



## Los Angeles Based BIZFED Campaign Committee Supporting Cerritos Candidates Violated Election Laws

By Brian Hews

BizFed PAC (PAC), a political action committee sponsored by the Los Angeles Federation of Businesses (LAFB), recently sent out a very expensive City Council campaign flyer to Cerritos mailboxes supporting candidates Jim Edwards, Chuong Vo, and Naresh Solanki; a flyer that could put the PAC in the sights of the Fair Political Practices Enforcement Division (FPPC) for several reporting violations.

The flyer also places the three Cerritos candidates in a very uncomfortable position.

See **BIZFED** page 12

## FORMER CENTRAL BASIN GENERAL MANAGER FILES \$8-MILLION WRONGFUL TERMINATION LAWSUIT

Claim alleges Directors Roybal, Vasquez & Apodaca illegally conspired to fire General Manager Tony Perez.

By Brian Hews

HMG-CN has exclusively obtained a copy of a Claim for Damages letter against Central Basin Municipal Water District (CBMWD) filed by former General Manager Tony Perez asking for over \$8-million as compensation for Perez's illegal termination and subsequent defamation.

Included as respondents in the claim are CBMWD Directors James Roybal, Leticia Vasquez and Bob Apodaca.

By law, CBMWD will have 30-days to respond to the claim.

As first reported by HMG-CN on October 9th 2014, Perez received a draft settlement agreement to separate from the

See **PEREZ** page 12

## Bellflower Hosts State of the City Luncheon



Members of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department at Bellflower's State of the City event. Mayor Sonny Santa Ines reported that the 2014 crime rate was the lowest in Bellflower's history. The traffic data comparison had 14% fewer accidents; 17% fewer injury accidents; 132% more DUI arrests; small increase in bike collisions; small decrease in pedestrian collisions. Along with attracting nationally known companies, the City has add eight new businesses and five new restaurants including the largest Golden Corral in the U.S. The City had tremendous success with Food Trucks & Flicks, Summer Street Festivals and the Christmas Tree Lighting with each event attracting thousands of attendees. Photo by Tammye McDuff.

## Lakewood City Council Approves Higher Costs for Veterans Memorial Plaza

By Rico Dizon

Last week, HMG-CN reported that the cost of constructing the new Lakewood Veterans Memorial Plaza, including the iconic aircraft at Del Valle Park, would cost the city \$930,000.

At its Feb. 24 meeting the Lakewood City Council increased the cost by \$60,000 via an "Agreement for Additional Aircraft Refurbishment Services and Agreement for Consulting Services and Expenses."

"The new quote in the refurbishing project is something that we could not anticipate. This is one opportunity to do it the right way, to spend a little more for our veterans and for the generations to come," announced Mayor Todd Rogers.

City Council Member Steve Croft commented, "I am very excited for the changes, before the memorial looked like one lonely pedestal."

The changes to the cost occurred when the rusty memorial jet was shipped to Arizona for refurbishing. The refurbishing company discovered unexpected trouble spots such as missing pins and frozen bolts on the plane.

City staff assigned to the project visited the jobsite in Tucson Feb. 20 for physical

inspection and reported that, "the work is close to being finished which includes the fabrication of replica missiles, reconstruction of the tail section, wing tips and wirings, and replacement of missing pins and bolts."

The staff coordinator also reported that the memorial plaza construction in the park commenced on Feb. 20 and excavation would be performed to prepare the installation of the granite wall for the Memorial Brick Program.

The report added, "there are 1,600 spaces for veteran's bricks with 18 characters allowed for each brick that costs \$100, and \$75 for a replica. Excess funds will be put in a Trust Fund for the continued maintenance of the memorial."

As of Feb. 24, staff reported about 199 memorial bricks have been ordered. By April 1, the memorial wall and veteran's bricks should be installed and the children's playground will be relocated.

"I don't think people know what is really going on at the memorial and with the plane," said Vice Mayor Jeff Wood. "We need more information disseminated to the people."

**HMG-CN Exclusive:**

## CITADEL OUTLET MALL BILLBOARDS VIOLATE CITY AND STATE LAWS

Baca Del Rio, Leon, Altamirano and City Attorney Eddie Olivo were aware of the violations for years.

By Brian Hews

Hews Media Group-Community News has learned that the Citadel Outlet Mall's large double-faced digital signs located off the 5 freeway in Commerce could be in violation of City, State and Federal outdoor advertising laws and that Mayor Tina Baca Del Rio, Mayor pro tem Lilia Leon, Councilmember Ivan Altamirano, and City Attorney Eddie Olivo have been aware of the violations yet have failed to take action.

See **CITADEL** page 6

## La Palma Settles Lease Agreement Issue with Prospective Tenant

By Rico Dizon

The La Palma City Council, during its Feb. 17 meeting, has finally agreed 4-1 to sign the lease agreement between the city and a martial arts studio, Elite Taekwondo Center, and grant the studio a conditional use permit (CUP) to operate its business on a 3,000 sq.ft. commercial space owned by the city at 5410 La Palma Avenue near the intersection of Walker and La Palma.

In the previous meeting on Feb. 3, City Council Member Steve Hwangbo was asking the broker's representative to cut the brokerage fee by 50%. The broker never responded.

Upon the advice of City Attorney Joel Kuperberg, the parties met to come to an agreement.

Two weeks later during the last meeting, the City Council also agreed to a 3% broker's commission that went with the approved lease agreement. LCCN could not determine if there was the 50% reduction in commission being sought previ-

See **LA PALMA** page 6



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# Trinity Speakers Forum at the Cerritos Center—Faith Comes by Hearing

By Tammye McDuff

Many businesses in Southern California are striving to reach out to their employees as well as their community. Trinity Worldwide Reprographics believes in building bridges with people through community outreach, stewardship and charitable giving.

Each month Trinity plans to host a Speakers Forum at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts. Speakers come from a variety of professions from Scientists to Entertainers, but always with the outreach toward community and compassion.

This past Friday, February 20th, the special speaker was Reverend Jon Albert of Grand Canyon Ministries. Albert's particular ministry incorporates a 187-mile trip, over 100 rapids and scenic hikes with the book of Genesis and the creation message. Albert's commented "Canyon Ministries uses white water rafting trips and trips on the rim to help people gain or reaffirm their confidence in God by using the geology of the Grand Canyon."

Trinity puts faith into action in order to demonstrate hope and the love of God. Team members truly desire to make a difference through compassion and commitment. Each month, a team member selects a non-profit organization to contribute to or a family to adopt in order to help meet their needs.

Paul Rosenow, CEO of Worldwide Trinity Reprographics told HMG-CN, "we aim to follow the example of Jesus



Speakers on stage at the Trinity Worldwide Reprographics Forum. Cerritos-based Trinity believes in building bridges with people through community outreach, stewardship and charitable giving. Photo by Tammye McDuff.

Christ in the way He served His Father by caring for people and reaching out. So whether we step foot into our own offices, or meet with our customers or out in the community, we want to emulate His love and compassion."

Rosenow established his business ethics around the three C's: Connecting—building loving relationships with people and the community; Christian Stewardship—helping to feed, clothe and comfort those less fortunate; Charitable Giving—giving back to the community. The three C's was the basis for Trinity Speakers Forum, creating an environment where people from all backgrounds and beliefs came together.

Trinity Worldwide Reprographics, Inc. is a printing business with Christian-based ethics and endeavors to conduct its business according to Christian-based beliefs. They have a reputation for quality printing, products and service. Trinity Printing is one of the largest independently commercial owned Xerox DocuTech printers

in the greater Los Angeles and Orange County area, with capabilities of producing 18 million black and white copies per month.

Trinity combined their two locations from Murrieta and Santa Fe Springs under one roof, located now in Cerritos. The Speakers Forums have been running for five years. "The drive behind this program," Rosenow explains, "was when we offered bible study and prayer every morning for our employees, we had the meetings in English and Spanish." In the beginning special speakers were brought in everyday. The morning devotionals became so popular, that family members, neighbors and friends began to show up. The daily devotionals were turned into Friday Morning Speakers, for anyone who wished to come.

"I feel that I have been so blessed and I really wanted to give back," notes Rosenow, "our goal is to operate as a cohesive team, each person no less important than the next.

## In Our Backyard—Local California History

# THE GAGE MANSION CASA DE RANCHO SAN ANTONIO

By Rick Foster  
Special to HMG-CN

Ever wonder how various towns, streets and areas got their names? Ever wonder what makes California so different from other states? In this series I will give readers an insight to California history, tell dramatic stories of our past and encourage you to head out to visit local historical spots.

With my niece home from college and my nephews eager to get out of the house, I decided to plan an outing close to home. I started scouring the internet for local things to do. As I fumbled through countless useless sites, I began really missing Huell Howser and his shows. His PBS shows would always feature some hidden history, or forgotten historical place from California's past. I often found myself, after watching one of his shows, traveling to one of his featured destinations, either on a weekend or a day outing. Huell is gone from us now, but the history and hidden treasures are still there for us to re-discover. With my niece and nephews in tow, we set out to discover some hidden history in our own backyard. In backyard, I mean in the Los Angeles-Orange County

See GAGE MANSION page 7

# STAND WITH GRACE HU MARCH 3 AND STAND FOR A BRIGHTER CERRITOS!

It has come to my attention that there has been a rise in negative campaigning in the recent weeks approaching the election for Cerritos City Council members. **Mudslinging and negative mailings are never necessary in a campaign**, and such false accusations only show the disrespect and the desperation of the accuser. These sort of campaigns divide the community, disrupt the harmony of its citizens, and cause lasting rifts that take years, if ever, to mend. Our community deserves a leader who wins this campaign through good ideals, inspiring ideas, and an honest love for the City of Cerritos.

Negative campaigning downgrades an otherwise healthy community. In 2011, I was the victim of a last minute negative campaign. Some papers in the process of an administrative examination in my business were used to attack me, and the final findings of that audit, which reads, "Neither the Stipulation nor the Order constitutes an express finding of a violation of law by Fairway Escrow Corporation or Grace Hu", were never mentioned.

I am an ethical business leader with the utmost respect and integrity who, despite slanderous, mudslinging claims of losing lawsuits, has never been found in violation of any law or statute. While some have resorted to false, politically motivated attacks on my character, I have kept my focus on doing what is right for the people and the workers of this great community. I intend to rise above this trend in negative campaigning and I hope that I may serve the City of Cerritos with honesty, integrity, and reliability.



"Grace Hu and I have been friends for over 20 years. She cares about the City of Cerritos. As a mother of three children, she cares about the education of the kids, the environment and the safety of the community. She has experience in both business and government. She is the right person for the city council."

- Michelle Steel  
Orange County Supervisor

"I've known Grace Hu for decades. As a successful businesswoman, I am confident that she will use her expertise to lead Cerritos during this critical time. She knows the community and has represented it with honor in the past, and I'm proud to endorse her for City Council."

- Young Kim  
Assemblywoman, 65th District



"I've known and worked with Grace Hu for over 35 years and I've seen her grow in family and in business. From her start as a young, hard-working realtor and mother of three, to her current success as a grandmother and employer of over 280 people, she's always shown the kind of dedication and integrity we need on City Council."

- Gary Bingaman  
Past President of Rancho Southeast Association of Realtors and 40-year Cerritos Resident

"For decades, my friend and Realtor Associate, Grace Hu, has been a dynamic, positive force in making Cerritos the model city that it is. Those of us that know her will tell you she is a tireless advocate for the people and the city she serves. She brings a treasure trove of life's experience in helping our Community come together to make it all it can be."

- Gene Burd  
Past President of Rancho Southeast Association of Realtors and 30-year Cerritos Resident



# FRANK AURELIO YOKOYAMA

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✓ 35% reduction in residential burglaries

✓ Parks renovated, sidewalks fixed, potholes filled

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He is an effective, focused advocate for our families and neighborhoods.

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- Trim over 15,000 trees in Cerritos, and plant hundreds more
- Give police officers the support they need to reduce crime—now residential burglaries are down 35%
- Fought to renovate our parks, fix our sidewalks, and repair our streets.

We need him on the City Council fighting for all of us.

**Re-elect Mayor MARK PULIDO • City Council**

MARK PULIDO FOR CERRITOS CITY COUNCIL 2015  
FPPC ID# 1305223 | markpulido@yahoo.com | (562) 404-2343

*Elect* **Sam SULTAN AHMAD** *March 3*  
**CERRITOS CITY COUNCIL**



*Razia, Adeel, and Sam Sultan Ahmad*

“The Center for Performing Arts has only 4 or 5 shows there per month and is subsidized by the City of Cerritos with \$2 Million each year. We should set a goal of adding 4 more shows there per month within a year, and then add 4 more shows there per month the next year. 12 shows per month is still only 40% capacity!  
By increasing revenue from the CCPA, we can decrease the subsidy that the City makes each year. **A dollar earned is a dollar saved and a dollar that can be reinvested into our infrastructure** like fixing our sidewalks, trimming our trees, and improving the response times from our Public Safety departments.”

~ Sam Sultan Ahmad - Candidate, Cerritos City Council

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**Sam Sultan Ahmad for Cerritos City Council • March 3** ✓



*Letters to the Editor*

**Endorsing Frank Yokoyama and Mark Pulido**

Dear Editor:

My wife and I, as long time Cerritos residents, have known both Mark Pulido and Frank Yokoyama since they were students at Whitney High School . Their credentials speak for themselves.

As far as we are concerned, they are both honest, trustworthy and of the highest integrity. Their service to the City of Cerritos has been of the highest quality.

We hope you will support both Frank Yokoyama and Mark Pulido on election day.

*Sincerely,  
Benny & Fern Wasserman*

Dear Cerritos Community Members,

As a student of leadership studies, I truly believe the highest and most selfless form of leadership is that of the "servant leader."

A servant leader puts service to others above self; service to their community, their family and their country above themselves.

From the time I met Cerritos City Council Candidate Frank Yokoyama, I have known him to be a true servant leader.

It was no surprise then that when he introduced me to Cerritos Mayor Mark Pulido, I immediately found that same leadership mindset.

I am honored to know them and to consider them both friends.

These are not men who seek political status for status sake.

There is genuine caring and intent to improve and serve the community they both love so dearly.

It is absolutely my unmitigated pleasure to endorse them both wholeheartedly in their bid for election and re-election respectively.

*Kind regards,  
Debbie Cuadros, BUSD Board Member*

Dear Editor:

Several years ago, Grace Hu ran for the Cerritos City Council. At that time, I supported her candidacy for the open seat on city council. I had known Grace for many years and trusted her judgment and experience as a former councilmember and business owner. Respected friends questioned my support and challenged Grace's business activities relative to Fairview Escrow, which Grace owned.

I reviewed the issues and the claims made by the California Department of Corporations concerning an audit of her escrow company. It was an administrative audit within the department's authority and never resulted in any charges indictment, or court action as some community members claimed and publicized.

Many of us at one time or another have issues of disagreement with the government policies and regulations. When claims and disagreements occur, we have rights by which we can defend and challenge the claims made against us. This is no different than the claims made by the Department of Finance against the City of Cerritos over the status of redevelopment funds. A dispute of this type does not in anyway establish that a past councilmember is a criminal!! In time, these issues get settled.

Grace Hu made a business decision to settle with the Department of Corporations. I still believe that Grace Hu will represent us well and has proven her dedication and commitment to our community.

*Jim Weisenberger  
Former ABC School Board President*

**Cristina Garcia Second Term Ceremony**

By Tammye McDuff

Reservations were definitely needed for the second term inauguration ceremony for Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia, which took place Saturday, February 21, 2015 at the Columbia Memorial Space Center. The large open space was full to

State Senator Ricardo Lara wanted to express his gratitude and support for Garcia by telling tales of their early years, 'fighting the good fight'. Lara called Garcia a true leader who responds to the community, who works with the community and can change the attitude and atmosphere for each City. "I also appreciate



*Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia is sworn in by State Controller Betty Yee.*

capacity with standing room only with local dignitaries and constituents participating in the swearing-in. "Although I was officially sworn into the State Assembly in a ceremony at the State Capitol in December, I want to take this day to celebrate with my communities and friends," stated Garcia.

Benjamin Dickow the newly appointed Executive Director of the Columbia Memorial Space Center introduced comedian and entertainer Lory Tatouljian who served as master of ceremonies and Rev Raymond Vicente Decipeda of Holy Family Catholic Church who stated, "Before we begin, I will pass the way but once any good that I can do let me do it now, and we don't have to go very far to see that Cristina Garcia is embracing this."

Congresswoman Linda Sanchez, of the 38th District called Garcia a great colleague and a good friend. Sanchez recognized a few of Garcia's accomplishments noting that the cyber-bullying legislation was signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown, Garcia's first year in office. "Women make up only 30% of the elected representatives in the California State Legislature, and Garcia understands that we have an obligation to address that issue, encouraging more women to follow that unconventional path into public service," said Sanchez.

the individuality of her purple hair. She is herself 24/7 and she is a caring individual and is steadfast in values to her district," remarked Lara.

Maria de la Luz Garcia, introduced her sister Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia as a woman who can change the future; a woman who can interact with a regular citizen or those at the top of our government; a woman that creates a culture of communication within the district and by developing and strengthening the residents, Cristina strengthens democracy.

Garcia took the podium by saying, "Thank you everyone for coming to my quinceanera!" Garcia stated she hope that she could continue to be the type of legislator that the community deserves. "Together, we have had many successes and that is what today is about," said Garcia "We are navigating the political system for big change." She noted that the celebration is not just about her, but everyone in the district. Garcia encouraged constituents to continue bringing ideas to the table saying she was never one to take on a challenge or a big idea.

State Controller Betty Yee administered the swearing-in ceremony, noting that it was the first time she has been asked to administer the oath of office.

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**Titan Arum Set to Bloom This Weekend**

Fullerton Arboretum last had an Amorphophallus titanum (Titan Arum) bloom in 2006. At that time pollen was collected from that plant. At about the same time, San Diego Botanical Garden had a Titan Arum blooming as well. A team from CSUF (Ed Reed, Chris Barnhill and Greg Dymont) took the pollen from the Fullerton Arboretum plant and drove to San Diego to pollinate San Diego's flower. From that pollination effort came many seeds. The flower that is about to bloom is a result from that pollination effort nearly nine years ago.

The Titan Arum's seed weighs about 20 lbs. and is 36" in circumference. Usually these plants produce one leaf per year that grows taller than most NBA players, before shedding it and starting over. Af-

ter seven years, the Fullerton Arboretum's Titan Arum will instead grow spectacular flower blossoms. In full bloom, the flowers smell like rotting flesh, assigning the most popular name for the plant, "Stinky Flower."

The Titan Arum has been displayed on the grounds of the Fullerton Arboretum for the public to view. By Saturday, February 28, 2015 it is expected to bloom and produce its infamous odor too.

The sheath, or spathe generally begins to open between mid-afternoon and late evening and remains open all night. At this time, the female flowers are receptive to pollination. Although most spathes begin to wilt within twelve hours, some have been known to remain open for 24-48 hours.



# Sheriff's Crime Summary

February 16- 22, 2015

## Cerritos

There were 25 Part I felony crimes reported in Cerritos this past reporting period, an increase of five over the previous week. The following is a breakdown of crimes by category: 18 residential burglaries (one was an attempt); two commercial/other structure burglaries; three vehicle burglaries; and two auto thefts (one was an attempt). Deputies made two felony arrests, 13 misdemeanor arrests, six warrant arrests, and issued 124 traffic citations. The Sheriff's dispatch center also received a total of 286 calls, considerably more than the 2015 weekly average of about 232.

### Residential Burglary:

Note that the 18 residential burglaries reported last week are well above the 2015 average of 5.9 per week. Fourteen of these burglaries occurred during daytime hours, 12 on weekdays and two last Saturday. None of the targeted homes had a monitored alarm system, which is highly recommended. Deputies did make an excellent arrest of three possible burglars who were casing Cerritos neighborhoods last Sunday, 2/22, and no residential burglaries have been reported the first three days of this current week.

12300 block Rose St (2/16): Suspect entered through an unlocked kitchen window, but the loss is undetermined.

17000 block De Groot Pl (2/17): Suspect shattered a rear glass sliding door, ransacked several rooms, but the loss is undetermined.

13000 block Itapetinga Ln (2/17): Suspect shattered rear glass sliding door, ransacked the bedrooms, and stole jewelry.

16400 block Bubbling View Cir (2/17):

Suspect shattered rear sliding glass door, ransacked the bedrooms, and stole jewelry.

12600 block Caravel St (2/19): Resident heard noise in his bedroom and when he went to investigate he observed a male suspect trying to climb inside of the unlocked window. The suspect fled before deputies arrived at the location.

18900 block Vickie Ave (2/19): After removing a bedroom window screen and unsuccessfully trying to enter an apartment unit, a suspect kicked in the front door, ransacked the master bedroom, and stole jewelry.

18900 block Vickie Ave (2/10): Suspect pried open a sliding glass door of an apartment unit and stole coins from the bedroom.

19200 block Crossdale Ave (2/19): Suspect shattered a rear sliding door, ransacked the home, and stole an iPad and jewelry.

12500 block Inglenook Ln (2/19): Suspect kicked open a double front door, ransacked the bedrooms, and stole several purses and a woman's wedding ring.

17600 block Harvest Ave (2/19): Suspect shattered rear sliding door, ransacked the residence, but the loss is undetermined.

11800 block Athene Dr (2/19): Suspect shattered rear sliding door, ransacked the bedrooms, but the loss is undetermined.

13400 block Andy St (2/19-20): Suspect entered unlocked window during overnight hours and stole the elderly resident's wallet. A possible suspect is the victim's 19-year-old grandson.

13400 block Droxford St (2/20): Suspect entered unlocked side garage door, went into the residence, ransacked several rooms, and stole a large amount of cash from an envelope in a dresser drawer.

17000 block Pires Ave (2/21): Suspect kicked in a front door, ransacked several bedrooms, but the loss is unknown.

18800 block Godinho Ave (12/31-2/21): Suspect kicked in the front door of a vacant home, but no property was stolen.

12200 block Christopher Ln (2/20-21): Victim accidentally left her garage door up all night and a suspect entered and stole an iPad, a clarinet, and fishing poles.

12300 block 185th St (2/21-22): Suspect entered through a possibly unlocked front window and stole a large amount of expensive jewelry from the bedroom.

17400 block Harvest Ave (2/21): Suspect removed a kitchen window screen but was frightened away by the resident.

### Commercial/Other Structure Burglary:

13800 block Bentley Pl (2/18): Suspects entered a warehouse and stole several boxes of cosmetics.

13400 block Village Dr (2/19): Suspect cut a lock on a storage locker at an apartment complex and stole golf clubs.

### Vehicle Burglary:

19900 block Claretta Ave (2/19-20): Suspect stole tools from the bed of a truck parked in the victim's driveway.

11800 block Del Amo Blvd (2/21): Suspect shattered the window of a '05 Chevy Tahoe parked outside of LA Fitness and stole golf clubs.

10800 block Alondra Blvd (2/22): Suspect shattered a rear window on a '07 Honda Accord parked outside of LA Fitness and stole a woman's purse containing cash and credit cards.

### Grand Theft Auto:

300 Los Cerritos Ctr (2/21): Suspect stole a '97 GMC Yukon from the mall parking lot on the east side of Nordstrom's.

310 Los Cerritos Center (attempt on 2/16): Two male suspects backed a U-Haul truck into a parking space next to a parked '14 Yamaha motorcycle. One suspect exited the truck, pulled the cycle to the rear of the U-Haul, but was unable to pick up the motorcycle and put it into the truck. The suspects eventually drove away from the lot leaving the motorcycle behind.

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**CITADEL**

*Continued from page 1*

Sources tell HMG-CN that they will not take action because the officials are beholden to the Citadel owner Steve Craig.

The violations stem from whether the Citadel signs are "on-premise" or "off premise," and whether the California state issued permits for the signs adhere to the City of Commerce Sign Code.

The City of Commerce has a code that does not permit signs within 720 feet of the Citadel. The code mandates that any sign within 720 of the Citadel must be what is defined as on-premise.

On-premise signs advertise products located on the premise where the sign is located. An example would be a sign located in front of a McDonalds advertising their Big Mac or One-Dollar drinks.

Off-premise signs advertise products located off the premise where the sign is located. The many signs seen on any freeway advertising a movie is a good example.

There are five large double-faced signs currently in front of the Citadel, four are digital and one is static.

Surprisingly, three of the Citadel signs, six in all since they are double-faced, have been issued Off Premise State Permits.

These permits are in direct violation of that portion of the Commerce Sign Code that dictates no signs within 720 feet of the Citadel. The City of Commerce' approval in for Citadel signs in 2006 was for on-premise signs.

HMG-CN has a public records request pending with the State to investigate how Craig Realty Group Citadel, LLC obtained the State Off Premise Permits.

The fact remains that the Off Premise Permits could not be obtained without a valid permit from the City of Commerce, which the city, under its own code, cannot issue.

The permits are a clear violation of the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Outdoor Advertising Act under the Business and Professions Code, Section 5453(a). The code states, " the applicant for any [outdoor advertising] permit shall offer written evidence that both the owner ...of the property upon which the location [sign] is situated and the city with land use jurisdiction over the property upon which the location [sign] is situated have consented to the placing of the advertising display."

The City of Commerce cannot consent to the permit because of the 720-foot rule in the city's code.

Further, the California State Application and Administrative Code Section 2422(a)(4) require that the applicant, who is Craig Realty Group Citadel, LLC in this

case, include within their State application a copy of their City of Commerce sign construction permit as proof that they are in compliance with Section 5453(a).

Section 2422(a)(4) states..."the consent of the city...shall be demonstrated by producing a copy of the applicable building or sign permit, or other official act of the city...used in that jurisdiction to authorize construction of an advertising display."

Officials at the DOT told HMG-CN there is no exception to the rule and that it would be violation of the code to submit a fake building permit or an on-premise city permit that misled the State.

The officials also confirmed that it is a misdemeanor to violate the code. The code states, "every person as principal, agent or employee, violating any of the provisions of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor.

But the monetary penalties for violating the code could be huge, notwithstanding the fact that the signs must be removed.

The penalty for violating the code is \$10,000 for each sign plus \$100 per day for each sign not taken down within thirty days of notice from the State. The code also calls for "full disgorgement" of all gross revenues of the signs.

Based on previous Commerce staff reports, the revenues from the sign violations could total in the millions of dollars if the City enforced the law.

And sources have told HMG-CN that Mayor Baca Del Rio, Mayor pro tem Lilia Leon, Councilmember Ivan Altamirano, and City Attorney Eddie Olivo have known for years about these violations.

HMG-CN has attempted to contact City Planning Director Matt Marquez and City Attorney Eddie Olivo for clarification, but both have not returned telephone calls.

The other issue with the Citadel signs pertain to on-premise versus off-premise advertising.

In a 2012, a Department of Transportation (DOT) report reviewed whether California was abiding by Federal/State sign agreements. With thousands of signs in the state, the Citadel was singled out in the Federal report four times, with the DOT criticizing California for allowing the Citadel to use off-premise advertising on their two on-premise signs.

The report stated, "the Citadel is the name of a property developed with a large outdoor mall... In order to maintain the status of the permitted signs, the two on-premise signs must be kept free of off-premise advertising. The review team noted at least one instance of a product advertised that did not appear to be an on-premise product. Therefore, Caltrans should ensure their inventory is current and issue any citations or permits as need-

ed."

This DOT report was on the agenda during a 2013 Commerce City Council meeting, but was once again ignored by City Council and City Attorney Eddie Olivo. Councilwoman Denise Robles had to recuse herself because she received a donation from another sign company.

Now it is evident the team of Mayor Baca Del Rio, Mayor pro tem Leon, and Councilmembers Ivan Altamirano and Joe Aguilar are trying to cover their tracks and provide a huge benefit to the Citadel and Craig by amending the current City Sign Ordinance.

At last week's City Council meeting, council reviewed the sign ordinance amendment which reads, "19.25.180 Conversion Of Citadel Digital Display Sign(S) To Off-Site Digital Sign(S)".

In reviewing the new section, HMG-CN confirmed that the current City Council, with Robles recusing herself because of the aforementioned donation, approved the amendment to the exclusive benefit of the Citadel and Steve Craig.

The code actually states that the Citadel is the only business in the City to be exempt from most sign requirements. The proposed code will give digital billboard permits to the Citadel despite the 720-foot rule, which has been the law in Commerce for over 30 years.

Resident Mike Alvarado believes he knows why the Citadel may have been singled out as the only company in the entire city to be exempt from having to comply with billboard, "it is not just one reason, but probably 40,000 reasons," alluding to the fact that Steve Craig donated \$40,000 to oppose Hugo Argumedo and Denise Robles.

This paper was first to report that Craig donated \$40,000 to an Independent Expenditure Committee called the California League of Voters, reportedly run by convicted felon Angel Gonzales, to oppose Commerce City Council Candidates Hugo Argumedo and Denise Robles.

Source tell HMG-CN that the goal is to elect two of the other four candidates running, all endorsed by Baca Del Rio, Leon, Altamirano and Aguilar.

Alvarado told HMG-CN, "it has to do with the fact that the City Council regulates the Citadel and thus they have to get elected Councilmembers who have no jobs and have weak ethics and will do what the Citadel wants." Alvarado continued, "if we don't get involved and vote for candidates that work for the residents, like Hugo Argumedo and Denise Robles, then we deserve the abuses of the current council."

**LA PALMA**

*Continued from page 1*

ously. However, La Palma's Community Development Director Douglas Dumhart said, "the amount representing the broker's commission is \$10,000 less than what was discussed two weeks ago."

The lease agreement between the City of La Palma and Elite Taekwondo Center will cover an initial period of 10 years. It is valued at \$1.70 per sq. ft. with an increment of 3% every year. The new tenant will occupy a space measuring 3,000 sq. ft. "Over a 10 year period, the city is expected to earn over \$600,000," said Dumhart.

For their part, the city has to make the commercial space ready for occupancy and allocate \$20,742 from the Economic Development Fund for brokerage obligations outlined in the lease agreement.



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**GAGE MANSION**

*Continued from page 2*

areas. I recalled as a child and a young history buff, driving down various California freeways with my parents or grandparents passing exit signs with neither names nor meanings familiar to me. There were names like Hacienda Blvd., Sepulveda Blvd., Cahuenga, Gage and Pico; I would ask what those names meant and I was encouraged to look those unfamiliar names up. Most could not be found in dictionaries, but I could always find the answers at the public library. It was in those early searches that I learned the unique and dramatic history of California.

Searching my memory for places to take my family, I began to harken back to those times of my childhood, researching the names of unfamiliar highway exits. How astonished I was to find that there had been a Hacienda on Hacienda Boulevard. or that Gage was a real person with a mansion in Bell Gardens. I recalled how surprised I was to learn that California had once been part of Spain, most of this history which is not taught in our schools. Today, I give thanks for those obscure signs with odd and foreign names in my childhood memory by passing it along to my niece and nephews, guiding them in discovering the rich history of California. I set out with them on a journey of our local history that is unique to our country and heritage.

It was decided that today we would discover The Gage Mansion and Casa De Rancho San Antonio, a piece of forgotten history right in our own backyard. I was eager to visit the Gage Mansion, as I had never been before. I did an Internet search for Gage/Bell Gardens and found the location for the Gage Mansion, the oldest

standing home in Los Angeles County. The Gage Mansion was built with adobe construction ranging from 1771-1795 and completion in 1810, with ties to the King of Spain. The story is that in 1810, Don Antonio Maria Lugo, a Spanish colonial soldier was given 29,513 acres, known as the Rancho San Antonio land grant by the King of Spain. He received this land grant as reward for his duties in helping with the Franciscan Missions in California and overseeing the colonization of the area. This grant today includes the cities of Bell Gardens, Bell, Maywood, Vernon, Huntington Park, Walnut Park, Cudahy, South Gate, Lynwood and Commerce. It was not uncommon for these vast land grants to be given to loyal subjects, as Spain was eager to settle and populate California in an effort to further their strong hold of the territory.

With the land proximity to the Rio Hondo, it was fertile for both agriculture and cattle farming. This made the Lugo family very wealthy and even more prominent. The home that was given along with the land grant is located at 7000 East Gage Ave., Bell Gardens. This home stayed in the Lugo family, passing from Spanish territory, to Mexico, finally becoming part of the United States of America. The Lugo family would have to fend off Indian raids, cattle thieves and changing governments to secure their place in the area. The ranch and home were given as a dowry to Henry T. Gage in his marriage to Francis (Fanny) Rains, a great-granddaughter of Don Antonio Maria Lugo in 1888. Henry T. Gage later becomes California's 20th Governor in 1899.

Armed with my research and relevant historical information, off we went on our fifteen minute drive to Bell Gardens. As we approached the address of 7000 Gage, we could spot nothing that looked like a house let alone a mansion. I spot-



*The Gage Mansion is located at 7000 East Gage Ave., Bell Gardens in a trailer park.*

ted a small sign that could have easily been mistaken as a bus stop sign posted stating the location of Gage Mansion. I thought this was it? An eight inch sign? Not much for the oldest house in Los Angeles County. I pulled into the driveway of a trailer park, confused, but not defeated in the search for this treasure. Perhaps I could see this house from across the street. This couldn't be it... a trailer park? All this rich history diminished to a sign post cemented into the sidewalk and a trailer park? The driveway of the Casa Mobile Home Park is a one way narrow road and I had no choice other than to follow it around. As I approached the back side of the mobile home park, I could see a small house. We were astonished to discover this lost historical landmark, The Gage Mansion and former home of Don Antonio Maria Lugo was well kept and smack dab in the center of vintage mobile home park. I parked the car in a guest parking spot next to a picnic patio table and we be-

gan our exploration of the oldest home in Los Angeles County. We explored the old house and read plaques along the walls with window cut outs for viewers to look into the adobe walls.

After taking it all in; like sleuths and treasure hunters, we sat at the picnic table near our car and ate our sandwiches and read the story of firsthand accounts of this former home. We learned tales of its' past owners, Indian raids, wars, historical characters that roamed the area helping shape California's history. I can't wait until our next outing to discover lost history in our own back yard. The Gage Mansion is open to the public as a historical landmark, but the interior of the home can only be visited by appointment only. However, there are cut out windows to view the old adobe construction and plaques on the exterior walls with snippets of history. If you stop in at the Casa Mobile Home Park and The Gage Mansion in Bell Gardens, tell them Rick Foster sent you.



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**SAM SULTAN AHMAD**

He is a member of the Cerritos Chamber of Commerce and Vice-Chair of the Cerritos Let Freedom Ring Committee. He is involved in other organizations that serve the business community and is a supporter of local sports programs. He wants to continue performing public service and give back to his community that has been so good to him and his family.



**MARK PULIDO**

He was elected to the Cerritos City Council in 2011. He served as Mayor Pro Tem in 2013-14 and was selected as Mayor in 2014. He was elected to the ABC Unified School District Board in 2001 and was re-elected in 2005 and 2009 when he served as ABC School Board President. Pulido is currently the District Director for Congressman Alan Lowenthal and has served under three speakers of the California Assembly.



**FRANK YOKOYAMA**

He is a former member of the Cerritos Planning Commission and is currently a real estate broker, attorney, local business owner, and youth sports coach for basketball and soccer. As a planning commissioner, he reviewed and approved plans for new businesses and home improvements to strengthen the local economy and increase property values for Cerritos residents.



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**CIF-SOUTHERN SECTION BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS**

**Valley Christian rallies in third quarter, pulls away from St. Bonaventure**

By Loren Kopff

One could say that it was Valley Christian junior guard Stedmon Bryant's three-point play with 31.7 seconds left in the first half that ignited his team's comeback against St. Bonaventure in a California Interscholastic Federation-Southern Section Division IV-A second round game. Or maybe it was the 8-0 run in the first 76 seconds of the second half that gave the host Crusaders the lead for good.

Either way, fifth-seeded V.C. escaped being upset by the 12th-seeded Seraphs 50-41 last Saturday night. Coupled with a thrilling come from behind 50-47 overtime road win at Paraclete this past Tuesday, the Crusaders move on to tonight's semifinal tilt against Olympic League rival and top-seeded Maranatha.

V.C. which shot 29 percent from the field in the first half, was down 27-19 before Bryant's basket and free throw ended the first half scoring. The play was set up by a steal and assist from junior forward Vaj Rice. Then Rice began the second half with a basket, followed by three-pointers from senior guard Kyle Westra and junior guard Jordan Mitchell, giving the hosts a 30-27 lead.

"We were grinding in the first half," said V.C. head coach Bryan Branderhorst. "We didn't have a whole lot of flow or rhythm. Shots weren't falling. But we had a couple

See **BASKETBALL** page 10

**Eleven Cerritos Swimmers Qualify for Southern California Championship Meet**



Twelve-year old Ethan Umpornpuckdi earned 2nd place medals in both the 1,000 and 1,650-yard freestyles, and 5th place in the 500-yard freestyle.

**Above:** Eleven Swimmers of the Cerritos Aquatic Club qualified for the 2015 Southern California Club Championships Meet held February 13th-16th at both the Rose Bowl Aquatics Pool and the pool at East Los Angeles College. Over 1,000 of the fastest swimmers in the Southland competed in this Championship Meet. Ten-year old Kevin Lee (3rd from right) earned the 3rd place medal in the 100-yard butterfly, the 4th place medal in the 50-yard butterfly, and the 8th place medal in the 100-yard breaststroke. The other swimmers representing the Cerritos Aquatic Club at the Championships were Emma Bertel, Jamie Rigor, Jessica Tarazon, Maya Valdoria, Joshua Koo, Gabriel Oliveira, Jonathan Villa, Julian Villa, and Benjamin Wong. Photos submitted by Cerritos Swim Club.

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**BASKETBALL**

*Continued from page 9*

of plays called out of halftime, executed and got easy scores. We got a couple of three's to go and that just totally changed the momentum for us."

The Crusaders (22-8) outscored St. Bonaventure 13-5 in the third quarter, then came out blazing in the fourth quarter, missing on just two of seven shots from the field. Within the first 3:08 of the final stanza, V.C. went on a 10-2 run to lead by 10 and virtually put the game away.

Bryant, who missed the first 11 games of the season, led everyone with a season-high 18 points, 11 in just the second quarter alone, while Rice added 15 points, 12 rebounds and four steals. All but four of his rebounds came in the first half with seven coming in the first quarter.

"Of all of the things you can emphasize for us that's always top priority, it's defensive rebounding [and] trying to hold teams to one shot," Branderhorst said. "We did a pretty good job of that overall tonight. In the first half, I thought Stedmon kept us in the game. He kept us afloat. When we were ready to sink, and we were playing some below par basketball, he kept us in the game."

Mitchell added six points and four rebounds but scored 10 points at Paraclete, as did Bryant and sophomore forward Aaron Purnell. Rice poured in 16 points as the Crusaders, with their balanced lineup, advance to the semifinals for the first time since 2008 when they brought home the Division IV-A championship. V.C. lost to Maranatha 67-61 on Jan. 22 on the road and 82-70 at home on Feb. 6.

"That's what we pride ourselves in," Branderhorst said of his balanced attack. "We feel like we have a lot of depth and a lot of guys who can make plays. That's big for us."

In other boys basketball action, Gahr is also advancing to a semifinal game tonight after cruising past Los Altos 69-42 this past Tuesday night in a Division III-AA quarter-final game. The second-seeded Gladiators (23-6) will visit third-seeded Bonita.

**CIF-SOUTHERN SECTION GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS**

**Gahr ousted in first round by South Hills, barrage of three-pointers**

By Loren Kopff

WEST COVINA-It didn't take long for the Gahr girls basketball team to real-

ize it was in trouble against South Hills in a California Interscholastic Federation-Southern Section Division III-AA first round game last Thursday night. The sixth-seeded Huskies drained seven three-pointers in the first quarter and went on to rout the Gladiators 76-41.

Denise Wang had four three-pointers and Brittany Wang added another three, plus a three-point play as the co-champions of the Palomares League built a 26-4 lead with 1:44 left in the opening stanza.

"I knew they were a good team but, boy, they were shooting three's from deep," said Gahr head coach David Garcia. "I thought that was [former Whitney High star] Rachel Nagel out there. They're a good squad; they were the better team. But my girls didn't give up."

After Gahr scored back to back baskets to end the first quarter, the only time it would do that in the first half, South Hills scored the first nine points of the second quarter. By halftime, the Huskies had a commanding 48-16 lead with 20 points coming off of 23 Gahr turnovers. The Gladiators (12-15 overall), received eight points before halftime from sophomore Alana Soltis and four more from sophomore Breanna Smith. In the locker room, Garcia tried to give his team some motivation.

"I just told them, 'enjoy the moment because a lot of you are coming back next year,'" Garcia said. "They're an excellent team. Now I know why they're 22-6."

After scoring eight points in each of the first two quarters, Gahr scored 11 in the third quarter thanks to six from junior Angelica Soltis. Her three-pointer almost two minutes into the fourth quarter ended a 7-0 run, the longest streak for Gahr in the game. She finished the game with a team-high 12 points while her sister added 11 points and grabbed five rebounds. The siblings transferred from Cerritos and

have been the top two scorers for Gahr this season.

"They came to me a little bit raw but they showed a lot of leadership towards the end of the season," Garcia said. "My goal this year for them was to get them a taste of the playoffs regardless of who we played or how far we went."

Smith pitched in with six points and pulled down nine rebounds while sophomore Lauren Magano had seven boards. The game was also the last for Garcia at Gahr as he resigned from the post on Feb. 13, the day after the team lost to San Gabriel Valley League champion Lynwood 53-11. Garcia went 24-29 in his brief stay at Gahr.

"I will move on and I will look forward to another head coaching job," Garcia said. "But at this time it's the best opportunity, not only for Gahr, but for myself to go our separate ways and everybody start fresh."

Division II-A Second Round  
#9 Colony 46, #8 Cerritos 44

Once down by 16 points midway through the third quarter, the Lady Dons rallied but came up short in the final seconds against the Titans. Cerritos was unable to get any rhythm going in the first half, shooting 21 percent from the field as it trailed 24-15 at the half. One of the factors haunting the Suburban League champions was the strength of Colony on the glass. The Titans had five offensive rebounds in the first quarter and another seven in the second quarter. In all, Colony had 27 offensive boards and in comparison, Cerritos had 36 total rebounds.

"That's the thing; we don't box out," said Cerritos first-year head coach Marcus Chinen. "I think we fought for every single rebound we could. Sometimes you grab it and other times we couldn't. It just didn't fall our way."

See GAHR page 11

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**GAHR***Continued from page 10*

Colony scored the first six points of the second half before the Lady Dons quietly made their attempt of a comeback. Senior Alyssa Movchan scored two straight baskets in a span of 13 seconds, the second coming on a steal.

After the Mt. Baldy League co-champions opened up a 37-21 lead, Cerritos began driving to the basket more, hoping the players would be fouled, and they were. Cerritos was eight of 11 from the free throw line in the final 3:40 of the third quarter, then hit 10 of 12 charity shots in the fourth quarter. The Lady Dons, who were down 44-30 with 6:20 left in the game, crept back to within seven points after a Movchan three-pointer almost a minute and a half later.

Colony scored its final basket with 2:34 remaining and from there the Lady Dons scored the game's final seven points. A last second attempt from senior Taylor Hirata, who appeared to have been fouled on the play, was nowhere near the iron.

"When you look at it, it looked like it was going to be a runaway score at one point," Chinen said. "At halftime, our adjustment was to chip away at it, and we did. A couple of our shooters at first knew they should have shot the ball. At one point we told them to attack the basket and they did attack the basket.

Movchan finished with a game-high 16 points while Hirata added nine points and seven rebounds. The Lady Dons finish the season at 19-8.

"Basically, you have to remember [we've] been chasing a league title for the last three years and they finally got it," Chinen told his team after the game. "There's nothing to be ashamed of. They

need to be proud and hold their heads up. That's the number one thing they wanted—a league title first, then after that we get further in the playoffs."

Division IV-A Second Round#2 St. Paul 56, Whitney 24

Whitney wrapped up the regular season at 10-12 but finished in a tie for third place in the Academy League, albeit at 6-6. Still, head coach Jeff Day saw his squad upset 15th-seeded and Cross Valley League champion University Prep in the first round, becoming the lone league team to win a playoff game last week. But that's where the fun ended as the Lady Wildcats were blown out by the Swordsmen last Saturday at home.

"We were just trying to take one game at a time," Day said. "It was very important because if you don't win that game, the season's over. Our goal was obviously to win our league, which I thought we still could have done. Things didn't work out that way for us. But going into the playoffs, though, it was a new season. We just wanted to do as good as we could do."

After junior Annika Brandes scored the game's first basket, St. Paul reeled off 10 straight points. Whitney trailed 23-11 at the half and was true on four of 21 field goals. St. Paul then opened the second half on a 12-0 run to put the game out of reach. The Lady Wildcats, who had advanced to the quarterfinals the past three seasons, managed only one field goal in the third quarter.

Senior Shiraya Thompson came off the bench to lead Whitney with eight points while freshman LiMei Vera added five points. She and sophomore Nicole Lee (four points, five rebounds) are two of five underclassmen who are slated to be the leaders next season. Lee was the team's leading scorer this season (10.2 points per game).

"Nicole started for me last year, so I'm going to have a varsity point guard who has two years, 50-some games of experience," Day said. "So that's just huge right there. She's our leader. Obviously she was hurting tonight, but the thing for me was we moved LiMei up about 20 games ago and just the experience as a freshman...she realizes it's different than playing on the [junior varsity] team in the Academy League. But she has a good shooting touch; she has a lot of other stuff to work on, though."

## CIF-SOUTHERN SECTION BOYS SOCCER PLAYOFFS

### Shorthanded Valley Christian loses lead but edges Whitney in overtime

By Loren Kopff

It was as close to a déjà vu situation as you could get when Valley Christian hosted Whitney in a California Interscholastic Federation-Southern Section Division VI first round game last Friday. It was exactly one year ago to the date that these two schools on the opposite side of the city met in the first round at Crusader Field.

Last season, V.C. eliminated the Wildcats 3-1 and last Friday, the Crusaders had a 3-1 lead with 21 minutes left to play. After Whitney scored twice to send the game into overtime, V.C. sophomore defender Brent Van Meeteren scored off a free kick from senior defender Grant D'Amico just seconds left in the first overtime session, lifting the Crusaders to a 4-3 victory.

What makes the win more remarkable

is the fact that the Crusaders played most of the second half and the overtime session a man short as senior defender Chandler Vos received a red card early in the second half.

"Whitney is a much better team than when we played them last year," said V.C. head coach Sean Toth. "I think it was an even game. They knocked the ball [around] nice and so did we. We took chances and we capitalized on them and that's the name of the game. The one who capitalizes on the chances is the one who wins."

V.C. struck first when sophomore forward Clay D'Amico took a pass from junior midfielder Klay Solomon and scored just 11 minutes into the contest. But the Wildcats (8-9) appeared to dominate the majority of the first half, peppering V.C. sophomore goalkeeper Misha Marson for six shots. Two of those came with a minute of each other and from junior Aldo Najango while sophomore Edward Malacon's free kick in the 34th minute was tipped up and over the cross bar by Marson.

Malacón redeemed himself two minutes into the second half when he converted on a penalty kick after senior Alan Jahic was dragged from behind in the box. But the Crusaders regained the lead in the 51st minute when Van Meeteren scored at the far post off of a corner kick from junior midfielder Quang-Lam Pham. Eight minutes later, the hosts increased their lead when Clay D'Amico raced down the left sideline and snuck in his team-leading 24th goal.

"Clay is a great player," Toth said. "But at the end of the day, it's all about the 11 [on the field]. We work as 11 as a team. He's a great leader on the field. He works hard; puts in the time and effort in the training. Without the other boys on

See VALLEY CHRISTIAN page 12

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**VALLEY CHRISTIAN***Continued from page 11*

the field, we couldn't do it."

But the Wildcats refused to go away and five minutes later, Najango took a beautiful flick from his brother, sophomore Chris Najango, and put Whitney back in the game. Then with a minute remaining in regulation, Aldo Najango scored with the assist going to Jahic.

"The whole year, we've played this game with only 11 players that we can depend on," said Whitney first-year head coach Nasser Sarfaraz. "And sometimes, it just takes a toll on your body. We made three critical mistakes on [their] last three goals.

"Aldo and his brother Chris are fantastic," Sarfaraz later added. "They are the backbone of this team. Ask them to do anything on the field, it happens."

Whitney took eight shots on goal in the second half and appeared to be on the verge of the upset when Marson had to save two shots from Chris Najango within a matter of seconds in the 86th minute. Then in the 89th minute, Marson saved another chance, this time on a free kick from Malacon. In all, Marson saved 11 of Whitney's 16 shots.

"Misha pulled some great saves," Toth said. "He's a great, young future prospect for the game. He's looking for a bright future ahead of him and sometimes the keeper comes big for you and that's what you need. He's come through for us all season. He's one of the top defenders in the league and it wouldn't surprise me if he becomes on the All-CIF first team for Division VI."

V.C., which fell to top-seeded South Pasadena 2-1 this past Wednesday, managed 11 shots on goal, eight coming after halftime, but was whistled for 18 fouls to just six for Whitney. The Crusaders conclude their season at 10-8-2.

"We've been 10 men in the past but that's the first time this season we've been 10 men, and we train for that," Toth said. "We train for those situations. This was nothing new to us."

In other boys soccer action, Norwalk blanked Vista Murrieta 1-0 this past Wednesday on the road to advance to the Division IV quarterfinals. The Lancers (16-5-1) have won 12 of their past 15 games and will visit third ranked Godinez today. The 16 victories are the most since the team went 16-3-2 in the 2008-2009 season and this will be Norwalk's first trip to the quarterfinals 2010.

**BIZFED***Continued from page 1*

The LAFB does not list a single business within their 108 members from Cerritos.

Out of the 108 members, 45, or 42%, are Los Angeles County Chamber of Commerce organizations.

The list does not include the Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce. Chamber Executive Director Scott Smith told HMG-CN, "we didn't join as we are already involved in other like organizations specifically the Gateway Chambers Alliance – a group of about a dozen chambers in the Gateway area of L.A. County."

HMG-CN also obtained documents from the Cerritos City Clerk's Office showing that Edwards, Vo, and Solanki recently received \$500 each from the PAC.

The donations raise serious questions of coordination between the committee and the three candidates, which would be a violation of state election laws.

Many political heavyweights in Cerritos told HMG-CN that they had never heard of the PAC prior to the mailing and were skeptical of its purpose.

The reporting violations stem from Chapter 11.13 of the FPPC Manual which states, "Committees that make an independent expenditure of \$1,000 or more to support or oppose a single candidate during the 90 days prior to the local candidate's election must file a separate Form 496 (24-Hour Expenditure Report) for each candidate supported or opposed. The report must be filed within 24 hours regardless of the day of the week and must be filed by fax, guaranteed overnight delivery, or personal delivery."

The manual states for multiple candidates, "the cost may be attributed to each featured candidate calculating the prorated costs based on the amount of space allotted to each candidate or ballot measure supported or opposed in the mailer."

Other FPPC regulations require all committees that receive contributions and expend funds in the run-up to an election to file separate pre-election reports, including reports covering specific pre-election periods, another for late contributions and still another for late expenditures. There is no evidence that the committee filed any of these required reports with Los Angeles County or the cities involved.

Cerritos residents received the flyer last Friday, Feb. 20. The flyer involves design, printing, sorting, and mailing, which, at the very least, takes at least one week.

The FPPC manual mandates that the Form 496 should have been filed with the Cerritos City Clerk on Feb. 13—possibly sooner—but certainly no later than the day it was dropped at the post office.

HMG-CN is in contact with the Cerritos City Clerk and as of today Thursday, Feb. 26, a Form 496 has not been received by the office from the PAC.

The PAC is also mandated to file a Form 496 in Los Angeles County at the Norwalk Registrar's Office. Once again, as of Thursday Feb. 26, the form has not been received from the PAC.

The FPPC can fine up to \$5,000 for each violation.

HMG-CN attempted to contact the treasurer of the PAC, Steve Bullock, CFO of Cerrell Associates, Inc. for clarification.

The email asked whether a small group of members paid for the flyer, using the PAC as their vehicle. The email also advised Bullock that under FPPC rules, disclosure of the ultimate sources of funding for the piece, not the PAC, is required by law. And finally, the email asked for the actual FPPC disclosure filings.

Bullock referred HMG-CN to Tracy Rafter the CEO of the PAC. Rafter was the Publisher of the Los Angeles Daily News from 2004-2006.

Rafter told HMG-CN, "BizFed PAC does not solicit nor accept contributions earmarked for any specific candidate or campaign. We are fully aware of an(d) are confident our activities reporting comply with the Political Reform Act. Our reports are available from each filing officer with whom we are required to file, which changes depending on our activities."

Rafter did not volunteer to provide HMG-CN the committee's FPPC disclosure filings.

Rafter went on, "the BizFed PAC is a 'general purpose committee' and decisions about the PAC's activities are made by a Board of diverse business leaders throughout the County."

The PAC is actually "General Purpose County Committee" that is "sponsored" by the Los Angeles Federation of Businesses. It is unclear whether members of the LAFB know their membership dues might be supporting candidates in different cities, candidates whom they might not agree with.

When asked who the PAC's board members are, Rafter once again skirted the question.

When asked why they supported Edwards, Vo, and Solanki, Rafter said, "our candidates are chosen through interviews and a consensus vote (by the Board)."

Cerritos candidate Naresh Solanki told HMG-CN that he went to Pasadena for interviews, "in front of about 25 people."

HMG-CN obtained from a source the one-page PAC questionnaire given to candidates prior to interviews, a document that contained very generic questions.

One question asked for the candidate's background, "Tell us a little about yourself, your background in the region, and why you are interested in running for office? (One paragraph)"

Next up were "campaign" questions, "Who will vote for you – and why? Who do you consider your top endorsement – and why? What is your fundraising goal and actual funds to date?"

Last was "policy" questions, "What specific things would you do to create private-sector jobs? How would you increase revenues in your city? How do you view your city in the context of the regional economy?"

One Cerritos resident, who did not want to be identified commented, "so we have an organization that has nothing to do with Cerritos, that has a lot of money, summoning Cerritos City Council candidates to the mountain to fill out a soft-ball questionnaire.

He went on, "The candidates are then interviewed by people who we, as Cerritos residents, know nothing about, approved by a board that we know nothing about, after which the organization spends thousands on those candidates to get them elected. The question is what will the PAC demand if these candidates indeed do get elected, especially in light of the fact they also gave each candidate \$500 each?"

One candidate, who declined to be identified said, "the interview process was a joke, very short, I did not get to say much."

**PEREZ***Continued from page 1*

District. Perez claimed he was told by the District's General Counsel that he would have 21-days to consider the District's offer, but as Perez was driving home several hours later, he was called by the District's Human Resources Manager informing him that the Board had voted to terminate him for cause effective immediately.

Perez claims he was never informed of the reason for his termination.

Perez alleges that Roybal, Vasquez, Apodaca "engineered and acted in concert in wrongfully discharging him from his employment as General Manager."

The claim also alleges that Perez was retaliated against for engaging in protected activities that would "prove harmful, embarrassing and cause potential criminal liability to the respondent directors." The activities listed in the complaint include investigating billing practices of Pacifica Services Inc., investigating sexual battery charges against Director Apodaca resulting in a \$670,000 settlement for the victim, investigating Director Roybal illegally receiving CBMWD funds while assigned to L.A. Unified School District's "teacher jail," investigating Director Vasquez's involvement in the potentially criminal leaking and forging of a federal subpoena, and refusal to provide Director Vasquez preferential treatment in Vasquez's qui tam lawsuit against former vendors and employees of CBMWD, a suit where Vasquez stands to make over \$2-million if she prevails.

Perez alleges further that the directors knew his termination was baseless because they did not specify the particular matters on which is termination for cause was based on.

Perez also alleges the directors worked in concert, a violation of the Brown Act, prior to voting to fire him by authorizing \$100,000 to hire Tafoya and Garcia to investigate the him.

HMG-CN first reported in January 2015 that the law firm of Tafoya and Garcia (T&G) was awarded a sole-source contract by CBMWD that was later amended to increase T&G's budget to \$100,000 and to provide T&G a questionable upfront deposit of \$20,000.

The amendment was executed on October 9th 2014, the same day as Perez's termination. Sources at CBMWD indicate that T&G has expended over \$100,000 to date and have yet to provide any work product.

Perez is asking for over \$3.2 million that was owed to him under his contract and another \$5 million for defamation and further "non-economic damages."

Director Art Chacon, a harsh critic of Roybal, Vasquez, and Apodaca commented, "What's left to say? These three were warned that this day would come, but they believe they are above the law. These directors are under investigation by the U.S. Attorney, the D.A., the County Board of Supervisors, and the FPPC and they don't bat an eye. Nothing will change until there is an election, a recall, law enforcement intervention, or all three."

Director Phil Hawkins commented, "I can't speak about the merits of the case because it is pending litigation, but I certainly did not support Perez's dismissal. A lawsuit of this size would have devastating effects on the District's continued ability to operate. This could and should have been resolved amicably."

Directors Roybal, Vasquez and Apodaca did not return calls for comment.



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# YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT STUDENTS PRESENT IDEAS

The City of La Mirada's award winning Youth in Government program completed its 55th year at Tuesday's City Council meeting. Students from the program presented their proposals for City services to the Council and a packed audience.

The students gave three presentations proposing the addition of an iConnect page on the City's website, the initiation of an "Adopt a Power Box" public art program, and a bike sharing program in La Mirada. With the bike sharing program, the students conducted research and compared data from nearby cities that have implemented similar programs. After each presentation, presenters answered questions from students serving as City Council members.

The presentations marked the conclusion of the six-month program, which sees La Mirada High School

students serving as mock City Council members and staff while learning about local government and participating in the community. In addition to working on their proposals, students participated in City sponsored community events, and met with community groups such as the La Mirada Senior Council.

"The students delivered comprehensive presentations on three creative project proposals for City enhancements," says Community Services Supervisor Oliver Osuna. "We appreciate the hard work and time the students put into this program, and their ideas are taken seriously by the City."

Previous Youth in Government project proposals that have been implemented include the La Mirada Community Gymnasium and Splash! La Mirada Regional Aquatics Center. An idea to enhance the La Mirada Library two years ago is also moving forward.



Youth in Government students received certificates from area elected officials after presenting their project proposals to City Council. Front Row (L to R): Brian Kooptaporn, Tori Pflanzner, Lauren Decker, Grace Spirescu, Nikolai Clark Middle Row (L to R): Eric Rhee, Luis Torrejon, Brandon Eng, Napoleon Tomasino, Kevin Hanst, Eddie Pardo Back Row (L to R): Michael Caplan, David Ramirez, Steven Martinez, Karim Sologuren, Hamza Shakeel.

## ABCUSD Open Enrollment-Schools of Choice

The Open Enrollment – School of Choice window for the ABC Unified School District will be March 1, 2015 – March 31, 2015. Parents may apply for Magnet Schools Programs through the online application at [www.abcchoolsofchoice.com](http://www.abcchoolsofchoice.com) and through the link on the ABC Unified School District homepage.

The online application process that began in 2013, has improved the School of Choice Open Enrollment process in ABCUSD by making it more convenient for parents and families to enroll. It is also more cost effective and time efficient for the school and District staff to implement each year.

The District staff has worked with Smart Choice Technologies to ensure that the School of Choice/Magnet School application is consistent with all current ABCUSD Board policies and timelines. The Smart Choice Technologies application process will enable parents to apply online from home, the school site, or the District Office. Parents will also be able to check the status of their application(s) throughout the process, print a receipt of the time and date of their application and make multiple choices of schools for their child. Parents will be notified of the results of the lottery electronically through the email provided on the application.

The Smart Choice Technology website will be activated on March 1, 2015 at 12:01 a.m. (PST). It will remain open until 4:30 p.m. on March 31, 2015. The results of the lottery will be posted online on May 1, 2015.

Tim Catlin, Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance, is coordinating the effort for the District and may be contacted at (562) 926-5566, Ext. 21105.

## CALIFORNIA AUCTION AD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the contents of the following storage units will be offered for sale by public auction to the highest bidder for enforcement of storage lien. The auction will be held on or after **March 17th, 2015 @ 9:30 am.**

Location:

**Extra Space Storage, 10753 Artesia Blvd. Cerritos, CA 90703.**

Terms: Cash, ExtraSpace Storage reserves the right to refuse any bid or cancel auction. Name of Auctioneer: **West Coast**

**Auctioneers Bond #137857.**

The following units are scheduled for auction:

(Customer Names)

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Stacey Joseph  
Amanda Riviera  
Tomas Casiano  
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NICOLE BORBON**

**Amelia Nunag  
Derrick L. Reese  
Richard Thomas  
Mia Wofford  
Jerri Davis  
Victoria Hanzay  
STEVEN MUSHANEY**

**Rene Guzman Jr  
Davin Wright  
Starlyn Pearson  
Makayla Johnson**

**All units to include but not limited to tools, furniture, electronics, household items and misc. items unless otherwise specified.**

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 2/27 and 3/6/15

APN: 7014-022-055 TS No: CA08004701-14-1 TO No: 8480989 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED September 1, 2005. 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 PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On March 19, 2015 at 09:00 AM, Vineyard Ballroom, Doubletree Hotel Los Angeles-Norwalk, 13111 Sycamore Drive, Norwalk, CA 90650, MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps, as the duly Appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust Recorded on September 9, 2005 as Instrument No. 05 2172358 of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California, executed by SOOJIN KIM AND KUN HYONG KIM, WIFE AND HUSBAND AS JOINT TEANTS, as Trustor(s), CAPSTONE LENDING CORP. as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, that certain property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as: AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 11503 WIMBLEY COURT, CERRITOS, CA 90703 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 without covenant or warranty, express 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 if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be \$517,983.10 (Estimated). However, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the California Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the Trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. 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. Notice to Potential Bidders If you are considering bidding on this property lien, 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 or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. 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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 Auction.com at 800.280.2832 for information regarding the Trustee's Sale or visit the Internet Web site address [www.Auction.com](http://www.Auction.com) for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case, CA08004701-14-1. 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. Date: February 2, 2015 MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps TS No. CA08004701-14-1 17100 Gillette Ave Irvine, CA 92614 Phone: 949-252-8300 FDD: 866-660-4288 Amy Lemus, Authorized Signatory SALE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ONLINE AT [www.Auction.com](http://www.Auction.com) FOR AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: AUCTION.COM at 800.280.2832 MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. P1130090 2/13, 2/20, 02/27/2015



# Metro Briefs

GATEWAY CITIES

## President Proposes \$330 million in New Starts Federal Funding

Good news for Los Angeles and Metro – President Obama's fiscal year budget for 2016 includes a total of \$330 million of funding for the Purple Line Extension and Regional Connector project. The money will be paired with revenues from Measure R and could help accelerate project completions.

## New Metro Lost and Found facility

Each month, Metro finds hundreds of items left behind by people traveling on its buses and trains. If you've lost something, it could be at our new Lost and Found facility located adjacent to the Gold Line Heritage Square station. The facility is open Monday – Saturday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. Learn more at [lostandfound.metro.net](http://lostandfound.metro.net).

## Blue Line Upgrades Project Continues

Work is wrapping up on the Willow and Wardlow stations, which is part of Metro's \$1.2 billion Blue Line overhaul. The stations received new tile, new audio/visual enhancements, fresh paint and more. Compton station is next up to go under construction. Check service advisories at [metro.net/bluelineupgrades](http://metro.net/bluelineupgrades).

## VetsGo511.com

[VetsGo511.com](http://VetsGo511.com) is a one-stop source for veterans and others in the military community to get help with housing, employment, healthcare and more. The website includes improved transportation options too. To learn more, visit [VetsGo511.com](http://VetsGo511.com).



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