



La Palma Looks Within and Appoints New City Manager

By Larry Caballero

La Palma City Council, at its Nov. 17 Regular Meeting, adopted a Resolution appointing Laurie A. Murray as City Manager.

The City's former City Manager, Ellen Volmert, resigned her position, effective Oct. 21, and the City Council held a Special Meeting on October 28 when it decided to conduct an internal recruitment for the position of City Manager.

On Nov. 11, the City Council held another Special Meeting to conduct interviews of the qualified applicants, and it selected Laurie A. Murray as the City's next City Manager.

See LA PALMA page 8

Local Political Newspaper Abruptly Closes Office in Artesia

Staff Report

The Gateway Guardian, the politically one-sided newspaper started by ex-real estate agent and self-appointed publisher Melinda Kimsey, has closed its office in Artesia, Hews Media Group Community News can confirm.

Sources are telling HMG-CN that Kimsey has cut circulation to 3,000 print newspapers contradicting her stated circ-

See NEWSPAPER page 12

Hundreds Attend La Palma Intercommunity Hospital's Free Health Screening Event



La Palma Intercommunity Hospital held its annual health screening last Friday and hundreds of La Palma and other city residents took advantage of the free offerings. LPIH doctors and nurses tested residents for blood pressure, blood sugar, blood flow, and of course offered free flu vaccines. Shown here are nursing students (in green) from Stanbridge College with their instructor (white coat) along with LPIH's Lea Pendero, Performance Improvement and Quality Manager (third from right) and John Caballes, Employee Health Coordinator. Photo by Brian Hews.

Montebello Police Chief Blurs Ethics Line After Questionable Use of City Public Notification System

By Brian Hews

The audio was clear; Montebello Chief of Police Doug McClure stated that crime was up in Montebello this year.

He blamed most of the increase on Proposition 47, the initiative that reduced the classification of most "non-serious and nonviolent property and drug crimes" from a felony to a misdemeanor.

But McClure was strong in his statement; crime was up in Montebello in

2016.

Yet a campaign mailer that the newly elected Jack Hadjinian mailed in September, a mailer financed by the Montebello Police Officer's Association, clearly stated crime was down 18% in Montebello.

It was, but in 2014; the latest time crime statistics were available for Montebello. And that was when Bill Molinari was Mayor.

Hews Media Group-Community

See MONTEBELLO page 13

Central Basin Director Leticia Vasquez Found Guilty of Violating Campaign Finance Laws

HMG-CN Staff Report

Hews Media Group-Community News has learned that embattled Central Basin Division Four Director Leticia Vasquez has been fined by the state Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) for improper campaign reporting practices related to fundraisers she failed to report in 2012.

The first fundraiser, organized by Pacifica Services' CEO Ernie Camacho and his brother Andy Camacho, was at the El Paseo restaurant in Los Angeles.

The event raised over \$15,000 with Camacho and a subsidiary company of Pacifica, MLJ Properties, giving Vasquez \$5,000.

Vasquez failed to report the lucrative fundraiser on her 460-campaign disclosure documents, a FPPC violation.

The other fundraiser was held at the La Huasteca restaurant in Lynwood on Dec. 6, 2012. Vasquez' point person, who was responsible for paying the food bill, failed to show up at the event.

A flustered Vasquez pleaded with former Pico Rivera Mayor Ron Beilke, who was at the event to help a friend, to pay for the food, which Beilke did, in cash.

Former Pico Rivera Mayor Ron Beilke's receipt from the La Huasteca restaurant. Beilke was at the event helping a friend, he was not invited.

Vasquez once again failed to report the fundraiser on her 460-campaign disclosure

See VASQUEZ page 13

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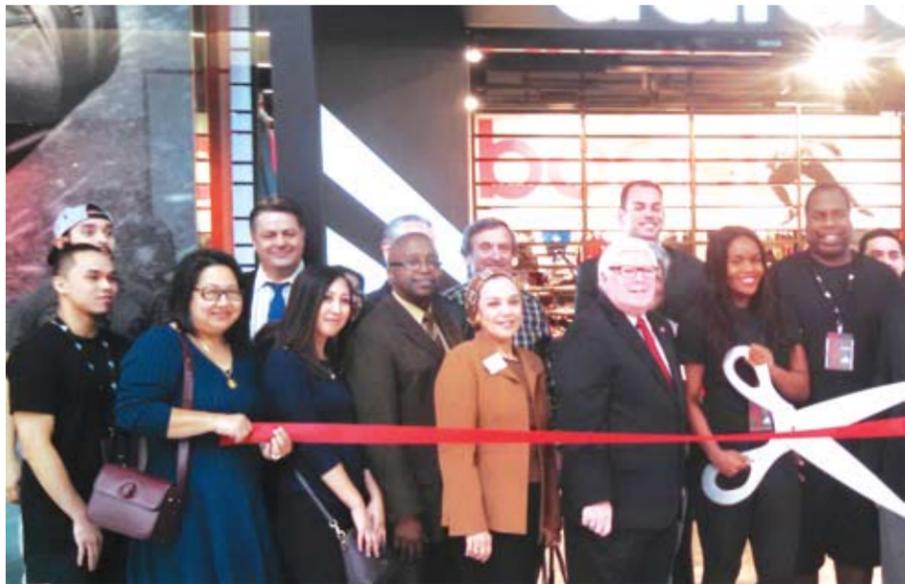
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Adidas Ribbon Cutting at Los Cerritos Center



Cerritos Councilman Jim Edwards, third from right, at the ribbon cutting with Adidas management and Cerritos Chamber participants. Photo by Tammye McDuff.

By Tammye McDuff

Adidas held its ribbon cutting this week at the Los Cerritos Center.

The new store had the unofficial soft opening summer of 2015.

The Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce presided over the ribbon cutting. In classic style, refreshments etched with the adidas logo were served along with a generous 15% discount gift card.

Adidas produces more than 660 million product units every year and generates sales of more than \$14.5 billion.

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Kaiser Permanente Donates \$15,000 and ‘Boxes of Love’ to Veteran’s Resource Center



Jim Branchick (l) presenting check to Cerritos College From (l-r) Dr. Renee Chomiak, Christian Hernandez, and Steve Richardson Photo courtesy Kaiser Permanente.

NORWALK, Calif. – November 16, 2015 – Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center took part of the Veterans Day Celebration at Cerritos College on Tuesday, November 10.

More than 200 students, staff, faculty and community members gathered to commemorate the service and sacrifice of

veterans who have protected our nation.

Senior Vice President, Area Manager and Navy veteran Jim Branchick presented the Veterans Resource Center with a \$15,000 check on behalf of Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center. Branchick also shared his own experiences as a Navy veteran and spoke about Kaiser Permanente’s commitment to employing veterans.

The medical center also provided 30 “Boxes of Love” that included holiday meals for student-veterans and their families.

The donated funds will go toward the creation of a lending library to give student-veterans access to books to help ease textbook costs.

Cerritos College alumni and veterans Felipe Grimaldo and Chris Markowski also shared their experience transitioning from military life to living as a civilian.

They highlighted the benefits and critical support they received from the Veterans Resource Center as former students.

Felipe and Chris were instrumental in the establishment of the Veterans Resource Center in 2010.

Artesia Library 36th Annual Bookmark Contest Winners

Staff Report

The winners of the County of Los Angeles Public Library Bookmark Contest held by the Artesia Library was announced recently.

Children of all ages competed to design the best bookmarks.

Local judges Toni and Ed Ware selected winners from 130 entries.

The winners were: Niharika Prabhu, Kindergarten—G2 Division, Nova Peterson, G3—G5 Division, Christina Chi, G6—G8 Division, and Gloria Griepsma, G9-G12 Division,

These Artesia Library winners will now enter a regional contest and the winners from this competition will be announced during February 2016. Winning bookmark designs will be printed by Pentel Arts and will be available at all County of Los Angeles Public Libraries during National Library Week in April 2016.

For more information about this and other library programs and services, please call Artesia Library at 562-865-6614.

The Artesia Library is part of the County of Los Angeles Public Library system.

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LA MIRADA ROTARY'S "CLOTHES FOR KIDS" EVENT NEEDS VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS

Rotary Club of La Mirada needs your help to make the annual "Clothes for Kids" holiday shopping event a success in 2015,

Rotary is planning to again contribute more than \$5,000 to the "Clothes for Kids" shopping event, but needs your support to address growing needs in the community.

You can help buy new, warm clothes for children in La Mirada this holiday season by donating or volunteering at the event. Each \$150 contributed to the

"Clothes for Kids" project will sponsor an additional child, but contributions of any amount will be appreciated.

Children are selected to participate in the event by La Mirada Elementary Schools.

Each child brings a list of needed items such as jackets, sweaters, pants, shoes and socks.

Community volunteers are also needed to help children shop for clothes at the Marshalls Department Store in La Mirada, which will open early on Wednesday, Dec.

9 for this special holiday season event.

After the shopping, the children will be transported by bus to the La Mirada Activity Center to meet Santa Claus, enjoy a snack, donated by Chick-fil-A in La Habra, and receive a wrapped toy gift. Students then return to school.

The "Clothes for Kids" shopping event honors the memory of local businesswoman Eileen Wade, who championed Rotary's efforts to help children for many years.

For further information on becoming

a volunteer chaperone or making a donation, contact Hal Malkin at (562) 947-8394.

Donations for the "Clothes for Kids" shopping event may be brought to meetings of the Rotary Club of La Mirada at its Wednesday luncheon at 12:30 p.m. at the Elephant Bar Restaurant, 14303 E. Firestone Blvd. in La Mirada.

Donations may also be mailed to the Rotary Club of La Mirada at P.O. Box 248, La Mirada, CA 90637-0248.

CERRITOS TO HONOR NAVY CORPSMAN

Senior Navy Corpsman Christopher Van Horten, a member of the 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, will be hosted and honored in the City of Cerritos on Saturday, Nov. 21st at 11:30 at the Sheraton Hotel Fountain Court.

The public is cordially invited to attend the presentation.

You will have an opportunity to personally meet and express your appreciation for HM2 Van Horten's service.

Dorothy Owen, president of the Friends of the 1st CEB, is serving as his host. HM2 Christopher Van Houten and his family, wife and three sons, will spend the weekend in Cerritos with lodging and meals complements of our sponsors: Sheraton Hotel and restaurants Grille 91, Mimi's, TGI Friday, Wood Ranch BBQ & Grill, STACKERS, and the Macaroni Grill.

The Friends of the 1st CEB are providing tickets to Knott's Berry Farm. and the family will also be guests of the AMF Cerritos bowling center.

HM2 Van Houten attended Navy Recruit Training in February 2009 at Naval Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Illinois.

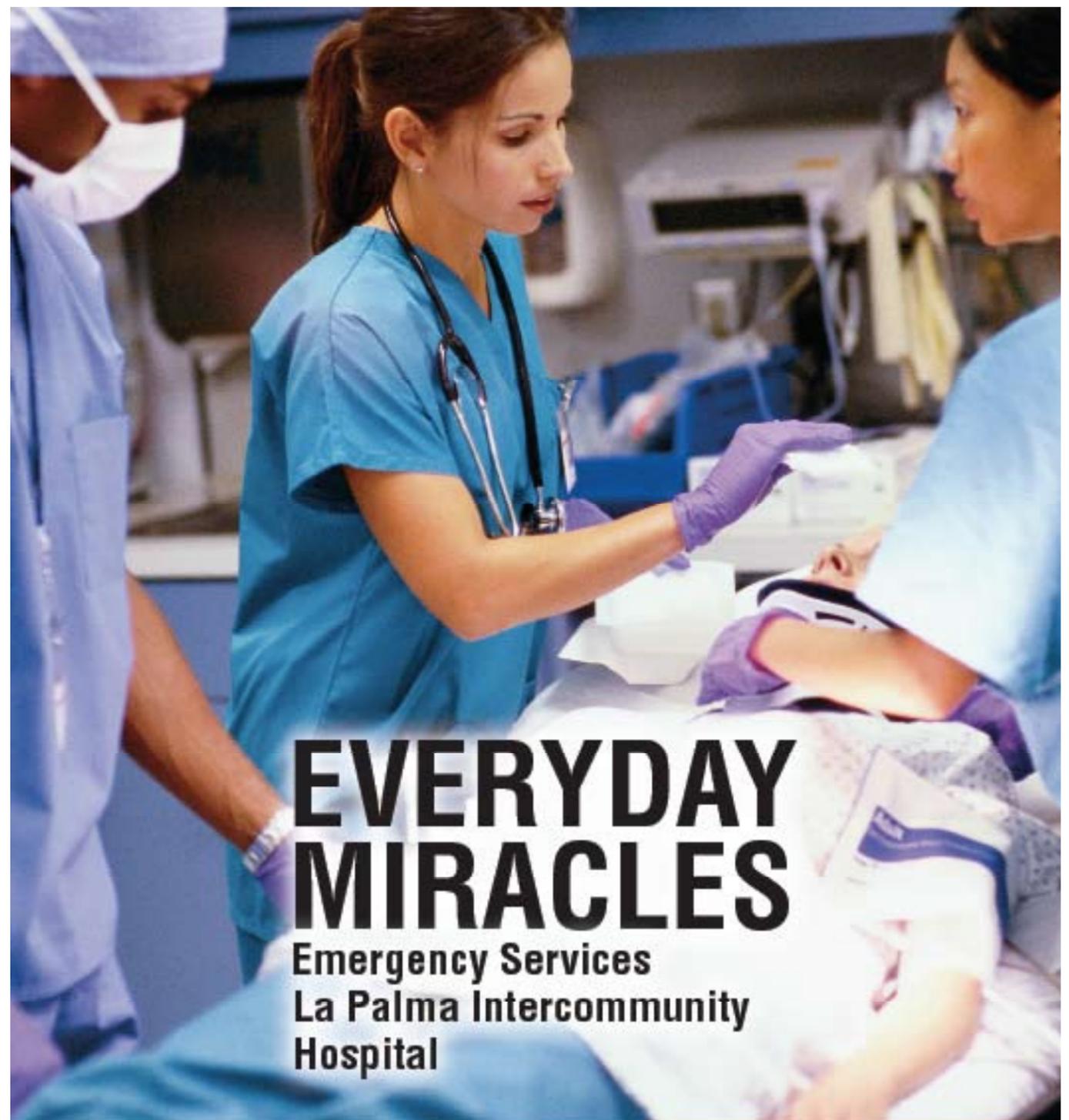
After Recruit Training he attended Hospital Corps "A" Basic School and graduated July 2009 with follow-on training at Field Medical Service School at Camp Pendleton.

His first duty assignment upon graduation was with the 1st Dental Battalion at Camp Pendleton where he was promoted to Third Class Petty Officer and subsequently to his current rank of Second Class Petty Officer.

He is currently serving as the Battalion Aid Station Assistant as the Lead Petty Officer for 2 Medical Officers and 25 Sailors that supports 977 Marines within the battalion.

HM2 Van Houten was selected for distinction due to his professionalism in the performance of his duties, wherein, by example, he has enhanced the morale, esprit de corps and camaraderie amongst his fellow Corpsman.

His exceptional performance and attitude are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Navy, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion.



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MCLR 2016 Will Potentially Generate Millions in Tax Revenues by Legalizing Marijuana in California

By Emeline Nguyen

Since the early 1900s, marijuana has always been a controversial issue in California. Much of the public concern of marijuana-use assumes that underclass communities commit socially deviant behaviors and crimes. This belief originated from Harry J. Anslinger who used media outlets to draw the impression that those who use this drug are addicts, violent, insane, and murderers. He successfully shaped this idea that still exists today. However, looking at the history of marijuana, it has been used across many different cultures for over 5,000 years and has no track record of violence.

Today, marijuana remains illegal, aside from medicinal use, in California and the state falls behind on opportunities like boosting the economy.

One key issue is the amount of individuals who are being criminalized and

incarcerated for the use and/or possession of marijuana.

On average, it costs \$47,102 per inmate; the majority are nonviolent and are detained to fill up jail systems.

Mass incarceration destroys families, especially children. According to Drug Policy, 2.7 million children in the U.S. have one or more parents who are incarcerated.

Two-thirds of these parents are for nonviolent offenses and/or drug law violations.

That means if an individual possessed more than 28.5 grams of marijuana (a little over an ounce) they would be criminalized and this amount makes about 60 marijuana joints, depending on the potency.

If tax dollars are spent on petty crimes, it does not solve any problems. Instead, tax dollars should be allocated in areas that is needed most like improving the education system, law enforcement, affordable housing, mental health facilities, substance abuse programs, and health care.

According to ArcView Market Research, in the first two months of 2014, Colorado collected \$6.17 million in tax revenue and it's projected that the state could reach \$98 million in the fiscal year.

Colorado is also planning to devote \$40 million to building public schools.

Maryland Department of Legislative Services estimated that if marijuana was legalized and regulated, the state could profit \$134.6 million per year in tax revenue.

Gov. Martin O'Malley signed a law to legalize medical marijuana and state lawmakers are considering legalizing cannabis for recreational purposes as well.

Whereas in California, according to Marijuana Policy Project, the estimated amount in tax revenue from selling medical marijuana was \$105 million.

Imagine if cannabis was legal for recreational use, the profits can be spent to help improve cities, communities, and families.

In five years, ArcView Market Research projected that the national legal marijuana market will be worth \$10.2 billion.

So how does this affect current and future Californians? The "Wall of Debt" is constantly growing, and this will affect a number of things: having sufficient public services, increase in taxes, retirement contributions, rising costs in healthcare and less access to care, low funding for K-12 education, overcrowding in jail systems, lack of transparency in civic engagement, and unreliable water supply.

Recently, there's been a proposal trying to muster enough votes in order to be placed onto the 2016 ballot.

This important bill proposal will help this economy in many ways.

Some ideas behind The Marijuana Control, Legalization and Revenue Act (MCLR 2016) is to have the federal government reconsider their policies, regulate marijuana, allow nonviolent inmates who were convicted of marijuana-use or possession to have their sentences reviewed and criminal records removed, prevent the distribution of marijuana to minors, and prevent profits from going to gangs and cartels.

This bill will impose tax on the sale of marijuana by producers, importers, or anyone who is involved in the marijuana business.

There will be civil and criminal penalties if a business does not have the required permit, failure to maintain records, making false records, refusing or avoiding paying taxes.

Contact your Assembly member and senator to advocate and support MCLR 2016. As Ghandi said, "be the change that you wish to see in the world."

Be a part of a community to help rebuild California's economic growth to fund programs by legalizing marijuana.

Emeline Nguyen, a graduate student at USC, lives in Tustin.



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La Mirada's Asks For Community Input on 2020 Strategic Plan

The City of La Mirada recently hosted a Community Forum to gain input from residents for the City's 2020 Strategic Plan. The new Strategic Plan will build upon recent achievements, identify key City priorities, and guide La Mirada's future.

At the recently held Community Forum, City Manager Jeff Boynton gave an update on City projects and results of the recently completed Community Satisfaction Survey.

Residents had the opportunity to ask questions, give feedback and suggestions on City services and programs, and share ideas and interests for La Mirada's future.

To provide feedback, visit the City's website at cityoflamirada.org.

For more information on the 2020 Strategic Plan, contact (562) 943-0131.



State Senator
Tony Mendoza and Family

ABCUSD's Spitzer and Reyes Honored for Years of Service

By Tammye McDuff

This past Tuesday, the ABC Unified School District bid farewell to two long-time board members, Armin Reyes and Celia Spitzer.

tion in 1999 and re-elected in 2003, 2007 and 2011. He served as Vice President of the Board in 2004 and President in 2005. He is also serves as member of the Southeast ROP Board of Trustees. He serves as a Functional Specialty Team Leader with



ABCUSD Board, Superintendent and staff stand with Armin Reyes and Celia Spitzer at this past Tuesday's meeting. Photo by Tammye McDuff.

The ABC USD Board Room was standing room only as Reyes and Spitzer were acknowledged for their sixteen years of service. Senator Tony Mendoza began the numerous awards and recognitions by saying, "We have two individuals here that have really done a great job on the school board, it is sad to see them go, but I don't think they will go very far."

Both Reyes and Spitzer were both honored by representatives of Congresswoman Linda Sanchez, Supervisor Don Knabe, Assemblymember Cristina Garcia, City of Cerritos' Councilman Mark Pulido, City of Artesia Mayor Miguel Canales and Councilman Ali Sajjad Taj, Hawaiian Gardens Councilman Mike Gomez, Master Sergeant Marty Schaefer Southeast ROP Director, ABCFT President Ray Gaer, Dr. Rhonda Buss, Director of Secondary Schools, and former Cerritos Mayor Laura Lee.

In a special moment, Henry, a fourth grade student said, "Mrs. Spitzer read to me in first grade, and I just want to say 'Thank You'".

Pulido, a former board member commented, "You have both focused on the love of learning and made this the center of your efforts. Our community is better because of your commitment to our children and our schools."

Reyes, current Clerk of the Board, was elected to the ABC Board of Educa-

the 426th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne) based in Upland, CA, with a rank of a Major, serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom II, Operation Iraqi Freedom 06 and Operation Enduring Freedom XXII in Afghanistan.

Spitzer, Member of the Board, was first elected to the ABC Board in 1999 and to her fourth term in 2011. She has been a resident of Cerritos since 1971. Celia worked as a systems engineer for IBM after graduating from UC Berkeley with a Bachelor's Degree in mathematics. ABC has received national recognition for its excellent relationship with district employees with everyone working together to promote student achievement. All of this is being accomplished with a balanced budget that focuses on the needs of all students.

Each board member said a few words of gratitude to both Reyes and Spitzer, following two rousing standing ovations, Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu noted, "Tonight the community and our team have come to say 'Thank You'. You are both appreciated and valued. Your combined 32 years of service has really meant something to the ABC School District."

"We have a term in Chinese we use when saying farewell, Zaijian, which means see you again. Thank you for your wonderful years of service."

La Mirada to Host Chili Holiday Celebration

Celebrate the holiday season in La Mirada at the Chili Holiday Celebration on Saturday, December 5, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Splash! La Mirada Regional Aquatic Center.

Guests can enjoy live entertainment, crafts, and games. Free chili, hot dogs, hot cocoa, warm drinks, and cookies will be served. Keepsake photos with Santa and train rides are also available.

Guests can take part in the Festival of Trees Silent Auction. The fresh holiday trees are fully-decorated by local non-profit organizations and businesses. Trees come with free local delivery to your home within a 10 mile radius and can also be donated to a family in need. All proceeds from the auction will be supporting community programs and events.

Nonperishable food items and unwrapped toys will also be collected in partnership with the Holiday Toy & Food Drive, which provides help to local families in need this holiday season.

For more information about the Chili Holiday Celebration, call (562) 943-7277 or visit www.cityoflamirada.org. Splash! La Mirada Regional Aquatics Center is located at 13806 La Mirada Blvd.

La Mirada Holiday Home Decorating Contest

Get out your decorations and start planning your festive holiday display.

The City of La Mirada's annual Holiday Home Decorating program is fast approaching.

Residents are encouraged to deco- See HOLIDAY page 13

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Sen. Mendoza Hosts 'Preparing for El Nino' Event in Norwalk

By Tammye McDuff

An informational meeting was held at Norwalk City Hall this past Saturday, November 14th, regarding what El Nino is and the best steps to prepare for the winter that California will experience this year. The event was hosted by Senator Tony Mendoza of the 32nd Senate District and Congresswoman Linda Sanchez of the 38th Congressional District.

Experts from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Central Basin Municipal Water District and Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County were the featured speakers for the first panel. Mendoza noted, "as a result of El Niño, weather experts are warning that Southern California will have powerful rain storms which will result in flooding and landslides. This informational meeting will instruct the public to be aware and learn ways to protect themselves and their families."

JPL's Oceanographer, Dr. Joshua Willis explained what El Nino is and how the drought has left Southern California vulnerable.

An El Niño is a climatic event occurring every two to seven years, characterized by warming of surface waters and reduced upwelling of cold, nutrient-rich water off the western coast of South America, causing die-offs of plankton and fish and influencing jet stream winds, altering storm tracks and affecting the climate throughout much of the world.

During an El Nino year, the jet stream,



State Senator Tony Mendoza, center, stands with local high school seniors who are participants in the Senator's Young Senators Leadership Program. Mendoza hosted Preparing for El Niño event that occurred this past Saturday inside the Norwalk City Hall Council Chambers. Also attending was Congresswoman Linda Sanchez. The event talked about what El Nino is and how to prepare for what is looking like the biggest El Nino in 17 years. Photo courtesy Senator Mendoza's office.

which ushers storms across North America, intensifies and moves farther south than usual. The result can be abnormally wet winters in California and dry, warmer-than-usual winter in the Pacific Northwest. With the punishing drought over the last five years, and expected rainfall, flash flooding and mudslides will make California land vulnerable. Experts are warning that this winter could have unpredictable and devastating weather due to El Nino conditions.

The combined rainfall for the last two seasons was just 11.93 inches, 6.08 inches for 2014 and 5.85 inches in 2013, the lowest total ever recorded in back-to-back seasons. The previous driest back-to-back rain record was in 1897-1899.

El Nino typically will double the

amount of rainfall of the previous year. While predicted rains in Southern California will help replenish local groundwater, the region and state remain in mandatory conservation mode.

Recent state reports show Californians have cut water usage by approximately 26% in September. In the West Basin service area, this number is 23%. The West Basin Rain Barrel Program, for the second year has partnered with local civic and non-profit organizations to assist with environmental programs and distribute free rain barrels to residents in the West Basin service area. "We will continue to expand water conservation and water recycling programs. We are in the process of studying responsible ocean water desalination to reduce our dependence on

imported water," said Joseph Legaspi of Central Basin.

The second panel of the day was an array of county services that offer assistance in emergency situations and disaster preparedness. These departments are ready to assist and help residents prepare for the coming rains. For more information contact the Sanitation District of Los Angeles County, CA Governors Office of Emergency Services, LA County Office of Emergency Management, LA County Department of Public Works, LA County Fire Department, State Contractors Licensing Board [CSLB], and the Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA].

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29 Year-Old Downey Police Officer Slain During Robbery Attempt at Downey Police Parking Lot

Authorities said Thursday they arrested two men and a 17-year-old boy for the killing of a Downey police officer, who was gunned down as he sat in his personal vehicle in the police station parking.

Investigators believe Officer Ricardo Galvez, 29, a five-year veteran of the department, was targeted by suspects apparently intent on robbing him, sheriff's Lt. John Corina told reporters in a noon news conference at police headquarters.

One suspect was taken into custody following a police pursuit to Montebello that followed the shooting. The others were taken into custody during a followup investigation that included serving warrants, Corina said. The names of the suspects were not immediately released.

"They were out looking to rob somebody," Corina said. Authorities believe there were no other suspects involved in the crime. A revolver believed used in the crime has been recovered, Corina said. According to Downey police.

Galvez was not in uniform, but was on duty and returning to the police station from a training program. He was sitting in his car when he was killed.

At a news conference about 6:30 a. m., Downey police Chief Carl Charles had described the fatally wounded officer.

"This morning I stand before you with a heavy heart," Charles said.

"It is with great sadness that I report one of Downey's finest was shot and killed." Galvez was fatally shot about 11 p. m. Wednesday in the west parking lot of the police station in the 11000 block of Brookshire Avenue. He died at the scene.

"Ricky... was a tremendous young man, who loved serving the residents of Downey," Charles said. "His smile was infectious, and his professionalism was always on display." Charles told reporters that the sheriff's department would be handling the investigation.

Late this morning, the officer's body was transported from the crime scene to the coroner's facility, escorted by a procession of police vehicles.

"At 11 o'clock last night, Officer Galvez had pulled into the parking lot here (and) parked his car," Corina said at the 6:30 a. m. news conference.

"While he was sitting there, a couple of individuals ran up on his car, shot into his car, and struck him with gunfire." The suspects then got into a car and it sped off, Corina said.

"As luck would have it, a Downey police officer in his patrol vehicle heard the shooting, went in pursuit of the suspects, chased them into the city of Montebello,



Downey PD Officer Ricardo Galvez

and that's where they bailed out of the car," Corina said.

Detectives reviewed surveillance video as part of their investigation, Corina said. The suspects led officers to the general area of Carob Way near Washington Boulevard in Montebello.

The driver was taken into custody, and his arrest led detectives to obtain the warrants that resulted in the other two arrests, Corina said.

Corina said that, as one Downey police officer launched a pursuit of the vehicle believed to be carrying the killers, another Downey officer came outside and found the fatally wounded officer.

A SWAT team assisted in the investigation, and California Highway Patrol officers handled traffic control around the perimeter of the Montebello search area.

Gov. Jerry Brown and other officials paid tribute to the slain officer. "Anne and I were saddened to learn of the death of Officer Galvez and extend our condolences to his family, friends and the entire law enforcement community in this difficult time," the governor said.

Sen. Tony Mendoza, D-Artesia, expressed his condolences, saying, "This is a tremendous loss for his family, the Downey Police Department and the entire community."

U. S. Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, D-Los Angeles, also expressed her "deepest sympathies," adding that her prayers were with the officer's "family, friends and co-workers in this difficult time."

Bellflower Checkpoint

A sheriff's DUI and license checkpoint in Bellflower netted 17 arrests and eight vehicle impounds, it was announced this week.

The checkpoint operated at the intersection of Lakewood Boulevard and Oak Street from 6 p. m. Friday until 2 a. m. Saturday, sheriff's Sgt. Daniel Dail said.

A total of 1879 vehicles were screened at the DUI stop, according to Dail. Deputies arrested one driver for suspicion of driving under the influence of drugs.

Sixteen drivers were jailed for driving without a license or with a revoked license.

Deputies also impounded four vehicles for 24 hours and four more for 30 days, Dail said. The checkpoint was funded by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety.

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Rally at Escalona ES in La Mirada Promotes Drug-Free Lifestyle



Deputy McGruff, the crime-fighting dog, attends the Red Ribbon Week assembly at Escalona Elementary School and helped lead students in cheers to promote living a drug free life.

October 26 through October 30 was proclaimed as Red Ribbon Week in the City of La Mirada at the October 27 City Council meeting.

"I encourage participation in drug prevention activities to demonstrate our commitment to promoting a healthy, drug-free lifestyle in our community," said Mayor Deal. "Illegal drug use is one of the major challenges of securing a safe and healthy future for our children."

The Red Ribbon campaign was celebrated throughout America during Red Ribbon Week. The theme for this year's nation-wide event was, "Respect Yourself. Be Drug Free." The Red Ribbon Campaign was established in 1985.

Each school in La Mirada held activities and special presentations during Red Rib-

bon Week. Additionally, the City's Public Safety Team hosted rallies at all La Mirada elementary and middle schools. The rallies promoted awareness of the negative effects of drug use and encouraged students to live their lives free from drugs.

Special speakers at the rallies were Public Safety Officer Amanda Plascencia, Deputy Probation Officer Darryl Harris and Deputy District Attorney Cristine Albanese. Deputy McGruff, the crime-fighting dog, led students in songs and cheers to promote living a healthy lifestyle.

"This campaign urges students to make a pledge to stay drug free," said Public Safety Officer Amanda Plascencia. "The pledge is about keeping dreams alive and avoiding bad choices."

LA PALMA

Continued from page 1

ministrative Services Manager. She was promoted to the Administrative Services Director position in 2014. Prior to coming to La Palma, Mrs. Murray had previously worked for the Cities of Aliso Viejo and



Laurie A. Murray takes the Oath of Office from La Palma Mayor Peter Kim. Murray replaced Ellen Volmert who left in October. Photo City of La Palma Facebook.

La Palma will be paying a salary of \$152,000.00 per annum for her services, payable in installments at the same time and in the same manner as it pays other employees of the City.

The salary provided in this Agreement can be increased or decreased proportionately with any cost of living and other salary adjustments applied to all executive management employees (department heads) of the City.

The City is also paying her for a life insurance policy in a coverage amount of \$250,000 and gave Murray a monthly \$325 auto allowance

The City will now recruit for an Administrative Services Director to fill the vacancy created by the appointment of Murray.

Mrs. Murray has worked for La Palma since 2006, serving as the City's first Ad-

ministrative Services Manager. She earned her Bachelor Degree in Business Management from Vanguard University of Southern California in May 2007, graduating Summa Cum Laude.

Mayor Peter Kim, said, "Laurie is a fine Administrator that has helped the City through the last several difficult years with her dedication to fiscal responsibility and transparency."

In accepting the Councils appointment, new City Manager Laurie Murray said, "she was both honored and humbled to receive the appointment and understands the tremendous responsibilities that come with it. She looks forward to working with the City Council, residents, and employees to work through the challenges and opportunities facing the City."



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MONTEBELLO RESIDENT PART OF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TENNIS TEAM



CHAMPIONS: Second from left, Montebello resident Davina Hsu with her teammates Stephanie Thomas (Colton), Tai Sisson (San Dimas), Angeline Stecia (Las Vegas, Nev.), Connie Burggraf (Orange), Skye Scheer (Redlands), Denise Sokoloski (Alta Loma), Ephraim Pasco (Colton), Kevin Griffin (Manhattan Beach), David Pinard (Canyon Lake) and Ian De Guzman (Los Angeles). The team based in Upland recently captured the national championship title at the Mixed 18 & Over 9.0 League National Championships in Tucson, Ariz.

Staff Report

A mixed tennis team from Upland, Calif., representing the USTA Southern California Section, captured the national title at the USTA League Mixed 18 & Over 9.0 National Championships held at the Hilton El Conquistador Resort, Tucson, Ariz.

The Upland team defeated a team from Kansas City, Mo., 2-1 in the championship match. Earlier in the day, the

Upland team defeated a team from Washington, D.C., 3-0 in the semifinals. They advanced this far by winning their round-robin flight contested Friday and Saturday.

The team is captained by Stephanie Thomas (far left in picture) and features Davina Hsu, Tai Sisson, Angeline Stecia, Connie Burggraf, Skye Scheer, Denise Sokoloski, Ephraim Pasco, Kevin Griffin, David Pinard and Ian De Guzman and plays at the Upland Tennis Club.

Rotary Gov. Recognizes La Mirada Resident Hal Malkin



Rotary District Gov. Kevin Padilla (l) presented a certificate to La Mirada Rotarian Hal Malkin recognizing him for more than 40 years of community leadership. Malkin was recognized as part of the Rotary District's Business Leadership and Ethics awards program. Rotary Club of La Mirada meets at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Elephant Bar Restaurant, 14303 E. Firestone Blvd. in La Mirada.

Steinway by Starlight Winter Concert

Thursday, December 10, 2015, 7:30 p.m., University Theatre, 1000 E. Victoria Street Carson featuring Andreas Klein.

Klein has distinguished himself as a dynamic and compelling performer with his command of a wide range of tonal colors and imaginative interpretations.

The concert will also include CSUDH Chamber Singers and harpist performing excerpts from Benjamin Britten's "Ceremony of Carols."



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CIF-SOUTHERN SECTION DIVISION III-AA GIRLS VOLLEYBALL PLAYOFFS

NORWALK UNABLE TO SOLVE RIM OF THE WORLD'S HEIGHT ADVANTAGE

By Loren Kopff

For the second time in three seasons, the Norwalk High girls volleyball team advanced to the second round of the California Interscholastic Federation-Southern Section divisional playoffs. Unfortunately, the Lady Lancers were staring across at a 6' 2" middle blocker from Rim of the World High who stole the spotlight.

Norwalk got to see the No. 17 worn by Madison Newcombe more than it wanted to as she torched the Lady Lancers defense to the tune of 27 kills as the Scots eliminated Norwalk 25-17, 27-25, 25-19 last Thursday night in Division III-AA second round match.

Although Norwalk head coach Jessie Gonzalez had seen his team tie for second place in the Suburban League and knock off Pioneer High two days prior, he confessed he didn't know much about the division's third-ranked team which entered Norwalk's gymnasium with a 21-5 mark.

"Not knowing very much about them beside just what was on paper," Gonzalez admitted when asked what he knew of his opponent. "I tried watching some film on them. I know we had to key in on [Chloe Castillo] and number 17. Basically that was what our defense was based off of. I think this was probably the best team we faced all season and I can easily say, without a doubt, my team played their hearts out."

In the first set, it was all about Newcombe and junior outside hitter Ashley

Whittall with the former accounting for Rim of the World's first seven kills and the latter pounding down her team's first five kills. By this point, the Scots were up 13-8 as they also received three aces from Tia MacGuire.

Norwalk drew to within four points at 17-13 before a net violation gave the MacGuire the serve again and she added two more aces plus Newcombe's ninth kill as the Scots opened up a 21-13 advantage.

"It was just a back and forth game," Gonzalez said. "Ashley wasn't backing down and Newcombe wasn't backing down. So I think the competitive nature between both of them didn't let them let up and just kept both of them aggressive the entire match."

Norwalk (16-11) showed it wasn't going to go away that easy in the second set and built an 8-4 lead following Whittall's seventh kill. But three straight kills from Castillo tied things up at 9-9 and both teams traded points until senior outside hitter Vanessa Cardenas got into the action with three kills of her own to help her team open a 20-

17 lead.

The Scots ran off the next four points and after an ace from senior middle blocker Leslie Leanos, the Lady Lancers

were at set point. But New-

combe and Kayla Allen

responded with kills.

Then a kill from

Castillo and a lift

violation put

the San An-

dreas League

champions

a set away

from the

sweep.

Norwalk

grabbed a

quick 4-2 lead

in the third set

when senior setter

Brenda Hernandez

had an ace. Later in

the set, an ace from junior

libero Paola Nava made it 12-11 in

favor of the visitors. But a serving error put

the ball in the hands of Castillo, who reeled

off eight straight points to put the match

away. During that scoring spree, New-

combe added four more kills and a block

while Castillo had a pair of aces.

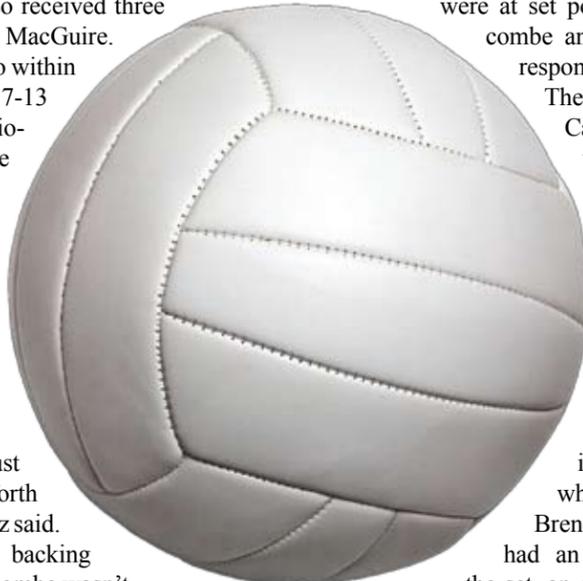
"I think it was a couple of things," Gon-

zalez said. "There was a lack of energy. I

think there was a lack of intensity on our

end. But once I called that timeout [at 19-

11], I just told them, 'this might be the last



time you ever play here at Norwalk High School for you seniors'. I just told them to play with their hearts and leave everything on the court."

Norwalk made one last push as Leanos and Whittall each had a kill and a block after a Cardenas kill. After the Scots called a timeout, Newcombe had her last kill and MacGuire's kill at the back line ended the match. Whittall led Norwalk with 14 kills while Cardenas added 10 kills. Four other players combined for the other five kills the Lady Lancers would collect.

"She was playing great the entire game," Gonzalez said of Cardenas. "She was picking her spots and just being smart with the ball instead of making rash decisions and swinging away."

Although the Lady Lancers graduate eight players, they will return key components to their offense as well as defense and anticipate being a force in the league next season. This was the third straight season that Gonzalez has guided his team to double digit victories after going 9-8 in his first season as Norwalk's varsity head coach.

"Overall, I think this was probably one of my best seasons I've ever had at Norwalk High School," Gonzalez said. "Being a third place team and being the only upset in our division, having beat a team with a higher seed, it just kind of goes to show that there's an entire season and it's not only based off of records. As long as a team is focused and they have a goal in mind, they can accomplish whatever they want."

NEWS AND NOTES FROM PRESS ROW

SEASON CONTINUES FOR AREA CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS, INDIVIDUAL RUNNERS

By Loren Kopff

The Norwalk High girls and Valley Christian High boys cross country teams as well as a pair of individual runners have advanced to the California Interscholastic Federation-Southern Section championship finals, to be held on Saturday at Mt. San Antonio College. Gahr High senior Samuel Ayala will be among the runners in the Division III race and Valley Christian sophomore Marian Ledesma will try to advance to the state preliminaries in the Division V race.

The Gahr boys team finished 120th out of 236 teams that took to the Riverside Golf Club course and finished 12th out of 21 teams in its heat. Ayala finished eighth overall with a time of 15:22. The next two Gahr runners were junior Aaron Alfaro, who finished in 46th place with a time of 16:21 and sophomore Abdul Jumani, who came in 69th place with a time of 16:44.

Also in Division III, Norwalk High came in 17th place out of 21 teams in its heat and finished 162nd overall with



HMG-CN Sports Editor Loren Kopff

NEWS AND NOTES FROM PRESS ROW

junior Edwin Munoz leading the Lancers with a 71st placing after crossing the finish line with a time of 16:48. The next two Norwalk runners were junior Alberto Cano (78th, 16:54.7) and Salvador Alcantara (79th, 16:54.9).

In Division V action, V.C. finished second out of 29 teams in its heat and picked up 98 points. Overall, the Crusaders were 127th with sophomore Ryan Vreeke finishing first with a time of 16:04 and sophomore Josh Rupprecht coming in ninth place at 16:30. The next three V.C. harriers were junior Nathaniel Tamminga (22nd, 16:53), senior Daniel Vandermeer (31st, 17:15) and senior Wyatt Koolmees, 35th, 17:22.

Cerritos High, out of Division II, was 20th out of 22 teams in its heat and was led by junior Bill Chuang, who came in 62nd place with a time of 16:07. The next two Cerritos finishers were sophomore Jaimeel Patel (89th, 16:39) and senior Nicholas Tai (124th, 17:24).

In Division IV action, Artesia High claimed the 15th spot out of 18 teams in its heat with its top three runners being senior Dominic Gonzales (37th, 16:37), senior David Pacheco (73rd, 17:16) and sophomore Jesus Orbe (85th, 17:42). Whitney High was 17th out of 18 teams in its heat and its top three runners were sophomore Daniel Lin (72nd, 17:24), sophomore Justin Hogenauer (76th, 17:28) and sophomore Andrew Cheng (93rd, 17:43). There were a total of 1,665 boys runners.

On the girls side, where there were 233 teams and 1,666 runners competing, Norwalk continued its banner season by finishing in 81st place overall. The Lady Lancers were sixth out of 22 teams in their Division III heat with sophomore Ruby Galindo placing 12th with a time

of 18:47. Senior Jennifer Osori Melendez came in 17th place with a time of 18:56 while sophomore Misty Diaz was right behind her at 18:57.

Although V.C. came in 199th place overall and 11th out of 22 teams in its heat, Ledesma finished in ninth place with a time of 19:47. The next two V.C. runners were sophomore Erika Sigala (49th, 22:33) and senior Chloe Garris (71st, 23:27).

Cerritos came in 22nd out of 24 teams in its Division II heat and were led by sophomores Brianna Katsuda (108th, 20:23) and Laura Sato (120th, 20:58) and senior Kayla Katsuda (136th, 21:49).

Finally, Whitney out of Division IV finished 15th out of 21 teams in its heat with sophomore Ashley Scott being the team's top runner, placing 41st with a time of 19:48. Behind her were sophomore Angelina Crittenden (81st, 20:58) and sophomore Sarah Oh (98th, 21:29).

FOOTBALL

The Valley Christian High football

See NEWS AND NOTES page 12

VALLEY CHRISTIAN ALUM NOAH HANSON WINS NSPA AWARD FOR TOP BROADCAST FEATURE

By Loren Kopff

In a follow-up to a story that ran in the Nov. 13, 2015 issue of the HMG-Community News, former Valley Christian High student Noah Hanson took home the top prize as he won the best broadcast feature by the National Scholastic Press Association. Hanson, who graduated this past June and was part of the VCTV staff, did a video piece titled 'Three Things From Africa'.

"It's an honor to win, and I was truly stunned, but mostly so proud of Noah and our journalism program," said

V.C. journalism faculty advisor Sharon Zoetewey. "He's a gifted cinematographer and has an innate talent for editing, plus he's always working to improve. We knew Noah's entry was impressive in quality, but it's nice to see the judges award his style of storytelling. It's encouraging to know there is a need for Noah's voice in the world, and it reaffirms that he's chosen the right career path."

According to some of the comments from the judges that were explained on the NSPA website, the pieces that won in the broadcast feature category showed maturity beyond high school and college

age. It went on to say that Hanson won because of his use to use 'a selfie stick to shoot the video and the placement of the natural sound was beautifully done, letting the pictures tell the story'.

"I thought it was crazy that someone I personally knew won something that thousands of people wanted to win," said Alex Hille, a junior who is in his first year on the V.C. journalism staff. "His victory only continued to prove how talented Noah is in film. He has made and contributed in various award winning short films. Noah's success is something that we can build on and model after for future success."

Hille was an actor in a short film that Hanson was part of the team that won the school's inaugural film festival when Hanson was a junior. Hanson also won the Orange Lutheran Teen Faith Film Festival last year with a film titled, "Light".

"It's pretty amazing to see the lessons Noah learned and the beautiful people of Africa in the story get broadcast to a larger audience," Zoetewey said. "God's message is being spread through the piece and because of this competition, which is pretty cool. It's a good reminder that the little things you do every day make a difference."

CIF-SOUTHERN SECTION SOUTHEAST DIVISION FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS:**NORWALK COMES UP SHORT OF BIG PLAY IN FIRST ROUND LOSS TO BURROUGHS**

By Loren Kopff

BURBANK—John Burroughs High is less than a mile from the Walt Disney Studios but for the Norwalk High football team, there would be no fairytale ending in its California Interscholastic Federation-Southern Section Southeast Division first round playoff game. The Lancers were mired in a defensive tussle with the division's fourth-ranked team and came up short in a 16-9 decision last Friday night at Memorial Field.

Norwalk, which entered the contest on a four-game winning streak in which it had outscored its opponents 202-20 with a pair of shutouts, was limited to 205 yards on the ground and failed to reach double figures in points for the fourth time this season. The third place representatives from the Suburban League end their season at 5-6.

"It was a tough game playing against a good team," said Norwalk first-year head coach Otis Harrison. "Opportunities to score on both sides of the ball were going to be very limited. They made more plays than we did, bottom line. Hats off to them."

Norwalk took the opening kickoff and did what it has been known to do for the past nine seasons—run the ball and control the clock. Six different players rushed for a combined 48 yards as the Lancers got down to the Burroughs 17-yard line. It was there where Harrison opted to go for a 34-yard field goal, which was successful by junior Eduardo Nava with 5:01 left in the opening quarter. It was the first field goal by the Lancers this season.

"We just couldn't cross the goal line," Harrison said. "We couldn't get it done and I take responsibility for that. We need to be better in finishing drives. Again, [Burroughs] made a lot of plays. Some of those plays that normally would have gone for touchdowns, they made a lot of open field tackles."

The Indians (10-1) responded in their only possession of the quarter and used up 4:28 to go up 7-3 following a 45-yard connection from Steven Hubbell to Erick Hernandez. After the Lancers went three and out, Burroughs added to its lead when Cade Boreland was true on a 24-yard field goal early in the second quarter.

After that, it would be mostly defense from both teams, more so on the team wearing the red uniforms. Norwalk would get as far as the Burroughs 45-yard line in the first half after its opening drive. But that came with less than a minute remaining in the first half and before senior quarterback Ausencio Navarro was sacked for a 13-yard loss by Connor Garden.

The Indians were looking to add to their lead early in the second half. But on fourth and two from the Norwalk 16-yard line, Hubbell was sacked by senior linebacker Kirk Brown and junior defensive end Jordan Thomas. Aided by a 50-yard run down the left sideline from senior running back Chris Walker, the Lancers finally found the end zone when Brown scooted 25 yards with 4:55 left in the third quarter. However, Nava's extra point would be missed.

Norwalk was gaining some momentum after junior lineman Robert Rodriguez picked off Hubbell at the Burroughs 27-yard line. But the offense would be stymied and Nava would miss a 33-yard field goal with 2:10 left in the stanza.

The Indians would take advantage of the missed field goal and drove to the Norwalk nine-yard line. But on fourth and one, Hubbell appeared to be stopped by Brown, thus giving the Lancers the ball. The officials brought the chains out to measure for a first down and after originally marking the chains down, the officials moved the chains again and eventually awarded the Indians the first down at the eight-yard line. On the next play, Hubbell tossed a



Norwalk High sophomore fullback Daniel Faamatau picks up some tough yardage as Anthony Garcia (#77) and Branden Garcia (#5) of Burroughs High tackle him early in last Friday night's California Interscholastic Federation-Southern Section Southeast Division first round playoff game. Faamatau rushed for 40 yards on eight carries as Norwalk lost 16-9. PHOTO BY ARMANDO VARGAS, Contributing Photographer.

touchdown pass to Torin Harris with 9:01 left in the game.

"We got one call our way all night," Harrison said. "I've never been one to... we don't get a lot of calls. But having said that, there were plays where we had them third and 15 or third and 20 and they got the first down. Players make plays and I guess they made it on that."

Norwalk chewed up the next 6:49 in its only possession of the fourth quarter on 11 straight rushes. But on fourth and eight from the Burroughs 36-yard line, Navarro was incomplete and the Indians ran out the final 2:12.

Brown led Norwalk with 80 yards on 16 carries while Walker added another 59 yards on nine carries. Sophomore fullback Daniel Faamatau chipped in with another

40 yards on eight touches while on defense, Brown led the way with seven tackles followed by six and half tackles from sophomore safety Billy Joseph Moore and four and half more from junior linebacker Austin Perez.

"I'm proud of them and I hope one day we feel proud of [this season]," Harrison said. "Right now it stings. It should have been still 10 [points]. Maybe I'll look back and reflect on it. But we have expectations on performing well and that's just the expectation all the time."

But as good as the defense was, yielding less than 17 points for the fifth straight game, it still had trouble containing Hubbell. The crafty signal caller completed

See SPORTS page 12

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SPORTS

Continued from page 1

13 of 18 passes for 186 with his first and last completions going for the only two touchdowns. He also picked up 44 yards on 12 carries.

"He's a cool customer," Harrison said. "He's an outstanding performer; keeps his head on his shoulder. He played banged up because we really bruised that guy up really well tonight. He was calm under pressure. He made plays, he made guys miss and on the flip side to that, I didn't work on breaking down [on tackles], probably."

NEWSPAPER

Continued from page 1

lation to advertisers and cities of 10,000.

Kimsey closed the office after she learned of an impending 11/13/15 article published in HMG-CN outlining her cozy and lucrative relationship with Cerritos' Mayor Carol Chen and former Mayor Bruce Barrows as related to the newspaper, its advertising and financing, and the misuse of Cerritos City funds by Chen.

HMG-CN Publisher Brian Hews will ask the Los Angeles District Attorney to investigate Chens' use of City funds in relation to Kimsey's newspaper.

Kimsey occupied the office, owned by Artesia Councilman Tony Lima, for over a year, with sources telling HMG-CN that, "Kimsey was constantly late with the rent."

"I'm surprised it took this long," said HMG-CN Publisher Brian Hews, "if it wasn't for the city of Cerritos advertising in the paper, as ordered by Mayor Carol Chen, the paper would have scuttled long ago. By my calculations, and if they are

printing the number of newspapers they claim to print, the paper loses \$3,000-\$4,000 per month, and that is with Cerritos' advertising in it," said Hews.

The paper was distributed to a small neighborhood in Cerritos and about 80% of Artesia, in the exact same place and locations as the 30 year-old Los Cerritos Community News, which covers 98% of Cerritos and Artesia, and eight other cities.

Yet, puzzlingly, the City of Cerritos somehow justified advertising in the paper.

This is an organization that did not have an office in Cerritos, did not have a published advertising rate card, and published its first edition two weeks prior to Cerritos placing advertising.

"That's duplicating advertising dollars during tough times for the city," said Hews, "the city can't even afford to cut their trees, but Mayor Chen did not care, and ordered city personnel to place advertising in the newspaper. The publication catered to her in every edition, publishing 2-3 pictures and stories of Chen and her City Council buddies in every edition, it was her own newspaper financed by the city, it's the Chen News."

Disgruntled long time former HMG-CN reporter Randy Economy was seen inside Kimsey's newspaper office a few days after he abruptly left HMG-CN last year.

Hews later discovered that a scheme was hatched to start their own paper, followed by a coordinated plan, with assistance from Carol Chen, Bruce Barrows, and many in the Cerritos Republican Club, to put HMG-CN out of business by spreading vicious rumors and lies about the publication.

Three years ago, Economy asked Hews to hire Kimsey as a sales representative. Hews agreed and hired Kimsey but during her tenure at the paper, she was apparently

taking note of operations at HMG-CN.

Kimsey eventually left HMG-CN and took Editor Jerry Bernstein to establish her own newspaper, which took nine months to start. Kimsey and Bernstein also tried to hire away HMG-CN's graphics designer and salespeople.

Economy stayed at HMG-CN for a few more months, quit his long-time job by phone, and immediately began spreading lies about Hews and HMG-CN, while appearing in every edition of Kimsey's newspaper while attempting to hire away long-time HMG-CN Sports Editor Loren Kopff.

"He was vicious," said Hews. "I was very disappointed, we worked side-by-side for over four years, after he quit he tried to put me out of business, spreading falsehoods about how I operated the paper while helping Kimsey in the process; and he is still spreading lies to this day."

Emails into Kimsey and Bernstein for comment were unsuccessful.

NEWS AND NOTES

Continued from page 10

team hopes to accomplish two things tonight at Crusader Field. The first is avenging last season's CIF-SS Northwest Division 28-27 first round road loss to Linfield Christian High. If successful, then the second item would be advancing to the semifinals for the first time since 2007.

The Olympic League champion Crusaders, coming off a 77-54 home triumph over Templeton High last Friday in which defense was optional, have won five straight and enter the rematch with the Lions at 9-2. Linfield Christian, which came in second place in the Ambassador League and have a 10-1 mark, is the

third-seeded team in the division.

In last season's meeting, the Crusaders had a 13-7 lead after the first quarter and eventually built a 20-7 advantage before the Lions scored twice in the second quarter to hold a 21-20 halftime lead. Both teams would trade touchdowns in the third quarter.

This season, V.C. is led by sophomore Gianni Hurd, who in just five games, has amassed over 1,000 yards on the ground and has scored 17 touchdowns, both tops on the team. Senior quarterback Jesse Smith has thrown for 1,955 yards and 20 touchdowns opposite five interceptions. His favorite target is senior Robert Downs, who leads the team with 48 receptions, 885 yards and 10 touchdowns. The Crusaders have scored 445 points and given up 136.

Linfield Christian is explosive as well on offense, scoring 475 points while allowing 113. Quarterback Clay Maranville has completed 74 passes in 126 attempts for 1,152 yards and 14 touchdowns while Zac Archer leads the ground game with 1,000 yards and 19 touchdowns. He scored the game-winner last season on a 16-yard run after the Crusaders had taken a 27-21 lead on an 11-yard run from senior running back Quaid Kawana.

COACHING OPENINGS

Cerritos High is looking to fill its varsity softball vacancy as well as that of its boys and girls tennis teams. All interested candidates are urged to email Cerritos co-athletic directors Robert.Adams@abcusd.us or Todd.Denhart@abcusd.us. You can also reach Adams at (562) 926-5566, extension 21820 or Denhart at (562) 926-5566, extension 21808. Cerritos is looking to hire the new coaches as soon as possible.

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MONTEBELLO*Continued from page 1*

News published an article and posted the audio and the mail piece, pointing out the inconsistency between McClure's statement that crime was up in Montebello and Hadjinian's mail piece that crime was down 18%.

McClure, obviously conflicted, emailed a letter to HMG-CN contradicting the article.

But there was no indication in the email of what McClure was going to do next or the fabrications he would spin to counter his crime statement.

The first paragraph of the McClure letter stated, "I just learned of recent inaccurate reports in articles by the Hews Media Group that I was, a) interviewed about crime rates in the City of Montebello, b) contradicted the Mayor in the interview, and c) had an argument/confrontation with the Mayor about a campaign ad.

First fabrication by McClure: McClure claimed in the letter that HMG-CN interviewed him.

HMG-CN never stated that the newspaper interviewed McClure; HMG-CN obtained the digital audio from source and then published the contents.

In the audio, published online by HMG-CN, McClure clearly indicated crime was up, in fact he said, "it's very hard for me to say this, crime is up."

Second fabrication by McClure:

VASQUEZ*Continued from page 1*

documents, another FPPC violation.

In February of 2013 Beilke filed a complaint with the L.A. District Attorney and the FPPC outlining the fundraisers that Vasquez failed to report, including all supporting documents.

The DA apparently contacted Vasquez, told her of the complaint, and allowed her to amend the 460's.

Vasquez complied but once again lied and listed former Central Basin attorney Arnold Glassman as the person who paid for the La Huasteca fundraiser.

Glassman was informed what Vasquez had filed and vehemently denied ever paying for the fundraiser.

But the FPPC, in their stipulation against Vasquez, somehow came to the conclusion that Vasquez "did not attempt to conceal the fundraisers."

"This is ridiculous," commented one long-time observer of Vasquez. "First she fails to report the fundraisers, lie number one. And isn't 'fails to report' the same as concealing? Then a complaint is filed with the DA and the FPPC and she is allowed to amend? What's up with that FPPC? Then she amends the campaign documents, basically admitting guilt. Then she lies once again on the amended campaign documents? And the FPPC says there is no attempt to conceal? Vasquez must have connections in the DA's office and the FPPC."

Further clouding the stipulation, Vasquez has a documented history of suspicious campaign financing.

In February 2013, HMG-CN exclusively reported that Vasquez' campaign was

McClure did not contradict Hadjinian.

Hadjinian's mail piece was sent to Montebello residents claiming crime was down 18% in Montebello, paid for by the MPOA.

Yet McClure's clearly stated in the audio that crime was up in Montebello.

Third fabrication by McClure: no confrontation with Hadjinian occurred.

Several sources who regularly attend City Council Meetings told HMG-CN that they saw Hadjinian and McClure in a heated conversation at a meeting days after the mail piece was sent out.

HMG-CN had every intention of running McClure's letter as a Letter to the Editor until McClure's anger got the best of him.

In an extremely questionable and obvious politically motivated maneuver, on Nov. 2 at 3:36 p.m., McClure posted the letter on Nixle, a city-paid public notification system used by police and other agencies to send out emergency notifications to the public.

Anyone can subscribe to Nixle, the Los Angeles Sheriff's use Nixle, and receive texts such as "Sheriff's Homicide Detectives are continuing their investigation into what appears to be a possible accidental shooting in East Los Angeles on Saturday evening."

It is a public system, used to send out emergency notifications. The use of the system by McClure calls into serious question why he chose to post what was basically a Letter to the Editor, on a sys-

finance by convicted felon Ricardo "Ric" Mayer and felon who plead down to a misdemeanor Angel Gonzales.

Mayer served prison time for his felony conviction for lying about his place of residency while running for city council in South Gate.

Vasquez declared paying political campaign manager Angel Gonzalez \$4,000 before the actual June 5, 2012 election and owing him another \$18,399.

Tom and Ron Calderon gave Vasquez \$2,250.

In January 2015, Jay Wierenga, Communications Director for the FPPC, told HMG-CN of another investigation saying, "we have an active investigation underway regarding Leticia Vasquez (and we are) looking into potential violations of the Political Reform Act regarding conflict of interest and campaign disclosure."

HMG-CN obtained a letter from the FPPC asking Vasquez for documents related to her illegal Central Basin Board vote to approve waiving the attorney-client privilege in the Qui Tam "Whistleblower" lawsuit against Central Basin.

Vasquez has repeatedly denied she is a "party plaintiff" to the whistleblower lawsuit, but court documents and two attorneys contacted by HMG-CN have confirmed that she is a party plaintiff.

The investigators requested the "Agenda Packet, Agenda and Minutes for the October 9, 2014 meeting concerning the Qui Tam case, BC518653."

They also requested "the date of the board vote to waive attorney-client privilege regarding the Qui Tam case."

In addition, CB sources told HMG-CN that the FPPC was looking into whether Vasquez actually lived in her district when she ran for the seat in 2012.

Winners will be selected in the categories of Most Original, Best Use of Lights, and Best Holiday Scene.

Award winners will receive a holiday ornament and will be announced on the City's website at cityoflamirada.org.

For more information on the Holiday Home Decorating program, call the La Mirada Community Sheriff's Station at (562) 902-2960.

tem such as Nixle.

A letter that was filled with fabrications.

"McClure used Nixle as his own personal newspaper, probably under Jack Hadjinian's orders, to call into question what was a true story," said one Montebello resident who did not want to be identified for fear of retribution.

"This is a blatant threat to every reporter in the area by McClure. If you publish a story about us we will come after you, violate the law, and shoot the messenger. You have to question his leadership."

This is not the first time McClure's leadership skills have been questioned. McClure was sued by several officers in a discrimination filed in June 2012 that listed a number of allegations against McClure.

The city of Montebello, and several other police officers in the department were also named in the suit.

The four officers in the lawsuit claimed McClure ignored minorities when promoting officers; removed African American art from inside the department; dismissed cultural diversity training as a "bunch of sh-;" called African Americans filthy and women "MILFs" (an extremely derogatory sexual reference); and ignored the many officer's attempts to report illegal activity in the department.

Also, consistent with McClure's questionable and politically motivated posting of his letter on Nixle, the officers claimed in the lawsuit that they endured political pressure from the department to support certain candidates in city council elections.

Gold Line Extension *Opening March 5, 2016***Metro Briefs**

GATEWAY CITIES

Gold Line Extension Opening Date

Metro has set the Gold Line extension opening date for March 5, 2016. The 11.5-mile extension will connect Pasadena to Azusa and make stops in the cities of Arcadia, Monrovia, Duarte, and Irwindale along the way. It is expected to take about 50 minutes to travel between Los Angeles Union Station and Azusa Pacific University. For more information, please visit metro.net/foothill.

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As we continue to make safety our top priority, Metro has introduced three major safety technologies and patrol innovations. This includes deploying elevated security towers, installing security kiosks, and expanding use of the LexRay mobile application, which allows law enforcement to access real-time video from stations and rail platforms. To learn more, visit metro.net/safety.

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HOLIDAY*Continued from page 5*

rate their homes to spread holiday cheer throughout La Mirada.

No application is needed for this program as every decorated home in La Mirada is considered for recognition.

Judging will take place December 1 through December 13.

Sr. Rita Finds Her Mission in Life at St. Irenaeus Church in Cypress

By Edna Ethington

Sr. Rita O'Connell, Director of Health Care Ministry at St. Irenaeus in Cypress, is an active member of the Presentation Sisters of the Virgin Mary (PBVM). Eight Presentation Sisters are currently in residence at their home adjacent to St. Irenaeus Church in Cypress and assist the parish in different ministries and especially with their prayers.

During the month of November, all of the Presentation sisters throughout the world participated in a novena starting on November 12 and culminating on the Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary which the Catholic Church celebrates on November 21.

When asked why she joined the Presentation Sisters, Sr. Rita said that she was impressed by the story of its founder, Honora "Nano" Nagle, who was born to a wealthy family but dedicated herself to providing education and religious instruction in the Catholic Faith for the poor in Ireland in the 1700's. She lived during a time when Catholics were being perse-

cutted by the British and were not allowed to go to school or learn about Catholicism. Nano also compassionately visited the sick and elderly who needed help at night and was known as "The Lady with the Lantern."

Even though Nano Nagle lived a long time ago, during 1718-1784, her legacy of promoting education and teaching the Catholic Faith continues by the Presentation Sisters today. Sr. Rita also said that she knew that the Presentation Sisters went on teaching missions throughout the world. She said that she wanted to go on a mission to teach young children about the Catholic Faith and to spread the Good News of Christ as Nano Nagle did.

At the age of 20, Mary Rita O'Connell joined the Presentation Sisters of the Virgin Mary in 1954 in Bailieboro, Ireland. After 18 months of prayer and studying to become a teacher, she was ready to go on her first mission. She was sent to Pakistan where she taught young elementary age children for eight years. She was later transferred to Delhi, India, where she continued to teach children for three more years. Sr. Rita said that she enjoyed working with the people and their simple lifestyle in the missions. She felt that they appreciated the education they received from the Presentation Sisters.

After her stay in India, Sr. Rita was sent to serve as a teacher at St. Norbert's



Photo by Edna Ethington

Sr. Rita O'Connell who is the Director of Health Care Ministry at St. Irenaeus Church in Cypress. She is a member of the Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary who was born in Ireland and went on missions to India and Pakistan before coming to the United States. She has been at St. Irenaeus since 1976. The Presentation Sisters celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary on November 21.

School in Orange, California. Sr. Rita chose to return to using her baptismal name of Rita in 1964. While she was at St. Norbert's School, she taught third and eighth grade students and other students from 1969 until her next assignment in 1976.

Her current mission began in 1976 when she was sent to serve at St. Irenaeus Parish in Cypress as Director of Pastoral Care with a focus on assisting with vigils

and funerals for parishioners. During her 39 years at St. Irenaeus, she worked with four different pastors, the late Fr. John Keller, Fr. Michael Heher (now Monsignor Heher), Fr. Pat Rudolph, and the current pastor, Fr. Patrick Moses.

Pastoral Care of parishioners at St. Irenaeus is still an integral part of Sr. Rita's responsibility, but now as Director of Health Care Ministry, her responsibilities encompasses many more aspects of parishioners lives. Sister works with volunteer members of the Health Care Ministry Board to achieve the Mission of Health Care Ministry at St. Irenaeus which is "to promote and encourage health of Mind, Body and Spirit through education and support services for the community." St. Irenaeus, an early Father of the Church, believed that "the glory of God is man fully alive." Health Care Ministry at St. Irenaeus Church hopes to give glory to God by helping parishioners to become fully alive in Mind, Body and Spirit.

Sr. Rita strives to fulfill her mission at St. Irenaeus by inspiring and encouraging all the volunteers who serve in ministries such as Bereavement (Grief) Support, Care Facilities, Funeral and Vigils, Home Bound Eucharistic Ministry, Love Thy Neighbor, Parish Nurse Program, Rosary Ministry, Shawl Ministry, Capacitar Classes, and National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Meetings. Health Care Ministry also sponsors Educational Workshops, ALL Souls Remembrance Masses, Giving Tree Gift Collection at Christmas, Labyrinth Meditative experiences, Valentine or Easter Outreaches to Residents of Care Facilities, Cancer Support Groups, and also assists at Masses for Anointing of the Sick and Blessing of the Hands of Caregivers.

Sr. Rita said that she appreciates all the people who volunteer their time in all the ministries and is impressed with their willingness to act as Christ's Hands and Feet in their ministries. She said that the Funeral and Bereavement Ministries can be emotionally challenging but she feels that they offer people the opportunities for growth in their faith and a stronger trust in God.

Sr. Rita believes, as Pope Francis said, that we should reach out and especially help families in need. As a Presentation Sister, Sr. Rita carries on the work of Nano Nagle of helping those who are most in need through the many different ministries at St. Irenaeus Church. Through these ministries parishioners experience spirituality and faith development, lifelong learning, outreach to the community, and healthcare education.

Pope Francis declared Nano Nagle as "Venerable" on October 31, 2013 as a "Pioneer of Catholic Education in Ireland." Sr. Rita and all the Presentation Sisters pray that Nano Nagle will be canonized as a saint one day.

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