



Norwalk Vice Mayor Kelley and Councilman Shryock Block Council Appointment

By Brian Hews

For the second straight council meeting, Vice Mayor Cheri Kelley and Councilman Leonard Shryock once again voted for legislative gridlock and inexplicably voted against the appointment of a councilperson to fill the seat vacated by Marcel Rodarte.

Rodarte resigned from his seat June 30 of this year to take the Executive Director position for the California Contract Cities Association.

Their action could spur a lawsuit against the City.

Councilmen Mike Mendez and Luigi Vernola, clearly frustrated, tried to negotiate an appointment process, but Kelley and Shryock would have nothing to do with it.

Kelley made the motion to block the appointment and Shryock immediately seconded the motion.

Vernola told Hews Media Group-Community News, "It does not make any sense they (Kelley and Shryock) are not making an effort. We either have to appoint or hold a special election, what do they want to do cost the city thousands of dollars? It would cost nothing to appoint a candidate."

Vernola himself was appointed years ago and then successfully won re-election.

"I was not asking to appoint one person, council should accept resumes or applications and interview qualified

See **COUNCIL APPOINTMENT** page 9

New Playgrounds at La Mirada Parks



LM Mayor Steve De Ruse, Mayor Pro Tem Ed Eng, Councilmembers Pauline Deal and Larry Mowles with Community Services Commissioners and local children at the new Frontier Park playground.

New playground equipment was recently added to several parks in La Mirada including Frontier Park, Anna J. Martin Park, and the Community

Gymnasium.

The new playgrounds include modern equipment, new play features, and rubber

See **PARKS** page 9

Mayor Pro Tem Solanki, Councilwoman Chen Walk Back Statements to Close Sheriff's Station

By Brian Hews

Cerritos Councilwoman Carol Chen along with Mayor pro tem Naresh Solanki led a major push to close the Cerritos Sheriff's station at a contentious June council meeting. Now the two, in separate letters, are walking back their controversial statements with sources telling Hews Media Group-Community News that the two "got an earful" from concerned residents after reading the article in Los Cerritos Community News.

Last week, HMG-CN published a letter from Mayor George Ray, who, along with Councilmen Mark Pulido and Jim Edwards, became incensed when Chen and Solanki abruptly, without notice or the item being placed on the agenda, attempted to close the Sheriff's Station.

Ray made a point in the letter that safety is the main concern trying to allay the concerns of residents after Chen and Solanki's statements.

The city is facing a \$6.6 million deficit for 2016-17 budget and it was agreed to in a prior council meeting, on a vote of 5-0, to approve the budget and then direct staff to analyze areas where they could cut expenses.

The Sheriff's station was never on the radar until Chen and Solanki, in violation of Roberts Rules of Order that govern council meetings, as well as ignoring public input, attempted to place the Sheriff's station to a vote instead of "agendizing" the item for a later meeting.

Now the two are walking back their

See **STATEMENTS** page 9

STRAWBERRY FIELDS FOREVER AT CERRITOS COLLEGE



Sources told HMG-CN that the Cerritos strawberry patch on Studebaker Road was sold for new construction. HMG-CN contacted College officials who said, "The strawberry field is owned by the District and is currently being leased to Manassero Farms. The Board has not discussed alternative uses for the land or given direction to re-develop the strawberry field."

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NLMUSD Migrant Education Students Celebrate Olympics

Staff Report

More than 100 students from Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District's migrant education program sang songs of unity for their parents and celebrated the Olympics during an open house at Edmondson Elementary School on July 19.

The event marked the end of the migrant education program's summer session. A 10-week Saturday session will commence in the fall.

Glazier Elementary School first-grade teacher Bradley Erickson was the program's music instructor and coordinated the performance of pre-kindergarteners through sixth-graders.

"The students are excited to come to music class every day," Erickson said. "I feel privileged to pass to them the same kind of inspiration I received as a child."

"The migrant education program is a wonderful example of the District providing student opportunities of access and equity while giving them a sense of connectedness within our community," NLMUSD Superintendent Dr. Hasmik Danielian said. "Our students should have every opportunity to succeed, regardless of their background."

Students have been able to enroll in the migrant education program for more than 20 years. NLMUSD teachers create their own curriculum, which focuses on bolstering literacy and communication skills, primarily through non-fiction reading. Students of all grade levels are



NLMUSD Migrant Education students showcase their musical talents on drums, recorders and keyboards while performing the Olympic Games theme music at Edmondson Elementary School.

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encouraged to work in teams, research subjects on iPads and expand their vocabulary.

"The students are such a joy to watch as they discover what they are capable of," NLMUSD Director of State and Federal Programs Mercedes Lovie said to parents at the performance. "We ask you to reach out to your friends and family to share our program at Norwalk-La Mirada, so we can serve more students from our community."

This summer, teachers used the upcoming Olympic games as an inspiration for daily studies. Parents were invited into classrooms to see their children's completed summer projects after the open house performance.

Hutchinson Middle School seventh-grader David Vera Robles and his classmates created a new Olympic game called "Trap the Torch."

"We learn about teamwork and how we can learn on our own," Robles said. "The important thing is to not be afraid of other people. You can achieve anything if you try hard enough."

Migrant education students can qualify for education and health services based on their parents' work, typically if their parents move from city to city looking for seasonal agricultural work. The program also provides workshops for parents to help their children succeed in school.

"Our teachers' dedication to our students is one of the main reasons why the District's migrant education program excels," NLMUSD Board President Karen Morrison said. "Thank you to our parents for their continued enthusiasm in supporting the program."

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CERRITOS AIR DISASTER 30TH ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE PLANNED

Staff Report

The community is invited to attend a Cerritos Air Disaster 30th Anniversary Remembrance at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, August 31.

The remembrance will be held at the Cerritos Air Disaster Memorial in the Cerritos Sculpture Garden, which is located in the Civic Center.

The event is in memory of the victims of the Cerritos Air Disaster, when two planes collided mid-air above a Cerritos neighborhood on August 31, 1986.

The accident claimed 82 lives, including 67 people on the planes and 15 people on the ground.

The Cerritos Air Disaster 30th



Anniversary Remembrance will include a brief formal ceremony with the Cerritos City Council; a reading of the victims' names; a prayer for the victims and their loved ones; and a moment of silence.

For more information, please call the City's Community Participation Division at (562) 865-8101.

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LA MIRADA AMPUTEE WILL COMPETE IN FIFTH TRIATHLON



33 year-old La Mirada resident George Garcia during last year's Nautica Triathlon. In 2009 Garcia was riding his dirt bike inside a desert campsite where 10 MPH is the normal speed. He was hit by a jeep going much faster than 10 MPH and subsequently lost his leg.

By Brian Hews and Tammye McDuff

We would all like to be called a hero at least once in our lifetime, to be defined as that one person who inspires by example, a person that can stir our emotions to a higher level.

George Garcia, a 33 year-old La Mirada resident, is just this type of hero. Garcia is an amputee who will compete in his fifth Nautica Malibu Triathlon this September.

On November 21st 2009, Garcia and some friends went off-road riding on the sand dunes in Galmis, California. "I grew up around motorcycles," said Garcia, "we would go out to the desert with my family and ride. I rode a three-wheeler when I was four years old."

Garcia went on about that fateful day, pausing to gather himself. This was the first interview where he was legally allowed to discuss the details of the accident.

"I was the only one of my group on a dirt bike. We went out around 1:00 in the afternoon, and just like every other time that I have left the campsite; you ride 10 miles per hour. Nobody races inside campsites."

Tragically, that was not the case for Garcia. As he pulled out of the campsite toward the sand dunes, a jeep style four-wheel vehicle speeding through the site slammed into Garcia, knocking him 20 feet clear of his bike.

"I got on my bike and wham, it all happened so fast. I just remember turning and looking at my friends, and they all had a shocked look on their face."

"At first, I was really mad that this guy hit me. I didn't feel any pain, and I was trying to get up to confront the guy."

A fellow camper who was a nurse saw the accident, came over to Garcia and told him not move. "I just remember saying the F-word a lot," recalls Garcia.

The nurse removed her shirt, and made a tourniquet to wrap around his leg. "I never got her name, but I still believe that she is the only reason that I am still alive."

Garcia could see his friends were in shock, and said that all he wanted to do was get up and hit the guy that knocked him off of his bike. "I remember thinking this guys just knocked me off my bike, I'm trying to get back up and everyone is

See **GARCIA** page 5

REGISTER FOR LA MIRADA FALL RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Staff Report

Registration for fall recreation classes, sports, and camps offered by the City of La Mirada began Wednesday, August 3.

Choices are endless with options ranging from arts and crafts, music and theatre, and sports and fitness. La Mirada Community Services offers hundreds of classes quarterly.

Residents of all ages are encouraged to sign up as there are classes offered for all. The City provides a wide variety of classes and sports to appeal to every interest.

Recreational youth sports offered

for the fall season includes Friday Night Football, Volleyball, and Volleytennis. Children ages 5 to 17 are encouraged to participate.

"These leagues are a great option for youth no matter their ability level," says Community Services Coordinator Josh Gire. "Coaches focus on teaching the basic fundamentals of the sport with an emphasis on having fun in a safe environment."

Complete class descriptions and registration information is included in the Fall issue of the City's newsletter and online at www.cityoflamirada.org.

For more information, call Community Services at (562) 943-7277.

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Metro Briefs

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Mobile Customer Center

Metro recently launched a mobile customer center that will provide services to seniors in underserved areas throughout LA County. Services will include intake of reduced fare applications and selling fare for TAP cards. To learn more about this program, visit metro.net/mobilecustomercenter.

New U-Pass Program Aimed at College Students

Metro recently launched a program that transforms an existing student's college ID into a transit pass through a special sticker with smart chip technology. U-Pass is a safe, speedy and secure way to travel to and from school, with unlimited rides on all Metro Rail and bus lines. To find out if your college is participating, visit metro.net/college or contact your school's transit administrator.

Free Metro Tours

Discover the artwork featured at the new Expo Line stations from Palms to Downtown Santa Monica, and the new Gold Line stations from Arcadia to Azusa, with a free tour led by the Metro Art Docent Council. Looking to learn how to ride the Metro system? Free guided rail tours also are available. Find out more and sign up at metro.net/art and metro.net/tours.



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SARI PALACE GRAND OPENING IN ARTESIA



Artesia Chamber membes, City VIP's, and local residents at the Sari Palace grand opening opening. Photo by Tammye McDuff.

By Tammye McDuff

The Artesia Chamber of Commerce, City VIP's and numerous Artesians attended the grand opening of the Sari Palace this past week.

Sari Palace was established in California in 1987 and has been riding high at the forefront of the Indian fashion scene for over 25 years. Inspired by the latest runway looks, they carry ready-to-wear collections suitable for any occasion and take pride in custom pieces. They take careful notes on each customer's personal style, measurements, form, and posture to create a unique piece highlighting a client's best feature.

The boutique has attracted clients from all over the country and the Palace is a perfect addition to the selection of custom design Ethnic Indian wear in the City of Artesia.

The Lenghas designs fulfill the sartorial needs of contemporary Indian women, of all ages and shapes. Their design philosophy lies in creating elaborate silhouettes while

celebrating tradition with contemporary style. Catering to tasteful party attire and bridal wear, their emphasis is on offering those fashionistas new and exciting expression. The Sari Palace can customize your lengha to detailed specifications, turning "bridal visions into reality".

"We design our suits for the quality and design conscious who value and appreciate the art of fashion, using vivacious colors, drama, and glamour. From simple statement pieces to heavily embroidered suits, we carry it all at Sari Palace. We carry straight pajami suits, anarkalis, floor length gowns, and salwaar kameez." The collection is truly amazing.

Anil and Asha Thakkar, the founders of the company, opened their first store in Berkley with one vision: to create a new a unique combination of fashion, lifestyle, and experience. This vision is what has made this boutique a valued franchise. Their daughter and son-in-law Heeral and Harikarishna Mehta, are co-owners and operate the new store in Artesia at 18619 Pioneer Boulevard.

DANIEL'S STORE COMING TO CERRITOS



Daniel's Furniture, Appliance, and Electronics Home Center will be coming in September to the former Rite-Aid building on Carmenita and Artesia. Photo by Brian Hews.

CERRITOS SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES

The Cerritos Senior Center offers a variety of recreational, educational, enrichment, fitness and wellness classes, health and human services, and special events for individuals 50 years and older. Registration for all classes is currently under way, unless noted otherwise. For programs that require registration and have a fee, please visit the Cerritos Senior Center. Seniors may also register for free information-only lectures by phone. Cerritos residents receive priority registration on all services. For more information, please call (562) 916-8550 or visit cerritos.us.

5 Money Questions for Women: Join a representative from an investment firm to learn about the five common questions women ask to maximize savings for their retirement. Free Tues., Aug. 9 10 a. m.

Taxes & Inflation: The 2 Biggest Risks to Retirement A local financial representative will discuss how to

minimize taxes and try and outpace inflation for a successful retirement. Free Wed., Aug. 10 1 p. m.

Secure Your Health: Prepare for the Unexpected Are you truly prepared for major illness, disability or other health issues? Learn about long term care, disability, insurance protection and Medicare supplements to take care of your future long term care and final expense needs. Free Thurs., Aug. 11 6 p.m.

Beading basics: This class is for beginners with an interest in making stunning jewelry. Learn the basics of jewelry design, materials selection, required tools, construction and finishing. Class participants will create two bracelets. Tools will be provided. A non-refundable \$10 materials fee is due to the instructor at the beginning of each class. \$25/1 class Thurs., Aug. 18 1-3 p. m.

LINDA SÁNCHEZ 14TH ANNUAL SENIOR FAIR

Norwalk, CA – Rep. Linda Sánchez (CA-38) invites constituents to attend her 14th Annual Senior Fair.

Every year, more than 1,000 seniors and dozens of local organizations participate in this free community event.

Attendees will have the opportunity to receive: Free health screenings for blood pressure, glucose, memory retention, vision, and skin/sun damage; Health education and information about food assistance programs; Information and advice regarding tax scams targeted at seniors, housing, and health and

retirement benefits; Consultation with the Social Security Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, and senior advocacy organizations; Consumer protection education; and much more.

Transportation may be available through local senior centers. Seniors can contact Rep. Linda Sánchez's Norwalk office at (562) 860-5050 for more information. The fair will occur Friday, August 12, 2016 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon at th Cerritos College, Student Center 11190 Alondra Blvd. Norwalk, CA 90650.

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NORWALK TANK FARM RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting of the Norwalk Tank Farm Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 16, 2016, at 4:00 p.m. at the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex, Hargitt Room, 13000 Clarkdale Avenue.** This meeting is open to the public.

The RAB is an advisory committee made up of citizens from the Norwalk area and representatives of Defense Logistics Agency - Energy (DLA Energy), Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, L.P. (KMPE), state regulators, and the City of Norwalk. The RAB reviews and comments on documents related to the environmental cleanup of the former Tank Farm.

The meeting's agenda tentatively includes updates on remediation system, semiannual monitoring results, site activities, and the ongoing remediation of shallow soil by DLA Energy. Documents relating to the cleanup are available for public review at the information repository located in the Norwalk Public Library reference section.

For more information, contact Molly Black: (562) 597-1055, molly.black@apexc.com or visit www.norwalkrab.com.

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GARCIA

Continued from page 3

screaming at me not to move.”

Then real panic set in as a Park Ranger who had come on the scene picked up Garcia’s boot and said, “I got his foot right here.”

The Ranger had Garcia’s riding boot and “literally poured my foot out of the boot.”

After that Garcia said everything went into slow motion as he went in and out of consciousness. He remembers the helicopter, the pain, and he can still hear the sound of the helicopter blades and the Park Ranger keeping him awake.

Garcia pauses again, silent tears are running down his cheek as he is reliving the ordeal. The collision resulted in the amputation of his leg, and very nearly the loss of his life. He went through a total of eight surgeries, spending one month in the hospital.

As many stories of real life heroes go, Garcia went through a dark time. He had lost his leg, he had lost his job, he had lost his way of life and he was fighting major depression. But on the advice of a friend, Garcia began to exercise, and at that point decided that he was not going to be ‘that guy’ that gets hooked on medication.

He did not have medical insurance, so he began to do things on his own. His physical therapy was aided by friends, family, motivational speakers and by following other successful amputees, “I used whatever I could find to fight and stay strong.”

Having been active all his life, Garcia decided that the best way to cope with this traumatic experience would be to throw himself into training. Less than a year after his accident, George competed in the Challenged Athletes Foundation and placed first in his age group. Since the start of George’s triathlon journey,



Garcia competes during the bike race stage of the triathlon.

he has competed in various races around Southern California, and earned multiple placements on the podium.

Garcia will be competing in his 5th Nautica Malibu Triathlon this September, “I never looked for sympathy,” he says, “I decided to always look for the opportunities instead.”

The Nautica Malibu Triathlon is presented by Equinox and welcomes athletes and spectators to the shores of Malibu, California for the event. Triathletes from around the country, corporate teams, professional athletes, Hollywood celebrities, and challenged athletes will gather to race on one of the most beautiful race courses in the sport of

triathlon all while supporting Children’s Hospital Los Angeles.

Two races will occur, the Herbalife International Distance Race on Saturday, September 17 will feature a 1.5K swim, a 40K bike race, and a 10k run. The Classic Distance Race will occur Sunday, September 18 and feature a half-mile swim, an 18-mile bike race, and a 4-mile run.

For more information contact MESP-Lifestyle Sports Marketing at (818) 707-8866; e-mail is info@nauticamalibutri.com.

CERRITOS CHAMBER TASTE OF THE REGION & BUSINESS EXPO PLANNED

Staff Report

The Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce will hold the "Taste of the Region & Business Expo" on Wednesday, September 28 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts. The one-day event, a nod to "Cuisine, Culture, and Commerce," showcases the best of the region’s food, music, restaurants and local businesses.

See TASTE page 10

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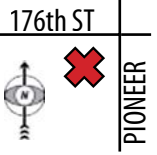
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Long Beach City College Offers Classes for Older Adults

Staff Report

The Pacific Coast Campus at LBCC Senior Studies Program for Lifetime Learning schedule of classes is now available. Registration for the classes is August 16, 17 and 18 from 8am to noon. The classes are designed to engage and inspire older adults mentally and physically.

Music Appreciation for Concert Goers & Musical Theatre Lovers is Mondays, August 22 to November 14, 2016 from 1-3 pm with Lucy Daggett and Sidney Hopkins. World Affairs and Current Events with Mary Thoits starts on Wednesday, August 24 through December 7, 2016

from 1-3 pm.

Computers, Internet and Social Media can be overwhelming especially with all the new technology. We are offering an 8 week class Friday, August 26 to October 14 from 10 am to noon.

Tai Chi Classes will be offered at both LBCC campuses. Fridays at 10:30 am at the LBCC Foundation building starting August 26 and Tuesdays at the Senior Studies Center starting October 4 at 10 am. The Lifetime Learning Program is a non-profit organizations and operates under the LBCC Foundation. For more information please call Theresa Brunella 562-938-3047 or 562-938-3048. www.lbcc.edu/Senior Center.

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OUT OF TOUCH

College Trustee Bob Arthur Attends Republican Convention, Zealously Supports Trump

OP/ED by Brian Hews

Hews Media Group-Community News received pictures from concerned residents and Cerritos College students that showed Cerritos College Trustee Bob Arthur vehemently supporting Chris Christie and Donald Trump at the Republican National Convention.

Arthur is out of touch.

One resident, who posted a video on his Facebook page, told HMG-CN that Arthur could be seen yelling "lock her up" during Christie's speech that slammed Hillary Clinton.

It is unknown how fellow Cerritos College Trustees will react to Arthur's attendance at the RNC, but the revelation is sure to cause dismay on the Cerritos College campus.

It certainly causes dismay with HMG-

CN and many should question whether Arthur is aware of his constituents or the students at Cerritos College.

The College District includes the heavily Hispanic communities of Artesia, Bellflower, Downey, Hawaiian Gardens, La Mirada, Norwalk, and portions of Bell Gardens, Lakewood, Long Beach, Santa Fe Springs and South Gate.

Cerritos College ranks second in the state for Mexican-American/Latino student transfers to California State Universities.

It is well-documented that Trump will call for the deportation of 11 million Mexicans if he is elected president.

Many prominent Republicans and ex-presidents refused to attend, speak or endorse Trump at the RNC including the Bush's, Mitt Romney, John McCain, former Gov. Tom Ridge, Sen. Lindsey Graham, and others.

So why not Trustee Arthur? I guess he wanted to enjoy \$150 shellfish towers.

After the Democratic National Convention, several prominent Republican TV and radio show hosts denounced Trump.

Arthur is a former mayor and councilman of Norwalk and past member of the Board of the LACMTA. He was elected to the board in 1995 and was re-elected to represent Trustee Area 1 in 2012.

Arthur's own Facebook page validated his support of the controversial Trump saying, "Yep. That was me. What an experience. Exciting, fun, humbling and educational."

Arthur was also seen on other Facebook pages shamelessly enjoying extravagant meals at Cleveland restaurants.

Out of touch.



LEFT: Trustee Bob Arthur at the RNC convention. RIGHT: Arthur at a Cleveland restaurant with other RNC attendees.

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Kendall, 7-years-old, Miller Children's Scoliosis Patient

DOWNEY HOSTS ALTERNATIVE TO COMICON

By Tammye McDuff

The second annual mini ComicCon is back by popular demand! Everyone wants to visit the original ComiCon in San Diego, but tickets are hard to come by and it isn't exactly the best place to bring a little one. The city of Downey has come up with a great alternative, just right to bring children of any age.

Saturday, July 30th the Downey City Library held a family free event with photo opportunities, heroes, villains, thousands of new and vintage comic books, games, crafts, and local comic artists showcasing their newest editions.

Everyone was encouraged to dress as their favorite comic book hero, video game character or movie mega star. But not to worry If children did not come in costume, they could make a superhero cape, mask, disguise or choose from one of 40 superheroes to have painted on their faces by Taylor Entertainment Company or Princess Leia.

The 'Legion of Vendors' included Comic Book Hideout - selling comics, art and happiness; Dawson Perler Parlor - featuring hand designed superhero clothing and accessories ; Yolite Muniga Comics - displaying vintage comic books and Kings Collectibles - showcasing superhero dolls, toys and trinkets than you can imagine. Activities and games were hosted by Luke Skywalker and the gaming truck Mobile Games Theater

Special guests and photo opportunities were available with numerous onsite celebrities such as Storm Troopers, Ant Man. Batman and the Imperial Ruling Council, the most powerful collective body in the galaxy.

Extraordinary artists were on site exhibiting their latest creations and signing limited edition comic books in Artist



Downey native Daniel Delgado originator of Bad Apple and Repo: Thief for Hire. Photo by Tammye McDuff.

Alley.

Chuck Patton is a DC / Marvel artist best known in comic's circles for his work on DC Comics' Justice League of America, when the team relocated to Detroit, Michigan, and was staffed with new, multicultural super-heroes. While working with writer Gerry Conway, Patton created Gypsy and Vibe, as well as redesigning Vixen and Steel: The Indestructible Man.

Pepe Melan is the creator of 'Tales of Blood & Fire' and has worked as a freelance artist since 1987. He describes his style as mix of grit, surrealism, and urban art. Over the years his talent has earned him credit

for the cartoon P.J. Funny Bunny and as a graphic designer for the musical artist Prince.

Daniel Delgado, otherwise known as 'Bad Apple: Repo Thief for Hire' from T.R.I.B.E. Comics is one man who in a world where criminals are looking to take control of the streets, Repo is looking to cash in on all their needs.

Other artists and writer in Artist Alley included Doug Zolondek, creator of Ghost Gun; film animator Jose Guillen; Don Walker, creator and designer of Reaper Corps and Cholo Libre originator John Narcomey.



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AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION 14-U 'B' WESTERN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

LATE RALLY BY CERRITOS 14-UNDER ALL-STARS FALLS SHORT IN FINAL SUMMER TOURNAMENT

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on Twitter

LA HABRA-A roller coaster of a 2016 summer season came to an end for the Cerritos Girls Softball Association 14-Under All-Stars as the team needed one or even two more hits to advance farther in the Amateur Softball Association 14-U 'B' Western National Championship. Once down by eight runs, the Cerritos Fury chipped away and had the tying run at second before a strikeout ended the game in an 11-9 loss to Ontario last Saturday afternoon at Sonora High.

"I had confidence in the team itself, especially having the last ups," said Cerritos Fury manager Carlos Acosta. "I thought we really, really had a good chance of beating these guys. We've done it before over at states. But every game is different, obviously.

"They've always had the ability to fight, and that was one of the speeches I gave to them just before the game," he continued. "It came down to the very last pitch."

After Ontario scored three runs in the top of the first inning, Cerritos got on the board in its half of the frame when Jade Tully walked center fielder Kaylee Logan (Mayfair High), gave up a single to catcher Abigail Hernandez (Gahr High) and walked third baseman Kyla Nunez-O'Leary (Valley Christian High) to load the bases with none out. Following a strikeout, Tully walked designated player Kaylynn Cebula (Mayfair High) to bring home Logan.

But Ontario would send 10 players to bat in the next inning, scoring half a dozen runs to hold what it thought was a commanding 9-1 lead. However, the Fury responded in a big way in the bottom of the second as 11 came to the plate. There were four walks and three singles and the bases were loaded four times. Despite all of that, Hernandez would get the lone run-scoring hit. Ontario bounced back to get two more runs in the third to lead 11-6, but Cerritos wasn't done yet.

Logan would reach second on an error to lead off the third and would score two outs later when shortstop Brooklyn Bedolla (Mayfair High) was safe on an error. In the fourth, a walk was issued to right fielder Maryellen Membreno (Gahr High), who would then steal second and come home on a throwing error.

In the fifth, Nunez-O'Leary and Bedolla reached on the 10th and 11th walks issued by Ontario pitchers. Cebula would then be hit by a pitch to load the bases with none out. Left fielder Amely Arrayga (Whittier High) would be safe on Ontario's fourth error, allowing Nunez-O'Leary to score. But a pop-up, a fielder's choice and a strikeout would end the Fury's season.

Cerritos was limited to five hits but had 18 other runners reach base in other ways. In contrast, Ontario collected a dozen hits off of Caitlyn Azevedo (Valley Christian High), who pitched all 11 innings in a pair of games played in temperatures around 90 degrees with humid conditions on the day. She would walk one and five of the runs were earned.

"Caitlyn came through this all-star tournament with some power," Acosta said. "She had an issue during the all-star season; we didn't have her for three weekends in a row. But she came on strong. She said she was ready to pitch and go on with everything here. She just has the ability to make her pitches, which this last game she did. Her curve was breaking great and her screwball was working."

Earlier in the day, Cerritos stayed alive in the loser's bracket by holding off Monterey Park 8-7. Cerritos had an 8-2 lead going into the bottom of the sixth and Azevedo just escaped having to face Danielle Rivera, who was standing in the on-deck circle representing the winning run. Rivera had homered in her previous two at-bats, the second one leading off the inning.

The Fury was holding a 1-0 lead when Bedolla cracked a three-run shot over the left field fence in the top of the third to make it 4-0. After Monterey Park cut that lead into half on a two-run home run from Rivera, Cerritos pushed across four more runs in the top of the sixth.

Cebula led off with a double and scored when Arrayga was safe on an error. She would later come home on a wild pitch and after one out and pinch runner Angelina Pool (Valley Christian High) on third, Daisy Martinez (Cerritos High) reached first on a fielder's choice, allowing Pool to score. After battling to a full count, Logan beat out an infield single to plate Martinez for the eventual game-winner.

See ALL STARS page 10



HMG-CN Sports Editor Loren Kopff

NEWS AND NOTES FROM PRESS ROW

SUMMER SOFTBALL SEASON OVER AS FALL HIGH SCHOOL CAMPAIGN APPROACHES

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on Twitter

Now that the summer travel and recreation softball seasons have come to an end for the Artesia Punishers and the Cerritos Girls Softball Association, it's time to turn our attention to the upcoming 2016-2017 academic school year. The first day of school for John Glenn and Norwalk High will be on Aug. 17 while Artesia, Cerritos, Gahr, Valley Christian and Whitney High Schools will begin classes on Aug. 29.

Beginning with the Aug. 12 issue and leading up to the first full Friday night of games, I will be having my yearly football previews, beginning with the Artesia and Cerritos previews. I will then have two more schools in each of the next two issues after that, followed by the girls volleyball previews.

The week zero slate of games for are

See NEWS AND NOTES page 10

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COUNCIL APPOINTMENT

Continued from page 1

individuals to fill the vacant position. There are many capable people out there.”

Mayor Mike Mendez told HMG-CN, “It would be nice to give someone an opportunity but the other two (Kelley and Shryock) don’t agree, they have the right to vote that way, but what could it hurt to consider appointees instead of costing the City money?”

Former Mayor and Councilman Gordon Stefenhagen was mentioned in both conversations HMG-CN had with Vernola and Mendez and both agreed Stefenhagen would a great choice.

“That would be seamless,” said Mayor Mendez, “and he would not run in March.”

California Government Code 36512 provides that the council must, within 60 days from the date of the vacancy, either fill the vacancy by appointment or call a special election to fill the vacancy. A person appointed or elected to fill a vacancy holds office for the unexpired term of the former incumbent.

If the city council chooses to fill the vacancy through a special election – or if the council seeks to fill the position by appointment but does not do so within 60 days of the vacancy – the special election must be held on the next regularly established election date not less than 114 days from the call of the election.

Government Code section 36512 provides the city council with another option. The council may choose to adopt an ordinance to govern the process for filling a vacancy.

The ordinance may adopt any of the three following approaches for filling vacancies:

1. It may require that a special election be called immediately to fill every city council vacancy. The ordinance must provide that the special election will be held on the next regularly established election date not less than 114 days from the call of the special election.

2. It may require that a special election be held to fill a city council vacancy when petitions bearing a specified number of verified signatures are filed. The ordinance must provide that the special election shall be held on the next regularly established election date not less than 114 days from the filing of the petition. A city council that has enacted such an ordinance may also call a special election without waiting for the filing of a petition.

3. It may provide that a person appointed to fill a vacancy on the city council holds office only until the date of a special election which shall immediately be called to fill the remainder of the term. The special election may be held on the date of the next regularly established election or regularly scheduled municipal election to be held throughout the city not less than 114 days from the call of the special election.

Because a decision has not been made, any new vote between July 16th and August 29th will push the election to the next established election date, which is March 7, 2017, and the City’s regularly scheduled election. Consequently, the March ballot could now list three City Council seats; two full four-year terms and one two-year term.

A final option is for a person or organization to file a lawsuit and compel the council to act.

HMG-CN contacted Corona based attorney Chad Morgan, an election law specialist, who confirmed the time frame to either appoint or hold a special election.

“Quite frankly, I have never heard of this happening,” Morgan said. When asked if a person or organization can sue the

City for failing to appoint a replacement councilperson Morgan said, “they can file a Writ of Mandate which orders a public agency or governmental body to perform an act required by law when it has neglected or refused to do so.

The court will order a hearing and consider the evidence on the writ and afterwards either issue the writ or deny the petition.”

If they issue the writ, the court can compel the City to appoint a councilmember or hold a special election per election code 36512.

“I would suspect if they cannot come to a consensus, that the judge would order a special election, but the judge could also compel them to try to appoint one more time, then if there is not a consensus, he can order a special election.”

In a brief statement, signalling that she is willing to wait seven months to fill the vacancy or incur a lawsuit, Vice Mayor Kelley told HMG-CN, “the “Special” election you refer to would be held on March 7, 2017 which is the regular city election.” The cost is already in the budget.

Texts into Shryock went unanswered.

STATEMENTS

Continued from page 1

statements in an attempt to placate angry residents.

HMG-CN obtained a private email, that was **not sent to HMG-CN**, written by Carol Chen contradicting her statement at the June meeting that said:

Dear all,

As you may or may not know, the City is facing budget deficit of approximately \$6.5 million in the 2016-17 fiscal year. This is a situation that the City has faced since the onset of the economic recession in 2008 and was exacerbated by the dissolution of redevelopment in California beginning in 2011. The loss of redevelopment alone cost the City approximately \$30 million in annual tax increment revenue, eliminated over \$4 million in staff time reimbursement and caused the City to assume responsibility for obligations of the former redevelopment agency in excess of \$800K annually.

In addition to these significant losses, the City has had to contend with the continued and unabated escalation in prices for everything from contact labor (including the Sheriff’s contract) and insurance costs to costs for the acquisition of the goods and materials that the City relies upon to support our daily operations. Through these challenges, the City has committed to maintain service and programming levels while struggling to identify a means to offset the losses brought about by the dissolution of redevelopment.

We have reached a point where the existing budget deficit is no longer sustainable and continued operation of the City on a deficit position compromises the long-term financial health of the City. In addition, the deficit placed the City in a position where it must defer critical infrastructure maintenance projects-projects that are necessary for the City to be able to continue to maintain basic fundamental service levels, such as regular scheduled tree trimming, sidewalk and street replacement.

The City Council is committed to addressing the issue and once again place the City on solid financial footing. As part of that commitment, the City Council will be completing a thorough review of all expenses within the budget in an effort to

identify areas in which adjustments can be made to resolve the deficit. The review will also include a study of potential options to generate additional revenue. This review will begin at the City Council meeting of August 25. I invite you to attend and provide the Council with your input in person or email/call me with your comments and suggestions.

Please be assured, there have been no reductions or modifications to any of the existing services or program levels within the 2016-2017 budget. Further, no changes will be made without the opportunity for residents and businesses to provide significant input on any proposal. The City Council relies upon your input and input of all Cerritos citizens to help guide the difficult decisions that need to be made in order to address the budget condition that we currently face.

*Sincerely,
Carol*

Solanki released a letter that contradicted his statement at the June meeting that said:

Cerritos Mayor George Ray recently penned an article regarding the importance of public safety and law enforcement in our City.

I would like to voice my strong support of the Mayor’s sentiments and reiterate how safety is given a top priority in Cerritos on an annual basis.

I am grateful to our residents, Cerritos Sheriff’s Station, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s personnel and the City for their efforts to work together to ensure the protection of our community and to make it an exceptional place to live.

Nothing is more important to our

continuing quality of life than public safety.

Through the City’s outstanding level of police services, comprehensive law enforcement programs, Neighborhood Watch program, Virtual Block Club, Safer Cerritos website, Volunteers on Patrol and more, safety will continue to be considered an item of highest importance in Cerritos.

I want our residents and community members to rest assured that I will always give total consideration to the safety of our community.

Please feel free to contact me at City Hall at (562) 860-0311 or send me an e-mail through the City’s website at cerritos.us at any time with your questions or comments.

I look forward to working with our community to keep our City safe and to make it even safer well into the future.

*Naresh Solanki
Mayor Pro Tem*

PARKS

Continued from page 1

surfacing. The Community Gymnasium playground was expanded and modeled with a pirate ship theme. The parks were also renovated to enhance accessibility.

“Bring your children to climb, slide, and play at La Mirada’s newest playgrounds,” says Community Services Director Lori Thompson.

“Playgrounds encourage the healthy development of a child’s physical, motor, social, and cognitive skills.”

Plans are in progress to make similar playground improvements at Gardenhill and Windermere Parks next year.

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ALL STARS

Continued from page 8

“Thank god for that three-run home run; that made the difference there because we won that game by a run,” Acosta said. “It seemed to have been one of our problems all season. As soon the other team has their last ups, [we would] fall apart. But this time they were able to hold it and I think Brooklyn’s home run is the run that really gave us the push.”

Cerritos began pool play action of the tournament with a come from behind 8-7 win over Los Altos on July 27 at La Bonita Park. Cerritos led 4-1 heading into the top of the sixth before surrendering six runs. But in the bottom half of the inning, Cebula had a single and one out later, Hernandez had a base hit as well before a walk issued to Nunez-O’Leary loaded the bases. A single from Bedolla would score Cebula and Azevedo would double in a pair of runs. Bedolla would score the game-winner on a passed ball.

The next day, the Fury would open up a 3-0 lead to Coronado, only to give up three runs in the bottom of the sixth to fall 4-3. In the first, Hernandez doubled to center and scored on a base hit from Nunez-O’Leary. One inning later and with two outs, Martinez was safe on an error and Logan was walked. Both would then come home on a double from Hernandez.

Later in the day, Cerritos would get blanked by Fullerton Hills 15-0 in the first playoff game. The Fury would get just three runners on base-a two-out walk issued to Arrayga in the bottom of the second followed by a base hit from Membreno and a one-out single from Logan in the third.

This has been an up and down summer for the Cerritos Fury. The team played

its first three tournaments as ‘B’ status before dropping to the ‘C’ classification for the Los Angeles/South Bay District Tournament June 17-19. Despite going two and out, it was invited to the state ‘C’ tournament when another team dropped out. There, the Fury went 2-2 with both wins coming against Monterey Park and Ontario and both losses coming by one run each. The Fury still played in 17 tournament games this summer.

“The reason why we dropped to ‘C’ is because we lost our number one pitcher during those three weeks,” Acosta said. “So I figured if we dropped down to ‘C’, it would give the team a little bit more competition to see what her status was going to be, whether she would come back or not. When she said she would come back, I kept the team down at ‘C’ and said, ‘let’s see what we can do’

“Honestly, I had fun,” Acosta later added. “A lot of kids progressed on this team. There were first-time players ever playing.”

In addition, the team has been playing with heavy hearts as one of its players, Gemma Bulthuis, fell seriously ill just before the first game of the state tournament and has been in the hospital since then. All of the players have since worn a “5” patch on their jerseys, which was her uniform number.

“It actually started out Caitlyn Azevedo, our number one pitcher, when she went down,” Acosta said. “And the Gemma had taken over for her. She was doing all of the pitching then, which that kid plays with a tremendous heart for the game.”

The other Cerritos Fury players are Estrella Anguiano (Paramount High) and Jillian Velazquez St. Joseph High). The coaching staff consisted of Sal Bedolla and Brian Bulthuis and the team mom was Gina Bulthuis.

NEWS AND NOTES

Continued from page 8

teams, which will be on Aug. 26, will be Pioneer High at Artesia, Gahr at Valley Christian, Magnolia High at Glenn and Norwalk at El Rancho High. Cerritos, which will play a nine-game schedule, will have its season opener at Bolsa Grande High on Sept. 2. For those who follow me on Twitter, I will be covering the Gahr at Valley Christian game.

The first girls volleyball matches for all of the schools will vary but will start as early as Aug. 24 when Gahr hosts La Salle High and V.C. is home to California High.

There will be a new look for all of the sports this season as the California Interscholastic Federation-Southern Section has regrouped its playoff divisions to bring more balance and equity for everyone. I will be sitting down with CIF-SS Commissioner of Athletics Rob Wigod next week to discuss this, as well as other topics, but in a nutshell, teams will no longer have to stay with their respective leagues once playoffs begin.

For example, Norwalk and Valley Christian football are now in Division nine along with 27 other schools, Gahr in Division 10 with 37 other schools, Artesia is one of 46 schools in Division 12 and Cerritos and Glenn are two of the 84 schools in Division 13.

Also on the horizon for the CIF-SS will be new beginning and ending dates for all of its athletic contests beginning in the 2018-2019 academic school year. In two years, the week zero game will begin on Aug. 17 with the last game taking place before Halloween and the divisional finals to be held Nov. 23 and 24.

That also means the winter and spring

seasons will also begin and end earlier than what we have been accustomed to for many years. The first regular season basketball and soccer games will begin as early as Nov. 12, 2018 and end either Jan. 31 or Feb. 1 while the track and field state finals will take place before Memorial Day. Again, more on all of the changes will be detailed following my interview with Commissioner Wigod.

TASTE

Continued from page 5

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