

ARTESIA LIVE DEVELOPERS HOLD NEW YEAR'S EVENT AT ARTESIA DES

By Larry Caballero

More than 200 special guests and supporters were invited, by Cornerstone Artesia Development, LLC, to a New Year Party Jan. 5 at the DES Portuguese Hall in Artesia, to thank them for their continued support of the Artesia Live projects scheduled to be built in the City.

ARTESIA LIVE I, the first project to be approved, is marketed as "a vibrant seven-story urban lifestyle complex encompassing an upscale Marriott hotel, luxurious condominiums, boutique shops, and trendy restaurants."

Keynote speaker California State Treasurer John Chiang congratulated Artesia for having a vision to think big. Earlier in the day he had spoken at a Breakfast Club event sponsored by Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva where he also spoke about the issues affecting California's cities from

See ARTESIA LIVE page 9



Pictured from (l-r): San Gabriel City Councilman Jason Pu, Cornerstone Artesia Development, LLC (CAD, LLC) Project Manager and leading architect Tom Lau, CAD, LLC Vice-President Betsy Lee, CAD, LLC President Winston Liu, Artesia Councilman Ali Taj, Mayor pro tem Tony Lima, Mayor Sally Flowers, Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia, State Treasurer John Chiang Artesia Councilman Victor Manalo and Miguel Canales, Cerritos College Clerk of the Board Dr. Shin Liu, and Artesia Chamber VP Parimal Shah. Photo by Lou Delgado.

HMG-CN EXCLUSIVE: MENDOZA ACCUSER ADRIANA RUELAS' HISTORY INCLUDES RETALIATION LAWSUIT AGAINST DIFFERENT EMPLOYER

By Brian Hews

Last week, Adriana Ruelas, longtime Capitol employee and former legislative director for State Senator Tony Mendoza, filed a "right to sue" discrimination complaint against Mendoza, the California Senate and two legislative officials. The complaint alleges that she was retaliated against for reporting sexual harassment by Mendoza.

Ruelas filed her complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing, a necessary preliminary step the

See MENDOZA page 14

NORWALK COUNCIL APPOINTS NEW CITY MANAGER

Norwalk News Service



JESUS GOMEZ

The Norwalk City Council has unanimously appointed Jesus Gomez as the new City Manager for the City of Norwalk following a five month recruitment process. At the January 16, 2018 meeting, the City Council is expected to finalize his employment contract. Mr. Gomez will then assume the duties of City Manager on February 1, 2018.

"We are extremely excited to have Mr. Gomez come back to the City of Norwalk where he began his public service career almost 30 years ago. The proven track record of Mr. Gomez in the area of economic development and his private sector investment banking experience impressed all of us during the interview process," said Mayor Luigi Vernola. "We are confident that Jesus will hit the ground running and the City will benefit immediately from his results-oriented approach towards economic development in expanding our economic base. In addition, his innovative approach of instituting 'service area policing' which he launched in his previous city will

be an asset to our community," the Mayor expressed. Vice Mayor Leonard Shryock stated that "The entire City Council looks forward to working with Jesus and are eager for him to join our City team."

Jesus Gomez began his career in public service 29 years ago serving the cities of Norwalk and El Monte. Beginning his career in the City of Norwalk in 1989 as a Planning Intern, he worked his way through several departments over the course of ten years first as a Management Assistant in Public Works, then as a Budget Analyst in the City Manager's office and ultimately as a Revenue and Budget Coordinator in the Finance Department. Mr. Gomez is currently the City Manager for the City of El Monte and previously served as the Assistant City Manager and the Economic Development Director.

Under his leadership and the leadership of the El Monte City Council, Mr. Gomez was proactive in leading and implementing El Monte's "Billion Dollar Investment Initiative" which resulted in the approval and construction of over a billion dollars of private and public investments. Major projects completed or under construction include "The Exchange at Gateway" a transit-oriented mixed-use project adja-

See NORWALK page 6

LA MIRADA WELCOMES NEW LIEUTENANT TO CITY'S STATION

By Brian Hews



LT. JEFF DUSKY

The La Mirada City Council recently introduced Los Angeles County Sheriff's Lieutenant Jeff Dusky, who will serve as the new La Mirada Service Area Lieutenant.

Lt. Dusky is a 31-year veteran of the County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. He has worked on a variety of assignments at Norwalk, Firestone, and Lynwood Sheriff's Station and Field Operations Support Services from 1989 to 2000. During those years in Field Operations, he was a member of La Mirada's Special Assignment Of-

See LA MIRADA page 14

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HOLY @&%*!@: BATMAN '66 EXHIBIT OPENS AT HOLLYWOOD MUSEUM

By Tammye McDuff

The world's most famous Hollywood Museum located in the historic Max Factor Building, will host the first ever "BATMAN '66" exhibit which will be open to the public January 12, 2018, the anniversary date of the 1966 premiere of the ABC TV series 'Batman'.

As the iconic Bat Signal shown high above the Hollywood Museum, Highland Avenue resembled Gotham City at the VIP gala "Holy Hollywood History! Batman '66" which was graced by special appearances of original remaining cast members Burt Ward [Robin], Julie Newmar [Catwoman] and Barbara Rush [Nora Clavicle, villainess].

Sitting outside the main entrance of the Museum was the recognizable Bat Mobile. In 1955, the Lincoln division of Ford Motor Company designed and built a futuristic concept car called the Lincoln future. It was built entirely by hand in Italy with a cost of \$250,000. Like most concept cars it was never put into production; however George Barris of Barris Kustom City acquired the car for \$1 in the 1960's. Barris later sold the first Batmobile for \$4,200,000.

The exhibit consists of four popular displays from the trendy series, Wayne Manor, The Batcave, Gallery of guest super villains' and the collectable items based on the show. A special tribute to the dynamic duo Adam West [Batman] and Burt Ward [Robin] is also on show.

The Batman '66 exhibit features original costumes and props which have not been seen since the original broadcast. Donelle Dadigan, President and Co-founder



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of the Hollywood Museum noted, "We have costumes and props that evoke one's childhood memories of the ever popular television series. There is something for everyone, from the Batmobile and Batcycle to Burt and Adam's original clothing worn during the show." Dadigan added that one of her favorite displays is that of the original Dr. Casandra. The villainess had a grand scheme against Gotham City through invisibility pills and spellcraft. Dr. Casandra was played by Ida Lupino and the attire has never been seen publicly until now.

Other highlights include costumes from The Riddler, The Joker, The Penguin, Mr. Freeze and life size sculptures of the three famous women, Eartha Kitt, Lee Meriwether and the juicy Julie Newmar, who brought Catwoman to life. The extensive exhibit, located on the third floor features sought after collectibles, the 'gotta-have' lunch box, action figures, puppets, rare Batman Ice Cream boxes, board games and the infamous Batman utility belt.

Boy Wonder, Burt Ward, remarked, "I am excited to see all of this. It is like a homecoming to reunite with these items and to remember my friend and crime fighting partner, Adam West." The release of Warner Bros. animated films 'Batman: Return of the Caped Crusader' and "Batman vs. Two Face" has sparked a renewed interest in the original series, which infuses "Batman '66" with reinvigorated fervor.

From caped crusader to canine campaigner, Ward and his wife have spent years of research and testing, to create a natural dog food called Gentle Giants. Gentle Giants Products manufacturers all natural Gentle Giants dog food which is sold in more than 1,250 stores in California, and in 339 WalMart Supercenters.

The Hollywood Museum hosts 10,000 authentic show business treasures, highlighting over 100 years of Hollywood history on four floors.

LOS ANGELES' LARGEST 'ROSCA DE REYES' IN DOWNEY



ABOVE: Measuring 24 feet x 2.5 feet the rosca competes for a place in the records as Los Angeles largest ever Rosca de Reyes.

BELOW: Downey Council, Mayor Pro Tem Rick Rodriguez, Mayor Sean Ashton and Council woman Blanca Pacheco are ready to pass out tasty treats to Downey residents.

Photos courtesy of Hans Fritz, HKF Consulting LLC.



By Tammye McDuff

Honoring one of the most cherished holiday traditions in the Latino community, the California Milk Processor Board, alongside Portos Bakery and the Downey City Council unveiled an enormous Rosca de Reyes on January 5, 2018, to commemorate 'Three Kings Day'.

Measuring 24 feet x 2.5 feet the rosca competes for a place in the records as Los Angeles largest ever Rosca de Reyes. The rosca is ring shaped sweet bread adorned with dried and candied fruits, figs, quinces and cherries. To create this rosca, 60 pounds of flour was needed, 70 eggs, 12 pounds of sugar and 18 pounds of butter. Roughly weighing in at 125 pounds of dough, 48 large sticks of rosca were baked to put together this 24 foot pastry.

The rosca is traditionally eaten on January 6th during the celebration of the Dia de Reyes, literally translating as 'Kings' Day', which commemorates the arrival of the three Magi or Wise Men. In many Hispanic communities in the United States, this is the day when children traditionally get presents, which are attributed to the Three Wise Men. Before the children go to bed, they leave a dish filled with biscuits and a few glasses of water for the three wise men and the camels. A plastic baby Jesus is hidden in the bread. Whoever finds the figurine is blessed and must take the figurine to the nearest church on February 2nd for the celebration of Candlemas Day. The person then has the responsibility of hosting a dinner and providing tamales and atole to their guests. In communities with large Mexican and Mexican-American populations, such

as Los Angeles, the celebration includes the Mexican hominy stew pozole, which is made for all one's neighbors.

Adding to the festivities, attendees took pictures with the rosca, guessed its dimensions and looked to find small trinkets hidden inside for a chance to win toys and prizes. An arts and crafts area was open for children to create their own carta a los reyes, or letter to the Kings. Dance group Ballet Folklorico Mexico Azteca added to the event with colorful and joyful performances.

Steve James, Executive Director for the California Milk Processor Board knows the value and importance Downey residents place on roots and traditional values, "We are pleased that milk continues to have a featured place at dinner tables during special occasions and year round." Donations were given to Careers through Culinary Arts Program [C-CAP] and Homegirl Café by the California Milk Processor Board.

"We are proud to keep this much loved holiday tradition alive in our community," said Betty Porto, Vice President of Community Relations, "Celebrating these traditions together with family and friends is what keeps our communities connected to each other and thriving."

On hand to help with the unveiling was Downey Mayor Sean Ashton, noted this first time presentation was a great tradition to add to the calendar of events and Mayor Pro Tem Rick Rodriguez added, "As You can see the line is all the way around the block. And that's what Portos is, a family business, and when they do things the family is the center of their business model and everyone comes out to support them."

SHERATON CERRITOS HOTEL REMODEL

The City Council recently approved Phase I upgrade plans for the Sheraton Cerritos Hotel located at 12725 Center Court Drive.

Under Phase I, the hotel owner, Crown Jewel of Pacifica, seeks to improve the hotel's lobby, registration area, food and beverage spaces, pre-function areas, ballrooms, meeting rooms, pool and terrace areas and exterior patio spaces.

The project includes new flooring, decorative lighting, artwork, furniture, carpeting, accents and wall finishes.

The lobby's elevators will be resurfaced and the existing fountains will be removed to improve accessibility and flow.

The current registration counter will be removed and new reception host

stands will be erected.

The bar and restaurant will feature a new bar configuration that extends to the exterior patio, which will house two new steel shade structures, upgraded landscape and hardscape improvements.

FESTIVAL OF FRIENDSHIP

The community is invited to celebrate Cerritos' rich cultural diversity at the City's Festival of Friendship from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, February 3. The festival will be held in the Los Cerritos Center.

The Festival of Friendship will feature a variety of cultural entertainment on stages throughout the mall. Local groups will perform an assortment of cultural songs and dances.

For more information, call the City's Recreation Services Division at (562) 916-1254.



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NEW DEVELOPMENTS UNDER WAY IN CITY OF CERRITOS

By Cerritos Mayor Grace Hu



Cerritos Mayor Grace Hu

The City of Cerritos is beginning the New Year with several new developments under way or coming soon. The City looks forward to another year of progress as we welcome these projects, which help keep Cerritos current

and attractive to all those who visit or live and work in our community.

Penske Jaguar/Land Rover of Cerritos will be undergoing a remodel of its existing dealership this year. Plans call for a minor addition and a remodel to the interior and exterior of the offices and service canopy. The showroom will be expanded and the remodel will adopt a contemporary design. Work is scheduled to begin in May and to be completed by early 2019.

Other Cerritos Auto Square dealerships with recent expansions include Cerritos Acura, which will soon sport an expanded showroom, parts, service and office space. The renovation also includes the addition of a conference room, locker room, storage and office space. Construction at the Cerritos Mazda dealership will begin soon and will include a new contemporary architectural design, landscaping and upgraded parking lot.

The Bank of America branch at the Los Cerritos Center also will be upgraded. Interior and exterior updates will be made to the existing building, drive-through ATM canopy, parking lot

and adjacent landscaping. The building will feature a more modernized appearance in addition to new signage. The project is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2018.

J.P. Morgan Chase will construct a new stand-alone building with a drive-through service ATM in the Los Cerritos Center parking lot. The former Allen Tire Company building has been demolished and parking lot improvements will be made.

The existing Coco's restaurant building in the Fountain Plaza shopping center will be remodeled in preparation for a new tenant, Lunasia Dim Sum House. Changes will be made to the exterior façade, landscape, hardscape and signs. Construction is tentatively scheduled to commence in March and to be completed by September.

The Sheraton Cerritos Hotel will undergo property improvements starting this month. The project includes improvements to the hotel's lobby, registration area, food and beverage spaces, pre-function areas, ballrooms, meeting rooms, pool and terrace areas and exterior patio spaces. New flooring, lighting, furniture, accents and wall finishes also will be installed. The lobby's elevators will be resurfaced and the bar and restaurant will feature a new configuration that extends to the exterior patio. The project is expected to be completed by August.

At the College Square shopping center, a new Starbucks is expected to open this month in the building that was formerly Kentucky Fried Chicken. The Starbucks will include a drive-through. Chipotle Mexican Grill will

open a new restaurant in the space previously occupied by Red Chile Mexican Restaurant.

The City will welcome Eureka! American Restaurant to the Plaza 183 shopping center this year. The restaurant is an All-American scratch kitchen and craft beer bar specializing in gourmet burgers. Also coming soon to Plaza 183 is Wokcano Asian Restaurant, which features innovative signature modern Asian cuisine dishes.

It was recently revealed that HomeGoods Inc. will open at the Cerritos Towne Center, in the 24,000-square-foot space that was formerly Golfsmith. HomeGoods offers kitchen essentials, lighting, bedding, bath and other home furnishings at discounted prices.

Continuing its mission to upgrade all of the City parks, the City will use a grant from the CPRS State-wide Healthy Play Initiative to make improvements to Loma Park. The park will receive new climbers, slides and swings designed for children ages 5 to 12. Six key elements of play will be incorporated into the play equipment design, including balancing, spinning, brachiating (arm-swinging), sliding, climbing and swinging. The Cerritos Sports Complex is currently undergoing field renovation to restore turf and work on other areas of the facility. It is expected to re-open at the end of the month.

The City of Cerritos looks forward to the completion of all of these upcoming developments and more. I wish all of the members of our community a Happy New Year.

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BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF CYPRESS PARTICIPATES IN HOLIDAY "SHOP WITH A COP"

Six Boys & Girls Club of Cypress members were selected to participate in the Cypress "Shop with a Cop" Program.

The program was created in 2000 to foster positive relationships between youth and law enforcement. Now each year over 200 communities participate in the nationwide program.

The "Shop with A Cop" event paired public safety officers with youth from Boys & Girls Club sites for an evening of holiday shopping at the Cypress Target. The members were selected for their outstanding behavior and good citizenship at the Club.

On the evening of the event, a team of police officers arrived at the Club to escort the Club members, with lights and

sirens on, to Cypress Target. Each child was given a budget to spend and assigned to their own police officer escort to help them pick out fun new toys and holiday gifts. The children came back to the Boys & Girls Club with armfuls of purchases including toys, clothes, and holiday gifts for their families. After the event, Boys & Girls Club of Cypress Site Director, Samantha Johnson stated, "The Shop with a Cop program is a highlight of the holiday season for us each year at the Club, and makes a huge impact on the members that are selected. It is really heartwarming to see our local the police officers taking time out of their busy schedules to do this for our extremely deserving members."



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DANIEL "RUDY" RUETTIGER TO APPEAR AT UPCOMING BELLFLOWER BRAVO AWARDS

By Tammye McDuff

The City of Bellflower is pleased to announce that Daniel Ruettiger, the most famous graduate of the University of Notre Dame, will serve as the keynote speaker for the 24th annual BRAVO Awards. Best known for the awe inspiring story, "Rudy", Ruettiger carved his name into the history books of college football.

The award ceremony will take place Thursday, February 8th, 2018 beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the William and Jane Bristol Auditorium inside Bellflower City Hall located at 16600 Civic Center Drive, Bellflower, CA. The BRAVO Awards recognize individuals based in Bellflower from the L.A. County Sheriff's Department, the L.A. County Fire Department, and community heroes who performed outstanding acts of valor, heroism and community service in support of public safety in Bellflower during the past year.

The son of an oil refinery worker and third of 14 children, Ruettiger overcame obstacle after obstacle, rising to the height of success. Today, he is one of the most popular motivational speakers in the United States. It took years of fierce determination to overcome difficulties and criticism, yet he achieved his dream, to attend Notre Dame and play football for the Fighting Irish. As fans cheered RUDY, RUDY, he sacked the quarterback in the last 27 seconds of the only play in the only game of his college football career. He is the only player in the history of Notre Dame to be carried off the field on his teammates' shoulders. TriStar Productions immortalized his life story with the blockbuster film, "Rudy!" in 1993. The film continues to inspire millions worldwide.

As a highly sought after motivational speaker, Ruettiger engages his audiences with a unique and heartfelt style of communicating. He reaches students of all ages from elementary to the university, as well as professional athletes. His captivating personality and powerful message stays with his audiences as they respond in thunderous applause chanting RUDY, RUDY!

In addition to his motivational speak-

ing, he has co-authored several books, including: "Rudy's Insights for Winning in Life", "Rudy's Lessons for Young Champions, Rudy & Friends", "The Rudy in You", and "Rudy: My Story". He co-founded The Rudy Foundation, whose mission is to strengthen communities by offering scholarships in education, sports, and the performing arts.

The Rudy Foundation develops and supports programs that positively impact the lives of children cognitively, emotionally, physically and spiritually. The Rudy Awards Program was created by the Foundation to recognize children who make exceptional

effort to do their personal best, overcome obstacles, set goals, stay on track, building the qualities of Character, Courage, Contribution, and Commitment into their lives every day.

"We are truly honored to have such a dynamic and inspirational speaker as Daniel "Rudy" Ruettiger appear at our upcoming 24th annual BRAVO Awards ceremony," said Mayor Ron Schnablegger, "He exemplifies the spirit of the BRAVO awards and we look forward to his visit to the City of Bellflower as we pay tribute to our local community heroes."



Daniel Ruettiger, one of the most famous graduates of the University of Notre Dame, will serve as the keynote speaker for the 24th annual BRAVO Awards. Best known for the awe inspiring story "Rudy", Ruettiger carved his name into the history books of college football, sacking the quarterback in the last 27 seconds of the only play in the only game of his college football career.

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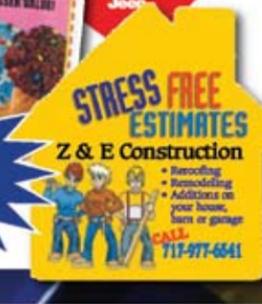
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NORWALK

Continued from page 1

cent to El Monte's Metro Transit Station with 550 housing units and 25,000 square feet of retail; "Magellan Gateway," a new 500,000 square foot, \$55 million light industrial business park; Santa Fe Trails Plaza, a 15-acre retail center with national stores and restaurants comprising 110,000 square feet in its first phase; a new 133-room Holiday Inn; the Gibson Mariposa Butterfly Park, a 4.5 acre facility featuring splash pads, playground, picnic area, basketball court and amphitheater; and just in the last two months, ground broke on the Baldwin Rose Family Veteran Housing facility, a 55-unit affordable veterans housing project to be built by a non-profit housing developer.

Mr. Gomez also has ten years of private sector experience as a financial consultant to cities and was an investment banker specializing in municipal bonds. This experience makes his skill set unique among his city manager colleagues and will be of benefit to the City of Norwalk. Mr. Gomez worked with "The Seidler Companies" where he marketed and brought to sale various types of public debt obligations, both tax-exempt and taxable. He then moved on to the position of Senior Vice President at Kinsell, Newcomb & De Dios Inc., where he continued his work as an investment banker for municipalities in addition to serving as a municipal bond underwriter.

I am excited and honored to have the unique opportunity to come back to the City of Norwalk where I started my career in public service," said Jesus Gomez. "With my experience both in the public and private sector, I believe I bring value to the City in being both creative and innovative in my approach towards economic development, infrastructure and finance. I look forward to working with the Mayor and City Council in spearheading new and collaborative ways to improve public safety and provide the high quality services that Norwalk residents expect and deserve."

Jesus Gomez received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in finance from California State University Fullerton. He is fluent in Spanish and as a young adult was the recipient of the Gold Congressional Award, an award established by the United States Congress in 1979 to recognize initiative, service and achievement in young people.

"I am looking forward to serving the residents of the city of Norwalk," Mr. Gomez stated.

ABC UNIFIED SUPERINTENDENT SELECTED FINALIST FOR 2018 NATIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR



Dr. Mary Sieu
Superintendent - ABCUSD

Dr. Mary Sieu has blazed a trail as the first female and first Asian Superintendent of the ABC Unified School District (ABCUSD), located in Cerritos, California.

She is continuing to blaze trails by being named an American Association of School

Administrators (AASA) finalist for The National Superintendent of the Year.

Her vision of, "Demographics do not determine destiny," has become a reality for many students in ABCUSD and is now earning national attention.

Dr. Sieu personally understands the demographic challenges that are faced when climbing the mountains of life; and discovered at an early age that school was a safe haven for her as a young girl. Dr. Sieu is the daughter of an immigrant family from mainland China, did not speak English, and lived in the back of the laundry service where her family worked.

However, this young girl with a tenacious spirit would dedicate her life to making a difference in the lives of others and helping them to understand that anything is possible. Now, as Dr. Sieu steps on the national stage, she has blazed another trail for ABCUSD as a finalist for The National Superintendent of the Year.

The four finalists for the National Superintendent of the Year® are: Wendy Robinson, Fort Wayne Community Schools, Ft Wayne, Indiana; Mary Sieu, ABC Unified School District, Cerritos, California; David Schuler, Township High

School District 214, Arlington Heights, Illinois; and Mike Winstead, Maryville City Schools, Maryville, Tennessee.

"The superintendents we are honoring represent the face of public education," said Daniel A. Domenech, executive director, AASA. "This program celebrates the accomplishments by the education thought leaders we're honoring. We also celebrate the tremendous strides public education is making in our communities. We are grateful to VALIC and First Student for supporting our program."

According to Dennis R. Maple, president of First Student, "The four superintendents we are recognizing epitomize the critical value of public education in our communities and our country. Educating young people is not just a job, it's a mission. On behalf of the five million passengers we transport to and from school every day, we congratulate the finalists for the National Superintendent of the Year®. We are honored to partner with AASA in a program that has a profound impact on the lives of students, teachers and school district administrators throughout North America."

"For more than 60 years, VALIC has been committed to our nation's educators and the important work they do to expand the minds of the students they serve. We salute the finalists for our next National Superintendent of the Year®, each accomplished leaders in their school districts, communities and states," said Robert Scheinerman, president, group retirement, VALIC, a division of AIG. "VALIC is proud to support causes that engage and empower our nation's youth, and we are

See SIEU page 7

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SIEU

Continued from page 6

pleased to serve as a sponsor of a program that showcases the leadership of our public school districts.”

Dr. Mary Sieu, along with the other finalists for National Superintendent of the Year will have an opportunity to meet the national education community during a press conference on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2018, at the National Press Club (Zenger Room) in Washington, D.C. The briefing will begin at 3:00 p.m. (ET).

In order to be recognized as a The National Superintendent of the Year finalist, Dr. Sieu’s applications were measured using the following criteria:

Leadership for learning – creativity in successfully meeting the needs of students in the school system.

Communication – strength in both personal and organizational communication.

Professionalism – constant improvement of administrative knowledge and skills, while providing professional development opportunities and motivation to others on the education team.

Community involvement – active participation in local community activities and an understanding of regional, national and international issues.

A \$10,000 college scholarship will be presented in the name of the National Superintendent of the Year® to a student in the high school from which the superintendent graduated, or the school now serving the same area.

For more information about the program, contact Jennifer Rooney, AASA assistant director, meetings, at jrooney@aasa.org.

PROJECTS APPROVED FOR BLOOMFIELD AVE PROPERTY AND CERRITOS SPORTS COMPLEX

The Cerritos City Council has approved projects to improve a property located on Bloomfield Avenue, just south of the Heritage Park Community Center building, as well as the Cerritos Sports Complex.

A \$950,000 grant from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors will be applied toward the projects.

The City bought the Bloomfield property with the goal of expanding and improving Heritage Park.

Under plans to renovate the area, the existing building and block wall bordering it will be demolished.

Landscape will be cleared as well as the driveway and cement areas, including the foundation.

A new irrigation system and an 8-foot block wall will be installed. The project cost is estimated to be \$267,000.

The remaining grant amount will be used in the renovation of athletic fields at the Cerritos Sports Complex.

The upgrades include soil amendment to level the field, modifying the existing irrigation and installing a fertigation injection system to control the pH levels in the soil and maximize turf growth.

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LA COUNTY, UCLA, AND LA COUNTY FIRE'S MOBILE STROKE UNIT WILL PATROL TEN LOCAL CITIES



Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn, Philanthropist Henry Gluck and Dr. May Nour, UCLA Medical Center show off the Mobile Stroke Unit.

Unit will patrol Cerritos, Artesia, Bellflower, Lakewood, Paramount, Signal Hill, Hawaiian Gardens, Norwalk, and La Mirada as well as the area of unincorporated Whittier.

By Tammye McDuff

Quick diagnosis and treatment for a stroke can mean the difference between a strong recovery, a lifelong disability, or death. Heart disease, be it heart attack or stroke, is the number one cause of disability in the nation and the fifth cause of death.

Lakewood and nine surrounding communities are fortunate that a stroke-specialty ambulance operated by the L.A. County Fire Department has just been assigned to the region. The ambulance is the first of its kind in California.

On Monday, January 8th Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn held a press conference and ribbon cutting to mark the launch of a Mobile Stroke Unit. The Mobile Stroke Unit is part of a pilot program launched by UCLA Health and funded by both the philanthropic efforts of the Arlene and Henry Gluck Foundation and the County of Los Angeles.

The Unit is a specialized ambulance

equipped with a portable CT scanner that allows medical professionals to diagnose and treat strokes in the field. By eliminating debilitating delays in treatment, mobile stroke units can save lives and prevent or reduce the long-term brain damage and disability associated with strokes. The technology is new and this particular Mobile Stroke Unit is the first in the Western United States

This Mobile Stroke Unit will begin responding to stroke related emergency calls starting Monday in the cities of Cerritos, Artesia, Bellflower, Lakewood, Paramount, Signal Hill, Hawaiian Gardens, Norwalk, and La Mirada as well as the area of unincorporated Whittier. In the past year, firefighters working in those areas have responded to 818 stroke calls with 221 of those calls coming from Cerritos.

Strokes too often go undiagnosed or ignored for too long until their effects are very serious, which wastes valuable minutes and hours when treatment could be made that would prevent a patient from suffering a serious disability or death.

This Mobile Stroke Unit launch comes just 6 months after the Board of Supervisors passed a motion authored by Supervisor Hahn to fund the mobile stroke unit pilot program.

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TRAFALGAR

RECORD BREAKING YEAR FOR LAKEWOOD EDUCATION FOUNDATION



Pictured above, teachers from Willow Elementary School show off their LEF grants alongside LEF President Todd Rogers (at right) and LEF Vice President Steve Croft (at left). Photo courtesy of Lakewood Education Foundation

Staff Report

The Lakewood Education Foundation [LEF] recently dispersed their 2017 Classroom Improvement Grants to 23 Lakewood schools, fulfilling 114 requests totaling \$54,525. That's a record-breaking year for LEF.

Teachers from Willow Elementary School show off their grants alongside LEF President Todd Rogers and LEF Vice President Steve Croft.

The number one request this year from Lakewood teachers and classrooms was funding for additional books, proving that some teaching tools never go out of style. Following close behind were requests for science and lab equipment, educational field trips, musical instru-

ments, and classroom technology such as Apple TVs and iPads. Unfortunately there were 34 requests that LEF could not grant due to a shortage of funds.

"We want to extend a huge thank-you to everyone who donated to LEF this past year," said Rogers, "The generosity of any amount really does make it to classrooms where it provides a positive boost to our kids' education."

An annual fireworks stand, Columbus Day golf tournament and hundreds of individual donations contribute to annual funding. A video about LEF grants in action, including the Artesia High School drama class can be viewed at www.lakewoodcity.org/LEFvideo. Contributions can be made year round by visiting www.lakewoodcity.org/donateLEF.

ARTESIA LIVE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

an insider's perspective.

"We are elected to make difficult decisions," said Chiang. "Too often we are reactive instead of proactive in our actions. There are some very serious needs out there, especially in the areas of education, jobs and health care that require immediate action, but every city must be ready to change and meet the needs of their residents."

Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia agreed and said that cities need to continue to grow a tax base in order to prosper and to fund needed programs and services.

Cornerstone Artesia Development partner Tom Lau said his company believes that Artesia is ready "to take the next step in becoming a city that will draw people from all over the area to enjoy the quality of life that Artesia has to offer."

After the speeches, guests enjoyed a buffet dinner of tri-tip, salmon, scallops and honey walnut shrimp, and several lucky winners took home door prizes of gift cards to the neighboring restaurants such as Rodrigos Mexican Grill and La Tavolata Italian Restaurant.

Cornerstone Artesia Development partner Betsy Lee was the first to welcome each guest and to thank guest were attending and supporting their projects. Artesia Live II will be voted on at the next Artesia City Council meeting.



TOP: Pictured are Cornerstone Artesia Development, LCC Vice-President Betsy Lee, with State Treasurer John Chiang at the Artesia DES.



BOTTOM: Raffle winners are all smiles after winning gifts from Rodrigos Mexican Grill and La Tavolata Italian Restaurant. With the winners are Lee and Artesia City Councilman Miguel Canales.

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SUBURBAN LEAGUE BASKETBALL

CERRITOS' TOTAL TEAM EFFORTS MEANS DOUBLE TROUBLE FOR ARTESIA IN PAIR OF ROUTS

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on Twitter

For one quarter, it seemed as if the Cerritos High boys basketball team would be in for a good battle with visiting Artesia High last Friday night. But the next two quarters were a different story as the Dons showcased the depth they have this season.

The Cerritos bench scored 40 points and co-head coach Jonathan Watanabe saw his team dominate on the boards as the Dons had no problems with the Pioneers in a 69-42 victory. Cerritos, which figures to challenge Mayfair High for the Suburban League title, improved to 12-4 overall and 2-0 in the circuit.

"If we defend and share the ball, we'll be in a good place," Watanabe said. "And we're getting there. We can still be better, but that's the goal; to continue to improve, especially in those two areas. Today, we were defending and sharing the ball. They were going box and one and we have a lot of weapons. So, I don't think we have one guy. I think we have quite a few guys. It's tough to stop us. It's a team victory; that's what it should be."

Sharing the ball was an understatement

as 15 of the 17 players took at least one shot from the field and 14 of them scored as well as had at least one rebound. The Dons owned the glass, collecting 37 rebounds to just 20 by the Pioneers, who fell to 11-5 overall, 1-1 in league.

"They played well, and we really didn't play well today," said Artesia head coach Ray Walker. "We would have had to play very well to compete with them because they're very talented."

There were four lead changes in the first quarter, which ended with Cerritos holding onto a 12-9 lead. The last basket, which was by senior Branden de Groot with 1.6 seconds left, was the beginning of an 8-0 run. He would add a pair of three-pointers in the first 47 seconds of the second quarter and led Cerritos with a career-high 14 points in the game, 10 coming in the first half.

If de Groot owned the opening minutes of the second quarter, then it was the Dorian Harris show towards the end of the stanza. The senior scored a pair of baskets within a 21 second span. After a steal and basket from de Groot, Harris capped off Cerritos' first half scoring with a dunk with 42 seconds remaining to put the Dons up 34-16.

"The first quarter was okay," Walker

said. "We missed some lay-ups in the first quarter, missed some free throws in the first quarter. So, instead of being 12-9, we might have had a little better chance. So, we have to play well early. We didn't play as well as we needed to."

The Pioneers got to within 15 points inside the first minute of the second half before Cerritos expanded the lead to 24 points on successive three-pointers from seniors Vincent Biscoe, Destin Flucas and Harris. None of the Cerritos starters played in the fourth quarter but the bench still scored 19 points. Harris scored 11 points while Biscoe added nine points and three assists. Senior Jason Anigbo came off the bench to grab eight rebounds while senior Jyvontte Moore added another seven boards. Senior Byron Sur had four assists as the Dons, who are ranked 12th in the California Interscholastic Federation-Southern Section Division 3AA poll, are off to one of their better starts in recent history. Cerritos has not had fewer than 10 losses since becoming a member of the league and is a win shy of matching last season's total.

"The record doesn't matter," Watanabe said. "We have 12 league games [in a season] and so now, we have two pieces of our puzzle [completed]. We

have 10 more and our goal is just to focus on each day to try to get better."

Artesia was led by junior Heder Gladden, who had 14 points and eight rebounds. Senior Roman Hernandez added another seven points as three starters combined for 26 points. The Pioneers had just five steals and shot 31 percent from the field. The 42 points scored were a season-low and they have been held to under 50 points five times, going 2-3 in those games.

"All of [their players] are better than what I thought," Watanabe said. "The score is not indicative of what the result was. But those guys can all do even more than I thought they could do. They're good players."

Prior to the game, the Cerritos girls also displayed a complete team effort as all 15 players attempted at least one shot from the field with 10 of them scoring. The Lady Dons were uncontested, scoring the first six points of the game and running away with a 63-30 victory. In contrast, the Lady Pioneers suited up eight players with half of them scoring.

After a sluggish start to the game that saw a combined 17 turnovers, Cerritos head coach Marcus Chinen saw his team

See **CERRITOS** page 11

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CERRITOS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

dominate in nearly every category, out-rebounding Artesia 34-20 and collecting 22 steals to just six by the visitors.

“Offensively and defensively, yes,” Chinen said. “I think in the first quarter, we had nine fouls. So, then they’re pretty much in double bonus the rest of the half, which will hurt any team if they have that happen that early. So, we had to really tighten up on defense.”

The Lady Dons had runs of 11-2 in

the first quarter and 6-0 to begin the second quarter. While the starters scored 10 points in the first half, the same as the Lady Pioneers did, Cerritos sophomore Kamsi Okere scored seven points and had four rebounds in that time. She would end the game would finish the contest with eight points, five rebounds and three steals while junior Iris Lee led everyone with a career-high 12 points. Senior starter Kalea Trias added seven points and a dozen rebounds while bench players Alyson Chang and Minh-Thy Vo, both sophomores, each scored seven points. Senior starter Tracy Nakamura led everyone with four steals.

“I think that’s a little different from last year,” Chinen said. “Last year we relied on three seniors where this year, I think on any given night, someone can go hot for us. And that’s what we’re looking for; something that is spread out throughout the whole roster.”

“We do have a deeper bench than I think we did last year, and we’ve noticed a few times where our bench has out-scored our starters,” Chinen later added.

Cerritos also faced Marina High last Saturday and pulled away late in the first half to earn a 53-35 victory. The Lady Dons went on an 11-5 run over the final 4:25 of the first half, then put the game

away with a 13-0 run in the third quarter. Senior Lindsay Fujihiro led the Lady Dons with 16 points while Lee added half a dozen points off the bench. Okere also had five boards and four steals as both Cerritos teams will entertain Mayfair tonight in a battle for first place. Cerritos will also be home to Norwalk High on Wednesday.

Artesia (8-6, 0-2), which has lost five of its last six games, was led by seniors Cassidy Valle-Marinis (11 points, five rebounds) and Jessica Tibayan (nine points, six rebounds). The two Artesia squads will host La Mirada High tonight and John Glenn High on Wednesday.

SUBURBAN LEAGUE GIRLS SOCCER

CERRITOS, GEORGE SHOW NO MERCY AGAINST YOUNG ARTESIA SQUAD

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on Twitter

While the Cerritos High girls soccer program has been trying to get back into the upper half of the Suburban League where it had been situated in the earlier years of this century, the Artesia High girls soccer program has been trying to compete this season with a young team. Artesia lost seven players to graduation and another who transferred last season.

Both teams met last Friday afternoon with one loss in the circuit and couldn’t afford falling behind this early in the league schedule. On this day, the host Lady Dons put together a passing display led by their experienced players and blasted the Lady Pioneers 6-1. It was the widest margin of victory by Cerritos over Artesia since an 8-1 rout on Jan. 8, 2001. The win pushed Cerritos’ mark to 5-5-2 overall and 1-1 in league play.

“We’re getting much sharper and our midfield play improved a lot,” said Cerritos head coach Rob Adams. “Our distribution from the center [midfielders] is starting to pick up and when we can do that, and utilize the outside [midfielders], then we can get crosses across.”

Two minutes into the contest, junior forward Erika Rizal notched her second goal of the season. But the rout began nine minutes later when senior forward Kavitha George took a pass from sophomore midfielder Cassidy Valtiera and began what would be one of her better games this season. George would make it 3-0 in the 21st minute when she intercepted a pass deep in Artesia territory and got the ball past Artesia senior netminder Blanca Gambino. Then seven minutes later, George completed her first hat trick of the season when she took a pass from freshman midfielder

See **SOCCER** page 11

NEWS AND NOTES FROM PRESS ROW

NORWALK BOYS BASKETBALL COMES UP SHORT AFTER BLOWING LEAD IN FINAL MINUTES

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on Twitter

It has been a very long season for the Norwalk High boys basketball team, which began the season with only four returning players from last season’s squad. But for a moment, it looked as if the Lancers would pull off a signature victory over Artesia High this past Wednesday.

After falling behind by 14 points early in the second half, Norwalk rallied to take a six-point lead late in the game. After that, the Pioneers went on a 7-0 run to end the game and post a 62-61 win over the host Lancers.

“It was a great comeback, but I think that’s what comes with being so young,” said Norwalk head coach Brent Campanelli. “You’re going to get in those situations and you just hope that you can learn how to build yourself for getting through

those situations.”

Artesia was up 43-29 with 6:27 left in the third quarter before the Lancers limited the Pioneers to just a pair of baskets by senior Roman Hernandez the remainder of the stanza. At the same time, Norwalk kept chipping away, getting a pair of key three-pointers from sophomore Christopher Herrera in the third quarter, and three perimeter baskets from sophomore Armando Castellanos in the fourth quarter.

The second of those three put Norwalk up 51-49 with 6:31 left in the game and that lead expanded to 59-51 after another Herrera trifecta. With 2:49 left to play, sophomore Pablo Juarez gave the hosts a 61-55 lead. Then the Pioneers got a big three-pointer from Hernandez with 2:09 remaining and the score remained that way for nearly two minutes as the Lancers

See **NEWS AND NOTES** page 11

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SOCCER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Marisa Couto and scored her team-leading seventh goal of the season. Cerritos led 4-0 at the half on five shots while limiting Artesia (3-8-1, 0-2) to just two shots.

“Kavitha gives us that finishing ability up front because she’s so diverse in what she can do,” Adams said. “She’s really a midfielder playing forward and has an unbelievable amount of talent. Her and Erika are pairing up real, real well.”

One of the reasons why the Lady Dons were blanking the Pioneers, who have been shutout in six previous games this season, was the stellar job they were doing on senior midfielder Brittany Llanes. As the biggest scoring threat in Artesia’s lineup the past few seasons, Llanes was frustrated throughout the contest despite scoring her team’s lone goal. That game in the 62nd minute as she intercepted a bad pass from the Cerritos defense and shot from the right side of the field, only to see the ball clank off the far post and in. For Llanes, it was her second goal of the season, tied for the team lead with three other players. The Pioneers have scored 11 times this season

“She’s a tremendous player,” Adams said. “But as do a lot of high school teams, they find it necessary to play their better players in the middle. We are a team that tries not to play in the middle. By going around the outsides a lot, and doubling her up, which we haven’t had the ability to do in the past, it really frustrated her.”

With the Lady Dons clearly in cruise control, they spent the second half fine-tuning their play in the middle of the field, while not letting off the gas pedal at the same time. In the 68th minute, Valtiera scored her third goal with George getting the assist and two minutes later, Rizal scored her third goal as well, this one on a breakaway. Cerritos took five more shots on goal while the Lady Pioneers targeted sophomore goalkeeper Shelby Dykes four times in the final 40 minutes.

“The biggest thing that we were try-

ing to work on is solidifying our center play because, for the first time, we have a couple of transfers,” Adams said. “And because we have those two transfers, it’s very important that...they haven’t played in a game with us. And now they need to mix in with the chemistry of our group that we have.”

Cerritos visited Bellflower High this past Wednesday and will host Mayfair High today and Norwalk High on Wednesday with a solid chance of staying on the heels of front-running La Mirada High. Artesia visited Norwalk this past Wednesday and will be home to La Mirada today and John Glenn High on Wednesday.

“We split with Artesia last year and got us into a tiebreaker and we were fortunate and got a win over Mayfair late in the year,” Adams said. “We don’t want to be in that situation and we feel like we can challenge basically any team [in the league].”

NEWS AND NOTES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

missed four attempts of taking back the lead.

After the Pioneers called a timeout with 25 seconds left, the game-winner was scored with 12 seconds left on a basket from sophomore Carlos Patino De Anda with junior Heder Gladden getting the assist. With no timeouts left, Norwalk drove down the court for a game-winning shot. However, Gladden blocked junior Mark Gonzalez-Corrasco’s shot at the buzzer.

“Defensively, we didn’t want to do a whole lot different,” Campanelli said. “We were really trying our best to face guard Gladden and Hernandez. They were playing a hell of a game and credit to both of those guys. They really played well tonight. But we were trying to keep it out of their hands and make the other guys beat us.”

Hernandez paced the Pioneers (12-5 overall, 2-1 in the Suburban League) with

21 points while Gladden added 14 points, four rebounds, two assists and two steals. Juarez scored a team-high 19 points with 11 coming in the first quarter when he drained three downtown shots. He also had seven rebounds. Herrera added 17 points and seven rebounds while Castellanos pitched in with 13 points.

“Those kids can shoot; there’s no doubt about it,” Campanelli said. “And we kind of pride ourselves in letting them go and letting them feel confident and free in taking those shots, and they went tonight.”

Norwalk dropped to 5-13 overall and winless in four league games and the program is going through its worst season since the 2011-2012 campaign when that team went 6-21 overall and 2-10 in the circuit.

“We’re definitely trying to preach not being short sided,” Campanelli said. “We’re not trying to look at tomorrow, at next week. We’re really trying to look at next month, at next summer, at next year. We’ve been fighting uphill all year. So to us, this is really nothing new. I expect our guys to keep fighting.”

Earlier in the evening, the Norwalk girls had a tougher than expected time with an Artesia team that began the games with eight players but finished with seven as another key member left the game with a knee injury late. In the end, the Lady Lancers had enough to knock off the Lady Pioneers 61-42 to improve to 9-7 overall and 3-1 in league play.

Norwalk was up 27-24 after Artesia went on a brief 5-0 lead early in the second quarter. However, the hosts ended the first half on an 11-3 run over the final 5:26, then put the game away by outscoring Artesia (8-7, 0-3) 13-6 in the third quarter. Seniors Angie Aldana and Bjanka Torres each scored 14 points for the Lady Lancers with Aldana adding eight steals. Senior Jessica Tibayan led Artesia with 10 points while senior Cassidy Valle-Marinas and junior Kathy Gonzalez each scored nine points. Gonzalez also had six rebounds and three steals but the team

was without Valle-Marinas, their leading scorer all season, with a knee injury in the third quarter.

Both Norwalk teams will visit Cerritos High on Wednesday while the two Artesia squads are home to La Mirada High tonight and John Glenn High on Wednesday.

In other basketball action, Gahr High kicked off the San Gabriel Valley League portion of its schedule by getting a split with host Dominguez High this past Wednesday. The boys (7-9, 0-1) lost 58-52 while the girls (7-7, 1-0) posted a 61-25 victory. Both Gahr teams will visit Lynwood High tonight before entertaining Warren High on Wednesday.

Glenn also got a split at home against La Mirada this past Wednesday as the boys (5-10, 1-2) were blown out 85-53 while the resurging girls, winners of four straight to improve to 10-9, 1-2, edged the Matadores 35-34. Glenn will travel to Bellflower High tonight.

Valley Christian High will begin Olympic League action tonight with home contests against Village Christian High before going to Whittier Christian High on Tuesday. The boys are 12-5 after losing to Cantwell Sacred Heart of Mary 78-63 this past Wednesday while the girls are 5-11.

The Whitney High boys (4-14, 1-2 in the Academy League) were blasted by Crean Lutheran High 80-39 this past Wednesday while the Lady Wildcats (10-7, 2-1) have won three straight games, including a 50-33 decision over Crean Lutheran. The two Whitney squads will host Oxford Academy tonight for their homecoming games before welcoming Calvary Chapel Downey High on Tuesday.

BOYS SOCCER

Artesia has won three in a row to up its mark to 11-4-1 overall, 3-0 in the Suburban League with a 3-2 home win against Norwalk this past Wednesday. The Pioneers will visit La Mirada today and Glenn on Wednesday. Norwalk is home to Cerritos on Wednesday.

The woes continue for Cerritos, which was blanked by Bellflower 4-0 this past Wednesday. The Dons (2-12, 0-3) will travel to Mayfair High today.

The recent storm wreaked havoc on Gahr’s San Gabriel Valley League opener with Dominguez High this past Tuesday. The Gladiators went to Lynwood High on Jan. 11 and will host Warren High on Tuesday before visiting Paramount High on Thursday.

Glenn’s scoring skid has now reached six games following a 5-0 loss to La Mirada this past Wednesday. The Eagles are 4-6-1 overall, 0-3 in league and will host Bellflower today.

Valley Christian picked up a pair of wins, 6-0 over Southlands Christian High and 6-1 over Shalhevet High in the past week to improve to 4-6-1 in preparation for its Olympic League opener at Village Christian today. Valley Christian will also host Whittier Christian on Tuesday.

Whitney shutout Brethren Christian High 5-0 this past Monday and was blanked by Crean Lutheran 1-0 this past Wednesday to drop to 1-10 overall, 1-2 in the circuit. The Wildcats will host Oxford Academy today and Calvary Chapel Downey on Tuesday.

GIRLS SOCCER

The seven area girls’ teams will play at the opposite sites as the boys on the same days. One minor exception is Valley Christian, which will host La Canada High today. Updated records are as follows: Artesia (3-9-1, 0-3), Gahr (4-6-2), Glenn (0-8-1, 0-3), Norwalk (5-9, 2-2), Valley Christian (13-3), and Whitney (3-4-1, 1-1).

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MENDOZA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

state requires before initiating a lawsuit. Ruelas' letter went to the state Senate, Mendoza, Secretary of the Senate Danny Alvarez and the head of the Senate's Human Resource Department, Jeannie Oropeza.

The complaint alleges that she, along with two others, was fired in September "after they complained to superiors" about Mendoza's inappropriate behavior toward a young woman assigned to his Sacramento office through a Sacramento State fellows program.

Secretary of the Senate Daniel Alvarez disputed Ruelas' statement and timeline in a written statement he sent to the Sacramento Bee.

Alvarez told the Bee, "One complaint by a terminated employee triggered an immediate investigation which has been ongoing since September 22nd." Alvarez did not confirm that Ruelas was the terminated employee, though.

What is known is that Ruelas and two others were put on leave Sept. 22 and then fired on Sept. 30.

Secretary Alvarez partially disputed Ruelas account, saying, "Prior to that date [Sept. 22], no allegation was ever made to anyone at Senate Rules regarding misconduct on behalf of the Senator [Mendoza]." It is not apparent whether the "superiors" Ruelas says she lodged her complaints with were within the Senate Rules committee hierarchy or elsewhere in her management structure.

Now, a HMG-CN investigation has discovered that Ruelas has another disputed retaliation lawsuit underway simultaneously against another former

state employer agency. Court documents obtained exclusively by HMG-CN show that Ruelas recently filed a lawsuit against California's Alcoholic Beverage and Control Department (ABC) for "retaliation, whistleblower retaliation, and failure to prevent retaliation."

Her attorneys for the ABC lawsuit are the Bohm Law Group in Sacramento while her attorney for the Mendoza case is Micah Star Liberty of Liberty Law based out of Oakland.

Similar to the Mendoza complaint, Ruelas alleged the offenses were carried out by her superiors.

In a move that is certain to raise questions about whether the ABC complaint stemmed from Ruelas' intentions to deliver a political payback, the 23-page lawsuit was filed on Oct 13, 2017, just two weeks after Ruelas was fired from her Mendoza post.

Even more suspect, Ruelas waited for three months, "after going through hell for three years" after she received the July 2017 right to sue [the ABC] letter.

Ruelas began working for ABC in January 2013. She claimed in her lawsuit that, after Sept. 2013 when Timothy Gorsuch was hired, she was "subjected to years of racist, sexist and homophobic abuse."

She formally complained and was "immediately labelled a 'pot stirrer' and troublemaker" and alleged further "co-workers I complained about made it their mission to drive me out of the department."

Ruelas said it got so bad she had to take medical leave on Aug 27, 2016.

and was "forced to resign" on Oct 14, 2016.

Even though she claimed severe emotional stress and depression, Ruelas did

not waste time and soon secured another government position in Mendoza's office.

Just days after her resignation from ABC, in fact, she was hired before the month elapsed by Mendoza's chief of staff, Eusevio Padilla.

According to Mendoza, Padilla did not share Ruelas' previous employment issues with him prior to offering Ruelas the new position.

During her employment by Mendoza, Ruelas continued to secretly file complaints with different agencies related to her ABC-retaliation claim.

For example, Ruelas inquired about an investigation into her complaints on Dec. 8, 2016, filed a complaint with the California Government Claims Programs April 5, 2017, and filed another complaint with the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency on April 24, 2017

Ruelas eventually "exhausted her procedural remedies" and filed a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. She received notice from FEH giving her the right to sue in a letter sent July 2017.

For unknown reasons, despite three months to act, Ruelas chose to file the ABC lawsuit days after she was dismissed by Mendoza.

Now Ruelas has embarked on another possible retaliation lawsuit, filing a right to sue letter Jan. 3, 2018 against Mendoza, the California Senate and two legislative officials.

HMG-CN left messages with Alvarez and texted Ruelas for comment, neither official responded.

LA MIRADA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

officers (SAO) team for four years. Since 2000, Lt. Dusky has held the ranks of Narcotic Detective, Sergeant, Chief's Aide, and Lieutenant, which he promoted to in 2015. Lieutenant Dusky is looking forward to continuing to enhance law enforcement in La Mirada. "I am proud and honored to return to the City of La Mirada as the Service Area Lieutenant and serve its residents once again," said Dusky. "La Mirada has a team of dedicated deputies working together to keep the community safe and the City Council and residents are supportive of the team's efforts."

Volunteers Needed for Homeless Count

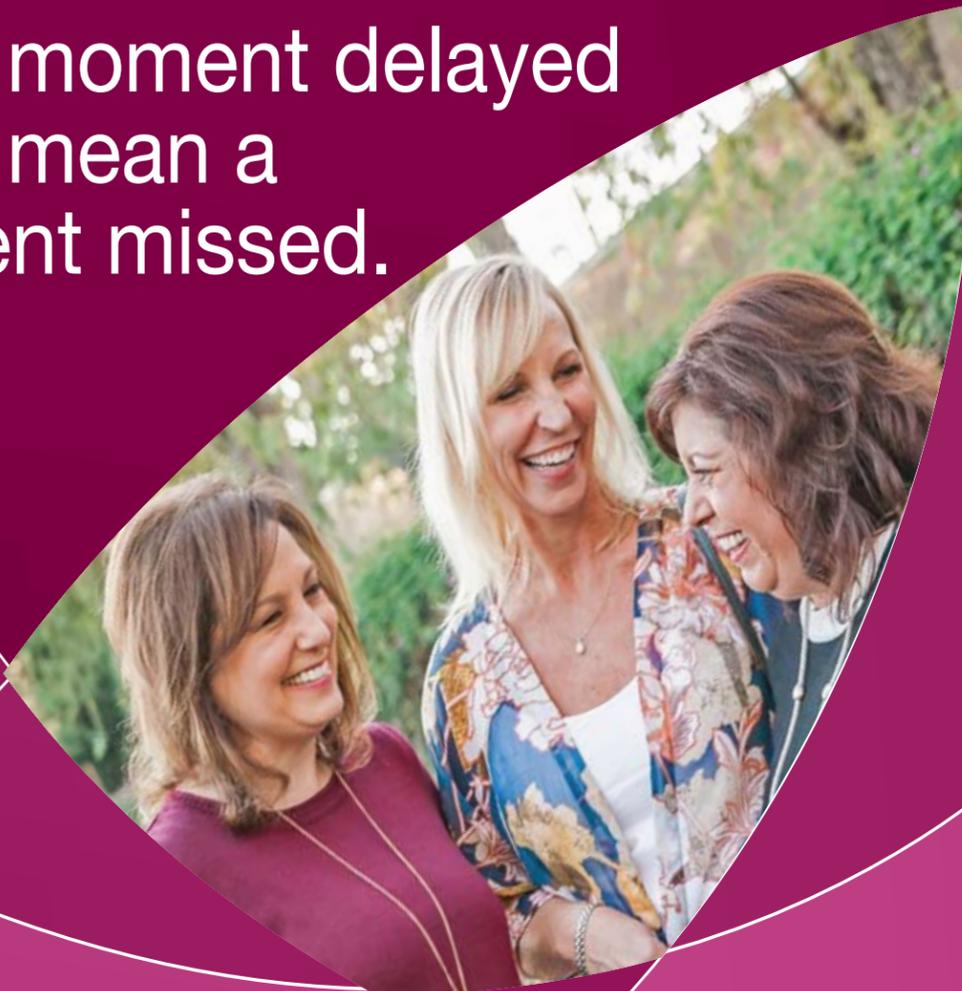
The City of La Mirada is seeking volunteers to assist with the 2018 Homeless Count. Each year, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) coordinates a count of homeless persons in the region to estimate the homeless population in Los Angeles County. This year's Count will be held on Wednesday, January 24 from 8 to 11 p.m.

The Homeless Count involves volunteers canvassing predetermined areas and tallying homeless and transient persons from a distance. Volunteers are not allowed to engage with the homeless.

Volunteers will receive training at a briefing prior to the Count and should expect to assist in La Mirada from 8 to 11 p.m. on Wednesday, January 24.

Participants must be over 18 years of age. For more information or to sign-up, contact the La Mirada Resource Center at (562) 943-7277.

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**CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS
ORDINANCE NO. 575**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS ADDING SECTION 13.21 TO THE HAWAIIAN GARDENS MUNICIPAL CODE APPROVING THE JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT (JPA) FOR LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY CHOICE ENERGY AUTHORITY AND AUTHORIZING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION PROGRAM.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, the City of Hawaiian Gardens has been actively investigating options to provide electric services to constituents within its service area with the intent of achieving greater local involvement over the provisions of electric services and promoting competitive and renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, on September 24, 2002, the Governor signed into law Assembly Bill 117 (Stat. 2002, Ch. 838; see California Public Utilities Code section 366.2; hereinafter referred to as the "Act"), which authorizes any California city or county, whose governing body so elects, to combine the electricity load of its residents and businesses in a community-wide electricity aggregation program known as Community Choice Aggregation; and

WHEREAS, the Act expressly authorizes participation in a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program through a joint powers agency, and to this end the County of Los Angeles (County) has been participating since 2015 in the evaluation of a CCA program for the County and the cities and towns within it; and

WHEREAS, through Docket No. R. 03-10-003, the California Public Utilities Commission has issued various decisions and rulings addressing the implementation of CCA programs, including the recent issuance of a procedure by which the California Public Utilities Commission will review "Implementation Plans," which are required for submittal under the Act as the means of describing the CCA program and assuring compliance with various elements contained in the Act; and

WHEREAS, representatives from the City along with representatives from the County and participating cities within the County, have developed the Los Angeles Community Choice Energy Authority Joint Powers Agreement ("Joint Powers Agreement") (attached hereto as Exhibit A) in order to accomplish the following:

To form a Joint Powers Authority known as "Los Angeles Community Choice Energy Authority"; and

To specify the terms and conditions by which participants may participate as a group in energy programs, including but not limited to the preliminary implementation of a CCA program;

WHEREAS, representatives from the City along with the County and participating cities within the County have developed a Business Plan (attached hereto as Exhibit B) that describes the formation of Los Angeles Community Choice Energy (LACCE) Authority and the CCA program to be implemented by and through the LACCE Authority;

WHEREAS, a final Implementation Plan will be submitted for review and adoption by the LACCE Authority's Board of Directors;

WHEREAS, as described in the Business Plan, Community Choice Aggregation by and through the LACCE Authority appears to provide a reasonable opportunity to accomplish all of the following:

- To provide greater levels of local involvement in and collaboration on energy decisions, and
- To increase significantly the amount of renewable energy available to LACCE Authority energy customers, and
- To provide initial price stability, long-term electricity cost savings and other benefits for the community, and
- To reduce green house gases that are emitted by creating electricity for the community.

WHEREAS, the Act requires CCA program participants to individually adopt an ordinance ("CCA Ordinance") electing to implement a CCA program within its jurisdiction by and through its participation in the LACCE Authority; and

WHEREAS, based on the feasibility studies and Business Plan, it is in the public's interest and welfare to establish a CCA program within the City of Hawaiian Gardens; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Powers Agreement expressly allows the City to withdraw its membership in the LACCE Authority (and its participation in the CCA program) by providing no less than 180 advance written notice to the LACCE Authority.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS, CALIFORNIA DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. To hereby add Section 13.21 to the Hawaiian Gardens Municipal Code with the recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated as though fully set forth herein.

SECTION 2. Based upon the findings and declarations set forth in this ordinance, and in order to provide businesses and residents within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City with a choice of power providers and with the benefits described in the recitals above, the City Council hereby elects to implement a CCA program within the City's jurisdiction boundaries. Upon approval of the LACCE Joint Powers Agreement, the City will implement the CCA program by and through the City's participation in the LACCE Authority), a joint powers authority established pursuant to California Government Code Section 6500 et seq. and California Public Utilities Code section 366(c) (12).

SECTION 3. That the City Council hereby approve and direct that the City proceed with the participation in the LACCE Joint Powers Authority.

SECTION 4. That the City Council declares that, should any provision, section, paragraph, sentence or word of this ordinance be rendered or declared invalid by any final court action in a court of competent jurisdiction or by reason of any preemptive legislation, the remaining provisions, sections, paragraphs, sentences or words of this ordinance as hereby adopted shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. That all the provisions of any of the City's ordinances as here to fore adopted by the City that are in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 6. This Ordinance No. 575 shall take effect thirty (30) days from the date of its adoption. The City Clerk, or her duly appointed Deputy, shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance and shall cause this Ordinance to be published as required by law.

SECTION 7. That the City Attorney has reviewed and approved this ordinance in its current form and finds that the City Council has the authority to adopt this ordinance, that the ordinance is constitutionally valid and that the ordinance is consistent with the general powers and purposes of the City as set forth in Chapter 1.01 of the City's Municipal Code.

SECTION 8. The Mayor shall sign and the City Clerk shall attest to the passage of this Ordinance. The City Clerk shall cause the same to be published once in the official newspaper within 15 days after its adoption. This Ordinance shall become effective 30 days from its adoption.

SECTION 9. If any section, subsection, subdivision, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance No. 575 is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance, and each section, subsection, subdivision, sentence, clause, and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, subdivisions, sentences, clauses, or phrases be declared unconstitutional.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 9TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2017, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS.

REYNALDO RODRIGUEZ
MAYOR

ATTEST:

SUZANNE UNDERWOOD
CITY CLERK

**CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
CERTIFICATION**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES) SS
CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS)

I, Suzanne Underwood, City Clerk of the City of Hawaiian Gardens, do hereby certify that Ordinance No. 575, was duly and regularly introduced and placed upon its first reading at a Special meeting of the City Council on the 20TH day of DECEMBER, 2017, and that thereafter, said Ordinance was duly adopted and passed at a Regular meeting of the City Council on this 9TH day of JANUARY 2018 by the following votes as the same appears on file and of record in the Office of the City Clerk.

AYES: RODRIGUEZ, BRUCE, TRIMBLE, MARAVILLA, RIOS
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

/s/
SUZANNE UNDERWOOD
CITY CLERK/RECORDS MANAGER

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 1/12/18

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Cerritos City Council will conduct a public hearing at a special meeting on January 22, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. on the following matter:

CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR CONSENT TO THE ASSIGNMENT OF PHASE I AND PHASE II GROUND LEASES (COMPRISING MAIN CERRITOS TOWNE CENTER RETAIL PARCELS) AND APPROVAL OF AN ESTOPPEL CERTIFICATE IN CONNECTION WITH THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE REFERENCED GROUND LEASE INTERESTS FROM CERRITOS GARP LLC, A DELAWARE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, TO CERRITOS TC PROPERTY LLC, A DELAWARE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, OR ANOTHER AFFILIATE OF METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, A NEW YORK CORPORATION WHO IS APPROVED BY THE CITY, FOR THE PRIMARY RETAIL COMPONENT OF THE CERRITOS TOWNE CENTER.

This public hearing will be conducted in the Council Chambers of the Cerritos City Hall, Cerritos Civic Center, Bloomfield Avenue and 183rd Street in Cerritos, California 90703. The meeting will also air live on Cerritos TV3 and will be streamed over the City of Cerritos website at www.cerritos.us. A copy of the related staff report will be available for download from the website by 6:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to the public hearing.

If you challenge the above mentioned item and related actions in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Cerritos City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Any person interested in this matter may contact the Department of Community Development at (562) 916-1201 for additional information and/or appear at the hearing in person or by agent and be heard.

Dated: January 12, 2018

/s/Vida Barone
Vida Barone, City Clerk

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CITY OF LA MIRADA

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR LIVE ENTERTAINMENT CONSISTING OF LIVE MUSIC OR KARAOKE AND DANCING AT THE SPORTSMAN'S LOUNGE LOCATED AT 13902 IMPERIAL HIGHWAY

Notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by the City Council of the City of La Mirada on Tuesday, January 23, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers located at 13700 La Mirada Boulevard, La Mirada, California to consider a request for live entertainment consisting of live music or karaoke and dancing at The Sportsman's Lounge located at 13902 Imperial Highway La Mirada California, 90638.

At the hearing, the City Council will consider the request, staff's report, recommendations and all other testimony and public input prior to making a final decision. If you wish to be heard concerning the item, you may appear in person at the public hearing or you may submit your comments in writing to the City prior to or at the public hearing. Written comments should be addressed to the City Clerk, City of La Mirada P.O. Box 828, La Mirada, California 90637-0828. Please notify the City Clerk at least four days prior to the public hearing should you require a disability related accommodation (e.g. sign language interpreter).

Anne Haraksin, City Clerk

Published at La Mirada Lamplighter Newspaper 1/12/18

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