



DOWNEY LIBRARY NOW LIKE AN APPLE STORE

THE TECHNOLOGY has been completely redesigned “It is sort of like an Apple store,” said Executive Director Ben Dickow, “look for any staff member in our shirts, they will have the hand-held device and they can check you out immediately.”

Two Years - Downey Public Library Reopens

The children’s section was moved and is approximately 33 percent larger.

BY TAMMYE MCDUFF

After being closed for almost two years the newly designed and renovated Downey City Library officially opened their doors Monday, May 3, 2021.

“We are so excited that after two years we are finally open to serve our Downey residents,” stated Executive Director Ben Dickow.

The new design highlights an increased amount of open space, the entry way is now called the Front Plaza and boasts well defined and clear direction to each area. The sitting and study rooms increased from one to five rooms.

The computer room is fully integrated; a community meeting room, a self check catalog with a catalog that can be accessed online, patrons still have the option of a no contact as well.

The technology has been completely redesigned with each library employee using a hand held device that can check out any book or video.

“It is sort of like an Apple store,” remarked Dickow, “look for any staff member in our shirts, they will have the hand-held device and they can check you out immediately.”

The library is arguably the largest in the area, with over 100,000 items to choose from. There were some changes such as removing an excess of any one book, but only to make room for a greater variety.

The common workspace has numerous desks and chairs that are socially distanced, “you can hang out, and you can even be a little louder than before,” laughed Dickow.

A new workshop is able to host arts and crafts, with new STEM programming and several 3D printers. For a nominal fee, library card holders can print many different things. These printers are also directly connected to the Downey Columbia Space Center.

The community meeting space has glass doors that can be completely opened or closed, with a full A/V setup and tiered seating that folds back up into the wall.

“We found out that we were the number one virtual reality library in the state. Because of this we were able to obtain an entire new set of equipment for video production, podcasts or what-have-you,” remarked Dickow.

The children’s section has completely moved to the other side of the library and is approximately 33 percent larger. The new section is designed in multiple pods, according to age, which lends to more

See **LIBRARY** page 12

76,000 Inmates Will Leave Prison Early

Officials say the goal is to reward inmates who better themselves, critics disagree.

BY TAMMYE MCDUFF

California is giving 76,000 inmates, including violent and repeat felons, the opportunity to leave prison earlier as the state aims to further trim the population of what once was the nation's largest state correctional system.

More than 63,000 inmates convicted of violent crimes will be eligible for good behavior credits that shorten their sentences by one-third instead of the one-fifth that had been in place since 2017. That includes nearly 20,000 inmates who are serving life sentences with the possibility of parole.

The new rules take effect Saturday but it will be months or years before any inmates go free earlier. Corrections officials say the goal is to reward inmates who better themselves while critics said the move will endanger the public.

Under the change, more than 10,000 prisoners convicted of

See **INMATES** page 13

HMG-CN Exclusive

Woman Sues Hawaiian Gardens for Alleged Harassment by City Employee

She said the city did not do enough to stop the two years of harassment.

BY BRIAN HEWS



Fred Licon is accused of harassment.

Brianna Gonzalez, an employee of Hawaiian Gardens, is suing the city alleging the city did not do enough to protect her and other women from being sexually harassed by the former president of the workers’ union, Fred Licon.

Specifically, she is suing for sexual harassment - quid pro quo, hostile work environment,

and failure of the city to take all reasonable steps necessary to prevent harassment.

Gonzalez has hired high-profile attorney Gregory W. Smith for her case.

Smith has represented employees for over 30 years in the field of employment litigation; as a panel member of

See **LICON** page 12

'Downey Water Undrinkable'

Central Basin Sues Director Leticia Vasquez for Her Statements in YouTube Video

Downey is not in Vasquez' District, yet she called on residents to take action on 'water contamination.'

BY BRIAN HEWS

The unauthorized and reckless actions of Central Basin Director Leticia Vasquez-Wilson finally came to a tipping point this past week as the CB Board voted to proceed with legal action against the embattled official, HMG-CN has learned.

A statement to HMG-CN from CB wrote, “This week, the Central Basin Municipal Water District voted to proceed with legal action against Director Leticia Vasquez-Wilson. She has published videos, letters and made potentially libelous public comments to other public agencies representing herself as the Central Basin Municipal Water District without proper board authorization.”

The most egregious violation came when Vasquez published a video online on Mar. 22, 2021.

On April 5, HMG-CN

obtained the video with Vasquez seen accusing the city of Downey and their city-owned water company of pumping “undrinkable water” to the city’s residents.

The person filming the video, who will remain nameless, is an activist in Downey who speaks at every City Council meeting, and never has anything good to say.

In the YouTube video, the blogger introduces Vasquez as a “water director in Southeast L.A. giving a tour of Downey’s water facilities.

“Helping us to understand troubling patterns of [Downey] water contamination,” she said.

Vasquez then shows a Feb. 2021 memo from Downey Public Works, “let me go through some of this water contamination.

“Which is really troubling,” reiterating her meme.

The memo stated that the city’s water had not exceeded the Response Levels of 10 parts per million (ppt) for PFOA and 40 ppt for PFOS.

Response Levels are measured on a rolling four-quarter basis, taking the last four quarters and

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Playing Rugby

Hawaiian Gardens employee makes it to the pros.

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La Palma Medians

A funding request to repair 48 medians in city.

Page 6.



Car Cruise and Show

Over 200 cars cruised Seal Beach Old Town.

Page 4.



Hide Your Converters

Advice from sheriffs on how to deter thieves.

Page 6.



Huntington Library

Visit the San Marino gem, see over 42,000 pieces of art.

Page 8-9.



Mexican Food in Downey

The El Pescador has some great food-in a pineapple

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Hawaiian Gardens Resident Goes From Community Service to Pro Rugby Player

While at college, Rodriguez won three 7s National Championships, two collegiate rugby championships, and was a six-time All-American.

BY TAMMYE MCDUFF

Hawaiian Gardens is very proud of home grown Cristian Rodriguez who joined the Hawaiian Gardens Community Service Team in 2020.

Rodriguez is certainly doing his bit to pump up crowd numbers now the LA Giltinis are welcoming fans back to the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. More than 30 family members, friends and personal fans converged on the Coliseum to support the quick-

GLAD TO BE PLAYING:
Cristian Rodriguez takes a selfie after a recent rugby match. His two brothers are behind him, he had not seen them for years.

stepping utility back at last weekend's game against San Diego Legion.

It was a turnout fit for a home-grown son of Hawaiian Gardens in LA County just 23 miles from the Coliseum.

For some family members it was the first time they had seen him play in five years because he studied out-of-state at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri.

"There was a real sense of enjoyment for me," said Rodriguez, "I had my parents in the grandstand, most of my family and many of my friends from home. It was the first time anyone has come to see me play professionally.... and at the Coliseum! It made it that much more special."

Rodriguez's cameos off the bench, this time at fullback and scrumhalf against the Legion, are building confidence.

"Skill-wise it's a whole different level but as much as anything I'm enjoying that camaraderie of being a part of a team again after being without it for 12 months because of COVID," Rodriguez said.

LA Giltinis signed Rodriguez for the 2021 Major League Rugby season back in February.

Rodriguez was a free agent after the Dallas Jackals postponed their Major League Rugby entry until the 2022 season.

The 24 year old scrum-half /wing/fullback is 5'6" and weighs in at 170

pounds.

Rodriguez played for the Ohio Aviators Tens in the World Tens Series in Bermuda this past October 2020.

Growing up in Hawaiian Gardens, Rodriguez was first introduced to the Alternatives to Gang Membership program in elementary school.

ATGM's main mission is to provide an outlet through rugby for at-risk youth.

At a young age, Cristian and his friends would watch the older kids and dream of playing like them.

During his senior year in 2015, Rodriguez was asked to play in a tournament in San Diego.

Being late in his senior year, he took the Friday off from school to have fun playing rugby for a day.

He caught the attention of the head coach from Lindenwood University who ended up offering him a scholarship for just watching him in one game.

A few months later Cristian was attending and playing rugby at Lindenwood.

He is the first in his family to attend college, he says.

"I was given the opportunity to learn and get better while gaining friendships that I'll cherish for life."

While at Lindenwood, Rodriguez won three 7s National Championships, two Collegiate Rugby Championships, and was a six-time All-American.

Adding to these achievements, in 2019 Rodriguez was the recipient of the Prusmack Award which is awarded to the top male and female 7s players in the US.

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Cerritos City Council Review of the Preliminary Combined Financial Program for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

The Cerritos City Council and members of the Successor Agency to the Cerritos Redevelopment Agency will review the following item at a special meeting to be held on **Monday, May 17 at 7 p.m.** in the City Council Chambers:

- Review of the Preliminary Combined Financial Program for Fiscal Year 2021-2022, for the City of Cerritos and the Successor Agency to the Cerritos Redevelopment Agency

Community members are encouraged to participate and review the preliminary budget on the City's website, cerritos.us.

For more information, call (562) 916-1315.

La Palma Requests Congressional Funding to Repair 48 Medians

BY BRIAN HEWS

Last week, 38th District Congresswoman Linda T. Sánchez submitted a \$2 million funding request to the House Committee on Appropriations for La Palma’s Arterial Street Medians Project for Fiscal Year 2022.

The project would reconstruct 48 median islands and add three new median islands throughout the City. The median islands would include a variety of drought-tolerant plants and trees with a drip irrigation system to significantly reduce water usage and water runoff into the streets, reflecting the City’s commitment to protecting the environment while also improving the aesthetics of our streets.

Additionally, the project would be constructed with an ability to use reclaimed water for irrigation in the future to reduce the use of drinkable water.

NEW LOOK IF APPROVED

La Palma has five arterial street medians with 48 median islands: La Palma Ave., 16 median islands; Moody St., 12; Walker St., 2; Orangethorpe Ave. 11; Valley View St. 7 median islands.

“We are truly honored to be one of 10 projects submitted for funding by the Congresswoman,” La Palma Mayor Nitesh P. Patel said. “Due to years of watering restrictions and drought regulations, the City did its part by limiting watering, ultimately resulting in the medians’ deteriorated appearance, which is not reflective of the vibrant and well-maintained infrastructure in our town,” he added. “I know this project means a lot of our community,” Mayor Patel said, “and we are excited about this funding request!”

More information about the project can be found at www.cityoflapalma.org/medians



La Palma Honors Veterans in Special Video

STAFF REPORT

For this year’s Memorial Day Ceremony, the city of La Palma’s Community Activities & Beautification Committee will recognize all veterans who have passed away in a special commemorative video that will be released on May 31, 2021.

To participate, please submit a photo of the service member along with their name, rank, military brand and years of service.

Each submission will be featured in the Memorial Day Ceremony video.

You may email a photo and the veteran’s information to recreation@CityofLaPalma.org or complete the online form and upload a photo or drop off photo and veterans

information to the Community Center at the Central Park office at 7821 Walker Street.

The Community Activities and Beautification Committee are creating a historical registry of La Palma Community members who have served or are currently serving in the United States Military.

If you would like to be a part of this registry or want to honor a serviceperson, visit the Community Services Department to pick up a form request more information from janella@cityoflapalma.org.

Submissions are due by Sunday May 16, 2021.

For more information please call La Palma’s Community Services Department at 714.690.3350.


Registration for Cerritos' Youth Soccer League May 8

Cerritos resident registration for the City’s Youth Soccer League for children ages 7 to 12 years old will be held online starting on Saturday, May 8 at 10 a.m. Open registration begins on Saturday, May 15 at 10 a.m. The cost is \$50 for Cerritos residents and \$75 for non-residents. A RACER account is required prior to completing online registration.


The non-refundable registration fee includes a team jersey, participation award, officials and Players’ Medical Benefit

Fund. Games will be played during the months of June, July and August. Children ages 9 to 12 years old will be placed on teams according to their age and ability. Practices and games may not be close to a child’s residence. Participants must bring their own size 4 soccer ball to each practice. Due to COVID-19, health and safety protocols will be enforced.


For more information, call the Sports Complex at (562) 916-8590.




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Classic Car Cruise in Seal Beach

The streets of Seal Beach were filled with classic cars in late April as over 200 well- maintained vintage cars and trucks cruised the streets of Seal Beach Old Town.

The cruise featured cars from 1980 and earlier.

Seal Beach residents and spectators watched, socially distanced, from their yards, balconies, green belts, parks and businesses along the 3 ½ mile route, manned by volunteers of the Seal Beach Lions Club.

The cruise ended up in Old Town where the cars were judged.



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Buccaneer Bay Set to Open for Summer Season

STAFF REPORT

Buccaneer Bay officially will kick off the summer season on Saturday, May 29.

Family and friends can enjoy the waterpark which features a lazy river, three water slides, a children’s play structure, spray pad areas, and two new waterslides including a six-lane mat-rider and two aquatubes slides.

These additions to the waterpark have been the newest features since the grand opening in 2007.

Splash! Buccaneer Bay will be open daily through Friday, August 6 and on the weekends through Sunday, September 26 from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

It will be required to purchase a single day admission pass online and there will be no walk-up registration, along with no sales of season passes at this time.

The use of face coverings will be mandatory throughout the park, unless actively eating/drinking in designated dining areas, or in a setting that would cause face covering to become wet.

Safety measures, including social distancing will be observed.

Staff will also be enforcing a clear bag policy to minimize direct touching of guest items.

For additional information, please visit splashlamirada.com or call (562) 902-3191.

Pico Rivera Councilman Helps Needy



PICO RIVERA Councilman Gustavo Camacho (with box) helps out with food distribution to needy residents at Durfee and Olympic Blvd. This was the 42nd food distribution for the city, which are sponsored by RISE and the city. Many local volunteers stepped up to help distribute the food that day, and hundreds of cars showed up.

Pico Rivera to Consider Digital Billboards

BY BRIAN HEWS

The city of Pico Rivera Planning Commission, at its upcoming May 17 meeting, will consider an amendment to the city's municipal code to prohibit mobile billboards and allow digital billboards in industrial zones.

The amendment would include requirements needed to be met by a digital billboard developer including but not limited to an application, photometric plan, compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, and specified development standards.

The Planning Commission will make a decision to recommend or deny the amendment to the City Council.

The meeting will be at 6:00 PM at City Hall Council Chambers, 6615

Passons Boulevard, Pico Rivera, 90660.

Planning Commission Meetings can be viewed live on CTV-3 and by visiting the City’s website at www.picorivera.org.

From the City’s main webpage, scroll to the bottom of the page and click on CTV-3 live stream.

To submit a public comment pertaining to this hearing, an email may be sent to the City Clerk’s Office at publiccomments@pico-rivera.org prior to 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

Please provide your full name and reference the following subject matter: “Public Hearing- Chapter 18.46, Signs and Advertisement Amendment”

Persons interested in this matter may correspond with the City Clerk’s Office by using the email address provided above.



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OPINION

In public statements again this week, former president Donald Trump has repeated his claims that the 2020 election was a fraud and was stolen.

His message: I am still the rightful president, and President Biden is illegitimate.

Trump repeats these words now with full knowledge that exactly this type of language provoked violence on Jan. 6.

And, as the Justice Department and multiple federal judges have suggested, there is good reason to believe that Trump’s language can provoke violence again.

Trump is seeking to unravel critical elements of our constitutional structure that make democracy work — confidence in the result of elections and the rule of law.

No other American president has ever done this.

The Republican Party is at a turning point, and Republicans must decide whether we are going to choose truth and fidelity to the Constitution.

In the immediate wake of the violence of Jan. 6, almost all of us knew the gravity and the cause of what had just happened — we had witnessed it firsthand.

House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy (Calif.) left no doubt in his public remarks.

On the floor of the House on Jan. 13, McCarthy said: “The president bears responsibility for Wednesday’s attack on Congress by mob rioters. He should have immediately denounced the mob when he saw what was unfolding.”

Now, McCarthy has changed his story.

I am a conservative Republican, and

the most conservative of conservative values is reverence for the rule of law.

Each of us swears an oath before God to uphold our Constitution. The electoral college has spoken. More than 60 state and federal courts, including multiple Trump-appointed judges, have rejected the former president’s arguments, and

refused to overturn election results.

That is the rule of law; that is our constitutional system for resolving claims of election fraud.

The question before us now is whether we will join Trump’s crusade to delegitimize and undo the legal outcome of the 2020 election, with all the consequences that might have.

I have worked overseas in nations where changes in leadership come only with violence, where democracy takes hold only until the next violent upheaval.

America is exceptional because our constitutional system guards against that. At the heart of our republic is a commitment to the peaceful transfer of power among political rivals in accordance with law. President Ronald Reagan described this as our American “miracle.”

While embracing or ignoring Trump’s statements might seem attractive to some for fundraising and political purposes, that approach will do profound long-term

damage to our party and our country.

Trump has never expressed remorse or regret for the attack of Jan. 6 and now suggests that our elections, and our legal and constitutional system, cannot be trusted to do the will of the people.

This is immensely harmful, especially as we now compete on the world stage

Opinion: Liz Cheney:
The GOP is at a turning point.
History is watching us.

Courtesy Washington Post

against Communist China and its claims that democracy is a failed system.

For Republicans, the path forward is clear.

First, support the ongoing Justice Department criminal investigations of the Jan. 6 attack. Those investigations must be comprehensive and objective; neither the White House nor any member of Congress should interfere.

Second, we must support a parallel bipartisan review by a commission with subpoena power to seek and find facts; it will describe for all Americans what happened.

This is critical to defeat the misinformation and nonsense circulating in the press and on social media.

No currently serving member of Congress — with an eye to the upcoming election cycle — should participate.

We should appoint former officials, members of the judiciary and other prominent Americans who can be

objective, just as we did after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The commission should be focused on the Jan. 6 attacks. The Black Lives Matter and antifa violence of last summer was illegal and reprehensible, but it is a different problem with a different solution.

Finally, we Republicans need to stand for genuinely conservative principles, and steer away from the dangerous and anti-democratic Trump cult of personality.

In our hearts, we are devoted to the American miracle. We believe in the rule of law, in limited government, in a strong national defense, and in prosperity and opportunity brought by low taxes and fiscally conservative policies.

There is much at stake now, including the ridiculous wokeness of our political rivals, the irrational policies at the border and runaway spending that threatens a return to the inflation of the 1970s.

Reagan formed a broad coalition from across the political spectrum to return America to sanity, and we need to do the same now. We know how.

But this will not happen if Republicans choose to abandon the rule of law and join Trump’s crusade to undermine the foundation of our democracy and reverse the legal outcome of the last election.

History is watching. Our children are watching. We must be brave enough to defend the basic principles that underpin and protect our freedom and our democratic process. I am committed to doing that, no matter what the short-term political consequences might be.

Editor's note: There is nothing Ms. Cheney has done in the past ten years that this paper agrees with.

Guest Column

Normalcy Post COVID-19
Can Lead to Mental Stress

Mental health expert offers valuable advice on how to best embrace change.

With Los Angeles County having moved to the least restrictive yellow COVID-19, many people are understandably embracing this move as a sign of the beginning of the end to the pandemic.

For others, however, facing a return to openness and face-to-face interaction can lead to anxiety and other mental health challenges, following more than a year of

isolation in which we saw changes in the way we shop, interact and communicate primarily through virtual means.

“We still don’t have all the answers in how to best combat this virus, and now that it seems as though we’re going to start opening up our society to return to what we hopefully remember as a sense of normalcy, we might find that we’re ironically anxious about doing so,” said Dr. Luis Sandoval, a psychiatrist with Kaiser Permanente.

“After a year of quarantine, the body and mind have adapted to this new lifestyle. As such, there will be a readjustment period for many of us to once again engage in public venues and socializing in person. It’s natural to lose some confidence in doing things you haven’t done in a while.”

According to Dr. Sandoval, examples of sources of anxiety can include:

Is it safe now to go out to restaurants, stores or department stores?

What happens if I contract COVID-19?

Should I get the vaccine or not?

What if I have the vaccine and others don’t? Am I still at risk?

Do I still have my same friends, or have we lost touch?

My children are now in school and I am worried that they will contract COVID-19.

These and others are natural concerns, but we can help to combat this anxiety by trying to reintegrate into the new openings one step at a time, says Dr. Sandoval.

He advises to not be too hard on yourself if you’re finding it difficult to get back into a routine as more and more restrictions are lifted.

He explained that as many of us had to readjust to a lockdown at the start of the pandemic, we should anticipate it might take time to get used to a return to normalcy, as change is never easy.

“Being hit with a lot of stimuli can lead to a sensory overload,” he explained.

To help protect your mental and physical health, Dr. Sandoval, who is also a physician, suggested the following.

Continue to keep good hygiene.

Wear masks as recommended.

Listen to your comfort level of how often, where and with whom you are comfortable going out.

Remind children to keep good hygiene while at school.

Remember that we will become more immune to the virus as time goes on and more people are vaccinated.

“It’s all about taking it step by step and moving at your own pace,” Dr. Sandoval said. “Don’t rush. Take your time to readjust, and you will find that the return to normalcy will be much easier to embrace.”

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La Habra Recognizes Police Week 2021

BY TAMMYE MCDUFF

Last year was one of the deadliest years for law enforcement officers in history. A report released by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund said it was the highest since 1974.

"It's going to go down in history as one of the deadliest years for law enforcement," said Marcia Ferranto, CEO of NLEOMF. "Of course, many are due to CoVID. The alarming thing is these are just the preliminary numbers."

Getting shot was the second most common cause of line of duty deaths last year. Forty-eight officers were shot and killed on the job in 2020, compared to 51 in 2019, the report stated. Thirty of those officers were killed by a handgun, 13 were killed by a rifle and one was killed with their own weapon.

In 1962 President John Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as national Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15 falls, as National Police Week.

Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962, National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

There are approximately 900,000 law enforcement officers serving in communities across the United States, including the dedicated members of the La Habra Police Department.

Nearly 60,000 assaults against law enforcement officers are reported each year. Last year the total line of duty deaths numbers 362, with 17 in the state of California, including one member of the La Habra Police Department.

The names of those dedicated public servants are engraved on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington D.C. There were 394 new names of fallen heroes added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial this spring, with 295 officers for the year 2020 and 99 officers from 2019.

The service and sacrifice of all officers killed in the line of duty is normally honored during the National Law Enforcement Officers memorial Fund's Annual Candlelight Vigil.

On May 15, the officers of the La Habra Police Department will adorn their badges with mourning bands in honor of their fallen brethren.

The City of La Habra formally designates May 9 – 15, 2021 as National Police week and publicly salutes the service of law enforcement officers in their community.

CRIME SUMMARY

Editor's note: at the time of publication, the Cerritos Sheriffs had not updated their crime summary online.

La Mirada

NOTABLE ARRESTS

- Fourteen suspects were arrested throughout La Mirada for various warrants and narcotics violations.
- ### AGGRAVATED ASSAULT
- A late-night assault was reported on the 15000 block of Imperial Hwy. A victim suffered a cut on his head and self-transported himself for treatment. The case is still under investigation
- ### OTHER STRUCTURE BURGLARY
- A suspect was detained and arrested during a late-night burglary on the 15600 block of Phoebe Ave.
 - Dental supplies were reported stolen during a burglary on the 15300 block of Valley View Ave.
- ### VEHICLE BURGLARY
- Two late-night window smash burglaries were reported on the 14200 block of Firestone Blvd. Construction equipment and camera gear were stolen from the vehicles
- ### GRAND THEFT
- A catalytic converter was reported stolen on the 15600 block of Phoebe Ave.
- ### GRAND THEFT AUTO
- A sedan was reported stolen on the 15100 block of Sarco Dr.
 - A truck was reported stolen on the 12200 block of La Mirada Blvd.
 - A trailer was reported stolen on the 15500 block of La Barca Dr.
 - A stolen van was recovered on the 14700 block of Firestone Blvd.

Man Fatally Shot in Artesia on 166th Near Pioneer

ARTESIA — A 20-year-old man in a vehicle was fatally wounded early last Sunday morning in Artesia.

The suspects were driving who a small SUV and shot from inside the car, then fled the scene onto a freeway.

The shooting occurred at approximately 12:05 a.m. in the 12000 block of 166th Street, north of the 91 Freeway and east of the 605 Freeway, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department reported.

It was not immediately known if the shooting was gang-related.

Deputies from the Norwalk station dispatched to the location found a man in a vehicle suffering from a gunshot wound to the upper body.

Paramedics rushed the man to area hospital, but he was pronounced dead.

A passenger in the vehicle, a man was not injured in the shooting, and did not want to talk about who the shooters were.

Detectives later learned that the suspects were in a small SUV that fled onto a freeway and out of view following the shooting.

No further information was immediately available.

Sheriff's Homicide Bureau detectives urged anyone with information regarding the homicide to call them at 323-890-5500 or Crime Stoppers at 800-222-8477.

Catalytic Converter Thefts on the Rise

SoCal have seen a rise in theft of catalytic converters. Toyota Priuses are the most common vehicle being targeted, although other makes and models have also been targeted.

Recommend park in well-lit areas when possible. If you have a personal garage, keep your car in the garage. Security devices are available that attach to the converter, which will make it harder to steal. Having the converter welded in place also makes it more difficult to remove. If you have a security system on your car, calibrate it so vibration sets it off. This ensures the alarm activates if a thief tries to saw off the converter. Engrave your VIN number onto your catalytic converter to make it easier to identify.

For additional information or to report a catalytic converter theft, contact the La Mirada Community Sheriff's Station at (562) 902-2960.

Cerritos Councilman Donates PPE to Local School



ABCUSD TRUSTEE Olga Rios with Cerritos Councilman Frank Yokoyama at Lindstrom Elementary where Rios is Principal. Yokoyama brought boxes of donated hand sanitizer he secured from local stores.

New Middle School Principals at ABCUSD

The ABCUSD Board announced two new middle school principals at the May 4, 2021, board meeting.

The new principals are Denise Macias at Fedde in Hawaiian Gardens and Valerie Gutierrez at Haskell MS.

“We are proud of these two exceptional educators,” said Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu. “Both have demonstrated leadership as administrators in our schools, and both are dedicated to serving our students.”

Ms. Macias began teaching at Artesia High before moving into administration. She has been serving as the interim principal at Fedde this school year. Ms. Macias is a product of Hawaiian Gardens, attending Furgeson ES, Fedde, graduating from Artesia High. She earned her BA in History from CSU Long Beach, and a Master’s of Arts degree in Educational Administration from Concordia University.

Ms. Gutierrez began her career as a counselor at Jefferson Middle School in the San Gabriel USD before moving to the Hacienda La Puente USD, where she was both a counselor and a teacher. She moved to ABCUSD, serving as a counselor and dean of students at Artesia High, and was most recently the dean of students at Tetzlaff MS. Ms. Gutierrez also served as the summer school principal at Artesia High. She earned both her BA degrees in Psychology, with a minor in Business Administration, and her Master’s of Art’s degree in Counseling from Loyola Marymount University.

The new roles for Ms. Macias and Ms. Gutierrez begin in the next school year.

Norwalk Housing Element Update Community Workshop

The City of Norwalk is currently working on a State required update for the Housing Element of the City’s General Plan for the years 2021-2029. To inform residents and have them provide input on this, a Housing Element Update Community Workshop will be taking place on Thursday, May 13 at 6 p.m. via Zoom. Zoom login information: Meeting ID: 835-240-9280

Since 1969, California has required that all local governments properly plan to meet the housing needs of everyone in their community through the California Housing Element law. This law requires an update every eight years.

Norwalk has been assigned 5,034 units of housing at a variety of affordability levels under this new Housing Element cycle, but the City must demonstrate that it has the capacity for these units. This year, the update is required to be adopted by City Council and submitted to the California Department of Housing and Community Development for approval by fall 2021.

Norwalk residents have been requested to provide their input as the City seeks ways to accommodate this additional housing. A recent public survey was conducted to provide residents an opportunity to guide future housing within the city.

Residents can take the survey here: www.surveymonkey.com/r/NorwalkHousingElementSurvey

For more information or if you are interested in this process, please contact Beth Chow, Senior Planner at bchow@norwalkca.gov or 562-929-5744.

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Huntington Library Brings Lifelong Learning in Challenging Times of Pandemic

PICTURES FROM HUNTINGTON LIBRARY

The Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens came into existence thanks to railroad and real estate businessman Henry Edwards Huntington and his wife, Arabella Duval Huntington..

BY LAURIE HANSON

MAIN EXHIBITION HALL—many literary works reside in the library including a copy of the Gutenberg Bible, Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, plus letters and manuscripts from George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin.

Bringing broader lifelong learning to the world, The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino remains a local treasure despite current challenging times. More than 800,000 patrons includ-

ing 20,000 school children from all over Southern California visit this place annually. All are seeking greater knowledge in art, history, literature, and botanical science which the Huntington can provide. But since COVID-19, scaled down visitations are in place compliant with Los Angeles County Health Department. Yet in the true spirit of the Huntington "to promote the public welfare," the learning continues.

"Like everyone, we're looking forward to a 'return to normal' — especially the ability to welcome visitors back with in-person experiences such as school tours, workshops, concerts, and classes," said Lisa Blackburn, spokesperson. "And researchers are eager to get back to work in the library, so we look forward to seeing the reading rooms full again."

"Although the gardens reopened in July 2020, the galleries were closed until mid-April this year," she said. "We put a reservation system in place with a daily cap on attendance, created a procedure



for contact tracing, and required a brief symptom screening for visitors and staff upon arrival. We've been able to increase the numbers [of visitors] as restrictions have gradually loosened."

Though on-site school group visits are temporarily halted and high-touch areas like the Children's Gardens remain closed, but online educational programs in a wide variety of subjects are being offered for both children and adults.

Teachers continue to inspire their students through the Huntington's inquiry-based classroom instructional techniques and online lesson plans with activity guides, designed to help educators meet state, local, and national academic standards. More directly, they are supported with "Evenings for Educators," and summer institutes.

The nonprofit further supports young people through working with community organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club, YWCA, and others. In terms of the general public, the Huntington draws upon its vast literary and art collections to present engaging classes, workshops, lectures, and children's programming.



The Huntington is home to one of the world's greatest independent research libraries. Nearly 2,000 scholars from around the world are attracted annually to their world-class collection of rare books, manuscripts, photographs, maps, paintings, prints, sculptures, and decorative arts. Ongoing academic research is conducted in the fields of history, literature, art history, and the history of science, technology, and medicine, according to www.huntington.org.

Faculty and graduate student scholars in advanced studies of the Humanities are annually awarded nearly \$2.1 million in fellowships through a rigorous external peer review process. Their research projects have produced academic monographs and scholarly articles, prize-winning books, documentary films, and many history and social studies content used by the nation's schoolchildren.

The Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens came into existence thanks to railroad and real estate businessman Henry Edwards Huntington and his wife, Arabella Duval Huntington. In 1903, Henry purchased a large landholding, the San Marino Ranch (currently the Huntington). In 1913, the couple wed, and their private collection of library, art, and botanical collectables changed into a public institution in 1919 by virtue of a trust they signed. In 1927, Henry died with Arabella preceding him three years earlier. But their legacy has lived on with the Huntington finally established and open to visitors by 1928.

The library's holdings include 11 million items spanning from the 11th to 21st centuries. Their collection includes American, British, and Californian histories, Western American and Hispanic histories, English literature, Medieval manuscripts, maps, and more. The collection includes Ellesmere manuscript of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales (ca. 1400 to 1405), one of 12 vellum copies of the Gutenberg Bible known to be in existence (ca. 1455), quarto and folio editions of Shakespeare's plays, plus letters and manuscripts by George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Benjamin Franklin, including the manuscript of Franklin's autobiography.

Remarkable also are the Art Museum collections, which comprise more than 42,000 objects of European and American art that span a period of 500 years and includes paintings, prints and drawings, photos, and sculptures. Many of these works are displayed in the Huntington Art Gallery, the very residence that Henry and Arabella lived in. Other works are on display in the Virginia Steele Scott Galleries of American Art.

Sprawled out on approximately 130 acres of the 207-acre grounds are the extraordinary Botanical Gardens which includes dozens of themed gardens. Some of them are the Chinese Garden (known as Liu Fang Yuan, the Garden of Flowing Fragrance), the Japanese Garden, the Desert Garden, the California Garden, and the Ranch Garden.

Most notable and possibly the most memorable is the Chinese Garden with its 1.5-acre lake. The Japanese Garden is filled with numerous friendly ornamental carp. It is by these aquatic elements that many a visitor quietly sits and

TERRACE OF JADE MIRROR—Spectacular themed gardens await visitors to the Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens.

ART GALLERY—Huntington's art collections include 42,000 works of American and English art including paintings, prints, photos, and sculptures.

contemplates the unique beauty of their surrounds, watching koi swim around and under the beautiful Japanese moon bridge. The neighboring Chinese Garden is one of the largest in the world. It is in a final phase with new pavilions, a restaurant, and an exhibition complex.

The Desert Garden is home to one of the largest collections of mature cacti and succulents in the world. It is here visitors can contemplate the raw beauty of how nature sustains itself in water-sparse environments like the Southwestern desert ecosystems found in California and Arizona.

Within the gardens resides the Rose Hills Foundation Conservatory for Botanical Science. It provides children and families with hands-on scientific opportunities while also home to orchids and other tropical collections. In the Ranch Garden demonstrations and tests related to urban agriculture are conducted.

An important aspect of the Botanical gardens is its research and conservation work that is carried out by Huntington staff botanists and biologists. Their ongoing unique development of long-term plant cryopreservation is done with the hope to save plants threatened by habitat loss and disease. Research staff collects and extracts plants DNA and enters it in a global network database along with other institutions who focus on the earth's biodiversity.

In cooperation with others in higher learning, the Huntington has partnered with the University of Southern California (USC) and Caltech to establish several research institutes. The USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute focuses on advance historical research on human societies. The Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West brings together various groups and their influence on the history of the American West. Another is The Research Institute for the History of Science and Technology at Caltech and The Huntington, which studies and explores the history of science and technology. Two other cooperative research relationships examining the Humanities include one with Caltech and another similar one named The Huntington-University of California Program for the Advancement of the Humanities.

The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens is an independent nonprofit organization supported by gifts and grants from individuals, corporations, foundations, government agencies, and by a private endowment. It employs about 500 full and part-time staff members. Some 1,200 vital volunteers work in various capacities from pruning roses to conducting docent led tours. For more information about visiting, membership or volunteering at the Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens, please visit online at www.huntington.org.



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605 LEAGUE BASKETBALL

Cerritos girls get early scare from John Glenn, rebounds to even league record

“I would say we were just off to a slow start, Glenn plays awfully hard; those girls are not going to quit. They had a lot of energy which we didn’t have.”

Cerritos head coach
Marcus Chinen.

BY LOREN KOPFF
@LORENKOPFF ON TWITTER

The high school basketball season has been going for roughly a month for some teams and just a few weeks for others. Still, there are some teams that have struggled with either lack of experience or fewer players than what they are accustomed to.

The Cerritos High and John Glenn High girls basketball teams have experienced their own issues since their seasons have started. While Cerritos has had the luxury of 22 players because it doesn’t have lower level teams this season, only six players were on the varsity team last season. Glenn has even more issues with only half a dozen players on this season’s team a late start to the season.

The host Lady Dons were tested early in last Friday night’s 605 League contest before pulling away for a 45-31 victory that pushed their overall record to 2-4 at the time and leveled their league mark after four games.

“I would say we were just off to a slow start,” said Cerritos head coach Marcus Chinen. “Glenn plays awfully hard; those girls are not going to quit. They had a lot of energy which we didn’t have. Again, there’s no excuses. We just didn’t come out with the intensity that Glenn did.”

JOHN GLENN HIGH

senior Kei’ana Hood attempts a shot over Cerritos High freshman Mailee Dizon in last Friday night’s 605 League basketball game. Hood scored seven points but it was Cerritos that posted a 45-31 victory.

The Lady Eagles scored the first seven points of the game before the defending 605 League champions tied the game when junior Jennifer Aguirre connected on a three-pointer, her only points of the game, with 3:13 left in the first quarter. When the opening stanza had ended, the Lady Dons were clinging to an 11-10 lead, which would be the closest the Lady Eagles (0-4 overall) would get the remainder of the game.

“It’s kind of the same in every game,” said Glenn head coach Ruben Guerrero. “They have a lot of energy; we only have six girls. It doesn’t take much for the third opponent, which is fatigue, to set in.”

Throughout the young season, Chinen has had to strategically find a way to utilize all the players on the big team and at times, it has paid off. Junior Madhuri Suresh, who has not been a starter thus far, came off the bench and scored eight of her team-high 10 points in the second quarter, including the first six to extend the lead to 17-12 nearly halfway in. Her final points of the game came with 2:52 left in the half and made it a 24-13 advantage.

Then there is freshman Onyeka Nwanze, who has scored in three of Cerritos’ first six games but was a dominant force in the third quarter when she had six rebounds and five of her seven points. In the previous game at Pioneer High, she scored 14 points and against Whitney High on Apr. 23, she scored her first 10 points of her high school career.

“I think she’s going to be a force to reckon with later down the line,” Chinen said of Nwanze. “We didn’t have her for the summer, which hurts. If we had her in the summer and the fall, I think she would be in shape and she would be ready to go. She’s still trying to get her feet underneath her. But she will help us out, hopefully by next week.

“As far as Madhuri Suresh, she’s one that gives us all kinds of energy, offensively and defensively,” he continued. “And I want to say defensively first because she does really well at breaking to the ball [and] stealing the ball. Sometimes we do have to slow her down a little bit because she gets ahead of herself. But with all the energy she has, I would say she was our sleeper this year and now she woke up.”

Through the second half, Glenn was trying to stay within considerable range and cut its deficit to nine points within the first two minutes when senior Cynthia Almanzar grabbed one of her 12 defensive rebounds and went down the court to score the first of her two third quarter baskets. With 5:39 left in the quarter, she scored off one of her five offensive board to make it a 29-20 affair. That would be the last time the Lady Eagles trailed by less than 10 points as the Lady Dons went on an 11-3 run to put the game away. Almanzar, one of four seniors who has been on varsity for three seasons, led everyone with 15 points.

“That’s the scary thing about these girls,” Guerrero said. “Even though there’s only six, against Whitney, against Oxford [Academy], the point differential was about the same. But again, the third opponent is fatigue. So, by the time we get to the fourth quarter, there’s really no gas left in the tank. I think that’s what it

comes down to.

“She’s a very competitive kid,” Guerrero later said of Almanzar. “I think with the lack of a team, it creates a frustration for her. I think when she gets frustrated, and she knows that, it creates a different player that we actually need. But she’s still a whole lot of heart and a [has] whole lot of passion for the game and I probably wouldn’t change that for anything.”

Nine players scored for the Lady Dons, who edged Downey High 50-47 last Saturday and defeated Oxford Academy 52-50 this past Tuesday to end the first round of league play with a 3-2 record, two games behind front-running Pioneer and a game behind Whitney. Cerritos is scheduled to host Artesia High tonight before scheduled road games at Santa Margarita High on Saturday, Kennedy High on Monday and Whitney on Wednesday.

“It’s a very challenging season,” Chinen said. “We just want to see what the girls can do. It’s difficult because... we have about two levels there, when you really look at it between all the girls that we have there.”

Seniors Karina Flores and Kei’ana Hood each scored six points while junior Sara Mendoza added the other four points for Glenn, which is winless in four games and will only play the league schedule, which is 10 games. Its losses have ranged anywhere from nine points to 17 points.

“We only got into the gym five days before our first game,” Guerrero said. “We were stuck on the blacktop, which I didn’t like. So, we tried to do what we could with what we had. But the challenge of only having six girls, and roughly half of them are really out of shape...it’s frustrating to say the least.”

Following the game, the Cerritos boys scored the first 15 points of the game, then opened the second quarter on an 11-0 run and began the third and fourth quarters on 15-0 and 13-0 runs respectively as part of an 88-29 victory that left the Dons at 5-3 overall and undefeated in four league games. Senior Obinna Ene led everyone with 16 points and nine rebounds while senior Brian Lee came off the bench to add 12 points, all in the first half, and five rebounds. Senior Alexander Archer and junior Alex Reyes each added nine points with Archer also grabbing five rebounds and collecting three steals as Cerritos had no problems against Oxford Academy in a 62-17 victory this past Tuesday. The Dons are scheduled to host Artesia tonight before a scheduled road game at Whitney on Wednesday.

For Glenn, also winless in the five games it has played, junior Natanael Jacobo led the way with 10 points, three rebounds and three assists while juniors Richard Ramos and Joan Saldago each scored half a dozen points. The Eagles fell to Pioneer 71-18 last Saturday and Artesia 64-19 this past Tuesday and both Glenn teams are scheduled to visit Whitney tonight and Pioneer on Wednesday.

“We lack a lot of experience,” Guerrero said. “We have kids that don’t belong at the varsity level at all. Again, we only had five days before our first game trying to teach offense; trying to teach defense. If we had an abundance of returners, it probably would have been a little different. At one point, we didn’t look like we were going to have a team. Then we just started having a bunch of young guys showing up wanting to play. But again, they lack that experience that we need, especially competing against a team like Cerritos.”

LICON from page 1

the Los Angeles Police Protective League, he often handles cases brought by police officers against the City of Los Angeles for a variety of employment claims.

Smith also represented firefighters in the LAFD for claims brought against the city.

Licon is the former AFSCME union president with a very checkered past, found guilty of misusing union funds in 2020.

Gonzalez was hired in August 2017 and met then-president Licon, “Licon initially was cordial to Gonzalez, the suit states, “however, he quickly began to focus on her, singling her out and frequently stopping at her desk when he came to City Hall.”

Later, Licon began asking Gonzalez increasingly more personal questions, including whether she had a boyfriend, what she liked to do outside of work, complementing her hair, manner of dress, asking about her personal life and finally asking Gonzalez to go to lunch with him.

Gonzalez rebuffed the advances and refused the lunch invitations.

Then Licon turned up the pressure with an alleged outright intimidation tactic, telling Gonzalez about his “power” at City Hall as union president over elected officials, while also telling her that he had influence at the Gardens Casino.

He said he knew people who would have influence over Gonzalez 's job, how the Council would perform favors for him, and offered to "put in a good word" for Gonzalez.

Gonzalez subsequently had a meeting with Licon to talk about union membership with Licon requesting a one-on-one meeting in the conference room; the meeting required a waiver from the supervisor which Licon got.

Gonzales alleges that Licon did not talk about union membership rather he started making advances towards her again even

pulling out a \$100 bill from his “expensive” keeping it on the table and making certain Gonzalez saw the money in his wallet.

He also told Gonzales he secured a higher classification for her which included higher pay; she ended of the meeting by filling out the union membership form.

After that meeting, Gonzales felt compelled to talk to a L.A. County Sheriff’s Deputy about the incident in the conference room.

The sheriffs have an office inside City Hall.

Gonzales thought that her concerns would be heard by the city officials, but nothing materialized and undeterred, Licon kept up his harassment.

At that time Gonzales learned that at least two other women had filed a sexual harassment lawsuit against Licon, one named Claudia Rava, who’s case was under investigation.

Licon later learned that Gonzales was going to be a witness to the Rava case with Gonzalez alleging that he took her outside and tried to intimidate her into a false witness.

Licon's conduct subsided for a short while, but by the end of 2018, Licon was at it again asking Gonzalez to lunch, bragging about himself, then inviting her to Big Bear for a weekend. Plaintiff was frozen by his words, and again felt extremely intimidated.

That was the last straw for Gonzalez who filed a complaint with human resources in October 2019.

During a subsequent investigation the city allegedly did not interview any of the witnesses she identified, when Gonzalez inquired about adding witnesses, Patrick Matson at HR told her that there was “enough evidence in the witnesses the attorney interviewed who supported her claims and the investigation is closed.”

The City issued a ruling June 2020 by sustaining charges that Licon had made

comments about Gonzalez’s appearance, inquired about her personal life and repeatedly pressured her for lunch dates.

But Licon remains an employee at the city.

||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||

VASQUEZ from page 1

dividing those numbers by four.

But the city's memo stated, “these are the first quarter (2021) numbers, since only the first quarter sampling has been completed the other three quarters are considered to have zero values,” meaning the numbers did not take into account previous measures.

According to the well numbers on the memo, the PFOA ppt’s were above Response Levels of 10 ppt in almost every well; the PFOS were above Response Levels of 40 ppt in only a couple wells.

“We are working to bring attention to this particular issue," said Vasquez.

"Our citizens deserve to have clean safe water that is drinkable, and unfortunately it’s not drinkable [in Downey].”

Vasquez does not live in Downey and the city is not in her water district. Downey is part of Division One, represented by Director Martha Camacho Rodriguez.

Although the numbers are alarming, the water is certainly not undrinkable with state law mandating the water agency notify the state and list actions it will take to correct the situation.

Downey lawyers felt the same way and fired off a letter to the Vasquez and her husband-attorney Ron Wilson calling the video and statements false and defamatory.

The CB statement continued, “Vasquez’ actions could result in legal action against the District that has been on a positive turnaround since hiring their new general

manager and general counsel.”

That is true, since the board hired GM Alex Rojas last year, finance and operations have stabilized, including \$1.2 million in savings this year, \$8 million in reserves, and a \$500,000 operating margin.

The \$500,000 margin has a biennial election expenses of \$2.2 million figured into the calculation.

Rojas has dumped several high salary employees in a reorganization of the water company, several of which participated in an attempted takeover of the agency by filing false internal financials and using the agency’s credit card without authorization.

One of them was former CB Director of Finance Andrew Hamilton’s budget; Rojas found that Hamilton had underreported CB revenue by a \$1.5 million and overstated expenses by \$700,000.

Hamilton did considerable damage before he was released in August 2020, communicating his bogus budget numbers to Moody’s Rating, which triggered a downgrade of the district’s \$24.1 million senior lien obligations and \$19.4 million subordinate lien obligations.

The downgrade will raise the cost of borrowing and interests payments for the agency and could put Hamilton square in the sights of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

But CB is expecting an upgrade from Moody’s provided Vasquez is corralled; and that is what exactly the board did at the meeting.

“The Board also voted to censure Director Vazquez-Wilson for failure to adhere to the administrative code and disregarding the general counsel’s advice to cease and desist misrepresenting the District. The matter has now been referred to the District’s Finance and Administration Committee which hears matters involving Director misconduct. The committee will make a recommendation to the board at its regular May 2021 board meeting.”

The members of the committee are President Arturo Chacon and Directors Robert Apodaca and Phil Hawkins.

||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||

LIBRARY from page 1

public story time and includes a raised platform for puppet shows and pint sized entertainment.

Due to CoVID restrictions they can only open to about 50 percent capacity, which equals to approximately 90 people at any given time, “you still cannot browse the stacks of books and there is plenty of space to sit and read. We are hoping to open up the stacks of books to the public in another month or so and be fully open to the public this fall. We can’t be happier with our new space,” Dickow added.


The library is looking for volunteers to teach various subjects, such as how to start a vlog or how to produce a low budget commercial. For their new hours and information on how to get a library card visit www.downeylibrary.org



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Los Cerritos Community Newspaper



By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: First, read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. The words are found in all directions - vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it off the list. The letters are often used more than once so do not cross them out. It is best to find the big words first. When you find all the words listed in the clues you’ll have a number of letters left over that spell out the WONDERWORD. To see the answer use the link below the puzzle.

It's Party Time

D	A	N	C	E	S	C	K	G	B	S	L	C	S	E
W	E	G	U	A	N	L	S	L	E	R	O	R	K	T
O	Y	C	I	F	O	O	I	I	A	E	O	A	R	P
L	N	A	O	F	I	W	D	G	C	D	C	F	O	R
G	A	T	L	R	T	N	E	H	H	R	H	T	W	I
U	P	R	E	P	A	R	A	T	I	O	N	S	E	Z
E	K	E	L	C	T	T	R	S	E	C	S	E	R	E
S	I	A	I	A	I	E	I	H	O	M	E	I	I	M
T	N	S	M	R	V	E	F	O	R	A	M	T	F	I
S	S	U	B	D	N	M	O	E	N	C	E	I	R	T
N	I	R	O	S	I	N	O	G	A	S	H	V	I	T
A	T	E	A	M	V	I	D	E	O	S	T	I	E	H
C	A	M	E	R	A	S	T	S	I	L	T	T	N	G
K	E	E	S	E	E	S	E	I	K	O	O	C	D	I
S	A	F	E	T	Y	E	N	T	E	R	T	A	I	N

Activities, Beach, Cake, Camcorders, Camera, Cards, Clown, Cookies, Cool, Crafts, Dances, Dear, Decorations, Disk, Entertain, Feast, Fireworks, Food, Friend, Fun, Gift, Glow, Guests, Home, Invitations, Lights, Limbo, Lists, Meet, Napkins, Nighttime, Play, Preparations, Prize, Safety, Seek, Sees, Snacks, Team, Themes, Treasure, Video.

Solution: 9 letters

INMATES from page 1

a second serious but nonviolent offense under the state's "three strikes" law will be eligible for release after serving half their sentences. That's an increase from the current time-served credit of one-third of their sentence.

The same increased release time will apply to nearly 2,900 nonviolent third strikers, the corrections department projected.

Also as of Saturday, all minimum-security inmates in work camps, including those in fire fighting camps, will be eligible for the same month of earlier release for every month they spend in the camp, regardless of the severity of their crime.

The changes were approved this week by the state Office of Administrative Law.

"The goal is to increase incentives for the incarcerated population to practice good behavior and follow the rules while serving their time, and participate in rehabilitative and educational programs, which will lead to safer prisons," department spokeswoman Dana Simas said in a statement.

"Additionally, these changes would help to reduce the prison population by allowing incarcerated persons to earn their way home sooner," she said.

Simas provided the emergency regulations and estimates of how many inmates they will affect at the request of The Associated Press.

Simas said the department was granted authority to make the changes through the rulemaking process and under the current budget. By making them "emergency regulations" the agency could impose the new rules without public comment.

The department now must submit permanent regulations next year. They will be considered a public hearing and opportunity for public comment.

Kent Scheidegger, legal director of the Criminal Justice Legal Foundation that represents crime victims, said the notion that the credits are for good behavior is a misnomer.

"You don't have to be good to get good time credits. People who lose good time credits for misconduct get them back, they don't stay gone," he said. "They could be a useful device for managing the population if they had more teeth in them. But they don't. They're in reality just a giveaway."

Republican state Sen. Jim Nielsen, who once headed the state parole board, criticized Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration for unilaterally deciding to make the changes.

"He's doing it on his own authority, instead of the will of the people through their elected representatives or directly through their own votes," Nielsen said. "This is what I call Newsom's time off for bad behavior. He's putting us all at greater risk and there seems to be no end to the degree to which he wants to do that."

California has been under court orders to reduce a prison population that peaked at 160,000 in 2006 and saw inmates being housed in gymnasiums and activity rooms. In 2011, the U.S. Supreme Court backed federal judges' requirement that the state reduce overcrowding.

The population has been declining since the high court's decision, starting when the state began keeping lower-level felons in county jails instead of state prisons. In 2014, voters reduced penalties

for property and drug crimes. Two years later, voters approved allowing earlier parole for most inmates.

Before the pandemic hit, the population had dropped to 117,00 inmates. In the last year, 21,000 more have left state prisons — with about half being held temporarily in county jails.

Meantime, officials announced in mid-April that they will close a second prison as a result of the dwindling population, fulfilling a promise made by

Newsom. California Correctional Center in Susanville will close by July 2022. Officials announced last fall that Deuel Vocational Institution in Tracy, east of San Francisco, will close by this October.

Many Democratic lawmakers and advocacy groups have been calling for further releases or shorter sentences. Californians United for a Responsible Budget, for instance, earlier in April said the state should shutter at least 10 more of its 35 prisons.

May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month

The month of May celebrates Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States through Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. Asian/Pacific Islanders covers a broad span of peoples, encompassing all of those whose ancestors originally hail from the continent of Asia and the Pacific Islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and the Federated States of Micronesia) and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu,

Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Easter Island).

The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the U.S. on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869.

The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.

Generations of Asian and Pacific Islanders have enriched America's history and remain instrumental in its future success, and Asian and Pacific Islanders are a vital part of many communities in Southern California.

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Junior Golf Foundation Receives \$100K Grant

STAFF REPORT

The SCGA Junior Golf Foundation announced they were recently awarded a \$100,000 grant from the LA84 Foundation for their work with youth in local communities. The funds will be used for the hiring, training and ongoing professional development of coaches within its Player & Youth Development [PYD] program.

The junior golf program operates out of the Don Knabe Golf Course in Norwalk.

The LA84 Foundation highlights three key components of the Foundation's success over the past year:

- Program expansion into the community of Riverside, which shows strong organizational structure

HEAD DOWN:
A SCGA Junior Golf instructor teaches a young girl about the game.



•Successful absorption of the former First Tee of LA organization

•A high number of coaches who are past program participants

“The SCGA Junior Golf Foundation shares the LA84 Foundation’s priority to close the Play Equity gap by providing opportunities to develop youth, growing their athletic, character and leadership skills through the game of golf,” said LA84 Foundation Director of Grants and Programs Nolan Ortiz. “SCGA Junior Golf Foundation programs are intended to grow the sport by making it more accessible and fun for kids.”

In November 2020, the Foundation launched its Player & Youth Development program making it the third PYD community.

The 19 former participants serving as coaches total 63 percent of the coaching staff. The Foundation’s intentional hiring of coaches from within PYD communities ensures participants will have role models who look like them and have shared experiences they can relate to.

“It is so rewarding to have a group like LA84 Foundation recognize the positive impact we are making in the lives of youth,” said Executive Director Kevin Gigax. “This investment is truly the highest praise and reflects the work that our board, staff and volunteers put in every day to ensure that our programming is the best that it can be.”

The Foundation’s Player & Youth Development program combines high-impact golf and positive youth development curriculums in underserved communities and introduces juniors to local role models.

Through eight-week instruction sessions and additional program opportunities, juniors are introduced to everything they need to succeed in the game: equipment, uniforms, coaching, playing access and more.

Each session includes several free on-course playing opportunities, and financial aid is offered for all paid programming so that no child is turned away.

Neighbor Cities Begin to Network



NETWORKING AGAIN: (l-r) Marie Laveaga, La Habra Chamber; Richard Trujillo, La Mirada Chamber; John Lewis, La Mirada City Council; James Gomez, La Habra City Council; Marie Murillo and Rachel Audelo La Habra Chamber representatives.

BY TAMMYE MCDUFF

La Mirada Chamber of Commerce held their monthly morning meeting Tuesday, May 4 at Polly’s Pies, La Mirada.

This is the second in person meeting that has been held since the partial lifting of restrictions into the new tier. There was an increase in attendance with about 25 people, and the Chamber extended an invitation to neighboring La Habra Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber Business Alliance

(CBA) is a group of six Chambers that have agreed to welcome members from area Chambers to extend invitations to events while displaying the CBA welcome logo.

“We believe all will benefit by cooperating with one another and welcoming business-minded people,” said Marie Laveaga, President and CEO of La Habra Chamber of Commerce, “It’s good for business.”

Currently, the CBA includes Brea, Yorba Linda, Placentia, La Mirada, La Habra and Artesia Chambers participating with a 2,800 combined membership.

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