC Women's Championships, claiming Classic Team titles in 1969 and continued on page 9



## After 71 Years, Beloved Albany Bowl Closes Doors For Good

by Sharon Song

ALBANY, CA – A well-known and beloved East Bay establishment, Albany Bowl, is closing its doors for good.

The bowling alley on San Pablo Ave. has been closed since March due to the pandemic. But there was word this week that the owner has decided to shutter for good, saying the

bowling alley cannot afford to pay its bills and remain in business.

For 71 years, Albany Bowl has hosted countless events, calling itself a "great choice for family entertainment." The bowling center also offered billiard tables and a wide array of arcade games. It hosted

continued on page 9

# Never Assume... My First New Year's Resolution in 2021

by Dave Williams

Earlier this week I received an email from Dean Lopez, Editor of the California Bowling News, regarding the article that I penned last week, *PBA Makes The Big Time With \$1 Million Players Championship*. In the email, Lopez comments that reader Craig Kisro was most polite in pointing out an error in my recollection of past PBA events, as he remarks:

"Dave Williams made a rare error. He stated that Seagrams US Open sponsorship in the PBA was for three years. Actually, it was four. The first three years, 1987-89, the total prize fund was \$500,000 with \$100,000 to the winner (Ballard, Weber, Aulby). In 1990 it was \$400,000 with \$80,000 to winner Ron Palombi."

Mr. Kisro is absolutely correct! In my quest to get the story together on time, I went to my usual source for all items involving professional bowlers, <u>PBA.com</u>. When I looked for historical tournament information, the message stated: "The page you are looking for is currently under construction while we work to improve your experience." Rather than look for other sources to confirm my remembrance, I assumed that my memory was correct.

This incident reminds me of a skit that was performed by The Three Stooges many years ago about the word "assume." I searched the internet but could not find the particular episode that included that reference, so I will go with the one that I found from the television series, *The Odd Couple*. In that segment, Tony Randall shows on a blackboard how you should never "assume" anything, because when you do, you make an "ass" of "u" and "me."

Upon further investigation into the history of Seagram's Coolers and the PBA, I found that Pat Roney, my contact at Seagram, had left in 1989 for greener pastures in California, where he is now CEO of Vintage Wine Estates in Santa Rosa. That was coincidentally the same year that I left AMF for greener pastures in California, as Marketing Director for American Recreation Centers in Sacramento.

Needless to say, the initial three-year arrangement between the PBA and Seagram's Coolers made history in the prize money available to professional bowlers. Craig Kisro goes on to comment in his email, "Sponsorship was dropped due to declining sales of wine coolers as the fad had waned." From a marketing perspective, I do remember the difficulty of trying to wean league bowlers from bottled beer!

Another question that was raised from Mr. Kisro's email... whatever happened to Ron Palombi Jr.? Without the assistance of the <u>PBA.com</u> historical section, I was



Ron Palombi Jr. in 2008 - Photo: Erie Times News

able to learn from an Associated Press article that Ron had suffered from a snowblower accident in which he lost the tip of his middle finger and fractured the index finger on his bowling hand. The 2002 news release goes on to report that his doctor does not know how much feeling and use Palombi will have following the mishap.

Ron's local league bowling around Erie, Pennsylvania must have continued, as he was elected to the Pennsylvania Bowling Hall of Fame in 2017. The Pennsylvania State Bowling Association (PSBA) credits Palombi, age 58, with more than forty 300 games, along with a thirteen-year professional bowling career that saw him win 6 PBA titles, including two majors, and more than \$700,000 in official earnings.

Mr. Palombi no longer bowls professionally, according to the release from the PSBA, and for the past 15 years has been employed by Better Baked Foods in North East, PA. I remember Ron's unique approach, reminiscent of Pete Tountas and Dave Ferraro, in which he would plant his left foot, rather than slide, resulting in the ability to loft the ball a great distance when necessary. He also possessed a very high roll, similar to that of David Traber, that provided pin punishing power on light hits.



# Happy Holidays!





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## Carol's Corner

by Carol Mancini E-mail: CarolMancini83@icloud.com

#### **Open letter to Frank Weiler...**

Thank you, thank you for your many thoughtful articles this year. Lots of Pros and Cons, much research made us all THINK! I have a few questions about your area's association.

How many centers have come and gone?

Which ones are left?

Who is in your Hall of Fame?

How do I buy a sanction card?

How much is it?

Is the association office open?

Who were the past secretary's and presidents? Where is the California State Convention in 2021? If the bowling centers aren't open, will there be a convention? Dig-Dig-Dig!!

We miss seeing you and your wife in the audiences at the PBA telecasts!

Frank can be reached at fjw300@gmail.com

# ESTABLISHED 1940 CALIFORNIA ROWLING NEWS

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# USBC ANNOUNCES \$3.5 MILLION AID PROGRAM TO SUPPORT ASSOCIATIONS AND GRASSROOTS BOWLING

by Matt Cannizzar

ARLINGTON, Texas – The United States Bowling Congress announced a \$3.5 million aid program to help support grassroots bowling. The move comes as a response to the unprecedented losses experienced in the sport nationwide due to COVID-19 shutdowns.

As part of the program, the USBC Board of Directors has approved an immediate cash transfer of \$1.5 million from USBC's reserve fund directly to USBC local associations. An additional \$200,000 will be available for USBC state associations in the form of added prize money to their 2021 championship tournaments.

"USBC is forecasting a 40% decline in league membership this season due to COVID-19," USBC Executive Director Chad Murphy said. "The situation is devastating financially for many local bowling operators across the country. USBC has cash reserves for an emergency, and we believe now is the time to use some of those funds and provide help back to the grassroots of our sport."

The local aid program will send at least \$1 per member back to all active standard USBC local associations based on 2018-2019 membership totals. Standard associations with less than 500 members will receive \$500 in aid, and the largest USBC local association will receive about \$40,000.

"USBC is not placing any restrictions on how these funds are used in support of bowling," USBC President Melissa McDaniel said. "We know the needs on the ground locally are different everywhere and will trust our local associations to collaborate with their bowlers and proprietors to put the funds to good use for the sport."

The state association aid program provides \$200,000 in funding for USBC state associations in the form of added sponsorship prize money to USBC state championship tournaments. USBC state associations can choose to opt

into the program, with the amount of funding for each state variable depending on the size of their membership. USBC plans to continue offering this annual \$200,000 sponsorship pool to USBC state associations for the next 10 years.

"The state association aid program will further elevate the participation value for USBC state championships for the next decade," McDaniel said. "The program is designed to drive interest, participation and lineage for USBC state events. Participating states will be asked to add a sponsor name to their events, and in turn, receive a consistent prize-fund subsidy for members for the next 10 years."

USBC will be contacting state associations to share details on how to receive funding. Additional information about the USBC state association aid program, including the amount of funding available to each state, is published on BOWL.com.

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## **Keith Lesko, A.J. Chapman** Win PBA50/PBA Houston **Southwest Doubles Title**

by DDZIOMBA

HOUSTON, TX - A.J. Chapman, who now lives in Lewisville, Texas, teamed up with Keith Lesko, of Prosper, Texas, to win the eighth annual PBA50/PBA Houston Emerald Bowl Southwest Doubles, presented by Bowling Dynamix on Sunday.

The winning duo led the eight-game qualifying portion of the event by 45 pins over the duo of PBA Hall of Famer Chris Barnes and PBA rookie Dimitri Cruz, both now living in Denton. Texas. Close behind them was the team of Thomas Hess, from Granger, Iowa, and Sean Lavery-Spahr, from Pasadena, Texas. The three teams battled throughout the ten-game round robin match play finals, with numerous lead changes.

With only 24 pins separating the top three going into the final game position round, any of the three teams could come out on top. Top-seeded Barnes/Cruz fell to second place Hess/S. Lavery 450-436, with Hess and Lavery-Spahr winning all 50 of the games bonus pins. However, Chapman's final game 267 paired with Lesko's 214, giving them enough pinfall to claim the lead and victory. The winning team was awarded \$7,000. Hess and Lavery-Spahr collected \$3,600 for second and Barnes and Cruz received \$2,400 for third place.

## Locations Changed For 2021 USBC Masters & U.S. Open

ARLINGTON, TX – With COVID-19 still impacting event operations, the United States Bowling Congress has decided to adjust the competition locations for the 2021 USBC Masters and U.S. Open.

The two events, both considered majors on the Professional Bowlers Association Tour, now will be held in consecutive weeks at the 78-lane National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nevada, allowing competitors planning to bowl in both tournaments to make just one trip, rather than journev to two destinations at different times.

The Masters will be held first, taking place on its original dates from March 29-April 4, now with room for an additional 55 competitors. The field had been limited to 245 entries, but the move to the NBS allows for a capacity of 300 entries.

The U.S. Open will follow, with the 108-competitor field taking to the iconic lanes April 4-11.

Qualifying and match play for both tournaments will be livestreamed on BowlTV, before the action shifts to Fox Sports' FS1 as part of the PBA Tour television schedule. The live TV finals of each event will air from 2-4 p.m. Eastern on April 4 and April 11, respectively.

Prior to the move, the U.S. Open was scheduled to be held at The Ashwaubenon Bowling Alley in Green Bay,

#### PBA50/PBA HOUSTON EMERALD BOWL SOUTHWEST DOUBLES

presented by Bowling Dynamix Emerald Bowl, Houston, Texas, Sunday Final Match Play Standings (after 18 games, including match play bonus pins):

\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	2	1 /
Keith Lesko/AJ Chapman	+1693	\$7,000
Thomas Hess/Sean Lavery-Spahr	+1651	\$3,600
Chris Barnes/Dimitri Cruz	+1615	\$2,400
Ron Mohr/Nate Garcia	+1395	\$1,900
Jay Nephew/Anthony Simonsen	+1353	\$1,600
Paul Fleming/Anthony Lavery-Spahr	+1318	\$1,400
Chris Warren/a-Justin Bui	+1272	\$1,300
Walter Ray Williams Jr/Ildemaro Ruiz	+1124	\$1,200
Paul McCordic/a-Billy Rogers	+1096	\$1,100
Rick Minier/Shawn Maldonado	+1033	\$1,050
300 Games: Chris Barnes, Wesley Low, Anthony Lavery-		
Spahr, Shawn Maldonado		

Wisconsin, from Feb. 21-28, and the Masters was slated to return to the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

"We are committed to running these events in 2021," USBC Executive Director Chad Murphy said. "By moving the tournaments to Reno and back in the calendar, we are better positioned to receive approval from health officials to conduct the events, while also adding additional lanes for more competitors."

The Masters traditionally attracts hundreds of bowlers from all over the world and has sold out for the last seven years. The 2019 event at the Gold Coast Bowling Center, won by left-hander Jakob Butturff, featured 450 competi-

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and best-practice recommendations, however, the Masters field in 2021 initially had to be limited.

The event sold out in just a few days, and the waiting list quickly grew to more than 150 eager competitors. USBC will continue to monitor the restrictions and socialdistancing recommendations in Nevada and expand the field again, if appropriate.

Masters bowlers will join Butturff on the lanes at the NBS for 15 games of qualifying, before the top 63, plus Butturff, advance to the double-elimination match-play portion of the event.

The 2021 U.S. Open will be a collaborative effort between USBC and the Bowling Proprietors' Association of America, featuring a limited field of the world's best bowlers, most of whom earned their spots in the event based on their recent on-lane performances. The list includes leaders on the PBA Tour points list and top performers at USBC events and PBA majors.

The U.S. Open format features qualifying across multiple oil patterns and round-robin match play, before the top five competitors advance to the TV stepladder, based on their 56-game pinfall totals.

Bowlers who did not receive invitations to compete in the 2021 event can earn spots through an on-site pre-tournament qualifier, which will take place April 4.

The 2020 U.S. Open was held in Lincoln, Nebraska, in February and won by Australia's Jason Belmonte for the 12th of his record 13 major titles.

For more information about the U.S. Open and USBC Masters, visit BOWL.com/Tournaments.



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by Bette Addington

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- 9 Elite Bowling Club Women's & Senior 5 Gamer, Canyon Lanes, Cabazon, 951/419-2751
- 9-10 Elite Bowling Club 3 squad 5 Gamer, Canyon Lanes, Cabazon, 951/419-2751
  - 15 CUSBC State Hall of Fame/Star of Tomorrow, etc., submission deadline, <u>calusbc.com</u>
  - 16 Adult/Sr. VIP Doubles, Riverside Lanes, Laughlin, 909/628-3966, 5126fish@gmail.com
- 16-26 Military Bowling Championships, SouthPoint, Las Vegas, 800/257-6179, high-roller.com--CANCELLED
  - 17 13th Laughlin Blast Sr. No-Tap Doubles Handicap Tourn., Riverside Lanes, Laughlin, 619/251-9660
- 17-29 BPAA & Bowling Summit, Nashville, TN, bowlingsummit.com
- 18-26 PWBA Kickoff Classic Series, ITRC, Arlington, TX, pwba.com
- 19-21 PWBA Bowlers Journal Classic, ITRC, Arlington, TX, pwba.com
- 22-23 PWBA ITRC Classic, ITRC, Arlington, TX, pwba.com
- 23-24 Elite Bowling Club 2 squad 5 Gamer, Canyon Lanes, Cabazon, 951/419-2751
- 25-26 PWBW Hall of Fame Classic, ITRC, Arlington, TX, pwba.com
  - 30 Youth Sports USA Bowling Southwest Regional, Suncoast Bowling Center, Las Vegas, NV, bowl.com -- POSTPONED
  - 30 PBA50, Bowlero Glendale, Glendale, AZ, iblanchard@pba.com, 909/908-5713
  - 31 PBA Regular, Bowlero Glendale, Glendale, AZ, jblanchard@pba.com, 909/908-5713

Calendar brought to you by California Bowling Writers (<u>www.calbowlingwriters.org</u>) Email your upcoming events for inclusion to <a href="mailto:baddington@addington.net">baddington@addington.net</a>



## **How to Watch: 2021 PBA Players Championship**

Here's how to watch the 2021 PBA Players Championship on FloBowling.

The 2021 PBA Players Championship starts on Jan 24, 2021 and runs until Feb 21, 2021.

Fans in the United States can watch on FS1 or FOX (check local listings) while international fans can watch all six shows on FloBowling. Regional qualifying events will be live exclusively on FloBowling.

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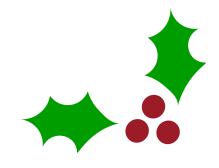
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# Drive Underway To Help Save California Bowling Centers

California – The Southern California Junior Bowling Foundation was founded with the goal of growing and supporting youth bowling in Southern California. The group has found a new emergency goal- trying to raise funds to help bowling centers reopen in California.

Bowlers, including many prominent nationally recognized youth bowlers, have been unable to participate in the game they love due to the overbearing restrictions placed on bowling centers by the State of California. While other businesses have been permitted to open, bowling proprietors have seen their doors closed and lights off since mid-March. The frustration was escalated when bowling centers in 49 of 50 states were permitted to open while Californians lanes sat dormant in the dark.



Bowling is a big part of many people's daily lives. Seniors are suffering from missing their weekly exercise and social activity. Many junior bowlers are missing their opportunity to earn college scholarships due to their inability to practice. The SCJBF has

recognized that it has become essential to help open bowling centers immediately.

The SCJBF has started a Go Fund Me campaign to help raise money for the fight to open bowling centers in California. At a time when many proprietors are struggling and centers are on the brink of closing forever, you can help with the fight.

We would appreciate any donation big or small to help with the cause. Log on to <a href="https://www.gofundme.com/helpbowling">www.gofundme.com/helpbowling</a> and help today!



### **Boxberger** continued from page 1

She later served as the first female commissioner of the Ladies Professional Bowlers Tour (now PWBA) after retiring from professional competition.

Boxberger was named to the Bowlers Journal All-American team on three occasions (1967-1968, 1970-1971 and 1973-1974) and was inducted to the Kansas State USBC Hall of Fame in 1976.

Also during her career, she represented multiple manufacturers as a national staff member, helped serve her local bowling community from a bowling supply perspective and even spent some time behind the microphone on bowling telecasts.

There are no funeral services planned at this time.

**Albany Bowl** continued from page 1 bowling leagues, inviting players of all ages and levels. And it prided itself for being an active member of the community with a welcoming staff of more than 40 "happy, great employees." The bowling center had long been a goto for gatherings and celebrations, hosting more than 800 birthday parties a year. It was also a popular spot for college students from the nearby UC Berkeley campus.

The bowling alley joins a growing list of businesses that have been casualties of the pandemic. On social media, many acknowledged that and noted that this one hit especially hard. The news of the permanent closure prompted messages of gratitude and a walk down memory lane from heartbroken community members.

On <u>Albany Bowl's Facebook page</u>, Wendy King wrote, "Thank you for the many years !!! You guys will truly be missed. We have many family memories at this location. Very sad to see you guys close down..."

On Instagram, writer Susan Ito expressed sadness over the news and shared the memories evoked by the bowling alley. Ito wrote, "This was my mother's home away from home for over 17 years, ever since she moved to California. She found community in the #nisei bowling league were the average age was 88. She bowled until she was 95. She loved the fries at the lunch counter. What a loss. It was also A favorite of our whole family."

And from its neighbor down the street, the historic Ivy Room bar and music venue that no doubt shared many of the same late night patrons over the years, these words: "Absolutely heartbreaking to hear about the permanent closure of Albany Bowl. You'll be deeply missed by our community."

### The Governor Stole CHRISTMAS The "GUV" IS A "GRINCH"

by Frank Weiler
The Governor shut down CALIFORNIA the "GUV" is a "Grinch"

The Governor closed our BOWLING CENTERS - the "GUV" is a "Grinch"

The Governor closed our Salons - the "GUV" is a "Grinch"

The Governor closed our Restaurants - the "GUV" is a "Grinch"

The Governor closed our Gyms - the "GUV" is a "Grinch"

The Governor closed our Theatre's - the "GUV" is a "Grinch"

The Governor limited our Gatherings - the "GUV" is a "Grinch"

The Governor supports releasing our Criminals - the "GUV" is a "Grinch"

The Governor supports taking our Guns - the "GUV" is a "Grinch"

The Governor got caught Dining In - the "GUV" is a "Grinch"

The Governor got caught without a Mask - the "GUV" is a "Grinch"

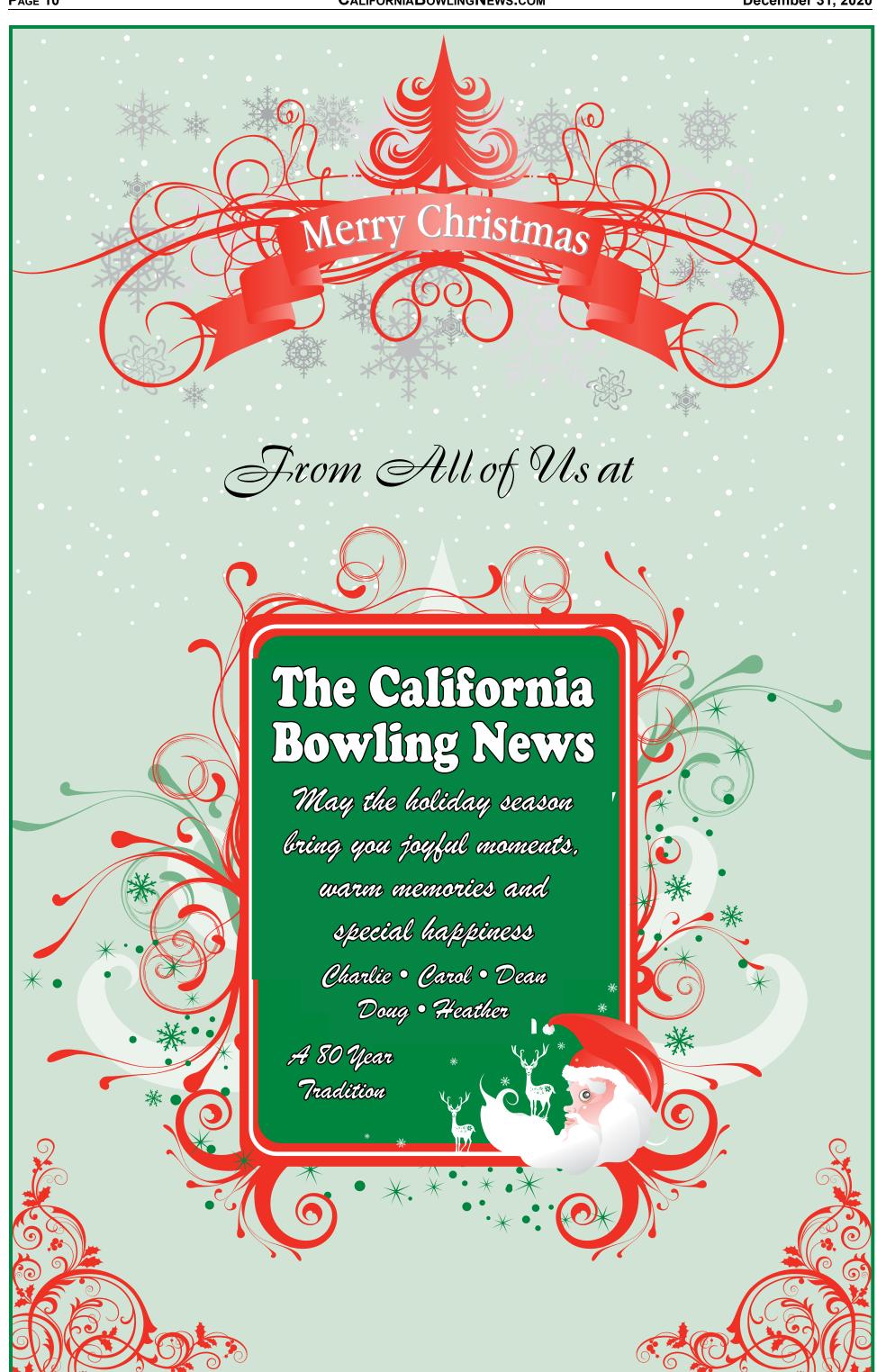
The Governor got caught not Social Distancing - the "GUV" is a "Grinch"

Then the Governor's Policy Makers lost the Rose Bowl Game - the "GUV" is a "Grinch"

That's how the Governor stole CHRISTMAS - that's why the "GUV" is a "Grinch"







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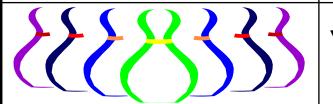
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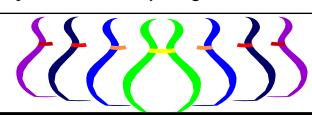
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#### **VENTURA COUNTY USBC**

Asst. Manager - Cheryl Smith vcusbc@gmail.com (805)339-9334

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#### NORTH L.A. COUNTY

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#### SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

Association Manager - Linda Johnson-Pilios 4020 Shadydale Ave., Covina, CA 91722 E-Mail: thumpr2@verizon.net (626) 337-6270 Fax: (626) 960-9260

#### SOUTH L.A. COUNTY

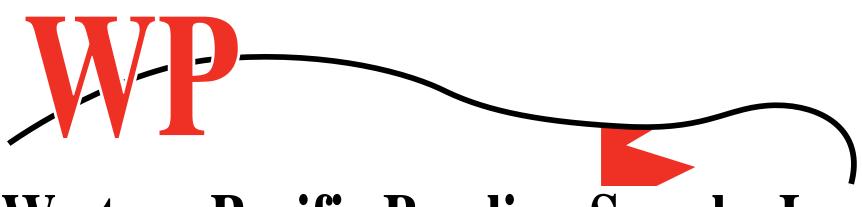
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