



La Palma Seeking Grant for Intersection Improvements

By Rico Dizon

Following the acceptance of Blais & Associates Grants Consultancy Services in the previous meeting, the La Palma City Council, during its Dec. 16 regular meeting, agreed to give the firm its first grant project - the Community Development Block Grant.

The CDBG, which could amount to a total of \$200,000, is primarily designed to fund Public Facilities and improvements for impoverished communities.

La Palma City Manager Ellen Volmert said, "the grant is to do some of the work for the city's ADA (American with Disabilities Act) Transition Plan which was adopted earlier this year. It would enable us to do more ADA intersection improve-

See LA PALMA page 12

FIVE YEAR-OLD SAVES SCHOOLMATE'S LIFE AT NIXON ACADEMY

By Brian Hews

Tuesday was a normal evening at the Roemheld household, with Mrs. Roemheld preparing dinner for her family as she always does.

That is until her son Blake, who attends transitional kindergarten at Nixon Academy, came in and chatted about his Monday lunch at school.

The story would both shock and delight Mrs. Roemheld.

"Mommy," Blake said, "you shouldn't have given me that steak (actually it was pot roast) in my lunch the other day."

Lifesaver Kaiden Thomas (left) and Blake Roemheld.

See NIXON page 12

Santa's Sleigh Foundation Brightens Season for Families in Need



HELPING OUT: From left to right: Norwalk Sheriff's Commander Pat Maxwell, Norwalk Councilman Luigi Vernola, founder of the Santa's Sleigh Foundation, former Pico Rivera Mayor Gracie Gallegos, and newly elected State Senator Tony Mendoza with his son Antonio, Jr. In the background is the donated toy station and the hundreds of bags of food for families in need. Photo by Brian Hews.

By Brian Hews

Over 1,000 people traveled to Norwalk this past Saturday to participate in the annual food and toy giveaway organized by the Santa's Sleigh Foundation.

Santa's Sleigh Foundation is a 501c3 founded by Norwalk Councilman Luigi Vernola and Frank Napolitano, husband of congresswoman Grace Napolitano. The foundation has been holding this event for over 20 years.

It all starts months earlier when the foundation asks local churches, school districts, social services, and various cities for names of those families who are really in need.

"We send out letters to 500 people every year," Vernola told HMG-CN, "the letter has a number on it and they check in to get their food and gifts. After they are done, we let other people in until everything is gone."

Most of the families who attend could not afford toys, so if it were not for the Santa's Sleigh event, their children would go without toys on Christmas day.

"This is tremendous," one parent said, "if not for this event, I wouldn't have been able to give my family presents."

Families were able to pick a bag of grocery staples, a frozen turkey, after which their children were allowed to handpick two toys from several tables set up at the facility.

The toys ranged in age appropriateness from 2 -10 years old.

Vernola personally goes out to choose and pay for all the gifts and the Santa's Sleigh foundation, along with several other organizations, provide additional food and other items.

His family, in-laws, and grandchildren also help out at the event, headed by his daughter Lisa who checked families in and helped pack the food bags.

Young Explorers, the LA County Fire Department, Norwalk Public Safety, Northgate Market, and Vernola's own employees also pitch in to help.

Newly elected State Senator Tony Mendoza, Assemblywoman Christina Garcia, LA County Sheriff's Commander Pat Maxwell, and other local dignitaries came to the event to lend a hand.

But Vernola's charity doesn't stop at the annual event.

For three weeks prior to Christmas, Vernola and his foundation travel around Norwalk in a sleigh that rivals Rose Parade floats, stopping at homes and handing out gifts to families in need.

"That is a lot of fun too, we dress up and travel all around Norwalk visiting families in need. To see the kids faces light up when we pull in is really special," Vernola said.

He continued, "all I am hoping to do is change the attitude of some of these kids and parents, if I can do that then I have accomplished my goal."

Water Report:

Federal Water Regulations Will Burden Municipalities and Households

COMMUNITIES STUDIED INCLUDED BELLFLOWER, DOWNEY, LA MIRADA, LAKEWOOD, AND NORWALK.

Staff Report

The U.S. Conference of Mayors recently reported that the current cost per household for public water services in California is unfairly burdening lower income households.

Municipalities, already coping with tight budgets, and their water customers, face looming high bills to comply with new federal water regulations.

The Mayors' report looked at 35

See WATER page 12

LA MIRADA CHOSEN AS HOST TOWN FOR 2015 SPECIAL OLYMPICS

By Brian Hews

The City of La Mirada recently announced that it was chosen as a Host Town for the 2015 Special Olympics World Games.

La Mirada was included as one of 100 local Host Towns, and will partner with Biola University to host approximately 100 athletes from July 21 to 24, 2015.

The 2015 Special Olympics World Games will be among the largest events in Los Angeles since the 1984 Olympic Games.

The Opening Ceremony, to be held July 25, 2015, in the historic Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, site of the 1932 and 1984 Olympic Games, is expected to attract 80,000 spectators.

Honorary Chairs of the Games are President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama.

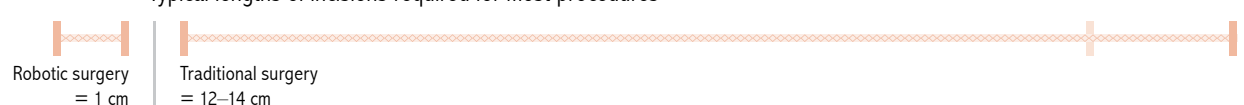
Special Olympics unites children and adult athletes with intellectual disabilities from around the world; athletes demonstrate unparalleled spirit, enthusiasm,

See LA MIRADA page 12



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Bellflower Dog Park Groundbreaking

By Tammye McDuff

The past few years, the city of Bellflower has been at a financial standstill, however through recent acquisitions, the City is now on track to economic recovery.

Brian Lee, Director of Economic Development gave HMG-CN an exclusive look at the new additions to the City.

Among the first of the developments is the Flora Vista Dog Park.

City Council gathered last week for a brief construction groundbreaking ceremony held December 11, 2014 for the new Bellflower Dog Park, which will be located at behind Hollywood Sports Park facility.

The 12,000 square foot facility has three divided areas.

The first of the three will be a small dog park at 3,800 square feet. The second is a larger dog park measuring 11,700 square feet. The final separation is a "run introduction area."

The park will surround the entire facility with a six-foot vinyl-dipped chain link fence and will provide waste dispensers and bags.

Picnic areas, resting benches, as well as drinking fountains for humans and their four legged best friends will be installed.

A parking lot with nine parking spaces, including one ADA van accessible space is currently under construction.

As a touch of canine whimsy, two dog-bone shaped concrete planters and benches will be housed in the large dog facility.



Mayor Sonny Santa Ines (center), Mayor pro tem Scott Larsen, Council members Ray Dunton, Dan Koops and Ron Schnablegger. Photo by Tammye McDuff.

Lee notes "The city is has already accepted a bid and anticipate the parks completion February 2015, without weather conflict."

Dog friendly cities are among the fastest growing and upbeat cities in the nation, according to a report from Forbes Magazine.

Forbes listed the top ten as San Diego, Portland, Seattle, Chicago, Orlando, Austin, Las Vegas, San Francisco, Milwaukee, Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Forbes based their list on a 2013 Rent.com study. Metropolitan markets were ranked based on availability of rental inventory, number of dog parks, number of dog-friendly business establishments, cost of pet care, dog-centric events and walkability scores. Sources: Trust for Public Land, Cost of Living Index, Walkscore, Rent.com

Located at 9230 Flora Vista Street the bid was awarded to KASA Construction

with an approximate cost of \$250,000.00.

KASA Construction is a full-service general engineering firm specializing in public works and commercial construction.

Their work ranges from parks to schools, roads and highways.

KASA clientele include local, State and Federal Agencies, Municipalities, School Districts, Universities, Developers, HOA's, and private Home & Business Owners.

KASA's extensive field and administration experience has awarded projects from CALTRANS, SANBAG, Metropolitan Water District, Riverside Regional Water, and the US Army Core of Engineers.

The dog park will help the area as there is currently only one dog-friendly path with the San Gabriel River Trail, a multi-use trail.

Montebello Unified School Board Reorganizes

Elected officials, District staff, community members, students and families came together for Montebello Unified's annual reorganization ceremony, where outgoing Board President David Vela was recognized for his yearlong presidency and a new president, vice president and clerk were appointed to serve through November 2015.

The Board of Education appointed outgoing clerk Edgar Cisneros to serve as president and board member Lani Cupchoy as incoming clerk. Benjamin Cárdenas was re-elected as vice president.

Cisneros emphasized his priorities of ensuring fiscal solvency, a continued transition to Common Core, improving facilities and updating technological infrastructure, while continuing to support innovative programs and services that provide rigorous academic instruction and work-based learning.

A lifelong Montebello resident and District alumnus, Cisneros has children currently attending Montebello Unified schools. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from California State University, Long Beach and has served as the senior field deputy for former Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina. Currently, he manages public affairs for the water resources branch of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.

Seven-year board member Vela, who is continuing his tenure on the governing

See **MONTEBELLO** page 7



Happy Holidays

Wishing everyone across the Fourth District and Los Angeles County a Merry Christmas and best wishes this holiday season!

Don Knabe
 Supervisor, Fourth District
 County of Los Angeles
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HAWAIIAN GARDENS CASINO HONORED FOR DONATION

Staff Report

The Los Alamitos Youth Center presented a plaque to Hawaiian Gardens Casino General Manager Ron Sarabi in recognition of the Casino's generous donation to the organization in 2014.

The Youth Center's mission is to transform lives one child at a time through collaborative social, educational and recreational programs. Programs are funded entirely by contributions and modest activity fees. The Youth Center does not receive local, state or federal

funding.

The center has been open for 63 years and has been an integral part of the community by providing youth development programming to thousands of young people each and every year.

The organization's goal has remained the same throughout its long history of service: providing programs and activities for young people that best address the needs of the community and contribute towards an improved quality of life.

After receiving the plaque, Sarabi commented, "kids have a soft spot in our hearts, especially kids in need. When we started the Hawaiian Gardens Casino 15 years ago, we wanted to be here as a good neighbor for Los Alamitos, Cypress, Hawaiian Gardens, Cerritos and the surrounding communities."



Hawaiian Gardens Casino General Manager Ron Sarabi, left, accepts plaque from Julie Rubin, Office Manager at the Los Alamitos Youth Center for the Casino's generous donation to the organization.

NORWALK-LA MIRADA UNIFIED BOARD OF EDUCATION REORGANIZATION

The Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District Board of Education conducted its annual reorganization meeting this month, selecting Jesse Urquidi as President and Karen Morrison as Vice President.

The District, its teachers and community members and local elected officials also commemorated the yearlong service of Margarita Rios as president in 2014.

"This past year has been a challenging, but exciting year," Rios said. "The Common Core State Standards were introduced, a new district funding formula (LCFF) was implemented, and the school board adopted the district's Local Control and Accountability Plan. The school board also began the search process for a new superintendent, and placed a successful school bond measure before the voters. I am grateful for the numerous leadership opportunities 2014 presented to me as board president and look forward to continuing my service to our school community."

The District, staff, teachers and local elected officials, including State Sen. Tony Mendoza and the office of Assemblyman Ian Calderon provided Rios with commendations for her service.

Newly appointed President Urquidi, who served as Vice President this year, pledged his commitment to continuing the District's path to success and high student achievement.

"There's lots of change in education with the introduction of the Common Core State Standards and the Local Control Funding Formula, as well as our own Local Control and Accountability Plan," Urquidi said. "These are positive changes that will help our District remain on a continuum of success."

Among his priorities in the new year, Urquidi said he will work for the installation of a system that will allow the District to broadcast board meetings online, and the creation of a NLMUSD Sports Facilities council, similar to the one operating in La Mirada, to promote efficiency in scheduling and use of the District's fields and facilities by community youth and adult sports leagues in Norwalk.

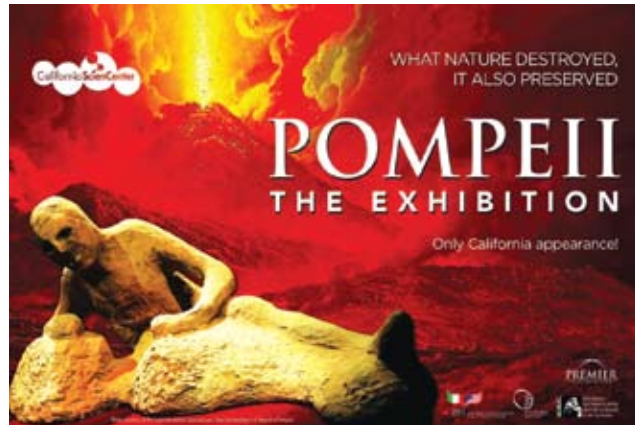
"It has been a joy to return to this school district and help move forward the great academic programs and support services we offer our children to help them thrive," said Norwalk-La Mirada Interim Superintendent Ginger Shattuck. "I look forward to continuing to work with this newly reorganized Board to promote success in all facets of Norwalk-La Mirada Unified."

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Guest Opinion

Where Does ABCUSD Go Now?

Whenever prospective home buyers are looking, their checklist of most important considerations, located somewhere between square footage and kitchen amenities, is the local school system.

For years realtors have loved to promote the ABC School District where the quality of education in its renowned schools drives up home prices 5 to 10 percent.

Led by bell weather Whitney High, which every year ranks among the best in the country and the only five time na-

tional Blue Ribbon school, along with overall academic excellence, ABC is a source of community pride.

One would think this pride, coupled with the perfect environment of historically low interest rates and the need to bring schools all at least forty years old into the 21st century, was the ideal moment to pass a school bond measure.

Over a hundred other school districts agreed and 80% of them passed bonds including all of the districts around ABC.

Shockingly, the bond measure here did not pass or even come close.

Everyone agrees that the schools need major upgrading but the big question is, "What does the district do in this aftermath?"

There is no shortage of explanations about why the bond failed in a place where the schools are revered.

It was apathy, as the 31% turnout showed.

It was complacency, including a city council member saying test scores were high already and upgrading wasn't needed.

It was misinformation, with a former school board member declaring in an op-ed that employees received an average of \$30,000 each in pay raises over the last two years.

It was the aging population on fixed income whose children had already gone

Over one hundred other districts agreed and 80% of them passed bonds including all of the districts around ABC. What does the district do in this aftermath?

thru school and did not feel obligated.

It was the general dislike for taxation

And there were many more. Add to this fact free websites, and the information placed on them, and you have the recipe for the outcome.

This does not explain how other districts facing the same headwinds were successful or how this reality will be addressed in any future bond measure.

Other solutions besides a bond have come forward but all of them amount to educational quackery.

A suggestion to close schools and sell the land in some of the other six cities served by ABC doesn't raise much money, is a long drawn out process, and has a NIMBY tinge to it.

Throwing inter-district students out is both illegal and immoral to say nothing of costing far more in state student revenue than could be saved.

Cutting salaries (beyond the phantom \$30,000) in a district that already struggles to remain competitive salary wise is an open invitation to a mass exodus of the talented staff achieving all that academic success.

Merging ABC with one of the surrounding school districts is as dopey as it sounds, although ironically since they all passed bond issues our community would assume their bond obligation as the price to be adopted.

Sadly, in the absence of any useful ideas the finger pointing has begun in earnest.

One local website that opposed the bond published a "hit list" of supporters they intend to get even with.

The School Board majority bypassed a leadership position for the one board member who opposed the bond figuring that having dished the advice of the district management, how could that person be effective in leading and being its public face.

Wolfing about who was tearing down yard signs during the election is the only dialogue going on.

Meanwhile, the future of 21,000 students is ignored.

The simple truth is ABC must go after a school facilities bond again in 2016, the next time it is possible.

There is no "Plan B" or one would be implemented somewhere by now.

The state already pays 85% of the cost of educating ABC students under Proposition 98 and Governor Brown has stated clearly that state matching funds to fix schools as was done in ABC in 1997 after a much smaller bond was passed is not an option any longer.

The local public needs to understand that a valuable asset like a local school district needs constant upgrading or it becomes a liability.

The language of education which once was calculators and textbooks has been replaced by bandwidth, networks and chrome books, all more expensive and ever changing.

*Gavin Riley
Cerritos, CA*

Catherine Grant Wieder

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By Dr. Mary Sieu
Superintendent, ABCUSD

Twitter: @abcsupt



*Dr. Mary Sieu
Superintendent - ABCUSD*

As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the ABC Unified School District, it provides us an opportunity to reflect on our previous accomplishments and look forward to the next 50 years.

As Superintendent of this award winning District, I am honored to be a part of its rich history of academic achievement and innovative partnerships.

The District's commitment to raise academic achievement is a result of a

dedicated staff, hard working students and engaged parents and community members.

Our strong collaborative partnerships with our labor groups, local businesses, PTAs, colleges and civic groups help to advance our mission.

We are proud that during the past 50 years, our schools have been selected for the National Blue Ribbon Awards by the U.S. Dept. of Education, California Distinguished Schools by the California Dept. of Education, Golden Bell Awards from the California School Board Association and California Business for Educational Excellence Honor Roll.

More recently, we've had three middle schools honored as "National Model Middle Schools" and the Parent Leadership Conference and Academy selected for the 2015 Magna Grand Prize Award by the National School Board As-

sociation.

The future of ABC Unified School District continues to be promising despite the complex changes in new curriculum and assessment.

Many changes at the State level have impacted the future of all public schools in California.

Our strength as we move forward will be the building blocks we have established for the past fifty years.

We thank the community for supporting us and welcome greater involvement as we move forward.

Join us as we sharpen our focus on teaching and learning to ensure that "every student, in every classroom, every day" is provided a world class education.

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MAYOR'S CORNER



A Message from La Mirada Mayor Larry Mowles

2014 has been another great year for La Mirada highlighted by some remarkable accomplishments.

The City is building upon its foundation as a safe and desirable community, and steps continue to be taken to preserve La Mirada's high quality of life for residents and businesses.

La Mirada remains among the safest cities in Los Angeles County and enjoys one of the lowest crime rates in the region. Preliminary figures show our crime rate has dropped by about 20 percent in the last year. The low crime rate is due to the tremendous combined efforts of the City, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and very active community support, including Neighborhood Watch, HAM Watch, Volunteers on Patrol, and Community Emergency Response Team.

The City's emergency preparedness program continues to excel. The annual communitywide disaster preparedness exercise was very successful this year, as La Mirada was chosen to serve as the epicenter for the official 2014 Great California ShakeOut media event. This honor was a major achievement for La Mirada and a reflection that our community's efforts are being recognized throughout the state.

The Fiscal Year 14-15 Budget maintains operations and services at an appropriate level, provides for a robust capital improvement projects schedule, and includes healthy financial reserves. Economic indicators in the community continue to be positive as reflected by property values growing by 4.4 percent during the past year and area unemployment lowering to 4.8 percent. Building activity has also increased with more than 2,600 permits issued in the most recent fiscal year compared to 2,016 during the prior year. A number of major capital projects were recently completed and others are in progress. Construction on the Valley View Avenue Grade Separation was finished in the fall, and has increased safety, improved traffic circulation, and reduced train horns at the intersection. We recently conducted a noise study in the area along the BNSF Corridor and will continue exploring the cost and viability of noise mitigating measures.

Two major street and storm drain improvement projects are currently underway

in the neighborhoods north of Imperial Highway and in the Foster Park neighborhood south of Milan Creek. Slurry seal projects were completed on Hillsborough Drive and Santa Gertrudes Avenue. Additional improvements to playgrounds, center medians, and community facilities are also moving forward.

We saw continued improvements to some neighborhood shopping centers this year. Renovations at the Crossroads Center are nearly complete and several new eateries recently opened joining the Walgreens and Walmart Neighborhood Market at the center. Improvements continued at the shopping centers at Rosecrans Avenue and Valley View Avenue, and additional façade enhancements are being planned at other La Mirada shopping centers.

Construction of "The Orchards" neighborhood development is nearing completion and all 41 homes have been sold. Most of the neighborhood's new residents have already moved into their homes. La Mirada continues to receive interest from new home developers who have expressed interest in a number of key sites for potential residential development.

The City's Community Services Department continued to offer a variety of recreation, leisure, and social programs and events to meet all ages and interests. A new Friday Night Football league was especially popular among La Mirada youths. Splash! continued to have strong attendance and sales this year with nearly 400,000 visitors. Splash! is a popular destination for aquatic programs, birthday parties, company picnics, school fieldtrips, swim competitions, swimming lessons and special camps and events.

We were also excited to learn that La Mirada was named a 2015 Special Olympics Host Town. We are looking forward to welcoming about 80 representatives of a competing nation later this summer,

and are grateful to Biola University for providing housing and lodging for these athletes.

The La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts marked an outstanding 2013-14 season by earning 17 nominations and three Ovation Awards, including Outstanding Musical in a Large Theatre, Lead Actor in a Musical and Best Director of a Musical. Last year's lineup set attendance and box office records with popular productions of Les Miserables and Cats. La Mirada Theatre's 2014-15 season is now underway with a terrific lineup including Billy Elliot, Carrie the Musical, Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice, Mary Poppins and more.

Finally, I would like to thank the many volunteers who give so much of their time and resources to benefit La Mirada. We certainly appreciate all the valuable contributions that go toward improving our community, and our city is better off because of our volunteers.

2014 has been a year of great progress in La Mirada. We have achieved a number of goals set forth in the 2015 Strategic Plan while maintaining our priorities of safety, infrastructure improvement, and community enhancement. The City is looking forward to continued progress in the coming year.

Larry Mowles
La Mirada Mayor

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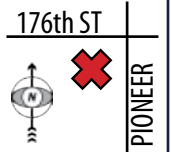
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CRIME SUMMARIES Dec. 15-21, 2014

EDITOR'S NOTE: The crime summaries are sent in to HMG-CN by the respective cities, HMG-CN publishes the summaries as a public service.

Cerritos

There were 23 Part I felony crimes reported in Cerritos this past reporting period, an increase of eight from the previous week. The following is a breakdown of crimes by category: one robbery; two aggravated assaults; four residential burglaries; one commercial/other burglary; five grand thefts; six vehicle burglaries; and four auto thefts. Deputies made five felony arrests, five misdemeanor arrests, five warrant arrests, and issued 97 traffic citations. The Sheriff's dispatch center also received a total of 240 calls for service, a substantial decrease from the previous week and this year's weekly average of 266 calls.

Robbery:

Norwalk Blvd. & 195th St. (12/10, 7:20 a.m.): Victim riding his skateboard to school when approached by a male who punched him in the face and ran off with the skateboard.

Aggravated Assault:

12700 block Towne Center Dr. (12/17): Suspect arrested for hitting his girlfriend during an argument.

19700 block Alida St. (12/19): Suspect arrested for hitting his girlfriend during an argument.

Residential Burglary:

11700 block Gonsalves St. (12/15): Suspect entered unlocked bedroom window and stole a computer.

12800 block Cantrece St. (12/17): Suspect stole golf clubs from unlocked garage.

16400 block Debra Ln. (12/17): Suspect entered residence through laundry room window, loss unknown at this time.

13300 block Bigelow St. (12/19): Front room sliding glass door broken and every room in residence ransacked. Loss is unknown at this time.

Commercial/Other Burglary:

16500 block Valley View Ave. (12/15): Two suspects arrested for breaking a lock and stealing jewelry from a storage locker.

Vehicle Burglary:

16700 block Parkside Ave. (12/15): Suspect forced open window of a '07 Cadillac and stole cash and clothing.

16400 block Shoemaker Ave. (12/17): Suspect broke window of a '04 Ford and stole vehicle's stereo system.

12700 block Towne Center Dr. (12/17):

Suspect broke window of a '13 Hyundai and stole a purse.

12700 block Towne Center Dr. (12/18): Suspect broke window of a '98 Mazda and stole a cell phone.

10700 block South St. (12/18): Suspect broke window of a '03 Honda and stole a bag containing a checkbook.

11800 block South St. (12/21): Suspect shattered window on a '12 Honda and stole a purse.

Grand Theft:

500 Los Cerritos Center (12/15): Suspect arrested for stealing clothing from Macy's.

500 Los Cerritos Center (12/16): Victim's estranged husband stole her cell phone following an argument.

151 Los Cerritos Center (12/20): Suspect stole wallet from purse while victim was shopping.

12200 block Rose St. (12/21): Suspect seen stealing a package from the porch of a residence.

14100 block Arbor Pl. (8/12-9/26): Suspect stole unknown amount of cash from office cash box.

Grand Theft Auto:

10900 block Alondra Blvd. (12/15): Suspect stole a 2000 Ford from the Home Depot parking lot.

500 Los Cerritos Center (12/15): Suspect stole a '94 Honda from the parking lot.

11200 block 183rd St. (12/17): Suspect stole a '96 Honda from the parking lot near "Chuck E. Cheese."

239 Los Cerritos Center (12/19): Suspect stole a '07 Honda Accord from the parking lot near Sears.

La Mirada

Aggravated Assault

An assault was reported at Excelsior Dr. and Stanleaf Dr. The victim was struck in the head with a bat after a verbal confrontation. The incident is under investigation.

Residential Burglary

A burglary was reported on the 15200 block of Greenworth Dr. Cash was reported stolen from the home.

Other Structure Burglary

A burglary to a business was reported on the 14900 block of Valley View Ave. Electronics and food racks were stolen from the location.

Vehicle Burglary

A window smash burglary was reported on the 12000 block of Santa Gertrudes Ave. A purse was reported stolen from the vehicle.

Locker Burglary

A burglary to a gym locker was reported on the 13300 block of Beach Blvd. Cash was stolen in the incident.

Grand Theft Vehicle

A vehicle was reported stolen from the 13000 block of Woodridge Ave.

A van was reported stolen from the 14800 block of San Ardo Dr. The vehicle was recovered the following day by the Los Angeles Police Department after being stripped.

A trailer was reported stolen from the 14700 block of San Esteban Dr.

A van was reported stolen from the 14200 block of Nearingrove Rd. The vehicle was recovered in fair condition by the Los Angeles Police Department.

A vehicle reported stolen from El Monte was recovered at Del Vista Ln and Las Flores Ave. after being stripped.

A vehicle reported stolen from Huntington Beach was recovered on the 16100 block of Rosecrans Ave.

La Mirada Sheriff's Station Holiday Hours

The La Mirada Community Sheriff's Station will be closed on Dec. 24, Dec. 25, and Jan. 1 in observance of the holidays. The Station will be open regular business hours on all other days, which are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays, and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekends.

Contact the La Mirada Community Sheriff's Station by calling (562) 902-2960. During non-operating hours, calls are forwarded to the Norwalk Sheriff's Station. Residents should call 911 for all emergency related calls.

Celebrate the New Year Safely

The Public Safety Team would like to remind residents that although the New Year is a time for celebration, safety should be a top priority. In order to enjoy a safe holiday, keep in mind the following:

- Gunfire is prohibited.
- Fireworks, including "safe and sane" fireworks, may not be discharged.
- Public drinking of alcoholic beverages and public intoxication are prohibited.
- Following a warning, individuals who host large parties that disturb the peace and quiet of the neighborhood will be billed for the cost of breaking up the party.
- Streets may not be blocked to accommodate large parties.
- If you drink, don't drive!

The Public Safety Team will be taking a zero-tolerance approach to ensure the safety of residents. Anyone in violation of the above laws will be fined and/or arrested.

Lakewood Sheriff's Station: Don't Be Victim of Package Delivery Theft

By Rico Dizon

The Lakewood Sheriff's Station has recently issued a stern warning to residents including those of adjoining cities that the holiday gift-giving season of November and December had triggered an alarming number of package delivery thefts.

"Many packages come straight to the customer's door even if no one is home to accept them. Unfortunately, this brings out individuals who see it as an illegal opportunity. Thieves will follow and watch for Fedex, UPS, US Mail and other delivery trucks and then target a home right after a delivery is made," warned the Sheriff's station spokesman.

The Lakewood station offers the following precautionary measures to stop this type of crime:

Choose a shipping option to require you to sign a delivery; check delivery status on line so you can be home when delivery arrives; on the expected day of package arrival leave a note on your door for the delivery man to leave your package to a trusted neighbor; arrange to have the package shipped to another location where the legitimate recipient can receive it; or ask the delivery service to hold your package for customer pick up at their local shipping facility.

The sheriff's station advised that if you do not receive your delivery on time, check with the company of origin and have the delivery confirmed. If the package was delivered and you did not receive it report the theft or loss to the original company, the shipping company or the sheriff's station at 562-623-3500.

The sheriff's station said, "Many of these crimes occur in broad daylight. Be alert of any suspicious behavior in your neighborhood especially if you see a delivery truck making the rounds and you notice a vehicle or unfamiliar people following the delivery truck. If you see something, say something."



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LBS Financial Credit Union Employees Donate Toys, Gifts and Clothing to Local Children



From left to right: Heather Summers, senior vice president, marketing, LBS Financial Credit Union; Sally Coker, board of director, Young Horizons; Sarah Soriano, executive director, Young Horizons; Jeff Napper, president and CEO, LBS Financial Credit Union; and Sean Hardeman, senior vice president, member services, LBS Financial Credit Union.

Long Beach, CA –December 18, 2014 -- LBS Financial Credit Union employees donated hundreds of toys, gifts and clothing to the children of Young Horizons on December 10, 2014 at The Grand in Long Beach during their annual holiday breakfast.

Every year, LBS Financial hosts an employee holiday breakfast at an offsite location. The employee holiday breakfast committee selected Young Horizons for this year's employee gift donation hoping to make a positive difference in the lives of these children during the holidays. In previous years, LBS Financial employees donated toys and gifts to the United States Marines' Toys for Tots Foundation, Miller Children's Hospital, Comprehensive Child Development, Long Beach Day Nursery, Children Today, Project Shepherd and the

Needy Family Project in Cerritos.

Approximately 175 LBS Financial employees attended this year's breakfast and many brought more than one gift.

"Young Horizons is an important organization in the Long Beach community," said Jeffrey Napper, president and CEO of LBS Financial Credit Union. "In the spirit of the holidays, it's truly heartwarming to see our employees show their generosity and make personal donations to benefit the local community."

"We are overwhelmed by the generosity of the Credit Union employees," said Sarah Soriano, executive director of Young Horizons. "Thanks to LBS Financial for making our children's holiday special! We are so grateful for the outpouring of love and kindness."

MONTEBELLO

Continued from page 1

body, was recognized by local elected officials for his year of service as Board of Education president.

This year marked the implementation of Common Core State Standards and the Local Control Funding Formula. The District was also recognized for its leadership in developing and sustaining educational pathways that mesh high-quality instruction with hands-on experience in collaboration with community partners.

Board members Lani Cupchoy, Benjamin Cárdenas and Hector Chacon are also eager to continue the forward trajectory of Montebello Unified for another year of excellent programs and services that give students the tools and resources they need to find success in the classroom and beyond.

"We congratulate and thank Mr. Vela for his dedication and vision in moving our District forward," said Superintendent of Schools Cleve Pell. "We welcome Mr. Cisneros as president and trust his commitment and hard-work will continue to bring the stellar results we have grown accustomed to at Montebello Unified."

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HEART OF COMPASSION DISTRIBUTION IN MONTEBELLO, FIGHTING HUNGER & FEEDING HOPE

By Tammye McDuff

The Heart of Compassion [HOC] held its annual Christmas event this past Saturday in Montebello giving away toys, clothing, food and a grocery basket full of holiday trimmings to thousands of people. Free haircuts and dental examinations were also provided.

The HOC has been serving those in need for more than 15 years. Distributing to hundreds of food banks, shelters, veterans, senior centers and school programs, HOC has become a staple for families in Southern California.

HOC believes to fight hunger feeds hope. By providing fresh fruits, vegetables and other nutritional foods, and when available furniture and clothing to the less fortunate, the organization distributed food to 284,945 families and served more than one million people. HOC has distributed 16.5 million pounds of goods, totaling over \$33 million dollars.

The mission for Heart of Compassion is to fight hunger by meeting immediate food needs in those communities that are hardest hit during economic hard times. Working with local officials HOC has



HELPING THE NEEDY: From left to right. Philip Galindo, Commerce Councilwomen Denise Robles, Pastor Charles Woody, State Senator Tony Mendoza, Reverend, Eric Tietze, and Pastor Tony Leon. Photo by Tammye McDuff.

developed a successful and sustainable program, helping others to become self-reliant and independent. HOC empowers the urban poor, serving as a facility that provides transitional housing, occupational training, and vocational rehabilitation.

Reverend, Eric Tietze is the pastor behind the organization. Tietze told HMG-CN, "many of us were raised to think that you went to school and got an education, you would be able to find a good job and work hard toward a successful life. As we know, in life sometimes things just

happen that we are unprepared for. This is where we want HOC to help."

According to statistics gathered by Feeding America, California has over 6 million people that are food insecure. Until recently, the number of people falling below the federal poverty threshold has been the indicating measure to identify the need for food at the local level. However, national food insecurity data reveals that about 57% of those struggling with hunger actually have incomes above the federal poverty level and 59% of these households are food secure.

"We are not just about food distribution, or the various men's home that we maintain," states Tietze, "we also sponsor nutrition training classes, food handling, parenting classes, warehouse operation, resume preparation, anger, and financial management."

Newly elected Senator of the 32nd district Tony Mendoza was on hand to help distribute goods, "I had only heard about this organization last year. It is such a wonderful thing that they do here. Pastor Eric and Heart of Compassion really reach out and give tangible help and hope to so many people. It is truly a miracle on Maple Street."

Local High School String Quartet Joins Touring Beatles Musical in Downey

The California High School (Whittier) string quartet has the privilege of joining the professional actors on stage to add an



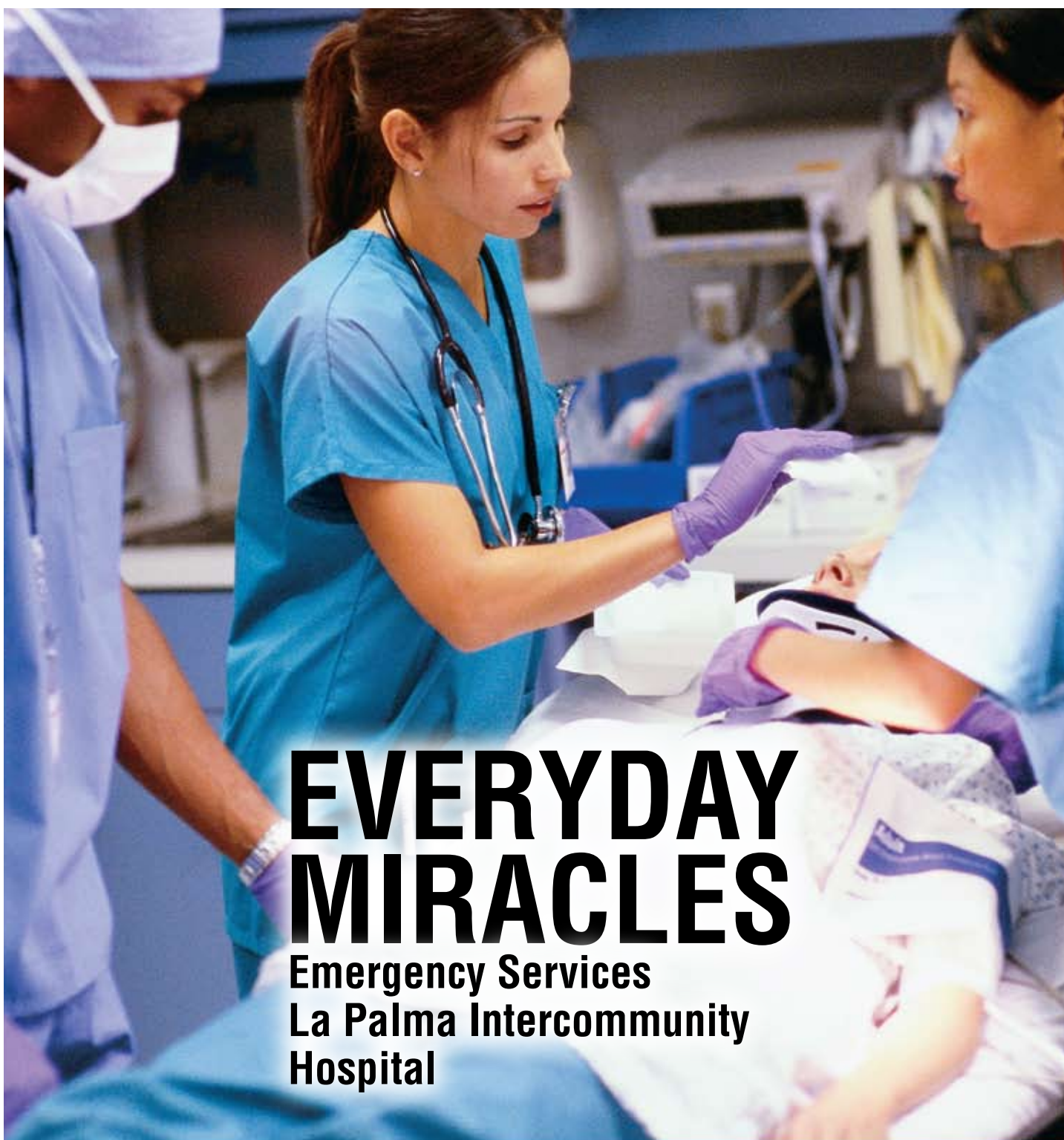
Cal high quartet (l-r) Isabella Sierra (Violin), Ariel Ramos (Violin), Dawn Anoché (Viola) and Drew Kirkpatrick (Cello). Photo by Michelle Fairless.

element of orchestral texture to the evening.

The show: "In My Life" is the musical retelling of the Beatles story through the eyes of manager Brian Epstein and featuring the live music of renowned tribute band Abbey Road. The band features Chris Paul Overall ("Paul"), Nathaniel Bott ("John"), Jesse Wilder ("George") and Axel Clarke ("Ringo"). Brian Epstein is played by Murphy Martin. The production includes multimedia, period costumes and vintage instruments. I

The string quartet: California High School High senior Isabella Sierra and juniors Drew Kirkpatrick, Dawn Anoché and Ariel Ramos join the band for the songs "Eleanor Rigby," "Yesterday," "A Day in the Life," "Hello Goodbye," and "Hey Jude."

"In My Life - A Musical Theatre Tribute to the Beatles" comes to the Downey Civic Theatre on Friday, January 16 at 8 pm. Tickets are \$35-\$55 and may be purchased online at www.downeytheatre.com, by phone at (562) 861-8211 or at the box office. The Downey Civic is located at 8435 Firestone Bl.



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DOUGLAS USELTON MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

Valley Christian nipped at the buzzer, sees winning streak snapped

By Loren Kopff

CYPRESS-The Valley Christian boys basketball team wrapped up the Douglas Uselton Memorial Tournament, hosted by Oxford Academy, with a chance to keep its winning streak alive at 11 games to begin the season. And for a brief second, it looked as if sophomore small guard Johnny Johnson would keep the Crusaders undefeated.

But his attempted three-point shot from the right wing at the buzzer fell short and V.C. lost to Savanna 56-54 last Saturday night in the championship game. Johnson had missed two free throws with 5.7 seconds left, but half a second later, Savanna's Kevin Ventura did the same, giving the Crusaders the chance of the win, or at least send the game into overtime.

The game marked the fifth game in as many nights for the Crusaders, who had defeated three Orange County schools by a combined 23 points, plus Bishop Amat, the fifth ranked team in the California Interscholastic Federation-Southern Section Division III-A coaches poll, by 21 points. But V.C. head coach Bryan Branderhorst is not using that as an excuse for the loss.

"I'm not going to blame it on that," Branderhorst said. "I don't think fatigue was an issue tonight. I think poise was an issue and we were certainly lacking there."

Indeed, V.C. was sloppy in the first quarter, turning the ball over eight times, but held the lead until the Rebels scored the final five points of the stanza in the final 76 seconds to take a 13-10 lead. The Crusaders, ranked seventh in Division IV-A, responded by going on an 8-0 run and in fact, limited Savanna to just two points in the second quarter. Johnson and junior small guard Jordan Mitchell combined to score nine of the 11 points in the quarter and were effective on the glass, each grabbing four rebounds in that eight-minute session.

V.C. extended its lead to 10 points just 62 seconds into the third quarter on consecutive baskets from junior power forward Vaj Rice and Johnson, who had assisted on Rice's bucket. But the Rebels would slowly chip away at the lead and regained the lead with 3:19 remaining in the quarter on an Adam Gomez basket. After Rice scored on back to back attempts, Gomez nailed a three-pointer and for the next five and a half minutes extending into the fourth quarter, both squads would trade leads.

With 3:49 left to play, Michael Enis converted a three-point play that put the Rebels in front. Then 29 seconds later, Mark Butler did the same to give Savanna the lead for good at 49-46. It was Butler, Enis and Kyle Davis that paced the Rebels, combining for all but 15 points in the game and connecting on three third quarter long range shots.

"[Enis and Davis] were high on our list as was [Mark Butler] in terms of shooting the three," Branderhorst said. "[Butler] had a nice night tonight. Our biggest concern was just taking care of the basketball because they like to create turnovers with their defense and get out in transition."

V.C. would cut its deficit to one point

See **TOURNAMENT** page 11

38TH ANNUAL VALLEY CHRISTIAN GIRLS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT SCORING AT A PREMIUM IN VALLEY CHRISTIAN'S WIN OVER WHITNEY

By Loren Kopff

You could look at the Valley Christian-Whitney girls basketball game last Saturday afternoon in the final day of the 38th Annual V.C. Tournament in one of two ways. If you liked defense, then this was a game for you.

But if you were banking on both teams shooting at least 30 percent from the field, then you were in the wrong gymnasium. In the seventh place game, the host Lady Crusaders pulled away from the Lady Wildcats in the third quarter and earned a sloppy 31-21 victory. V.C. ended a brief two-game slide and improved to 6-4 on the season while the 'Cats lost for the third straight time and dropped to 4-6.

"We know we need to improve as far as practices and as far as really making our presence known in the first half and continue making our presence known in the second half," said V.C. assistant coach Jay Field.

That quote was based on the 2-2 first quarter score. Whitney sophomore Nicole Lee scored the game's first points with 4:08 left in the quarter and V.C. senior Alex Fenderson tied the contest after an offensive rebound with 1:45 remaining.

It didn't get a whole lot better in the second quarter because 2:38 had elapsed before Lee sank a pair of free throws, then scored another basket 35 seconds later. Eventually, Whitney would lead 8-7 at the break as both teams didn't even connect on 14 percent of their shots from the field. Despite trailing at the break, Field was a little pleased in the sense that the team met its goal of limiting Whitney to seven points per quarter.

"We were playing great defense," Field said. "We just couldn't put the ball in the basket. We had to continue our defense intensity. We made adjustments [in the second half] and switched it up to a

man-to-man and picked up full court so we could try to get some steals."

But down by three points in the third quarter, the Lady Crusaders went on an 11-0 run highlighted by seven points from junior Katy Feller. Following a pair of free throws from Whitney junior Chloe Olvera with 4:30 left in the game, the Lady Crusaders closed out the contest on a 9-0 run.

Feller led V.C. with 11 points and nine steals while senior Kate Vande Vegte added eight points and two assists. Fenderson pitched in with half a dozen points and 10 rebounds. This was the fourth time that V.C. had held its opponents to 30 or fewer points.

"The Katy and Kate show, the K. K. show is always a good thing to see," Field said. "You have a great point guard out of Katy who is able to slash and attack the paint. And when she does, she always has the option of kicking it out to Kate who is a sniper from down deep. The sky's the limit with those two and we're blessed to have them."

Lee led the Lady Wildcats with 11 points and 14 rebounds while four players combined for the other 10 points. Whitney failed to score at least 40 points in any of its four tournament games and Lee scored 33 of the team's 112 points while Olvera combined for 22 points. Whitney will next be in action on Jan. 6 at Oxford Academy in the Academy League opener.

V.C. is competing in the Garden Grove Tournament, which begins today and runs through Tuesday. Last season, the Lady Crusaders went 7-11 in non-Olympic League games.

"We always feel like there's that one or two wins that got away from us," Field said. "But we're still a very young team as far as experience. We feel great about where we are compared to last year even though they won 11 games last year."

Cerritos hoopsters advance to semifinals of Gahr Girls Varsity Winter Classic



HMG-CN Sports
Editor Loren Kopff

NEWS AND NOTES FROM PRESS ROW

kind to Cerritos through the first two days of the four-day event. As a result, the Lady Dons find themselves in one of two semifinal games tonight.

This past Monday night, Cerritos benefited from a depleted J.W. North squad that played with just five players the entire first half and used a 17-0 run in the fourth quarter to cruise to a 62-39 victory. J.W.

The annual Gahr Girls Varsity Winter Classic girls basketball event has been

See **WINTER CLASSIC** page 11

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TOURNAMENT from page 10

four different times over the final 2:49 but had several chances to take the lead with less than a minute to play.

With 31.3 seconds remaining, V.C. turned the ball over. Then Rice was called for an offensive foul with 18.8 seconds left and Davis sank both free throws. Finally, with 5.7 seconds left, Johnson missed his first free throw and a lane violation was called on his second attempt, in which he purposely tried to bounce the ball off the glass in hopes of a V.C. player getting the rebound.

Rice led all scorers with 20 points and grabbed eight rebounds while Johnson added 13 points and eight boards as well.

“We started off real shaky,” Branderhorst said. “The name of the game all night was we turned the ball over and made silly mistakes. We had stretches where that was worse than others but certainly that was a major Achilles Heel for us tonight. We didn’t take care of the ball; we weren’t effective against their pressure.”

The Crusaders have typically had slow Decembers, failing to reach 10 wins by the time Olympic League play starts over the past five seasons. In fact, V.C. has not won more than 14 games in any season since going 27-4 during the 2007-2008 campaign en route to a Division IV-A championship. That season, the team started off 5-0.

“Fantastic start to the season,” Branderhorst said. “Obviously we’re kind of discouraged right now. But 10-1 is a good place to be. We’ve gotten better overall through the course of the week. It’s tough because you don’t have a chance to practice and work on certain things you want to work on. You have to try to get better on the court.”

The Crusaders will begin action in the Monrovia Tournament against La Canada today with the final day coming on Tuesday.

HAWAIIAN GARDENS LITTLE LEAGUE TOY DRIVE



TOY DRIVE: For the past 7 years, the Hawaiian Gardens Little League has sponsored a toy drive to benefit the children of Hawaiian Gardens. This year was no different, they collected two full carts of toys that will bring smiling faces to the children of the community. The toys will be distributed by the Hawaiian Gardens Community Outreach Program. Pictured with the presents is Hawaiian Gardens Little League President Frank Amaro.

WINTER CLASSIC

Continued from page 1

North is the defending two-time champions in this tournament.

The Lady Dons opened the game with eight straight points from four different players and built an 18-4 lead after the first quarter. After the Huskies drew to within nine points late in the half, a basket from senior Alyssa Movchan and a three-pointer from sophomore Teresa Torres gave the Lady Dons a 30-18 halftime advantage.

J.W. North made it interesting in the third quarter by scoring nine straight points out of the gate, then moved to within three points two more times before a three-pointer from sophomore Cailey Vitug started the 17-0 run.

Senior Taylor Hirata led Cerritos with 18 points and was true on five three-point-

ers while Movchan added 13 points, four rebounds, three assists and three steals. Also having great performances were junior Tatiana Fominyam (12 points, nine assists, eight rebounds and three steals) and sophomore Ifeoma Okoli (10 points, nine rebounds, four blocks and three steals).

This past Tuesday afternoon, the Lady Dons survived a scare from St. Mary’s Academy and pulled away late in a 66-50 triumph. Cerritos (6-5) led 20-12 after the first quarter as Fominyam, Hirata and Movchan provided all of the points. A three-pointer from Hirata with 2:24 left in the half made it 33-18 as she led the team with 14 points on four downtown shots in the half.

But the Belles crept back and began the second half on a 7-0 run to trail by eight points. But in the end, it was too much

See **WINTER CLASSIC** page 12

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AUDIENCE PROFILE

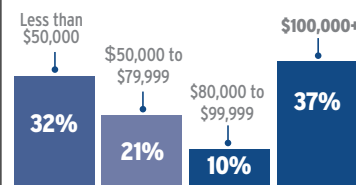
Orange County is home to more than **1.2 million** Catholics living in more than **300,000** households. Orange County Catholic is delivered to **62 parishes** and Catholic centers in Orange County.

Here is a snapshot of this audience:

AGE

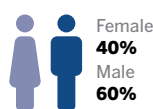
- 14.2%** age 25 to 34
- 24.5%** age 35 to 44
- 24.7%** age 45 to 54
- 16.8%** age 55 to 64
- 17.3%** age 65+

AUDIENCE INCOME



37% have a household income of **\$100K+**

GENDER



AUDIENCE HOUSEHOLD



EDUCATION

- 62,000** students under Catholic instruction:
- 12,600** elementary school students
- 31,000** elementary age students in Catechesis
- 6,500** high school students
- 11,700** high school age students in Catechesis

Source: Scarborough Research R2, 2013 (Base: Orange County adults).

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*Restrictions apply

WINTER CLASSIC*Continued from page 11*

of Hirata and Movchan from the outside and Fominyam from the inside. She and Movchan each had 21 points while Hirata added another 18 points. Fominyam also pulled down 10 rebounds while Vitug had half a dozen thefts.

Host Gahr had mixed results as the Gladiators had little trouble with Animo South Los Angeles 76-39 this past Monday afternoon but came back and squandered a nine-point halftime lead against Long Beach Jordan to lose 55-48 this past Tuesday.

Against Animo, the Gladiators led 29-27 at the half but went on a 13-3 run early in the third quarter to put the game away. Junior Angelica Soltis scored a career-high 36 points on 14 of 24 shooting from the field including seven of 11 from beyond the arc. Sophomore Alana Soltis added 14 points, seven rebounds, five assists and four steals.

The next day, Gahr (6-4) was held scoreless over the final 4:53 of the game as the Panthers went on a 16-0 run to finish the game. Alana Soltis had 14 points while Angelica Soltis added a dozen more. Gahr could still win the consolation championship with victories today and Saturday.

BOYS BASKETBALL

For the second straight season, Artesia won the Calvary Chapel Downey Grizzly Classic, defeating El Rancho 72-70 in a rematch of last season's championship game. Senior Dontae Smith and freshman Gary Williams each had 14 points as the Pioneers improved to 7-5.

Gahr fell to La Mirada 88-72 in a quarterfinal game of the North Orange County Championships last Thursday but bounced back to knock off Servite 84-66 and El Modena 87-68 the next two nights to move its mark to 9-1. The Gladiators will partake in the prestigious MaxPreps Holiday Classic in Palm Desert with a first round game against (Ulm, Germany) Urspring today at Xavier Prep High.

Winless in nine games, John Glenn will hope to get into the win column as the Eagles play Trabuco Hills today in the first game of the Whittier Tournament while Norwalk (3-7) begins pool play action today in the Whittier Christian Tournament against Loara. The Lancers will face La Verne Lutheran on Saturday.

GIRLS SOCCER

Artesia dropped a 1-0 decision to fellow Suburban League opponent Bellflower in the championship game of its bracket of the Best in the West Winter Soccer Classic this past Monday afternoon at Bellflower High. The Pioneers had earlier defeated Santa Fe 2-1 in the semifinals.

Elsewhere in the tournament, Cerritos lost to Century 2-1 in the championship game of its bracket, held at Santa Fe High. The Dons earned a trip to the finals after blanking Pioneer 3-0. Also in that bracket, John Glenn lost to Century 4-2 in the other semifinal game, then was blasted by Pioneer 9-0 in a consolation game while Norwalk shutout Whittier 3-0 in a consolation game.

WATER*Continued from page 11*

California communities, clustered in Los Angeles County, who provided 2014 information on public water (water, sewer, and flood control) average annual cost per household.

Los Angeles County was chosen, as it is one of the first areas in the nation to be regulated under a federal TMDL (total maximum daily loadings) Consent Decree for storm water.

TMDL is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards.

Early estimates suggest that substantial rate increases will be necessary to comply with long term obligations.

The number of households whose water and sewer costs exceeded 4.5% of their income, ranged as high as 39.4% of Paramount households to 35.3% in La Verne to 34.4% in Escondido.

The report, titled "Public Water Cost Per Household: Assessing Financial Impacts of EPA Affordability Criteria in California Cities," was released as part of the 2014 Water Council Summit of the Mayors' organization in Washington, DC.

Mayors hope the report's findings will convince the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to use a more accurate affordability measure to justify greater flexibility around regulations, especially in cities with high percentages of poverty, low and moderate income and fixed income households, and local economies that are stagnant or failing.

"This report details the economic burdens that a growing percentage of city residents are experiencing in water and wastewater services," said Tom Cochran, CEO and Executive Director of The U.S. Conference of Mayors.

"We want and need clean water, but cities need greater flexibility, especially in low-income areas. Local governments face serious challenges to sustain an enormous physical infrastructure necessary to deliver public water services and the persistent growth in federal water mandate costs. A more rational model will be needed to be successful over the next decades."

Those cities that participated were: Alhambra, Arcadia, Azusa, Bellflower, Bell Gardens, Bradbury, Claremont, Diamond Bar, Downey, Escondido, Glendora, Inglewood, La Canada Flintridge, La Mirada, La Verne, Lakewood, Lomita, Manhattan Beach, Monrovia, Monterey Park, Norwalk, Paramount, Pomona, Redondo Beach, Sacramento, San Dimas, San Gabriel, San Marino, Santa Barbara, Sierra Madre, Signal Hill, South Gate, South Pasadena, Torrance, and Vernon.

LA MIRADA*Continued from page 11*

teamwork, and displays of courage and skill. The games will feature 25 Olympic-style sports and the Special Olympics World Games Torch Relay.

Biola University will house the athletes in its residence halls and provide food while the City will coordinate community events for the visitors.

A community meeting will be held on Thursday, January 29 at 6:30 p.m. at the La Mirada Resource Center, located at 13710 La Mirada Boulevard.

Community members interested in learning more about the Special Olympics World Games Los Angeles 2015 and La Mirada as a Host Town are encouraged to attend.

The community meeting will be hosted by the City of La Mirada's Community Services Department and Biola Univer-

sity. Topics of discussion will include the schedule of activities, volunteer opportunities, and ways community members can get involved.

For more information about the community meeting, please contact the City of La Mirada's Community Services Department at (562) 943-7277.

NIXON*Continued from page 1*

A bit surprised, Mrs. Roemheld said, "why Blake you always love pot roast and veggies, it is your favorite."

That is when Mrs. Roemheld heard why Blake did not want 'steak' anymore and why she is so happy that Blake knows Kaiden Thomas.

Blake went on to say, "while I was eating the steak at lunch a piece got stuck in my throat and I couldn't breathe. I hit my friend's arm, Kaiden, that was sitting next to me and he jumped up and came behind me and pushed on my chest. The steak came flying out of my mouth, across the table onto the dirty ground."

Mrs. Roemheld stood speechless as Blake told her the story about how Kaiden, a five year-old, performed the Heimlich maneuver and saved Blake's life.

Mrs. Roemheld told HMG-CN how thankful and blessed that this "little angel boy" Kaiden was at the right place at the right time.

"I just had to call your newspaper and tell the story, I feel absolutely blessed to have Blake here with me, and that he had a friend in Kaiden."

LA PALMA*Continued from page 1*

ments for pedestrians sooner than we will be able to do without the grant and makes our community more walk-able and pedestrian friendly."

There are reportedly 11 agencies competing for this grant, so the city's hopeful it will win the grant.

Founder Neil Blaise said, "success is pretty much dependent on how compelling the candidate's project is and how the candidate reacts to the meeting of deadlines for submission of requirements."

Although the grant consultancy company would not be dealing directly with grantors, the company will be guiding the city staff through the whole process, especially on research.

"Research is of utmost importance in securing a grant and we have 12 associates doing just that kind of special function," said Blais.

"We hope to hear about whether or not we will receive the grant in February but the funds are not disbursed until July so if we are approved, the project would be constructed next fiscal year," said Volmert.

The agreement with Blais for grant writing is expected to shore up La Palma city's funding from federal, state and/or regional sources.

The contract involves an amount not exceeding \$27,000 throughout the end of the current fiscal year that includes a grant research fee of \$400 a month.

Blais' clientele included the cities of Fullerton, Anaheim, Norwalk and Fontana among others that comprised about 20 cities/agencies in Southern California.

HEALTH WIRE**PIH Health Names VP of Marketing, Business Development and Community Benefit**

HMG-CN Health Wire

**Debra Legan**

Debra Legan has joined PIH Health as its Vice President of Marketing, Business Development and Community Benefit.

Debra has served as a consultant for nearly three years – helping to restructure and lead PIH Health's Marketing Communications and Business Development Departments, guiding the PIH Health brand redesign and providing oversight for the development of the new website. Debra will oversee marketing, internal communications, advertising, public relations, government and civic affairs, business development, community benefit, community health education and the CareForce One mobile health unit.

Before consulting for PIH Health, Debra was Vice President of Marketing and Corporate Communications for Hoag Hospitals in Newport Beach and Irvine and its affiliated businesses. Prior to Hoag, Debra consulted for Hill & Knowlton, Mazda and the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI). She also served as Director of Marketing and Sales Promotion for General Group International, a leading automotive aftermarket insurance and vehicle service contract administrator.

Debra has served on a number of boards of directors, including the Orange County Business Council, the Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce, and the Newport Beach Economic Development Committee. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern California.

Superstar Athletes Visit Patients at Miller Children's Hospital

On Dec. 15, the Jessie Rees Foundation paid a special visit to Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach with four-time Olympic medalist, Kaitlin Sandeno; three-time Super Bowl Champion, Willie McGinest; two-time Olympic medalist, Jessica Hardy; World Series Champion, Nick Punto (formerly of the Los Angeles Dodgers); and Detroit Tigers Pitcher, Chad Smith, who brought JoyJars® stuffed with toys to patients and their families at Miller Children's.

As part of the Jessie Rees Foundation's "All Star" program, Sandeno, McGinest, Hardy, Punto and Smith distributed JoyJars® to patients throughout the hospital to lift their spirits and provide a distraction from hospitalization. Each JoyJar contains 15 - 20 new, age-appropriate toys within its brightly colored sealed jar. The athletes visited two of Miller Children's playrooms while on their tour through the hospital and spent time bedside with patients who were not well enough to go to the playroom. Sandeno and Hardy brought their gold medals, and Punto brought his World Series Championship ring, to show patients.

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UPTOWN VOGUE OPENS IN DOWNTOWN DOWNEY

By Tammye McDuff

Touted as “the best looking store in Downey,” Uptown Vogue opened the doors of their third location Wednesday, December 10, 2014 in downtown Downey.

Located on Firestone Boulevard in Downey, this chic boutique offers footwear for the entire family from newborn booties to a worldwide selection for men and women.

Although they have a wide variety of shoe selections, it is the décor that catches the shopper’s eye.

Each display is a handmade cabinet that represents a major tourist attraction around the world.

You cannot help but notice the petite little girl shoes gracefully adorning the Leaning Tower of Pisa, or the rain boots that march across the San Francisco Bridge.

Each changing room depicts a scene from the subways of New York, men’s work boots dangle from London’s Big Ben and the cult famous Tardis displays futuristic eyewear and watches.

Marco Sosa, Store Manager stated, “we want everyone to know we are here in Downey and offer a wide variety of foot wear.” When asked where the idea for such unusual display case came from Sosa said, “we wanted to put the whole world into one shopping experience. Because we carry items from many countries, we thought it would be fun to showcase major tourist attractions. It was actually my Father’s idea.”

The Sosa family has stores in Paramount and Bellflower. Royal Image located in Paramount ‘is a nice little surprise,” said one customer, “I was not expecting much when I walked in, but was pleasantly amazed at the cool brands and good deals.” Shoe Kingdom is located on Artesia Boulevard in Bellflower carries a wide assortment of men’s work boots, as well as boots for women and children. Shoe Kingdom is known for exceptional customer service and a well educated sales staff.



The many displays inside Uptown Vogue. Each display is a handmade cabinet that represents a major tourist attraction around the world.

RIGHT: Downey Chamber Ribbon Cutting with Sosa Family and Mayor Pro Tem Alex Saab (far right.)

CENTER: Changing rooms with New York Subway scene.

BOTTOM: London phone booth and accessories showcased in the TARDIS from Dr. Who TV series.



BELOW: Men's and women's boots inside Big Ben.



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2014334614 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as the ELA SERVICES, 18946 VICKIE AVE., #261 CERRITOS, CA., 90703. The following business is conducted as an Individual. The registrant has not begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein.

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE CERRITOS VILLAS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION I, VS EVANGELINE T HENRY CASE NO. 10CF4683 R Under a writ of Sale issued on 08/20/14...

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF YVETTE M. SCHIOTIS Case No. BP158622 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate...

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee's Sale No. 05-FSL-133637 APN# 7023-006-033 ATTENTION RECORDER: THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE TO AN ATTACHED SUMMARY IS APPLICABLE TO THE NOTICE PROVIDED TO THE TRUSTOR ONLY NOTE: THERE IS A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT ATTACHED

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NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF PROFIRIO ANTHONY MORONES aka PORFIRIO A. MORONES Case No. BP157475

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of PROFIRIO ANTHONY MORONES aka PORFIRIO A. MORONES A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Elva M. Morones in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Elva M. Morones be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on January 20, 2015 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 5 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for petitioner:
ROBERT L COHEN ESQ
SBN 150913
LAW OFFICES OF
ROBERT L COHEN INC
8081 ORANGETHORPE AVE
BUENA PARK CA 90621

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE AND OF INTENTION TO TRANSFER ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE (UCC Sec. 6101 et seq. and B & P 24073 et seq.) Escrow No. 15296-EY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a bulk sale of assets and a transfer of alcoholic beverage license is about to be made. The name(s) and business address of the Seller(s)/licensee(s) are: AMERICAN TEXTILE SYSTEMS LLC, 9602 FLOWER ST, BELLFLOWER, CA 90706

Doing Business as: AMERICAN TEXTILE SYSTEMS LLC AKA CIRCLE K #2655145 All other business name(s) and address(es) used by the Seller(s)/licensee(s) within the past three years, as stated by the Seller(s)/licensee(s), is/are: NONE

The name(s) and address of the Buyer(s)/ applicant(s) is/are: MEHAR THIND INC, 11559 JULIUS AVE, DOWNEY, CA 90241

The assets being sold are generally described as: FURNITURE, FIXTURES, EQUIPMENT, MACHINERY, GOODWILL, TRADE NAME, LEASE, LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENT, COVENANT NOT TO COMPETE, FRENCH AGREEMENT AND ABC OFF-SALE BEER AND WINE LICENSE #20-533908 and is/are located at: 9602 FLOWER ST, BELLFLOWER, CA 90706

The type of license to be transferred is/are: Type: ABC OFF-SALE BEER AND WINE, License Number: 20-533908 now issued for the premises located at: SAME

The bulk sale and transfer of the alcoholic beverage license(s) is/are intended to be consummated at the office of: AMERICAN CLASSIC ESCROW, 13215 SOUTH ST, CERRITOS, CA 90703 and the anticipated sale date is JANUARY 13, 2015

The purchase price or consideration in connection with the sale of the business and transfer of the license, is the sum of \$390,000.00, including inventory estimated at \$15,000.00, which consists of the following: DESCRIPTION, AMOUNT: CASH \$390,000.00; TOTAL \$390,000.00

It has been agreed between the seller(s)/ licensee(s) and the intended buyer(s)/ transferee(s), as required by Sec. 24073 of the Business and Professions code, that the consideration for transfer of the business and license is to be paid only after the transfer has been approved by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

AMERICAN TEXTILE SYSTEMS LLC, Seller(s)/Licensee(s)
MEHAR THIND INC, Buyer(s)/Applicant(s)
LA1485134 LOS CERRITOS COMM 12/19/14

Trustee Sale No. : 0000004571006 Title Order No.: 140154097 FHA/VA/PMI No.: 1973709168 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 02/29/2008. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TREDER & WEISS, LLP, as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded on 03/07/2008 as Instrument No. 20080398932 of official records in the office of the County Recorder of LOS ANGELES County, State of CALIFORNIA. EXECUTED BY: ELLIS R FAHRY, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK/CASH EQUIVALENT or other form of payment authorized by California Civil Code 2924b(b), (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States). DATE OF SALE: 01/08/2015 TIME OF SALE: 10:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: BEHIND THE FOUNTAIN LOCATED IN CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, 400 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, POMONA CA. STREET ADDRESS AND OTHER COMMON DESIGNATION, IF ANY, OF THE REAL PROPERTY TO BE SOLD IS: 15014 RAYFIELD DR. LA MIRADA, CALIFORNIA 90638 APN#: 8064-029-039 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any inaccuracy of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is \$300,446.99. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 916-939-0772 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this Internet Web site www.nationwideposting.com for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case 0000004571006. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. FOR TRUSTEE SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL NATIONWIDE POSTING & PUBLICATION A DIVISION OF FIRST AMERICAN TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY 5005 WINDPLAY DRIVE, SUITE 1 EL DORADO HILLS, CA 95762-9334 916-939-0772 www.nationwideposting.com BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TREDER & WEISS, LLP IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TREDER & WEISS, LLP is a Debt Collector. Dated: 12/12/2014 NPP0239384 LA MIRADA LAMP-LIGHTER 12/19/2014, 12/26/2014, 01/02/2015

TS # CA-14-3991-CS Order # 140186249-CA-VOI Loan # 9802949561 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 3/12/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE. Trustor(s): EKTOR KREGER AND ELIZABETH KREGER, HUSBAND AND WIFE AS JT Recorded: 3/14/2007 as Instrument No. 20070571451 in book xxx, page xxx of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of LOS ANGELES County, California. Date of Sale: 1/20/2015 at 9:00 AM Place of Sale: Behind the fountain located in Civic Center Plaza, 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona CA 91766 Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$363,791.88 The purported property address is: 12913 WOODBRIDGE AVENUE LA MIRADA, CA 90638 Assessor's Parcel No. 8044-027-014 NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (714) 573-1965 or visit this Internet Web site www.prioritposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case CA-14-3991-CS. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any inaccuracy of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's Attorney. Date: 12/15/2014 SUMMIT MANAGEMENT COMPANY, LLC 16745 W. Bernardo Dr., Ste. 100 San Diego, CA 92127 (866) 248-2679 (For NON SALE information only) Sale Line: (714) 573-1965 or Login to: www.prioritposting.com Reinstatement Line: (866) 248-2679 Megan Cooper, Trustee Sale Officer If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holder's right against the real property only. THIS NOTICE IS SENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF COLLECTING A DEBT. THIS FIRM IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT ON BEHALF OF THE HOLDER AND OWNER OF THE NOTE. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED BY OR PROVIDED TO THIS FIRM OR THE CREDITOR WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. As required by law, you are hereby notified that a negative credit report reflecting on your credit record may be submitted to a credit report agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligations. P1124194 12/26, 1/2, 01/09/2015

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

MOHAMMAD KAMRUL HASSAN

CASE NO. BP158260

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of MOHAMMAD KAMRUL HASSAN.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by MARYANN C. HASSAN in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that FAEZ M. HASSAN be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 01/19/15 at 8:30AM in Dept. 29 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner

D. SCOTT ABERNETHY - SBN 151014

LAW OFFICE OF D. SCOTT ABERNETHY

4675 MACARTHUR COURT, STE 550

NEWPORT BEACH CA 92660

12/19, 12/26, 1/2/15

CNS-2697582#

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