



COMMUNITY NEWS

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HMG-CN EXCLUSIVE: CENTRAL BASIN PRESIDENT APODACA USING GOVERNMENT FUNDS FOR PERSONAL USE

By Brian Hews

Hews Media Group-Community News has obtained documents that show the Los Angeles based law firm of Tafoya and Garcia (TG) has been illegally granted permission, without a vote by the Central Basin Board of Directors, to re-investigate the Sigrid Lopez sexual harassment lawsuit that was settled months ago for \$670,000 against Central Basin President



Bob Apodaca

Bob Apodaca.

HMG-CN has been told by two municipal attorneys that the TG covert investigation amounts to a misuse of government funds for personal use and should "absolutely" be brought to the attention of Los Angeles District Attorney Jackie Lacy for investigation and possible prosecution.

"How could there have been a vote to allow the Lopez investigation," CB Director Art Chacon asked. "Apodaca had to recuse himself from any vote pertaining to Lopez, and Phil (CB Director Hawkins) and I would never vote for an investigation, so who allowed this so-called investigation to go forward? It's a total sham and use of government funds for personal use by Apodaca."

HMG-CN previously reported that TG was awarded a sole-source (no-bid) contract by Directors Apodaca, Leticia-Vasquez and James Roybal to investigate the performance of former CB General Manager Tony Perez, after Perez was fired for cause.

Perez has since filed a wrongful termination claim against the District and Directors Apodaca, Roybal and Vasquez for \$8.2 million, which is ongoing.

The investigation, according to documents, started December of last year. As of last month, TG, where every attorney working on the CB investigation earns a hefty \$350 per hour, had generated over \$34,000 in fees related to the settlement

See **CENTRAL BASIN** page 13

ABCUSD INTO THE SUMMER FUN RUN NETS OVER \$25,000



Runners in the ABCUSD Into the Summer Fun Run take off from the start line. Over 500 runners participated in the 5K race. Photo by Tammye McDuff.

By Heather Summers

The ABC Education Foundation landed a successful third annual Into the Summer Fun Run/Walk & Wellness Fair on Saturday, June 20, 2015. Over \$54,000 in total revenue was raised with an additional \$19,500 provided as in-kind support from sponsors; net proceeds raised over \$25,000.

Major sponsors, including Los Cerritos Center; Kaiser Permanente; Schools-First Federal Credit Union; Los Cerritos Community Newspaper; Browning Automotive Group; LBS Financial Credit Union; and the Walk 'N Rollers led over 50 community sponsors contributing to the event's success.

"The proceeds from this Fun Run will support the Foundation's grants to teachers and schools, or will go directly to pay for student supplies, such as back packs and school necessities," stated Century 21 ASTRO realtor Mark Anthony Ruiz, president of the ABC Education Foundation Board. Teacher grant applications will be provided in late August and will be awarded in November, according to Rachel Santos, the Foundation's Grant Awards Chair and ABCUSD Positive Behavioral Interventions & Support Coach.

"Kaiser Permanente is thrilled to be a contributor to both the district and the Foundation and this 5K is a really fun way for us to show our support," stated

Gregg Durkee, COO, Kaiser Permanente Medical Center. "This is an amazing community building event for the ABC community," stated Fun Run Co-Chair Melinda Ortiz, Principal at ABC's Nixon Academy. Over 100 volunteers, including Girl Scouts, Cities of Artesia, Cerritos and Hawaiian Gardens volunteers and ABC staff ensured the Fun Run was safe and fun. Musicians, a drum line and cheerleaders lined the course, cheering runners on. Participants shared later the new Fun Run course provided some of their fastest personal times ever.

The ABC Fun Run had over 500 5K participants.

Winners were:

Male category-

1st: Andrew Shen of Cerritos

2nd: Michael Bauby

3rd: Gary Blackwell

Female category-

1st: Alyssa Segovia of Alta Loma, CA

2nd: Diane Nevarez of Cerritos

3rd: Bella Brannon of Huntington Beach

Age and gender winners from ages 5 to 70+ in the 5K received newly commissioned 1st, 2nd and 3rd place medals.

The 2K run/walk attracted over 300 participants and over 100 children ages 5-10 ran in the Kid's Run. In addition, hundreds of local residents attended a wellness fair providing free health, dental, and other screenings and enjoyed free en-

See **FUN RUN** page 13

Residents Slam Santa Fe Springs City Council Over Developer Agreement

By Brian Hews

Controversy surrounds the opening of the Miro Luxury Apartments in Santa Fe Springs as nearby residents descended upon city hall demanding to be made whole over a botched shared use agreement sanctioned by city officials in 2012.

The 150-unit Miro Development, built by Fairfield Residential, is located within the gated walls of the 384-unit luxury Villages at Heritage Springs (Villages) community along Telegraph Rd. between Bloomfield and Norwalk Boulevards.

Villages Homeowner's Association President Ron Beilke spoke at the meeting and addressed what his membership called, "a huge problem created by the city."

The 150-unit property in question was sold to Fairfield Residential by Comstock Homes in early 2013.

Sources are telling HMG-CN that during the time of the sale, Comstock's three agents on Villages' HOA Board secretly entered into and recorded a "Common Property Shared Use & Reservation of Easements Agreement" that in effect changed the conditions spelled out in the development's original 2012 EIR addendum.

In a letter sent by Comstock to Villages homeowners on July 26, 2012, Comstock identifies itself as the developer of proposed 155-unit property.

Beilke noted "obviously at one point it was Comstock's intention to build the apartments themselves which is why the EIR specified that HOA dues be paid accordingly for shared use of the property."

Beilke suspects that at that time it was in Comstock's best interest for the apartments to fall under one HOA umbrella but once they enlisted Fairfield to take over the project, the HOA was "thrown under the bus" and Fairfield was afforded a heavily-reduced reduction in fees that flew in the face of the EIR requirements.

The problems began when Comstock decided to sell the property to Fairfield while simultaneously acting as majority representation on the HOA Board.

During the time of the sale, Comstock entered into the Common Property Shared Use & Reservation of Easements agreement.

See **SANTA FE SPRINGS** page 13



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Downey Credit Union Goes Full 'STEAM' Ahead

By Tammye McDuff

The Downey Federal Credit Union [DFCU] joined forces with Downey High School Engineering Department, Columbia Memorial Space Center and Stay Gallery to produce the first annual STEAM Festival, a Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math Festival. Many stations had hands-on activities such as 3-D Printing, Egg-Drop Design, Bottle Rocket Design and Launch, Robotics Demonstration and an interactive mural



Kids paint the Collaborative Art Mural, hosted by STAY Gallery.

paint and design which will be placed in the lobby of DFCU.

Over 60 student volunteers from Downey and Warren High School participated in the festival and more than 250 kids participated in different art and design activities. An estimated 1,500 attended the event throughout the day. Other participants included Warren High's Stay Connected Club, Downey Kiwanis Club, Downey Adult School and Yogurtland.

In this climate of economic uncertainty, cities are once again turning to innovation as the way to ensure a prosperous future. Innovation remains tightly joined to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, the basic subjects of STEM. However, the arts and design are hovering on the edge to transform our economy in the 21st century just as science and technology did in the last century. Many school districts and cities are adding Art to the equation converting STEM to STEAM. STEAM is a movement to transform research, encourage integration of the art and design in our education system and influence employers to hire artists and designers to drive novelty and originality.

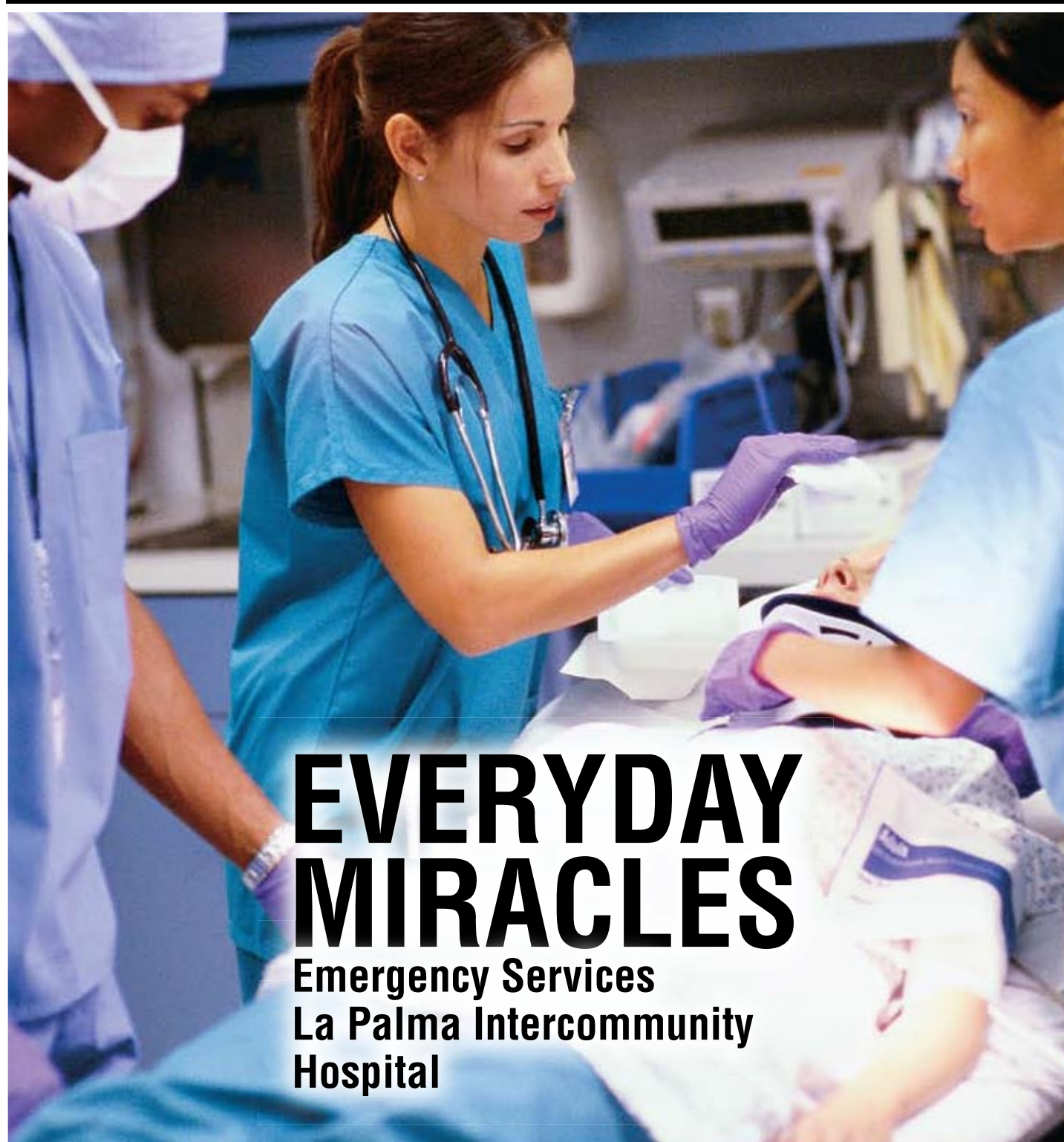


A little participant getting ready to launch her water bottle rocket.

Many companies are realizing that artist and designers can effectively communicate complex data and scientific information to multiple stakeholders and broad audiences. Artists and scientists both ask big questions; designers and engineers both provide inspired solutions, together they are more powerful than

apart.

Art education teaches the flexible thinking and risk taking that are needed in today's complex world. STEAM education promises to increase student engagement and unlock creative thinking and innovation. Design is increasingly becoming a key differentiator for technology startups and products. With Art + Design, students will be able to provide real solutions for everyday lives, distinguish American products in a global market place, and create opportunity for economic growth.



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CITY OF NORWALK'S FREE INDEPENDENCE DAY PAGEANT

The City of Norwalk Recreation and Park Services Department will host its Independence Day Pageant on Friday, July 3, 2015 on the Civic Center Lawn, 12700 Norwalk Boulevard (corner of Imperial Highway adjacent to Norwalk City Hall).

This popular FREE community event begins at 6:00 p.m. with activities including games, face painting, and live music by "Liquid Blue." The "Locks of Love" Hair Drive will take place from 1:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Food will also be sold by local community groups.

Don't miss out on a spectacular fireworks show, at 9:00 p.m.

For more information contact the Recreation and Park Services Department at (562) 929-5702.

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Former Cerritos Mayor Laura Lee Celebrates 70th Birthday

By Larry Caballero

More than 250 family members, friends and dignitaries attended a 70th birthday celebration for former Cerritos Mayor Laura Lee at the Cerritos Senior Center Jun. 20 from 5:00 p.m.-10:30 p.m. where they enjoyed dinner and live entertainment from several of Lee's friends who performed especially in her honor.

She wanted no gifts, but encouraged guests to donate to one of her three charitable organizations—the Cerritos Chinese-American Senior Citizens Association, Cerritos Chinese School and the Formosa Senior Association. Guests donated more than \$10,000 to her causes.

Cerritos Commissioner Cindy Yen Chen was asked to think of a theme for the evening's festivities, so she decided that Laura and her husband Charles should dress up as a Chinese Emperor and Empress while representatives from different nations honored them with gifts.

Guests were amused as entertainers performed native songs and dances that represented a certain nation of the world.

Many in attendance thanked Lee for her friendship including former Cerritos Mayor Gloria Kappe. "There are some people in your life that you feel you have known all your life. That's the way I feel about Laura. She is a woman of compassion, loyalty, humor, tradition and fun. Laura is a class act, a truly classy lady."

ABC School Board member Olympia Chen said, "Laura is very caring, compassionate and ready to lend a helping

hand at all times. She has a genuinely kind heart and is willing to share a friend's burden."

Lee's granddaughter Rea Karahashi honored her grandmother with a poem that read:

"She can be strict like a mom, or sweet like a flower.

She yells for no reason sometimes, but can be proved wrong.

She loves my friends, and they love her, too.

Everybody loves her for the person she is.

She may not be tech-savvy, or agree with me a lot,

But she is my grandmother, and that's what's best."

Lee's daughter Trulee Lee agreed. "My mother is the center of our family universe. She is the sun around which we revolve.

My father, sister, and I are all satellites around a star which is our mother."

Also in attendance were former Cerritos Mayors, Sherman Kappe, Bob Hughlett, Jim Edwards and Mark Pulido, along with Cerritos College Board Vice-President Dr. Shin Liu, ABC Board member Celia Spitzer and ABC Adult School Board President PaoLing Guo.



Photo by Larry Caballero

Charles and Laura Lee at Laura's birthday celebration. Cerritos Commissioner Cindy Yen Chen was asked to think of a theme for the evening's festivities, so she decided that Laura and her husband Charles should dress up as a Chinese Emperor and Empress.

Several times throughout the evening, Laura Lee personally thanked her guests for attending and making her special day even better before she and her husband Charles walked onto the dance floor to a Viennese waltz.

As guests were leaving at the end of the evening, daughter Kelley Lee greeted them and said, "We hope to see you again at my mother's 75th birthday!"

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Leap into the Deep 'Unwraps' at Leal Elementary

Staff Report

The big eyes of amazement from the children at Leal Elementary said it all to Artist Shannon Richardson. Then a gush of "wow's, amazing, and wonderful", came rushing through to describe the new public art "Leap into the Deep" displayed at the Frank C. Leal Elementary School.

"Its about community and vision, parents, students, teachers, administrators, leaders, community," stated Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary Sieu at the ribbon "wrapping" ceremony on June 16.

The art transforms Leal Park into an undersea adventure created by children at the school. Schools of fishes among succulent corals, submarines with children

looking out of the portholes into a world of Octopi, sharks and whales.

The project for public art at a public elementary school began in August 2014 amid difficult school budgets and a struggling economy. A small group of dedicated parents thought that a visual and performing Arts school should "look" like a visual and performing arts school and imagined their entire school as a canvas.

Ernie Nishii, LEAP parent said, "why not make school a beautiful and inviting place to be and learn?" From this kernel of thought, the Leal Elementary Arts Program, LEAP, got into action.

After acquiring a Target Arts grant for \$2,000 and fundraising for the balance of funds, LEAP, a 501 c 3 nonprofit dedicat-



[l-r] LEAP parent Ernie Nishii, his daughter Yuri Nishii, ABCUSD Board Member Sophia Tse, ABCUSD Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu, Board Members Lynda Johnson, Soo Yoo and PA White, Principal Leal ES.

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Leal's sixth grade class stands in front of the Leap Into Deep mural.



CITY OF CERRITOS

WATER USE RESTRICTIONS NOW IN EFFECT

The State of California is requiring Cerritos water users to reduce water usage by 28 percent. In order to meet the State mandate, the City has adopted the following restrictions for all water users in the City, except when necessary to address an immediate health and safety need or to comply with a term or condition in a permit issued by a state or federal agency:

- Washing vehicles with a hose is prohibited, except when the hose is equipped with a shut-off nozzle.
- Washing driveways and sidewalks is prohibited.
- The use of potable water in a fountain or other decorative water feature is prohibited, unless the water is part of a recirculating system.
- Irrigation runoff is prohibited.
- Irrigation is prohibited during and 48 hours following measurable precipitation.
- Irrigation is allowed between the hours of 5 p.m. and 9 a.m. for no more than 10 minutes per station.*
- Irrigation is limited to two times per week during the months of June through September, and one time per week during the months of October through May.*

*Landscape irrigation for commercial nurseries and growers, fire and erosion protection, the protection of endangered species, environmental mitigation projects and properties using reclaimed water are exempt from this provision. Also exempt are watering using a handheld container or a hose equipped with a shut-off nozzle, and the use of an irrigation system for short durations to make repairs. Use of a drip irrigation system is permissible.

Violation of the regulations is subject to a fine of up to \$500 per day.

The City will mail a postcard about the water use restrictions to all Cerritos homes and businesses.

Translated versions of the postcard will be available on the City's website at cerritos.us. For more information about the water use restrictions, call the Water Division at (562) 916-1223.

ed to Leal Elementary, sought out world class artists in the community through a request for proposals issued in October 2014.

The proposal was sent to the California Arts Council, Los Angeles Arts groups, City of Cerritos, Muckenthaler Cultural Center, Irvine Fine Arts Center, and the Santa Ana Arts District.

The committee received numerous applicants willing to take on the challenge of creating public art at a school. In December, after review by Principal White and approval by ABC School District, the LEAP board selected Shannon Richardson to implement the vision. Shannon Richardson had been previously recognized as one of the most promising new artists in California.

Kicking off the project in December with the First Annual Winter Arts Festival, hundreds of students gathered to make schools of colorful fish. Special

needs children also participated with the assistance of disabled veteran, Kenneth Younger and LEAP parent, Angela Molina.

Final installation occurred on Sunday and Monday with plantings by parents and children at the school. Diya Parshotam and Yuri Nishii noted, "it was really hot but worth it in the end."

Immediately following the 6th Grade promotion at school, the ribbon wrapping ceremony commenced. Principal White announced, "Through this ribbon wrapping around this school and in their hearts the sixth graders will always be bound to the experiences of Leal Elementary."

"This is definitely a work in progress—it is only the beginning- each year each new group of parents can build upon the last to transform this school into a world class public visual and performing arts school."

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Downey Conservancy Spotlights City's Special Landmarks, Including Famous Fast Food Hubs

George Redfox, photography teacher at Downey's Warren High School, is accustomed to preserving moments in time with the click of a camera. But his love of local history led him to take a deeper exploration into the city's physical structures, and create the Downey Conservancy in 2010.

"It's exciting to walk in old houses and buildings, and think about what happened in those rooms," said Redfox. "We recognized a few years ago that many people do not know the history behind Downey's early structures, so we wanted to start capturing that story and educating residents."

The community-based nonprofit organization is dedicated to promoting and supporting the preservation of the culturally and historically significant resources of the City of Downey with a special focus on its "built" structures.

Downey's birth dates back to the late 1800's with early Spanish settlers, and later grew into a farming community. After World War II, it took shape as a suburban neighborhood with middle-class families, many of whom worked at Rockwell International to support the aircraft and space industries.

Redfox notes Downey is quite famous for its historical fast-food presence.

In 1953, the third McDonald's restau-

rant was built in Downey, and today is the oldest original McDonald's in the country. The Johnnie's Broiler drive-in restaurant and coffee shop, which has been featured in movies and sitcoms, was built in 1958. And in 1962, the very first Taco Bell started serving the popular fast-food Mexican fare. The original Taco Bell structure was later used by a different taco company, but closed in December 2014. The Downey Conservancy is now working to preserve the original building, or find it a new home in order to avoid demolition.

"We're talking with the owners, and have also reached out to the corporate offices of Taco Bell," said Redfox. "We'd hate to lose this historical landmark, but we're hopeful something will work out."

Outside the restaurant scene, the Conservancy is also in the final stages of securing the city's Molly Pitcher Estates a spot on the California Register of Historic Places. An estimated 42 Ranch-style homes, built in the 1950s, ushered in the predominance of front-facing garages with the rise of the automobile.

The Conservancy wants to ensure these early homes, designed by legendary designer Otto Hansen, are recognized for their architectural contribution, and protected for future generations.

"If all passes, the property values in that area will likely see a 20 to 40 percent increase," said Redfox. "And we'll make sure the original look of these homes remain intact for years to come."

While the Conservancy is still young, Redfox notes the community is increasingly becoming aware of its presence and joining the group's Facebook community, and also the Conservancy itself. Membership is free, but donations are encour-



aged.

"It's refreshing to see our community care so deeply about preservation," said LA County Supervisor Don Knabe. "While Los Angeles and its many surrounding cities are young compared to many parts of the country, we have some remarkable landmarks and structures. I'm thankful we have citizens documenting these pieces of history and ensuring many generations can enjoy the structures in the years ahead."

To learn more about the Downey Conservancy, visit thedowneyconservancy.org.

Article courtesy of LA County Supervisor Don Knabe and staff.

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GUITAR ORCHESTRA PLAYS AT NORWALK LIBRARY



The Orange County Guitar Orchestra plays at Sergestrom in Costa Mesa. The Orchestra will present a free concert at Alondra Library on Saturday, June 27.

Staff Report

The Orange County Guitar Orchestra will present a free concert at Alondra Library on Saturday, June 27, 2015 from 2:00 PM-3:15 PM.

The Orange County Guitar Orchestra will be performing music by Bach, Corelli, Johansen, as well as new works by Perez and Ponce. The OCGO is recognized as the only professional guitar or-

chestra in southern California. Under the direction of David Grimes, the orchestra has already developed a reputation of an unique and colorful repertoire.

Alondra Library is located at 11949 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650 and is part of the County of Los Angeles Public Library. For more information call 562-868-7771 or check out the Alondra Library Event Calendar at colapublib.org.

Norwalk Disputes Water Usage Report by State

Early this month, the State reported on water use by agencies, stating that Norwalk placed amongst the highest, with a 21% increase in April 2015 compared to the same month last year. According to City of Norwalk water managers, actual use is significantly lower. Agency representatives are investigating reporting methodology to de-

termine how readings were entered into the system and how to ensure accurate monitoring in the future. "Our City Council recently activated conservation measures for Norwalk, prohibiting irrigation during the hours of 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and restricting watering to two days per week," says Administrative Sys. Mgr. Adriana Figueroa.

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BELFLOWER RECOGNIZED AS 2015 PLAYFUL CITY USA COMMUNITY FOR FIRST TIME

Staff Report

241 communities exhibiting Playability to be recognized as part of 2015 Playful City USA Program.

The City of Bellflower is being honored with a 2015 Playful City USA designation for the first time. The national recognition program honors cities and towns across the country for making their cities more playable. Bellflower strives to protect and enrich the quality of life for its citizens and businesses by putting forth a consistent effort to increase and improve playability, especially in the underserved areas of the city. Some of these efforts include repurposing underutilized areas into passive recreation spaces, leasing property from utility companies to develop parks, building new playgrounds, and finding new ways to deliver play to the areas of our community that need it most such as through the Bellflower Recreation In Motion (B.R.I.M.) mobile recreation program.

"The City of Bellflower understands that kids in our community need to be active and need places that allow them to do what they do best - play their hearts out - and we are proud to be recognized for our continuous efforts to achieve this goal by being named a 2015 Playful City USA community," said Mayor Scott Larsen.

Hopscotch sidewalks, structured recess programs, mandated neighborhood play spaces, city-wide play days and mobile recreation vehicles are all ways in which these communities are appealing to residents, and attracting and retaining residents.

"Playability is crucial to the success



Pirate Park in Bellflower, Mayor Scott Larsen said, "the City of Bellflower understands that kids in our community need to be active and need places that allow them to do what they do best - play their hearts out." Courtesy City of Bellflower.

of our future communities, and we are proud of the work these cities and leaders are doing to provide a better quality of life for all residents, and especially families," says KaBOOM! President, James Siegal. "Play provides a competitive advantage for cities looking to attract and retain residents. With these esteemed leaders, and our friends and partners across the country, we continue to prioritize play for all kids."

To learn more about these cities, see the full list of the 241 communities named 2015 Playful City USA honorees, or to gather more information on the Playful City USA program, visit www.playfulcityusa.org. We also encourage you to take part in the conversation on #playability with these thought leaders on Twitter and Facebook.

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CareMore's Brain Health Program Shown to Help Members, Caregivers

Staff Report

Cerritos~Yvonne Eisner of Southern California shed a lot of tears when caring for her mother who was suffering from dementia. But things got a lot better, she said, when she was referred to CareMore's Brain Health Program.

Eisner's mother was a long-time member of CareMore. CareMore specializes in addressing frailty in senior adults. The company piloted a Brain Health Program to address the needs of patients like Eisner's mother who have signs of dementia.

Eisner said CareMore's program gave her the education she needed to keep her mother at home. Her mother died there, rather than in a nursing home, which is what she wanted. "The clinic not only treated my mother but in a sense treated me, ensuring I would be able to cope and provide her with the care she needed," recalled Eisner, who recently testified before a congressional committee about her experience. "Without this program my mother would have spent her last years living with and being cared for by strangers."

Before she was referred to the program, Eisner felt that her lack of knowledge about the disease and denial of her mother's condition resulted in her mother making decisions regarding her health that may have been detrimental and or unnecessary. "I was not aware she was not processing the information correctly to make the right decisions for herself," she said, "and it resulted in some traumatic situations."

Unfortunately, Eisner's story is not unique, according to Dr. James S Pratty, se-

nior medical officer for behavioral health and psychiatry at CareMore. About 5.3 million Americans suffer from symptoms of dementia, according to the Alzheimer's Association. Eisner's story is especially poignant in June, which is Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month, a time to honor those with the disease.

"Patients with dementia and Alzheimer's are profoundly mismanaged," Dr. Pratty said. "After some struggle, they are given diagnoses — but little else in terms of guidance and support. This results in costly and unhelpful diagnostic workups, and countless avoidable emergency room visits and hospitalizations."

Dr. Pratty and his team designed a model of care for those with brain health issues. It starts with identifying brain health patients early and assigning them to a multidisciplinary team that takes a broad view of their illness, including providing them with information on falls prevention, medication safety and adherence, legal documentation and nutrition. Caregivers are included in the process. Among other things, they are trained on how to effectively respond to symptoms of the disease.

According to early results, CareMore's Brain Health Program reduced emergency room visits, hospitalizations and falls. Nearly two-thirds of caregivers assumed an active role in monitoring medication for their loved one and 94 percent said they felt the program improved their understanding of dementia as well as their ability to provide better care. CareMore is in the process of scaling the program system-wide.

"Over time, scientific breakthroughs will enable us to identify and treat patients with dementia and other forms cognitive decline in ways we never imagined before," Pratty said. "Until that day, we need better systems of care that address the holistic needs of patients and their families."

If our early experience is any indication, these systems will deliver better clinical outcomes — and, more importantly, better support for patients and families."



Yvonne Eisner holds a picture of her mom. Photo provided by CareMore.

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Members of the Let Freedom Ring Committee pictured at the Freedom Tree at Cerritos Park East.

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Children's Activity Area 4-8:30 PM

Main Stage Entertainment 4-9 PM
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Formal Ceremony hosted by the Cerritos City Council 6:30 PM

Fireworks Spectacular 9 PM



Join the City of Cerritos and the Let Freedom Ring Committee at the 42nd Annual Let Freedom Ring Celebration. The celebration will be held at the Cerritos Civic Center and includes food and game booths sponsored by community organizations, rides, entertainment and a bell-ringing ceremony. The evening will culminate with a fireworks show at Cerritos High School at 9 PM. Please bring chairs and blankets for seating in designated areas.



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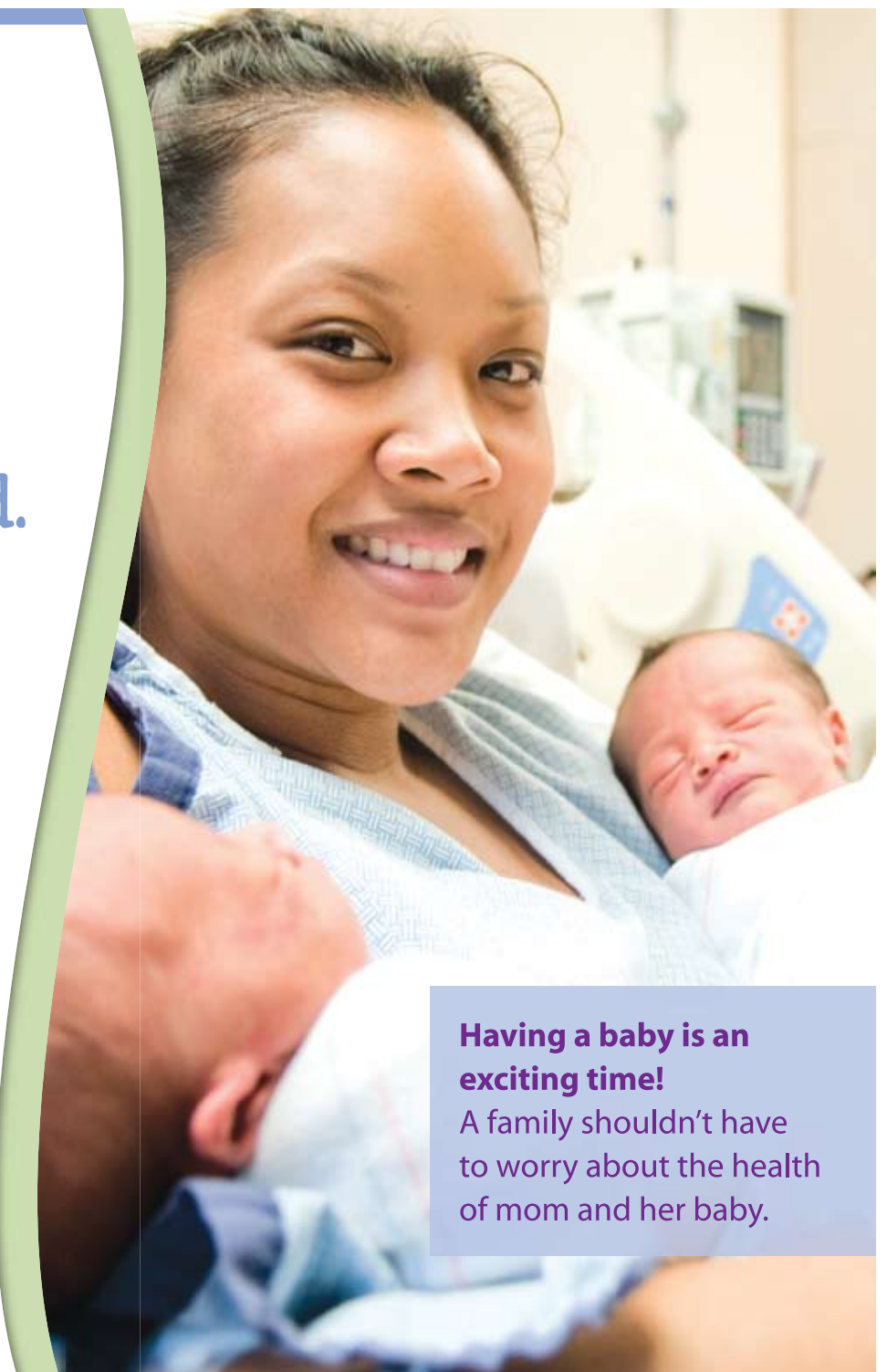
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Having a baby is an exciting time!
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Handicapped Scuba Association Helps Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach Pediatric Rehab Patients

On Saturday, June 6, past and present pediatric rehabilitation patients from Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach were invited to the hospital's indoor rehabilitation pool for a special scuba diving event.

As part of a series of summer activities designed to keep patients active, the Handicapped Scuba Association (HSA) and the Pediatric Rehabilitation Department from Miller Children's created a unique program that teaches scuba diving to patients with various diagnoses, including spina bifida, traumatic brain injuries and neuromuscular disorders.

"The scuba event is an important activity because it helps the children feel more normalized," says Mariana Sena, CTRS, recreational therapist, Miller Children's.

"As a pediatric patient, they may not get to do 'normal' activities like their peers. This event helps build their self-esteem and you can see the confidence all over their faces once they get used to the



Miller Children's pediatric rehabilitation patients and Handicapped Scuba Association divers get ready for a diving lesson at the hospital's indoor rehabilitation pool on Saturday, June 6.

activity. It is very humbling to be a part of such an extraordinary program."

Patients were taught by certified scuba instructors how to properly use a regulator and float with a scuba tank on their back, as well as the functions of the various components of their scuba gear.

In the pool, patients were able to dive for seashells, play underwater Frisbee and practice other specific activities designed to help them learn to control their bodies with scuba gear on, and train them to dive without any help from the instructors.

"We are so privileged to be a part of the Miller Children's pediatric rehabilitation program," says Dominique Quevedo, mother of two boys receiving therapy at the Miller Children's Pediatric Rehabilita-

tion Department. "This is my boys' third year to be a part of the scuba event and they still come alive just as much as they did the first time. This special activity is very meaningful to them."

Scuba instructor, Denise Dowd, has been with the HSA for 27 years.

Her involvement with the HSA began when she met a paraplegic man on a diving trip in Catalina Island, who spoke with her about scuba lessons for the disabled and how they helped him.

"Our instructors are passionate and love working with the kids because they light up when they get into the water for the first time," says Dowd. "This experience is very rewarding because it is beyond the patients' disability."

City of Fullerton Provide Firework Safety Tips

Fullerton, CA – As the nation welcomes the celebration of Independence Day in a few days, the city of Fullerton encourages its residents and visitors to exercise firework safety for themselves and those around them during the holiday.

On November 6, 2012, Fullerton voters approved Measure X, which adopted Ordinance No. 3183 establishing the sale and use of safe and sane fireworks. City Council adopted Resolution No. 2014-08 on February 4, 2014, which established rules for the sale and use of safe and sane fireworks within the City of Fullerton.

Fullerton Fire Marshal, Julie Kunze recommends these firework safety tips:

- Only Safe and Sane fireworks are permitted in Fullerton.

- Safe and Sane fireworks are only allowed on July 4 between the hours of 10am and 10pm.

In addition, the community is invited to attend Fullerton's 26th Annual Community Fireworks Show and Festival on July 4 from 5-9:30 p.m. at the Fullerton High School Stadium, located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Berkeley Avenue and Lemon Street.

Admission to the festival is free.

Games and food booths will also mark the event, which will be topped off by an aerial fireworks display set to music by Pyro Spectaculars of Rialto at 9:00 p.m.

A nominal fee will be charged for the children's rides.

Free parking will be available at the Plummer Parking Structure, the Wilshire Parking Structure, I.

Further information about the Community Fireworks Show and Festival may be obtained by calling the Fullerton Museum Center at (714) 738-6545.



Diving volunteer, Chuck Kopczak; Miller Children's pediatric rehabilitation patient, Noah; and certified diver and volunteer with, Rebecca Kopczak, take a quick break from diving for seashells in the rehabilitation pool.

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NLMUSD Awarded \$3 Million Grant to Enhance Science Instruction

Staff Report

Norwalk-La Mirada will spend a newly announced \$3 million grant to strengthen science instruction through a collaborative partnership formed with California State University, Long Beach dubbed the Science Professional Academy.

The grant is part of \$18.2 million California Mathematics and Science Partnership grants awarded this month to 28 school districts to improve instruction for disadvantaged youths. Norwalk-La Mirada is one of five districts to receive the highest level of funding.

"This generous grant will not only enhance teaching methods, it will also augment content knowledge as our teachers tackle the state's new and highly rigorous science standards," Interim District Superintendent Ginger Shattuck said.

The district's application outlined plans for the Science Professional Academy, which will provide K-8 teachers with deeper science content knowledge and additional instructional strategies for optimizing student understanding and greater achievement in science education.

"Research shows the single most important factor for student achievement is the quality of the teacher in the classroom, but elementary teacher prep courses don't necessarily provide enough content when it comes to science instruction," Shattuck said.

The professional learning will be a collaborative effort with CSULB Science Education Department and CSULB scientists who provide course work and training to district teacher leaders.

Shannon Baker, District Coordinator for Curriculum and Instruction, said this is the first time that NLMUSD has participated in the competition for the Mathematics and Science Partnership grants, a federal program administered by the state. To qualify for the grant, at least 40 percent of a district's students must be low-income.

"I'm thrilled with the news and excited about the opportunity this grant represents for our teachers and students," said Baker, who helped prepare the grant application.

State Department of Education officials highlighted the higher-education partnership and the emphasis on teacher collaboration as two key aspects earning NLMUSD's grant proposal the maximum level of support, Baker said.

"We designed our grant project specifically to help support the transition to the new Next Generation Science Standards and to build capacity for a strong, foundational science education for our students as

they move into high school," she said.

The funding is designated at \$10,000 per teacher for up to 100 teachers and \$1 million annually for up to three years. NLMUSD was approved for the maximum amount.

Grant funds will be used to send elementary and middle school teachers to a two-week intensive summer training course, with continued professional learning throughout the year to include two professional learning days and two cycles of teacher learning collaboratives.

Summer training will focus on Earth science, bringing in links to chemistry, biology, physics and engineering. As part of the summer training, teachers will work with the geoscience faculty at CSULB to explore the topics taught in class. In addition, participants will be paid a \$1,500 stipend and tuition for two graduate level science courses through the university.

Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) instruction is crucial to California's future. The number of STEM jobs in the past decade has grown three times as quickly as other fields; experts believe that trend will continue into the next decade.

FAMILY FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION INFO MEETING

(Carson, CA) Children's Bureau invites willing adults to become a resource family to children in foster care while reunifying with birth families or provide legal permanency by adoption if needed. There are approximately 64,000 children in foster care in California. Los Angeles County's foster care population exceeds 21,000 children with 450 foster children waiting to be connected to a family who will adopt.

Individuals (single or married), who

are interested in helping children find the love, stability and support a family can provide, please contact Children's Bureau. Our monthly information meeting is being held Saturday, July 11th from 10:00 a.m. – Noon at Children's Bureau's Carson office located at 460 East Carson Plaza Drive, Suite 122, Carson, CA 90746. Qualifying families receive training, certification and support. For more information, call (213) 342-0168, (800) 730-3933 or visit the website www.all4kids.org.

Children's Bureau, established in 1904 to protect children, began providing adoption services in the 1940's in response to

the increased need of finding homes for World War II refugee children and war orphans. Today, we help 500 at-risk children in caring foster homes and finalize over 100 adoptions each year. For 110 years, Children's Bureau has been a nonprofit leader in the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect. More than 28,000 children and families are helped each year throughout Southern California with services that include school readiness, parenting classes, family resource centers, support groups, mental health counseling, foster care, foster-adoption and more.

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CENTRAL BASIN
Continued from page 1

with sources telling HMG-CN that another \$35,000 has been billed.

Documents obtained by HMG-CN show that TG bills the city of Lynwood only \$175 per hour.

All tolled, Tafoya and Garcia has billed over \$150,000, when the initial contract with CB only allowed \$100,000.

Sigrid Lopez was a contractor for the District, employed between June 2012 and December 2012. Lopez filed a claim and subsequent lawsuit against CB and Apodaca in June 2013, alleging that she was sexually battered and harassed by Apodaca and wrongfully terminated. Lopez's claim was sent to the District's insurance carrier, ACWA-JPIA who settled the claim in June 2014 for \$670,000. ACWA-JPIA cancelled the District's insurance 60-days later citing "board dysfunction."

CB Director Art Chacon commented "Director Hawkins and I refused to take part in the hiring of Tafoya (and Garcia) because we knew that they were being brought in after the fact to manufacture cause in Perez's termination, and we didn't want any part of it. I recently asked staff why Tafoya was still billing the District, and was told that they were investigating Sigrid Lopez. I was shocked since the Lopez case was settled last year."

In what on the surface appears to be a cover-up, HMG-CN sent an email to CB General Manager Kevin Hunt and CB Public Affairs Director Joseph Legaspi June 5, 2015 asking if there was a TG investigation into Lopez.

Legaspi, with Hunt's permission, sent back an email to HMG-CN flatly denying the question answering, "They are not."

HMG-CN also asked in the email that since Director Apodaca could not vote, who approved the new investigation?

The comment from Legaspi and Hunt said, "There is no new investigation."

"This is money laundering plain and simple," said one long-time observer and former employee of CB, who did not want to be identified, "Leticia Vasquez and James Roybal will have at least \$100,000 each for their next election courtesy of all these covert billings."

SANTA FE SPRINGS
Continued from page 1

In a letter received by the HOA on January 21, 2015, from one of the Villages' two sub-associations, it was pointed out that "although required by law, it does not appear that the Agreement had been placed on a Master Board of Director's Meeting agenda, nor was discussed or voted on openly."

The Master Board did notify Comstock in early February of its concerns about the legality of the Shared Use Agreement, but received no response.

At the City Council meeting, Beilke brought 85 signed homeowner petitions supporting the suspension of the issuance of "Certificates of Occupancy" at Miro.

Beilke reminded the City Council and staff that in 2012 dozens of Villages residents vehemently protested the approval of apartments inside Villages.

Beilke stated to the council, "the residents of the Villages pleaded with you back in 2012. The only protection you afforded was the EIR that clearly stated we would be compensated for use of our property that we pay to maintain...that did not happen. You created this problem and now we expect you to fix it."

Longtime homeowner Jose Fabio Lainez explained to HMG-CN that when he purchased his home in 2010 he was lead to believe the property across the street would be made up of more high value homes. He now claims that apartments so close to his home will hurt his property values.

Lainez said, "I opposed the apartments when they were announced back in 2012 and the city didn't listen just like they're not listening now. I get so disgusted when I see them sitting up there not even acknowledging the damage they've done to our 384 homeowners. The entire city should take note of that come the November city council elections."

FUN RUN
Continued from page 1

tainment and other attractions.

Entertainment included "The School Tour," whose goal is to educate youth about anti-obesity and anti-bullying through music and dance; National Anthem performed by Whitney High School student, Tiyi Christopher; drum line from Ross Middle School; the Cerritos High School Dance Drill Team; the Burbank Elementary School Cheerleaders; line dancers from Hawaiian Elementary School; and Chinese folk dancers from ABC Adult Education.

The event's Wellness Fair included: Kaiser Permanente Downey, The Indian Pharmacists Association of California, Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC along with 35 other sponsors. The health providers included teams of medical professionals who provided free eye exams, scoliosis screenings, foot examinations, dental screenings and health education for adults and children. A designated kiddie zone at the Wellness Fair offered an opportunity for children to run wild and do kid stuff including face painting provided by Miss Teen Artesia and her entire court. Walk 'n Rollers provided a bike safety skills expo, teaching kids how ride their bikes to school safely.

The ABC Into the Summer Fun Run/Walk & Wellness Fair was held at the Los Cerritos Center, in Cerritos, CA. All proceeds from the event go to the ABC Education Foundation which ensures that all ABC students succeed. In the past three years, the Education Foundation has provided grant writing assistance garnering over \$3.5 million in grants and over \$200,000 in funds for teachers, student activities, and services in its four years of operation. The Foundation is committed to supporting the District's wellness initiative to promote health and community wellness.

Walmart Recognized for Community Involvement

Staff Report



La Mirada's Walmart Neighborhood Market was recently recognized by the City Council for its community involvement.

Walmart opened its store on November 4, 2013 and has become an important part of the community. Walmart provides many job opportunities and serves the community and worthwhile causes.

Walmart has sponsored various City events and programs. Monetary donations have been made to the Positive Alternatives and Recreation for Kids (P.A.R.K.) program, Salute to Veterans event, Easter Egg Hunt, and the Mother-Daughter Tea. Walmart has also provided in-kind donations of refreshments for the Senior Health Fair, Halloweenfest, Chili Holiday Celebration, and All That Dance events.

Additionally, Walmart has provided similar donations to La Mirada organizations and schools including the La Mirada Rotary community service group, Maddi's Closet non-profit organization, and Gardenhill Elementary School. La Mirada Walmart also assists other worthy organizations in the surrounding region. Walmart Neighborhood Market is located at 14865 Telegraph Road.

For more information on the City's Business Recognition Program, contact (562) 943-0131



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PREMIER GIRLS FASTPITCH SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA QUALIFIER**Artesia Punishers 14-Under team clinches berth to PGF National Championships**

By Loren Kopff

MENIFEE-The Artesia Punishers 14-Under travel softball team, coached by Danny Guerrero, made the most of its only appearance in a Premier Girls Fastpitch National Qualifier. Less than 24 hours after the team played almost four complete games in its longest day of action this season, the Punishers celebrated the longest day of the calendar year by clinching a berth in the Premier Division of next month's PGF National Championships.

The Punishers bounced back from their only loss of the tournament by knocking off the (San Ramon) California Grapettes-Renfro 6-1 this past Sunday afternoon at Wheatfield Park. The team capped off the weekend by winning five of its six games played. After winning the first four games, the Punishers fell to the (Long Beach) USA Athletics-Thompson 4-3 in the final game in the winner's bracket for both teams.

"The thing that put a lot of pressure on us was knowing that this was our only chance to qualify," Guerrero said. "That just adds the pressure to the whole event. The team knew that this is the only time that we had to try to qualify as a team. We came in knowing what we had to do and I think the team deserves a berth to

[the nationals]."

The Punishers struck first with a pair of runs in the top of the first inning. It began with a one-out single from center fielder Erica Guerrero (Kennedy High School). After left fielder Pacy Villa (Martin Luther King High School) reached on an error, third baseman Rebecca Chung (West Torrance High School) doubled to the right field gap to plate Erica Guerrero. Pitcher Kendall Henscheid (Huntington Beach High School) would then be safe on an error, allowing Villa to come home.

That would be more than enough for Henscheid, who pitched 29 innings in the tournament. Henscheid scattered eight hits, struck out three and did not allow a run until the seventh inning.

"That's what the team is built to do; to score runs right away," Danny Guerrero said. "We like to start quick. Once we got in here and started rolling, they were really upset about that last game because they really felt they were the better team."

The Punishers doubled their lead in the fourth inning when catcher Berlyn Carreon (Los Alamitos High School) doubled and scored on a two-out double from shortstop Karina Ibarra (Lakewood High School). Two pitches later, Erica Guerrero singled to make it 4-0. The



Photo by Loren Kopff

The Artesia Punishers 14-Under travel softball team, coached by Danny Guerrero claimed one of four Premier Division berths for next month's Premier Girls Fastpitch National Championships by winning five games in the Southern California Qualifier. The members of the Punishers are: Jessi Alvarado, Berlyn Carreon, Rebecca Chung, Erica Guerrero, Kendall Henscheid, Karina Ibarra, Danielle Lew, Jazzmynn Loe, Merissa Millette, Anyssa Ortega and Pacy Villa.

team would add two more runs in the seventh when Henscheid brought in Villa with a base hit and pinch hitter Anyssa Ortega (La Mirada High School) was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded, allowing designated player Jazzmynn Loe (Los Alamitos High School) to score. Erica Guerrero went two for four while five other players all had a hit.

The Punishers began the day with some drama that was left over from late last Saturday night. Their game with the (Lemoore) Central California Dirt Dogs-Gorton started over an hour late and with an 8-2 lead in the bottom of the fifth with approximately 10 minutes remaining, the sprinklers came on and the game had to be resumed at 9:45 this past Sunday morning.

Much to the chagrin of Punishers, it took only two pitches to complete the game after Ibarra blooped a single to shallow center with the bases loaded, scoring Carreon and first baseman Jessi Alvarado (Gahr High School). Had the game finished last Saturday night, the Punishers would not have had to return to Wheatfield Park until close to 11:00 this past Sunday morning.

The resumption of the game didn't come without some controversy, though, as a member of the Dirt Dogs coaching staff told his team not to shake hands with the Punishers. But while both teams still walked by each other to say the customary "good game", the third base coach of the Dirt Dogs blurted out a two-word profane comment to right fielder Merissa Millette (Kennedy High School). The comment drew the attention of the Punishers to the point where the PGF Umpire in Chief had to come by moments later to inquire on the situation.

The Punishers had a chance to go undefeated in the tournament but came up short against the USA Athletics despite rallying for two runs late. The team led 1-0 after half an inning after Chung's double to the right field gap drove in Erica Guerrero. But the USA Athletics struck back for three runs in their half of the frame on a run-scoring double from Alyssa Benthagen and a RBI triple from Daisy Munoz.

Down 4-1 and stymied throughout most of the first four innings, the Punishers came back in the fifth as Villa doubled with two outs and came home when Chung launched a home run over the centerfield fence. The Punishers would then strand the tying runs in each of the final three innings.

"Last night was really frustrating for everybody," Danny Guerrero said. "The girls were tired. We were here from 6:30 in the morning to 11:30 at night. Then they had to make that big drive [home], then they came back [this morning] three hours earlier. The girls came in, they were pumped up for the first game, they were positive and we got it done in two pitches. But it takes a big toll on you be-

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PUNISHERS*Continued from page 14*

cause they were sitting there for another two hours in the sun waiting for the next game to start.”

The Punishers began the tournament with a 2-1 win over the (Camarillo) Southern California Diamonds as Henscheid, who struck out 10 and allowed five hits, doubled to bring in Chung and Alvarado in the bottom of the seventh.

Last Saturday morning, the Punishers blanked the (Tustin) Orange County Batbusters-Alvarez 8-1 behind a combined two-hitter from Erica Guerrero and Henscheid. Alvarado, Ibarra and Villa all had two hits in the game.

The team then blanked the (Simi Valley) Southern California A's-Datan 5-0 behind Henscheid (four strikeouts, three hits allowed). She would also go two for four while Villa went two for five.

“The biggest part in these tournaments is getting through your first three

or four games,” Danny Guerrero said. “Once you get through those three or four games, your team is relaxed. You’re used to playing and they’re getting into the groove of things.”

Last summer, the Punishers finished tied for fifth place in the Platinum Division of the PGF National Championships. Also last summer, his team tied for 33rd place out of 121 teams in the 14 ‘A’ Amateur Softball Association/United States of America National Championships.

“We’re a second-year 14 team and

you want to be there because all of the colleges are there to watch,” Danny Guerrero said. “These girls are a top 14 and under team. Last year we were first-year 14s and we played Platinum, which was okay because it’s hard to compete with the older teams. This year we’re looking to get to the championship [game]. We wanted to be in the highest level competition with this team because that’s the way they’ve been playing for the last three years.

PREMIER GIRLS FASTPITCH SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA QUALIFIER**Artesia Punishers 18 Gold team still searching for automatic berth to nationals**

By Loren Kopff

HEMET-The hardest thing for any travel softball team to endure in any tournament is to go through the loser’s bracket after losing its first game. The Artesia Punishers 18 Gold team was facing that adversity in last weekend’s Premier Girls Fastpitch Southern California Qualifier at the Diamond Valley Sports Complex. After eliminating the (San Pedro) Firecrackers-Clarke 12-1 early last Saturday morning, the Punishers couldn’t continue that momentum and fell to the (Cerritos) Southern California A’s-Quarles 7-1. It was only the third game the Punishers played in as they were seeking one of the four Premier Division berths or two Platinum Division berths to next month’s PGF National Championships.

“Of course you want to be in the winner’s bracket no matter what,” said manager Bob Medina. “But the kids on this team know that we have four strong pitchers, we have two catchers and all of them are doing well. If we drop into the loser’s bracket and have to play four or five games in a day, that’s one [game] per pitcher. We’re okay with that. If it’s 110 degrees, we split them and that’s one solid pitcher.”

The Punishers had a chance to do some damage in the top of the second inning as first baseman Monica Rodriguez

(Banning High School/Notre Dame de Namur University) and second baseman Mia Wyatt (West Torrance High School) singled. After both moved up a base on a groundout, Brittany Violette walked her counterpart, Leah Gonzales (Banning High School). But two pitches later, right fielder Kayla Hemni (South Torrance High School/Chaminade University) lined into an inning-ending double play. The So Cal A’s came back and scored twice in the bottom half of the inning with the big blow coming on a two-out triple from Riley Plogger to the left field gap in which left fielder Lauren Sabihon (North Torrance High School) and center fielder Jasmine Higa (Apple Valley High School/Monmouth University) collided. Higa would leave the game with an apparent injury to her right shin.

After Violette retired seven straight batters, she would walk Gonzales and right fielder Alexis Sargent (North Torrance High School) with one out in the fifth, but neither would score. The lone tally came in the sixth when designated player Alissa Cienfuegos (Carson High School) hit a first pitch home run over the left center fence. Wyatt would go two for three while four other players picked up a hit apiece.

“I honestly think that the umpire was squeezing us,” Medina said. “Both of our catchers were saying that they were

throwing almost half the ball over the corner of the plate and [the umpire] wasn’t calling it. They’re a very predictable team; I think we could have beaten them. But if the umpire didn’t give them the outside pitch, then where do you have to throw the ball? Inside, and that was against us.”

The Punishers began the tournament with a 4-2 loss to the (San Diego) Power Surge last Friday afternoon as both runs were scored in the bottom of the fourth inning. With one out, Rodriguez singled and Cienfuegos was walked. Then with two outs, Wyatt reached on an error allowing Rodriguez and Cienfuegos to come home.

Last summer, the Punishers went 4-2 in the Arizona Qualifier, winning the first two before being dropped to the loser’s bracket. Then in the So Cal Qualifier, the Punishers won their first game and after losing the next game, won two straight in the loser’s bracket. Still, the team played in the PGF National Championships. Last weekend’s qualifier was the first chance the Punishers had this summer.

“We have a younger group [this year], so I think that’s different,” Medina said. “Last year we had a bunch of seniors and I think we had senioritis. This year we have young kids who are under pressure; maybe cracking a little bit. But overall, we have a great team and I believe that

they can make a good impact in PGF. That’s why we’re still going for it.”

The Punishers will attempt to get an automatic berth when they compete in the Las Vegas Qualifier this weekend. At stake will be two berths to the Premier Division and two more to the Platinum Division. Even if the Punishers don’t qualify this weekend, Medina feels there is still a 50-50 chance his team will be playing in the PGF National Championships.

“We’ll go after it, we’ll play and we’ll play our heart out,” Medina said. “This team is put together for scholarships. It’s not put together for a championship. If it was a championship [team], I would do what the team we just played does and recruit all of the kids who already have full ride scholarships to big schools and it would be that team.

“We played [the So Cal A’s] very well and all of them have big scholarships,” he continued. “We don’t fear them. If we were looking to win a national championship, then the pressure is on us. It’s like we have to win a national championship or nothing because nothing else matters. But we are into a scholarship program and we just had a girl verbal last week. So we’re still going at it. Every girl on our team will get a scholarship.”

ARTESIA PUNISHERS 16-UNDER TEAM HAS SHORT STAY IN QUALIFIER

By Loren Kopff

LA MIRADA-The Artesia Punishers 16-Under team travel softball team, managed by Armando Canizales, had a very brief stay in the Premier Girls Fastpitch Southern California Qualifier. First, the team was blasted by the (La Palma) California A’s White-Iseri in the opener last Friday at La Mirada Regional Park before being eliminated less than 24 hours later by the (West Covina) Orange County Batbusters-Perez.

In the tournament opener, the Cal A’s needed one big inning to send the Punishers to the loser’s bracket, scoring seven runs in the top of the second inning en route to an 8-1 win. After Whitney High School’s Ashley Iseri grounded out, Jennifer Morinishi (Cerritos High School) singled up the middle. That was followed by base hits from Kaiya Cruz (El Dorado High School) and Nautica Rivera (California High School) to load the bases.

An infield hit from Sabrina Anguiano (Jurupa Valley High School) made it 1-0 before Jenna Beltran (Troy High School) cleared the bases with a triple to the left field gap. Later in the inning, Celeste Borza (Cerritos High School/University of Texas, San Antonio) doubled in a pair of runs to close out the barrage of hits



HMG-CN Sports Editor Loren Kopff

NEWS AND NOTES FROM PRESS ROW

and runs in the inning.

The Punishers scored their run in the bottom of the second when pitcher Mikaela Vidovich (Long Beach Poly High School) doubled to center and came home on a base hit from shortstop Jocelyn Rodriguez (Paramount High School). The Punishers were limited to six hits by six different players while Borza was one of five players to have at least two hits as part of a 14-hit attack.

The Cal A’s would then fall to the (Calabasas) Firecrackers-Redmond 2-1 last Friday night and (Madera) Central California Dirt Dogs-Duke 5-0 last Saturday afternoon.

In other PGF So Cal Qualifier news, a trio of area players on the 18-Under Cal A’s-White team based in Cerritos had strong performances despite their team splitting the four games it played in at

the Diamond Valley Sports Complex in Hemet. In the team’s opener last Friday afternoon, Jennifer Iseri (Cerritos High School/University of Hawai’i) struck out 10 of the 19 batters she faced over five innings as the Cal A’s routed the (Phoenix) AZ Bombers Gold 8-1. Later in the night, the team led the Las Vegas Rage Gold 2-0 after five innings before falling 4-3 in eight innings. Iseri had a base hit to bring in Rachel DeHart in the top of the eighth to put the Cal A’s up 3-2.

Last Saturday afternoon, the Cal A’s blanked the (Fontana) Quakes Gold 6-0 as Iseri went two for three. The team was eliminated that night by the (San Pedro) Firecrackers-Pasco 5-3, despite Iseri going three for three. Also on the team from the area are Heather Cameron (Cerritos High School/University of Hawai’i) and Jazmin Guzman (Norwalk High School/California State University, Dominguez Hills).

Also in Hemet, the (Downey) Nemesis Elite 18 Gold was represented by Gahr High School’s Dejanae Davis and Deidra Genera and Madison Wright of Valley Christian. The Nemesis won three straight in the loser’s bracket before the Southern California A’s-Quarles, another team from Cerritos, posted a 10-2 win. The So Cal A’s, who have recent Gahr

High School graduates Sabrina Quarles and Destiny Vasquez on the team, clinched a berth in next month’s PGF National Championships. The So Cal A’s won six games in the loser’s bracket after splitting a pair of games in the winner’s bracket.

Wright, who will be attending Simpson University, batted .444 in six games played drove in eight runs and scored six times while Davis, who just completed her freshman season, batted .375 and scored seven runs. Those two accounted for 13 of the team’s 24 runs in six games.

Genera, who will be taking her talents to Bethune-Cookman University later this summer, pitched just over 30 innings and won three games, striking out 13 batters.

RECREATION SOFTBALL

The Cerritos Girls Softball Association 8-Under, 10-Under and 14-Under all-star teams as well as the Norwalk Girls Softball 8-Under and 10-Under all-star teams plus the Norwalk 16-Under No Fear all-star team will participate in the Amateur Softball Association Los Angeles/South Bay “B” District Tournament this weekend. The games will be played at the Discovery Sports Complex and Independence Park in Downey and Rio Vista Park in Pico Rivera.

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