



HMG-CN Exclusive: Corruption and Cronyism in Brentwood

# THE VETERANS PARK CONSERVANCY DECEPTION

“Honoring Our Veterans, Preserving Their Land”



Homeless Veterans sleep outside the Los Angeles National Veterans Park, in front of the fence that the VPC and the Veterans Administration spent \$1 million to build. The gate is always padlocked, center, to keep Veterans out of the park. Frequent \$1,000 per plate fundraisers are held at the park within site of the homeless veterans.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF VPC EARNED \$1.1 MILLION WHILE VETERANS REMAIN HOMELESS

By Brian Hews and Randy Economy

Hews Media Group-Community Newspaper has found through documents filed with the Internal Revenue Service that Susan C. “Sue” Young, founder and executive director of a controversial Brentwood non-profit homeowner’s organization that claims to be advocates “honoring our veterans and preserving their land” has received more than \$1.1 million in salary while running the organization out of a posh office in Brentwood.

Young, the only employee of a group called the “Veteran’s Park Conservancy” (VPC), which is an outgrowth of the powerful Brentwood Homeowners Association, boasting some of the wealthiest and politically active people in the state, banked \$1,135,000 from 2002 to 2013, all while homeless Veterans sleep in front and are forbidden to enter the very property the VPC is “restoring for Veterans.”

HMG-CN also determined after reviewing the records that the organization has changed its name and mission statement three times over the past two de-



VPC's Sue Young confronts and closes the gate on a 75 year old Veteran on the grounds of the park.

acades.

Young previously oversaw the group called the “Veterans Garden Memorial Foundation.” That foundation morphed into the “Veteran’s Park Preserve,” which was eventually renamed the “Veteran’s Park Conservancy.”

Documents show that Young contracted with a development firm Netzel Steinhaus & Associates to craft a business plan and conduct a development study. That study recommended that having “Veterans” in the mission statement severely impacted the fundraising ability of the organi-

zation, and they recommended Young “add family and community,” which Young did later on.

“This does not surprise me,” said longtime Veteran’s right advocate Bob Rosebrock, “Young and her sham tax-evading organizations are not here for the Veterans, they are here to work for the ‘Brentwood Elite.’ You have wealthy people donating money to a non-profit to keep Veterans off the land while taking a tax deduction, it’s despicable.”

Young has been a vocal and visible figure in and around the

See **VETERANS** page 12

### \$635 Million ABCUSD Facility Master Plan Wins Narrow Passage

CERRITOS MAYOR PRO TEM CAROL CHEN TOLD TO “SIT DOWN AND SHUT UP” AT MEETING.

By Randy Economy

The ABC Unified School District Board of Education approved a new \$635 Million Facilities Master Plan early Wednesday morning in a meeting

that literally lasted eight hours spanning two days and attracting nearly 300 vocal residents, teachers, politicians, union leaders, and taxpayers who all had strong opinions on both sides of the issue.

The final vote to approve the plan was 4 to 3 with Members Maynard Law, Armin Reyes, Celia Spitzer, and Olympia Chen

See **MASTER PLAN** page 7

### Cerritos College ‘Officially Warned’ On Accreditation Report

LACY'S INTERNAL EMAIL CONTRADICTS HER STATEMENT TO THE PUBLIC ABOUT REPORT.

By Randy Economy

Cerritos College has been notified by a state review organization that it is in danger of having its full accreditation status yanked if changes are not imple-

mented immediately.

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) issued a stinging report to Superintendent Linda Lacy about the current condition and environment at the Alondra Boulevard based campus by announcing its decision to issue a “warning” to Cerritos College after an extensive 2013-14 Self-

See **ACCREDITATION** page 11

### CAROL CHEN HELD MEETING TO KILL ABCUSD BOND MEASURE

By Randy Economy and Brian Hews

Hews Media Group-Community Newspapers has confirmed from two sources that embattled Cerritos Mayor Pro-Tem Carol

See **CHEN MEETING** page 11

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## La Mirada Theatre Sets New Sales Records

Record total sales of over \$2.9 million were reached this season for productions at the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts. More than 63,400 patrons attended the La Mirada Theatre's stage plays and musicals during its 2013-14 season, which wrapped up on June 22.

Les Miserables became the highest grossing show in the 37 year history of the theatre. The production grossed over \$1.1 million at the box office during its run. It is the first time a single show has surpassed the million sales mark at the La Mirada Theatre.

Cats, which ran just prior to Les Miserables, from April 18 to May 11, was also a major success, earning over \$800,000 at

the box office. The production drew more than 20,000 patrons.

"This year's decision to offer two musicals, back-to-back, in one season, turned out to be a huge success for us," said Brian Kite. "We are all so pleased that the La Mirada Theatre continues to connect with audiences from La Mirada and throughout Southern California at such a high level."

La Mirada Theatre's stage is set for another outstanding season in 2014-15. The new lineup of shows includes: Good People, Sept. 19 – Oct. 12; Late Nite Catechism Las Vegas: Sister Rolls the Dice, Oct. 24 – Nov. 16; Billy Elliot The Musical, Jan. 16 – Feb. 8; Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice: A Musical, Apr. 17 – May 10; Marry Poppins, May 29 – Jun. 21; and Carrie the Musical, Mar. 12 – Apr. 5. In addition, two performances by six-time Grammy Award-winning singer Amy Grant will be held on May 23.



Les Misérables became the highest grossing show in the 37 year history of the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts. The production grossed over \$1.1 million at the box office during its May 30 through June 22 run. (Photo by Jason Niedle)

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## AB 2621 Passes California Senate, Targets Child Care Center

By Tammye McDuff

A new law that would set a new standard for child care centers in California has passed a major hurdle in Sacramento this past week.

AB 2621, authored by Assembly members Cristina Garcia (D – Bell Gardens) and Kristin Olsen (R – Modesto) state that inspection reports and complaint information relating to child care centers must be made available online, has passed out of Senate Human Services Committee with a unanimous, bipartisan 4-0 vote.

AB 2621, as amended, Garcia, Section 1596.819 added to the Health and Safety Code, relating to child day care states:

"Under the California Child Day Care Facilities Act, the State Department of Social Services licenses and regulates child

day care facilities. Existing law requires the department, when it conducts a site visit of a licensed child day care facility, to publicly post at the facility a notice that indicates whether the facility was cited for violating any state standards or regulations. Existing law also requires each licensed child day care facility to make accessible to the public a copy of any licensing report or other public licensing document that documents a facility visit, a substantiated complaint investigation, a conference with a local licensing agency management representative and the licensee in which issues of noncompliance are discussed, or a copy of an accusation indicating the department's intent to revoke the facility's license."

Presently, California law does not provide a resource for parents to find out

about inspection and complaint reports that have been filed against state-licensed day care, pre-school and after-school programs. If enacted, AB 2621 will allow easy access to a comprehensive representation of child care facilities by requiring the Department of Social Services to post confirmed complaints.

Attending the hearing was Julie Garcia, mother to Adam Dash, who was present to share the highly publicized story about her sons' death. According to news reports, Milena Nikodijevic, the operator of an in-home day care facility was sentenced to six years in state prison for the 2012 death of a baby Adam. Adam Dash, an 11-month-old baby, was left in Nikodijevic's care at her Burbank home

See AB 2621 page 14

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# DOWNEY PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE RECEIVES COUNCIL RECOGNITION

By Tammye McDuff

George De la Torre received a Certificate of Recognition from the Downey Council for his Military Service to our Country, on Tuesday, July 8, 2014.

Downey Public Works Director, Mohammad Mostahkami introduced De La Torre by stating, "George is a leader in the Public Works department."

Mostahkami states that De La Torre was born and raised in Guadalajara, Mexico, and "began his incredible journey to the United States at 17 years of age."

With a seven-day workweek, De La Torre divides his time between the cities of Downey and Rosemead. On the days, he does have off, De La Torre reports to Port Hueneme as a Seabee of the United States Navy, where he has served in the reserve for more than ten years. In 2007, De La Torre was called into active duty with Operation Iraqi Freedom with the responsibly of construction for all the military bases. Two years later, he was called to Afghanistan working in a detainee operation. In 2012, he was handpicked and



Downey Public Works Director, Downey City Manager stand with City Council in awarding George De La Torre a Certificate of Recognition. Tammye McDuff Photo

deployed to Afghanistan participating in training the Afghan National Army. "Working for the Navy and the city of Downey has taught me valuable lessons in Honor, Courage and Commitment," says De La Torre.

De La Torre has completed college course in landscaping, allowing him to work and be an integral component in the design of Downey parks. He has future goals of becoming a supervisor for the City of Downey as well as Navy Chef. De La Torre says, "I am forever grateful to the city of Downey for all their support during my time of service."

To a standing ovation of the city council

and entire auditorium, Mostahkami says, "Please join me in recognition of George in his outstanding service to this country."

"First I want to thank God for all that he has given me. Then I want to thank my wife for all of her support. I am grateful for this America and for all of our troupes." De La Torre then presented Mayor Vasquez and the city of Downey with a plaque he made in Afghanistan.

De la Torre and his wife are the proud parents of six kids, with his two older daughters following Dads footsteps in active service duty for the United States Army.

and the Downey Animal Care Shelter. The club also created 10 cooling jackets for search and rescue dogs which participate in rescue in the Los Angeles area. Bischoff thanked the council and added "I want to thank my Mom for all her support. When times got tough she was there to give me the push I needed and continue toward my

See **GIRLS SCOUTS** page 14

# Two Downey Young Women Receive Girl Scouts Highest Honors

By Tammye McDuff

The Girl Scout Gold Award represents the highest achievement in Girl Scouting and two young local women from Downey have been honored for their efforts.

Open to girls of high school age, this esteemed award challenges a young

woman to make a difference in her community.

Certificates of recognitions were bestowed to Sarah Bischoff and Giselle McAllister for achieving the Girl Scout Gold Award.

Sarah Bischoff is a Downey resident and a 16 year old sophomore at Valley Christian High School, she sings in the Women's Ensemble and is Captain of the Girls Basketball team. Bischoff loves animals and began a pet revenue society at school, raising awareness of pet adoptions and fundraising for local adoption animal centers. Bischoff created 35 cat cubbies and 75 blankets for the Long Beach SPCA



Sarah Bischoff & Giselle McAllister being introduced by Downey Mayor Fernando Vasquez with Councilmen Alex Saab and Mario Guerra. Tammye McDuff Photo

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**ABC Unified School District  
Public Hearing –  
Resolution for a  
Bond Measure**

The ABCUSD Board of Education will hold a Public Hearing regarding Action Item 4.11-A - Resolution 14-7 of the Board of Education of the ABC Unified School District Ordering a School Bond Election, and Authorizing Necessary Actions in Connection Therewith during the regular Board of Education Meeting on July 15, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

## READERS REACT: Cerritos Mayor Pro-Tem Chen Holds Private Meeting That Could Derail ABCUSD Bond Measure

**Editors note:** HMG-CN received over 50 comments on this story, they can be read online under the main story. Some were edited for grammar and length.

**Dear Editor:**

Council meeting ends with Chen refusing to state she attended this private meeting, in her closing comments. Travel Buddy Barrows also keeps it on the down low. Wouldn't this have been a great opportunity to notify residents of the impending bond tax? Once again you both show your true color – Red. Communist Red. Surprise of the night, Ray asked the council put on the agenda council benefits. Is Ray finally starting to set himself apart as the heir apparent to the cowardly lion Edwards? Barrows, the leach of stipends

committees, and soon to be termed out for a second time is a sure bet to make sure future councils can't take his lifetime perks. What the heck happened to Cho? Is that guy awake up there?

**Dear Editor:**

It is not true that Hawaiian Gardens will benefit most from the bond. The needs assessment for Hawaiian Gardens Elementary is 9.7 Million. This is a lower than most Elementary schools. (Gonsalves has 15 M in Need) This does not mean that HG will receive the least amount from the bond either.

**Dear Editor:**

Too add a bit more...It is an open secret that Cerritos is pursuing Chinese investment money. Why do you think all the trips to China and overseas? Who has the Chinese contacts? Why else is Barrows almost always seen at Chen's side? Why is 'dis'Graced Hu still welcome in city political circles? Why do you think the travel budget was doubled for this year? Edwards was a coward to stand up and stop it. Ray is turning out to be the same way. Pulido is too politically calculating.

**Dear Editor:**

George Ray won't do a damn thing. If you thought Jim Edwards was bad, Ray is Edwards 2.0. Ray may not need the money or benefits, but he wants the status of sitting on council and like Barrows enjoys hearing himself talk. Council is just another feather in his cap. Like his buddy Edwards, he comes across as a likeable guy, but there is no substances, with either of them, to get anything done.

**Dear Editor:**

HU's on First, Chen's on Second, Yoo's on Third... Johnson in the Bullpen. Now that the Chinese, Korean, Filipino Triad have figured out how to buy their way into power. What they do know is how to stuff the ballot box by voting in both their Chinese/Korean/etc. name and their American name, just as Laura Lee did when she registered as both Fu Ching Lee and Laura Lee...DOUBLE the vote!! They also figured out that by claiming to be uncomfortable voting in neighborhood garages, the city would push for 'neutral' voting places like Laura Lee's Real Estate office...less polling places and pushing Absentee voting by mail, that way Bing Bong, Ting Tang, Xie Xie, Chun Chow, Fu Chen and Bamby could all vote out of the Chow residence. Voter Fraud, Dirty Money, Backroom Deals, that's kids-play for this group of pirañhas – they make their millions by defrauding the system, and on rare occasions are actually caught (see Grace Hu fraud case) But, like the

proverbial phoenix from the ashes, Grace Hu will buy her way right back onto the now totally corrupt Cerritos City Council, both Democrats and Republicans are so fraudulent, political party makes no difference.

**Dear Editor:**

Mr. Hews & Mr. Economy, why are you giving Grace Hu a pass? Carol Chen and Bruce Barrows are her puppets, they don't do anything without first checking with Puppeteer Madame Hu. Has she now added Soo Yoo and Linda Johnson to the string show? Looks that way, Soo Yoo is not much of a surprise but I am dismayed that HU has captured Johnson. The old political saying "Money \$\$ talks" is still ringing true in Cerritos today.

**Dear Editor:**

This IS about corruption, and how the "power elite" in Cerritos operate hidden behind closed doors. Shame on Carol Chen. Didn't she hold some public press conference last year attacking Los Cerritos Community News? I hope LCCN can continue to expose Chen and Hu and little Dump Dupe Bruce Barrows. I also think that the Los Angeles County District Attorney needs to start paying attention to the corruption in Cerritos. I hope that Councilman George Ray can stop the actions of Chen and Burrows. Yes, CERRITOS!

**Dear Editor:**

We keep hearing the Chinese are snapping up real estate all over the U.S. Little did anyone realize they were buying local governments too. The only thing missing in the photo is the sold sign sitting atop city hall.

**Dear Editor:**

Why hide and meet in secret? If you are acting in the public interest as elected public officials, why shut out public scrutiny. This sounds like a case for the Justice Department – The Realtors, Republicans and Fake Democrats who drove Cerritos into the ground have run a Shadow Government. Meeting in secret and lining their own pockets! Wake Up Cerritos!

**Dear Editor:**

If council members Chen and Barrows support Grace Hu for city council (as mentioned in the article) and Johnson and Yoo are working with her on this bond then maybe it's true, "Birds of a Feather Flock Together." It is my opinion and hope all of Cerritos, Grace Hu is not welcome in city or district policy discussions or decisions. And any elected or appointed official who conspires with her should be immediately removed from office. The Department of

Corporations of the State of California's case against Grace Hu. "ACCUSATION TO REVOKE ESCROW AGENT LICENSE AND TO BAR FROM EMPLOYMENT, MANAGEMENT OR CONTROL OF ANY ESCROW AGENT" "Grace Hu is the President and owner of Fairway, and was also a member of the Cerritos City Council ("Council"), and has served as the mayor of Cerritos, at all relevant times herein."

**Dear Editor:**

For years frequent Communist China visitor Carol Chen has talked about raising taxes and implementing new fees on Cerritos. If she is hosting a private meeting with her Comrades on bond issues it will not be good for Cerritos.

**Dear Editor:**

I am not sure I understand the outrage. Certainly just become someone is an elected official it does not prevent them from meeting and discussing issues which affect the region. It appears a majority of the Council was not present therefore there is no Brown Act violation. Now I do agree that Chen displayed poor judgment in not allowing the press to attend, but then again she is under no obligation to do so. Just my 2 cents...

**Dear Editor:**

Our children in Hawaiian Gardens will be left behind if this bond does not pass. It is not fair that the greedy rich Cerritos crowd is taking away from our children, that is shameful. We need to protest this at the school district meeting. We will fight for our children and teach them democracy does not work this way.

**Dear Editor:**

Today had an exclusive talk w/ 2 of Barrows commissioners. Barrows, for many yrs, has been against (AT) AKA: Artificial Turf and is on record. Why? Barrows supports the water company, as Barrows has wanted to find ways to tax our water consumption. AT would take less water, so Barrows has been against this. Spoke w/ 3 of Carol Chen realtor employees from Prudential now Berkshire. They too confirmed Carol Chen has been against AT, as she wants the water to be more of a source for generating revenue. Both Carol and Barrows have voted in past against installation of AT. Now we are seeing the light, as present CCC, Carol Chen wants to raise our city's water rate, plus tax utilities.

**Dear Editor:**

After reading the Carol Chen email I too got the impression that all interested persons were invited to attend. Some residents did show up only to be treated with unexplainable rudeness. This woman needs to learn some manners. Thank you for sharing the video, I finally got to see the real Carol and she isn't a pretty picture, just another phoney rude bitch politician who thinks the world owes them everything. No worries, she is self destructing fast, I'll never trust her again.

**Dear Editor:**

First, I agree this smells like an undemocratic backroom deal. Next, the article mentions former disgraced city council member Grace Hu making another run for city council and goes on to say she has the full support of Carol Chen and Bruce Barrows. Is this for real? She left under a cloud of ethics and two sitting members are overlooking that and supporting her? Are there any honest people left in Cerritos?

### Catherine Grant Wieder

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**LETTERS from page 4**

**Dear Editor:**

As an ABC parent I am outraged at what I just read and saw on the video. The city council is hosting a 'private' meeting with school board members and other city officials to talk about a 1/4 billion dollar bond and the public is left in the parking lot? If Ms. Johnson was there only as an observer, what were the stacks of papers and booklets she and Ms. Yoo were bringing into the meeting? Why did she need to bring papers and booklets? What was she presenting? Ms. Chen, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Yoo – This reeks of a backroom deal at our our children's expense.

**Dear Editor:**

It appears Carol Chen takes the position she is acting as a private citizen and can do what ever she wants. It also appears Carol Chen takes the position she is an elected official and can do what ever she wants. Technically, she's not a private citizen. She is an elected official 24/7. That why a private citizen can meet with two other council members and she can't. Was Sally Havice tossed out because she is not White, Chinese, or Republican? How many African Americans were there? How many Latinos were represented? Koreans? Indians? Filipino? Were these Cerritos officials only at the meeting? As suggested by the other poster, can you post comments from other city leaders (non-Cerritos) who are part of the ABC school district? What do they think about this backroom deal that affects their constituents and non-white non-Chinese children? Evidently, residents in Cerritos allow this so, maybe you should take this outside the city line and bring in all ABC constituents.

**CRIME SUMMARIES  
WEEK OF JUNE 30-JUL 6**

**CERRITOS**

Crime in Cerritos continued its downward trend this past week with 12 Part I crimes reported to the Cerritos Sheriff's Station, one less than the previous week. The following is a breakdown of crimes by category: no robberies; one aggravated assault; four residential burglaries; four commercial/other burglaries; one grand theft; and two auto thefts. Deputies made six felony arrests, six misdemeanor arrests, six warrant arrests, and issued 97 traffic citations. The Sheriff's dispatch center also received 309 calls for service, considerably above this year's weekly average of 266 calls.

**Aggravated Assault:**

Cerritos Park East (6/30, 9:30 p.m.): Victim interrupted possible vehicle burglary and was assaulted by two suspects. Victim was stabbed in the forearm with a screwdriver and kicked and punched. Victim sustained a 5" cut and bruises.

**Residential Burglary:**

16400 block Bainbrook Ave. (6/30): Suspect shattered a window by the front door, ransacked the residence, and stole a computer and iPhone.

13500 block Droxford St. (7/2): Suspect pried rear door, ransacked residence, and stole \$610 worth of gift cards.

12350 block Willowbranch Ln. (7/3): Suspect entered unlocked rear sliding door and stole two TVs and sound bar.

17600 block Linda Way (7/4): Suspect shattered rear sliding door and stole various jewelry items.

**Commercial/Other Burglary:**

See **CRIME** page 7

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# New Summer I-5 Construction Dates Set For Norwalk

HMG-CN News Wire

Norwalk - Caltrans will implement several construction activities and operations in mid-July on both directions of the Santa Ana Freeway (I-5). The work is part of the \$1.8 billion I-5 South Corridor Improvement Projects to widen the freeway and structures to add one HOV lane and one general purpose lane from the Los Angeles/ Orange County line to the San Gabriel River Freeway (I-605).

Listed below are ramps that will open and close, mainline lane shift locations, and other upcoming summer and fall 2014 construction activities.

Ramps to OPEN: Tuesday, July 15 at 6 a.m. - the southbound I-5 on-ramp at Norwalk Blvd./San Antonio Dr. Late Summer 2014 - the new, fly-over off-ramp at southbound I-5 at Imperial Highway. Ramps to CLOSE: July 8 - 11 and July 14 - 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - the northbound I-5 off-ramp at Rosecrans Ave. will close on weekdays during daytime hours. (This ramp will fully close on 7/18 at 7 p.m. for

an extended 55-hour weekend closure. See info below). Friday, July 18 at 7 p.m. to Monday, July 21 at 5 a.m. - Extended Weekend (55-hour) Full Closure of the northbound I-5 off-ramp at Rosecrans Avenue.

Wednesday, July 16 - Permanent closure of the southbound I-5 on-ramp at Imperial Hwy. Thursday, July 17 at 7 p.m. - Long-term Full Closure of the northbound I-5 on-ramp at Carmenita Road. This ramp will close for approximately 18 months, until mid-2016 when the Carmenita Bridge Project has completed. During the closure, crews will work to complete the new 10-lane bridge, construct a new northbound I-5 on-ramp structure, construct the new center median, and realign the roadway.

Mainline Traffic Shifts:

Tuesday, July 15 at 4:30 a.m. - ALL (3 of 3) northbound I-5 lanes, between Norwalk Blvd. and Imperial Highway, will shift to the right; traffic will move on the newly paved lanes. (NB I-5 full freeway closure is scheduled overnight prior, Mon. 7/14, 11:59 pm to 4:30 am)

Wednesday, July 16 at 4:30 a.m. - ALL (3 of 3) southbound I-5 lanes, between Imperial Highway and Norwalk Blvd., will shift to the left and onto the existing northbound I-5 lanes. (SB I-5 full freeway closure is scheduled overnight prior on

Tues. 7/15, 12:01am to 4:30 am)

Monday, July 21 at 5 a.m. - ALL (3 of 3) northbound I-5 lanes will shift to the right between Carmenita Road to Rosecrans Avenue. (NB I-5 full freeway closure is scheduled overnight prior on Sun. 7/20, 12:01 am to 5 am)

Upcoming Construction Activities:

Late Summer 2014 - I-5 Florence Avenue Interchange Project begins construction. This project extends from Orr and Day Road to just south of I-605. It is the fifth project to begin construction in a series of six I-5 South Corridor Improvement Projects. Preliminary utility relocation activities are currently ongoing in various areas.

Early September, 2014 - Alondra Blvd. Bridge Project. Two newly-constructed bridges, the Alondra Blvd. Bridge and the Coyote Creek Overcrossing, will reopen. The intersection of Alondra Blvd. and Freeway Dr. will also open at this time.

Late Summer 2014 - Imperial Highway/Pioneer Blvd. Project. The newly-constructed, fly-over off-ramp at southbound I-5 at Imperial Highway will open.

Early Fall 2014 - Alondra Blvd. Bridge Project.

Mainline Traffic Shift- southbound I-5 mainline lanes will shift traffic to the center of the roadway; the existing south-

bound lanes will be the site of a new work zone.

Permanent closure of the southbound I-5 on-ramp at Alondra Blvd.

Fall 2014 - Rosecrans Ave./Bloomfield Ave. Project. Long-term closure of the southbound I-5 on-ramp and off-ramp at Rosecrans Avenue. (Approximately 9 months).

Fall 2014 - Florence Avenue Project. Permanent closure of the southbound I-5 on-ramp at Orr and Day Road in the city of Downey.

Construction schedules are subject to change. The motoring public, residents and businesses are encouraged to sign-up for regular notification on street, lane and ramp closures by calling the toll-free I-5 South Corridor Improvement Projects information line (855) 454-6335 or visiting [www.I-5info.com](http://www.I-5info.com) Caltrans district-wide freeway lane closure information can be accessed at [www.lcswebreports.dot.ca.gov](http://www.lcswebreports.dot.ca.gov)

## Norwalk Summer Concert Series

The City of Norwalk Recreation and Park Services Department will host its Summer Concert Series on the Civic Center Lawn, 12700 Norwalk Boulevard (corner of Imperial Highway adjacent to Norwalk City Hall).

These FREE concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. with live music by a variety of popular musical artists.

Food will also be sold by local community groups. Don't miss out on these fun-filled Wednesday nights! Bring your family, friends, lawn chairs, blankets, and picnic baskets, and be serenaded under the stars!

The schedule is as follows:

**Wednesday, July 16**

Mariachi Espectacular De Beto Jimenez (Mariachi)

This concert is sponsored by Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe.

**Wednesday, July 23**

The Funkomatics (80's Pop, 70's Disco)

**Wednesday, July 30**

Soto (Latin R & B)

**Wednesday, August 6**

Poncho Sanchez (Latin Jazz)

"National Night Out"

**Wednesday, August 13**

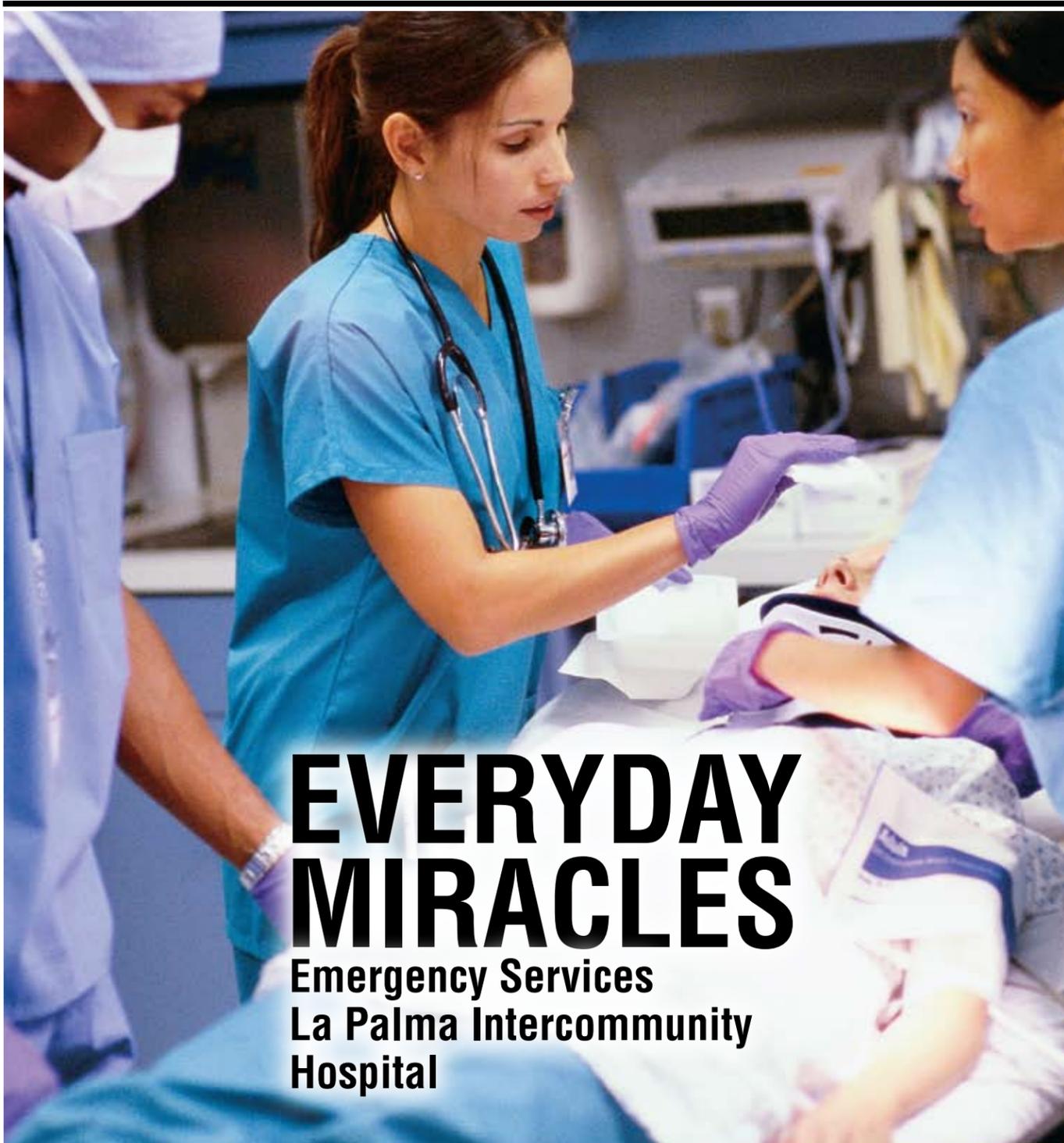
Vanity Fair (Top 40)

## Teddy Bear Picnic at Norwalk Library

Children are invited to bring a favorite stuffed friend to a Teddy Bear Picnic at the Norwalk Library, 12350 Imperial Highway, in Norwalk on Wednesday, July 16 at 11:00 am.

Learn about Teddy Bears, play fun games, get your face painted, and share a picnic with your favorite bear or sleep buddy.

This event is part of the Library's annual summer reading program "Paws to Read" which offers reading incentives and activities during the summer months. Admission is free. For full details, please contact the Norwalk Library at (562) 868-0775.



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**MASTER PLAN**

*Continued from page 1*

supporting the plan and President Sophia Tse, Vice President Lynda Johnson and Member Soo Yoo vocally opposing the plan.

Yoo and Johnson had attended a private meeting organized by Cerritos Mayor pro tem Carol Chen last week. HMG-CN learned from two sources that the meeting was held to craft a strategy to defeat the Master Plan and the Bond Measure.

The board also began the formal process of having a \$265 Million General Improvement Bond Measure placed on the upcoming November 4th General Election Ballot. Specific details about the bond will be on the next agenda of the ABC School Board on July 15 beginning at 7 p.m. at the District Headquarters at the corner of 166th Street and Norwalk Boulevard.

Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu and Chief Financial Officer Toan Nguyen, as well as a cadre of consultants, touted the plan as a "working roadmap" that will help future district officials develop a long-term modernization plan at more than 30 campuses and other aged facilities that have not seen significant improvements in decades.

"In order to maintain outstanding student achievement and enhance the quality of education for all students, and to prepare students for the competitive collegiate and career markets of the 21st Century, the District must maintain, repair, upgrade, expand, and improve its educational facilities," Nguyen told the board and audience. "The Facility Master Plan is a long range planning tool to address the District's facility's needs, nothing more, nothing less, and can be changed, revised or altered at any time, by any future school board," Nguyen said.

"The mission of ABC Unified School District is to develop a great community of life long learners, creative thinkers, and responsible individuals by providing innovative and high quality educational programs in a safe and supportive environment. As a District we need to go from great to exceptional," Nguyen added during his comments.

Nearly 70 people testified before the board about the plan and many of them mirrored the position of Melissa Peterson, a resident of Cerritos, and who is an employee of ABC School District: "Tonight I speak in support of this plan. As a teacher, you feel valued here, but you can only do with have you have to deal with to help teach our kids in class. As a resident and taxpayer, this is going to affect me and my property taxes, but I totally support both the plan and the bond to pay for it."

Ben Ao, a longtime resident of Cerritos and critic of the ABC School Board said he was concerned that residents and voters were not properly informed about the plan or the details of the upcoming bond measure. "I was informed of this plan through private channels; sure better schools make better communities, but I want to caution the school board about transparency, and not doing anything behind closed doors," Ao said.

Cerritos resident Chung Fu said that the community was not properly informed about the Master Plan. "Look, 98% of the community doesn't know what's going on. You guys decided to put this master plan, before even informing the commu-

nity. If we were at the World Cup you would get a Yellow Card and someone would be placed on a time out," Fu said. His comments got many chuckles around the crowded district office.

Cerritos Mayor Pro-Tem Carol Chen generated cackles from the audience during her series of comments that she made throughout the night.

It was exclusively reported last week in HMG-CN that Chen led a private meeting in her real estate office to prepare a specific strategy on how to defeat the Facility Master Plan. When it was Chen's turn to speak, she seemed unprepared and rambled past the allotted time, speaking nearly seven minutes.

Board Clerk Maynard Law admonished her for not following board hearing rules. When Chen continued, members of the ABC Federations of Teachers who were seated in the front row told Chen to "sit down and shut up."

Chen handed out a list of "concerns" and "suggestion" about the plan that HMG-CN confirmed was drafted after input with former Cerritos Mayor and relator Grace Hu, current Cerritos Councilman Bruce Barrows, and former controversial ABC School Board members Cecy Groom and Dixie Primosch and Matt Kauble who is a local Republican Party activist.

One Artesia resident who did not want to be identified said, "that list that Chen handed out was nothing more than talking points from the local Republican party leaders, every speaker who came up against the measure basically said what Chen handed out."

Also speaking in favor of the Master Plan was incoming Gahr High School Student Body President Lani LaCroix.

"Our classrooms are too cramped, and we don't have modern equipment at Gahr so it is hard for our students to show our true potential. I am going to be ASB President and I am here to support the Master Plan and to make sure that all of our students excel. Sometimes we need to shut off our air conditioning because we don't have enough electrical power to run our lights at the same time, this needs to resolve once and for all," said LaCroix.

**Johnson Lashes Out**

It was past 2 a.m. on Wednesday morning, ABC School Members were still meeting, and tempers were flaring.

However, several hours earlier, Board Vice President Johnson took nearly 40 minutes to pepper questions to school administrators and consultants about the plan that she ultimately voted against.

Johnson told HMG-CN on Wednesday afternoon that she "had a lot of questions about cost expenses, and other concerns, and yes it was a very long night."

Johnson said that she was "not happy" with the district "for not being transparent with the community" about the details of the master plan.

"We needed to reach out to the community and public better," Johnson said.

"Look, we have architects looking into the matter and planners and engineers and when you don't get community support for a master plan you won't get support for the bond," Johnson said.

Johnson also defended her participation with Chen, Hu, Groom, Primosch, and Yoo at a private meeting where details of the master plan were openly discussed using paperwork that was not public records at the time.

"We all have the right to do what we believe is the best in being able to represent the community and to hear different points of view, and this particular meeting was no exception," Johnson said.

Johnson did not indicate if she would be supporting or opposing the bond. "We all need to hear from the community about the bond, and everyone needs to be heard," she concluded.

**CRIME**

*Continued from page 5*

10800 block Alondra Blvd. (7/4): Suspect removed lock from locker at LA Fitness and took a wallet and credit cards.

12500 block South St. (7/5, 12:30 a.m.): Suspect shattered glass door of business and took an ice cream cake.

17300 block Norwalk Blvd. (7/5-6): Suspect entered restaurant from an adjoining business by cutting a hole in the drywall. Suspect stole \$2500 in cash from a security locker.

17300 block Norwalk Blvd. (7/5-6): Suspect entered business through an unlocked roof hatch and stole \$150.

Grand Theft: 18700 block Stefani Ave. (6/29): Victim had cell phone and laptop stolen during a party at her residence.

Grand Theft Vehicle: 10800 block Alondra Blvd. (7/4): 1995 Honda Accord stolen from the commercial parking lot.

18200 block Studebaker Rd. (7/6): Kia dealership reported a Kia Cadenza missing from their lot.

**LA MIRADA**

The following information was provided to Hews Media Group-Community Newspaper from the City of La Mirada Public Safety Department and covers crime activities for the week of June 30 to July 6, 2014.

**57 Citations Issued on July 4**

On July 4, the La Mirada Public Safety Team enforced fireworks regulations by canvassing the community and responding to calls for service. The Team consists of Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputies, along with City Public Safety and Code Enforcement Officers patrolling the City.

This year the Public Safety Team issued 57 citations for illegal fireworks violations, and one citation for a safe and sane violation. The La Mirada Community Sheriff's Station received 32 calls for service on the night of July 4 pertaining to fireworks.

In La Mirada, discharging of fireworks on City-owned property, including parks, streets and sidewalks, is prohibited. The use of "safe and sane fireworks" is only allowed on July 4 from 3 to 10 p.m.

**Robbery**

An attempted robbery was reported on the 14800 block of Cheshire St. The suspect fled the location before Deputies arrived. There were no injuries or loss reported. The incident remains under investigation.

**Aggravated Assault**

An assault was reported on the 16700 block of Knott Ave. The victim's vehicle

was struck by another vehicle at the location.

An assault stemming from a domestic dispute was reported on the 14800 block of Cheshire St. No injuries were reported.

**Residential Burglary**

A residential burglary was reported on the 14100 block of Priscilla St. A window was broken at the location. It is unknown if any items were stolen from the residence.

**Vehicle Burglary**

A vehicle burglary was reported on the 13300 block of Beach Blvd.

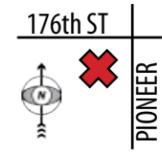
A vehicle burglary was reported on the 12300 block of La Mirada Blvd.

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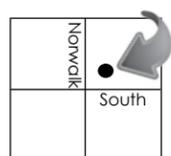
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## Assemblywoman Garcia Names 2014 'Veteran of the Year'



*Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia congratulate Dr. Gloria Willingham as the winner of the "Pride of the 58th" Award that was established to highlight residents who contribute positive acts to the community.*

By Tammye McDuff

"Pride of the 58th" is a campaign by Assembly member Cristina Garcia to highlight positive contributions happening every day in the 58th Assembly District.

As part of this campaign, Garcia honored Dr. Gloria Willingham as 2014 "Veteran of the Year". "She knows firsthand the disparities and difficulties that persons from such backgrounds face, often unspoken and unshared," Garcia said. Willingham stated, "I am honored to be this year's recipient. The luncheon hosted in Sacramento honoring Veterans from all branches of military service - active duty and reserved - was inspiring. I have always been connected with Veterans even before

I became one."

Dr. Willingham is a retired Lt. Colonel of the U.S. Army Reserves, worked as a nurse for more than 20 years from nurses' aide; to staff nurse; to her retirement as a Chief and Nursing Educator for Research at the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care System in Long Beach, California. Willingham has served many years on advisory boards of nursing programs.

She organized the first African-American nurses group in Long Beach, founder of The Village P.r.o.j.e.c.t.s; Co-founder of AframGlobal Organization; been the recipient award winner of the American Legion, Jackie Robinson Post; Award for Service to Community, State and Nation from

See **VETERAN** page 9



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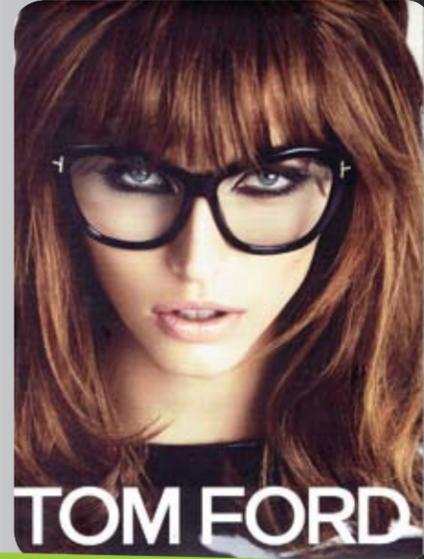
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**VETERAN** from page 8

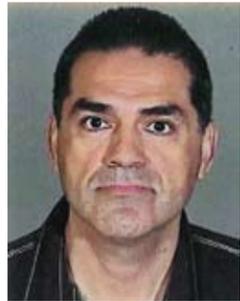
the Beverly Hills/Hollywood NAACP and received recognition for Community Service from the city of Long Beach.

Gloria Willingham was one of the early graduates of the desegregated Little Rock Central High School in the 1960's. Willingham knows firsthand what it is like to move through systems as a single parent, full time employee and full time student. Facing the difficulties of such a background, she encourages all to "tell our story", help others to regain their strength and the strength of the community.

Dr. Willingham comes from a patriotic family, with members serving in WW1; WW2; the Korean War and Viet Nam. Willingham served her country while in her twenties as a Department of Defense Civilian at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas during the end of the Viet Nam war, later becoming a career leader in the Department of Veterans Affairs leading the development of programs that equipped thousands of health care employees to supply health care to our Veterans. "Concurrent with all of this" states Willingham "I served the US Army proudly, first as a member of the National Guard, and later as a member of the US Army Reserves --- a career spanning over 20 years through peacetime and wartime." She was one of the few officers to be awarded the Meritorious Service Medal by the President of the United States after launching programs that became models for other Army vocational nursing (91C) programs throughout the United States. Humbly and respectfully, Willingham says, "My contributions pale in comparison to the ultimate sacrifices of so many veterans and families of veterans. I stand respectfully before them and I bow in honor of the services rendered. I invite all in the 58th District to pause in honor and in memory of them."

**LA County Assessor Noguez Preliminary Hearing Set for July 22**

By Randy Economy



Assessor John Noguez

Los Angeles County Assessor John R. Noguez is set to appear in a Downtown Los Angeles Superior Court room on July 22th for a preliminary hearing in his criminal case where it is alleged that he

accepted campaign loans and bribes in exchange for devaluing property assessments on multi-million dollar parcels.

However, many believe that his court appearance could end up being a short public appearance and they the case could be formally delayed for several additional weeks.

On October 17, 2012, Noguez was arrested on 44 counts of conspiracy, bribery and corruption, with bail set at \$1.36 million.

Hews Media Group-Community Newspaper published dozens of exclusive articles detailing how Noguez and key indicted co-conspirators Mark McNeil, Noguez's chief appraiser and Ramin Salari, a campaign contributor and Arizona tax consultant worked in concert between February and September 2010 to oversee

See **NOGUEZ** page 14

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## CHAMPIONS CUP

# Inexperience overcomes Artesia Punishers 16-Under squad in Champions Cup

By Loren Kopff

IRVINE-When the travel ball season began last September, the Artesia Punishers team coached by Armando Canizales was a 14-Under squad. But over the past few months, the team was playing in a couple of 16-Under tournaments.

One of those tournaments was the Amateur Softball Association's Champions Cup and while the Punishers won two games in pool play action, they were no match for the (Fullerton) Cal A's, coached by Crystal Aguirre, this past Sunday in a 4-1 defeat at Harvard Park. It marked the end of a frustrating four-day tournament that saw the Punishers commit 19 errors in seven games, including five against the Cal A's.

"On the defensive side, we struggled," Canizales said. "The girls are actually a second-year 14 team coming up to play 16's, which is very critical. At the 16-year-old division you can't make the mental mistakes our young team made. It was tough to see them break down that way. But it's something I hope to work on and grow out of it in the near future."

The Cal A's scored in the top of the second inning as Hailee Desmond dou-

bled and scored on a single from Amanda Melodia. It was 2-0 in the next inning after Alexis Honeycutt scored on an error and the Cal A's increased its lead to 3-0 in the fifth on a triple from Warren High School's Megan Narvaez, plating Eryka Springer of Mayfair High School.

The Punishers avoided being shutout when first baseman Attie Landrum (Sunny Hills High School) doubled to the center field wall and came home on a double from centerfielder Amanda Canizales (Whittier High School). Ashley Armas (John Glenn High School) went the distance, scattering seven hits and yielding two earned runs. Four of those seven hits came in the final three innings.

"Ashley's performance this weekend was wonderful," Armando Canizales said. "She's come a long way in the last three months. Her speed, her velocity, her control...I'm speechless on her pitching coming along the way it has."

The Punishers were limited to six hits with right fielder Elisa Peralta (Santa Fe High School) going two for three. Three hits came from batters from the top four in the batting order. Peralta was in the sixth spot while the other hit came from pinch hitter Sierra Eddy (Wilson High School), who batted eighth.

"The top of the order is a little healthier than the bottom of the order," Armando Canizales said. "We couldn't make a small adjustment on the drop ball from the other pitcher. We couldn't put hits together. That was the thing. The bottom of the order needs to come up."

The Punishers began pool play action last Thursday with a 9-1 loss to the Orange County Batbusters as Ashley Machado (Warren High School) drove in Alexxis Ponce (Santa Fe High School) in the bottom of the fifth. Later in the day, the team bounced back for a 9-3 win over the (San Marcos) Southern California Breakers as Armas went three for three, scored twice and hit a home run while Allison Castro (Yorba Linda High School) hit a three-run home run.

Last Friday, the Punishers blasted the (Oakdale) OBS Monarch 6-1 behind a second straight 11-hit attack. Amanda Canizales went three for four with a triple, a run scored and two RBI. Armas and Ponce each had a pair of hits. But the (Bellevue, WA) Blast did exactly that later in the day in an 11-5 conquest. The Blast scored six runs in the top of the first but the Punishers answered back with all of their runs in the bottom half of the inning.

Last Saturday morning, the Punishers

tied the (Las Vegas) Rage 3-3 with all three of their runs coming in the bottom of the first inning. Armas and Amanda Canizales each picked up two hits and scored once. Then in the afternoon, the Punishers were pummeled by the (Central California) Dirt Dogs 16-3 with all three runs once again coming in the bottom of the first. Devany Esparza (Bellflower High School) had a solo home run while Amanda Canizales went two for three and scored once.

The Champions Cup marked the final major tournament of the summer for the Punishers, which had already qualified for the ASA Western Nationals in Clovis but will not attend due to the fact that it will be missing several players. The team recently came off a third place performance in the Triple Crown Sports Red, White and Blue Tournament where it allowed nine runs in three pool play games and scored 19 runs in three playoff games.

"I see the maturity level from the 16's to my team, and there's a difference," Armando Canizales said. "Their emotions get more in the way than being a little bit more mature and going through that error or that bad at-bat, where my girls kind of hang onto it mentally and don't let it go away."

## Frontier Youth Baseball League all-stars have rough opening in state tournament



NEWS AND  
NOTES FROM  
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HMG-CN Sports  
Editor Loren Kopff

this past Wednesday evening at El Dorado Park West and quickly fell into a hole that they nearly climbed out of. In the end, Frontier dropped a 5-4 decision, leaving the winning run at first in the bottom of the sixth inning. Pitcher Jarret Nielsen stumbled through the first two innings, but the defense behind him didn't help as well. All five of Frontiers' errors came in the first two innings when Los Altos scored all five runs and picked up three of its five hits. Two of the five runs were earned. But Nielsen also walked five and struck out three. The top of the first inning saw Nielsen walk four straight batters with two outs but only two runs came home.

Frontier got its first run in the bottom of the second when designated hitter Ryan Rodriguez and first baseman Kaleb Nakano singled with none out. After third baseman Henry Wonderlick reached on a fielder's choice, Nakano scored on centerfielder Nicholas Leung's base hit to right field.

While Rodriguez, who pitched the third and fourth innings, struck out two and allowed a pair of hits during his time on the mound, Frontier made it a game in the bottom of the fourth inning. Catcher Noah Andrunas reached on an error and scored on a double from Rodriguez. On the very next pitch, Nakano doubled to right to make it a 5-3 affair. After a walk

to Wonderlick and a pop-up, Nakano touched home plate on a ground out from second baseman Nate Tsujioka.

Nakano pitched the final two innings, striking out four and walking two while tossing 31 pitches. Frontier had a chance to tie the game in the bottom of the fifth when right fielder Ryan Martinez was hit by a pitch, moved to second on a wild pitch and went to third on a one-out groundout. But another groundout left the score at 5-4.

Then in the final frame, Rodriguez led off with a base hit and one out later, advanced on a base hit from Wonderlick. But a pop-up and a fly-out within the next four pitches ended another golden opportunity.

Frontier will play the loser of the Simi Valley/Seabees game, played on July 10, on Saturday morning. A win in that game means Frontier will play again Saturday afternoon against the loser of the Los Altos/Heartwell game.

Going on at the same time of the 8-Under game, the Frontier 11-Under all-stars led Heartwell by a run going into the top of the sixth inning. But Heartwell scored twice and escaped with a 4-3 win. Pitcher Jonathan Nava went the distance, yielding nine hits and striking out three. Christian Chai, Stanley Nicholson and William Reed all went one for three and a run scored.

Frontier will play the loser of the Simi Valley/Seabees contest, also played on July 10, on Saturday in Simi Valley.

Also this past Wednesday night, the Frontier 10-Under all-stars were blanked by Los Altos 12-0 in a game that ended in five innings due to the mercy rule. The lone highlight for Frontier came in the third inning when Elias Archie hit a two-out triple. As is the case with the other two Frontier teams, the 10-Under squad will play the loser of the Simi Valley/Seabees game on Saturday in Simi Valley.

The Frontier 12-Under all stars will play the winner of this past Wednesday's Los Altos/Heartwell game tonight at Heartwell.

### SOFTBALL

The Cerritos Girls Softball Association 12-Under Kaos all-star team had one good game at last weekend's Amateur Softball Association "B" State Tournament in Lancaster. Unfortunately, the team had two

games it would like to forget and were bounced out of the tournament last Saturday afternoon.

The Kaos fell to North Shore 8-2 last Friday afternoon as the team was held to two hits. But Cerritos rebounded in a big way last Saturday morning by eliminating Moreno Valley 12-3. Kara Spoolstra and Valerie Joaquin combined to scatter six hits and strike out five batters. Essence Gibbs had three hits and drove in three runs while Julia Enzmann added a pair of hits.

But a few hours later, the Kaos were smashed by Bonita Valley 14-4 as a pair of pitchers yielded a dozen hits. Enzmann again had a pair of hits while four other players all had one hit.

The Kaos, which ended the summer at 11-10 overall, were facing the aforementioned opponents for the first time this summer. The rest of the CGSA 12-Under Kaos are: Caitlyn Azevedo, Brooklyn Bedolla, Gemma Bulthuis, Brenda Duran, Natalie Luna, Dalia Morones and Destiny Ramos. The manager is Sal Bedolla and his assistants are: Gabe Azevedo, Edgar Cervantes, Benito Joaquin, Steve Morones and Mike Spoolstra. The team moms are Ana Azevedo, Laurie Marek and Monica Martinez.

In other softball action, the Artesia Punishers 14-Under team coached by Jr. Vasquez will participate in the Triple Crown Sports World Series in Park City, Utah. The Punishers will begin pool play action on Tuesday against the (Sedona, AZ) Verde Valley Heat and the (Los Gatos) California Kryptonite. The next day, the Punishers will face the (Corona) Quakes and the (Indio) Southern California Nationals.

The Artesia Punishers 18-Under team coached by Higinio Valdez will play six pool play games in the ASA Champions Cup, which began this past Wednesday. The playoffs will begin on Saturday morning with the championship game on Sunday afternoon.

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**ACCREDITATION***Continued from page 1*

Evaluation Report was conducted on the campus during the past several months.

Lacy recently told Trustees that she would be quitting her position and abruptly announced her retirement last month. Lacy said she would be leaving after this upcoming school year concludes in May 2015.

Schools accredited by the ACCJC are required to undergo a peer-evaluation to determine areas of improvement every six years.

A spokesperson for Cerritos College attempted to downplay the "warning" in a statement issued to Hews Media Group-Community Newspaper and other media outlets on Monday afternoon.

"A Warning is the least severe of the four sanctions that ACCJC can issue when an institution has not met or partially met standards," said spokesperson Aya Abalon.

A review of the executive summary of the report claims that Cerritos College officials need "areas of improvement" that includes degree and certificate student-learning outcomes, as well as scolding the Board of Trustees on their "leadership abilities."

"Cerritos College remains fully accredited and continues to provide strong academic programs and resources that prepare students for future careers and transfer to four-year colleges and universities," Abalon said in her statement.

"The recommendations will not impact students earning credits toward degrees, certificates, transfers, and Financial Aid is also available for eligible students," she stressed.

Lacy attempted to deflect criticism and downplayed the results of the report in her media statement the harsh critic of the

"Our programs are strong. The evaluation is a peer-review process that allows the College to determine more ways to increase efficiencies. The Commission's actions remind us that our work to improve campus governance standards must remain a priority in order to better serve our students and the community," said Lacy.

However, an internal memo written by Lacy, sent to members of the Board of Trustees, and exclusively obtained by HMG-CN, Lacy sheds a very different light on the report that directly contradicts her public statement.

Lacy wrote in her memo to the Trustees last late last week: "I am disappointed that the College was placed on Warning, but from the team's exit interview, I had anticipated the action. We have begun to review the report thoroughly and develop strategies to correct the cited deficiencies."

HMG-CN obtained a copy of the Accrediting Commission report that was authored by Barbara A. Beno who is the current President of the statewide watch and review agency.

Beno blasted the current Cerritos College Board voting majority that consists of current President Carmen Avalos, Vice President Sandra Salazar, Marissa Perez and John Paul Drayer.

Beno said that the commission "recognizes the achievements under the new president, however, interference by the Board of Trustees' majority has placed the College in jeopardy. The district has provided numerous trainings for Board members, but their behavior remains unchanged."

Avalos said that, "The Board of Trustees is aggressively planning and assessing processes to ensure that the Commission's standards are fully met with comprehensive effectiveness."

"Our chief priority is to ensure that

Cerritos College continues to serve our students and community with quality programs and strong leadership," Avalos, who represents a wide part of South Gate and other western portions of the district.

**TRUSTEE SALAZAR RIPS ACCJC**

Vice President Salazar ripped into the legitimacy of the report in a statement to HMG-CN on Tuesday.

"As the governing body of Cerritos College, Trustees are stewards of its resources both human and financial. Student success is the ultimate measurable outcome and the state's student success score card for community colleges is now a standard," Salazar said.

"The Community College of San Francisco has made recent history in challenging the legitimacy and impartiality of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges," Salazar continued. "Federal intervention overturned the accrediting commission's attempt to harm the college, beginning with undermining its board of trustee's ability to govern. Yet, according to the scorecard, 56 percent of students who entered San Francisco City College in the 2007-08 school year achieved their goal of transferring or earning an associate degree within six years. I bring this up as it is a test case to the questionable composition and methods of the accreditation commission who seem to operate punitively on trustees and administrators that challenge the status quo," she said.

"Student success simply cannot wait and it is in that belief that I campaigned and was elected to serve. Upon being elected, I could not believe that Cerritos College had less than an 8-12 % transfer rate and a rudimentary approach to career pathways in the new economy. This is pure and simply unacceptable, this is why the board of trustee's new leadership thinks out of the box, and calls on national best practices to ensure that Cerritos College will become a flagship community college that takes a lead role in facilitating educational opportunities that will tangibly build a new middle class in our region. We were elected to ensure student success is measurable. I find the findings of the accrediting commission disturbing and again question the composition of their accreditation team and their methodol-

**CHEN MEETING***Continued from page 1*

Chen purposely held a private meeting with other local leaders and two elected ABCUSD Board Members to craft a strategy to defeat a proposed \$235 Million Bond to help rebuild aged school campuses including the headquarters of the ABC Unified School District.

HMG-CN was told by a source who attended the meeting that Chen and former Cerritos Mayor Grace Hu talked "hard ball politics and strategy on how to defeat the bond measure."

The source said that Chen "controlled the meeting," and that Chen and Hu voiced concerns that they would be "unfairly taxed" due to a large number of both residential and commercial properties they own within the ABC Unified School District.

A second source, who works inside the ABC USD told HMG-CN on Tuesday afternoon that "everyone is concerned about what took place at the meeting" with Chen and Hu. Current Cerritos City Councilman Bruce Barrows, and current ABC School Board Members Sue Yoo and Lynda Johnson were also in attendance.

Johnson told HMG-CN that she would be "preparing a summary of notes of what took place at the meeting" and

that they would be shared with the newspaper. As of Tuesday at 3 p.m., Johnson did not produce any correspondence about what took place behind closed doors.

Troubling questions linger in relation to the meeting and whether it violated the California Open Meeting Law better known as the Brown Act.

HMG-CN obtained a letter written by Chen in 2011 on Cerritos official letterhead. Chen used her carolchen@yahoo.com email on the letterhead; letterhead printed and paid for by the city of Cerritos.

That by default makes her carolchen@yahoo.com an official city email, which then made the meeting she called an official city meeting. Not allowing the public violates the Brown Act.

Questions also linger in relation to Johnson and Yoo attending and the possible "quid pro quo," translated as "give something, get something" that could have been forged between the two and Chen.

One Cerritos resident questioned why they did not walk out of the meeting once it became clear what the meeting was about. "It is very suspect that Yoo and Johnson stayed at the meeting, something was going on that enticed them to stay."

Hews Media Group-Community Newspaper obtained a copy of that email and published it on line just hours prior to the commencement of the 8 p.m. meeting in a third floor conference room at 183rd Street and Gridley Road real estate office owned by Chen.

Chen sent a personal email with addresses obscured from her individual Yahoo email account on Monday June 30 calling it an "urgent meeting" to seek input on the proposed ABCUSD \$680 million Facilities Master Plan and \$235 million Bond Measure.

When asked, Chen indicated she did not want the press at the meeting.

HMG-CN confronted Chen at the meeting and was repeatedly denied access. Chen on several occasion during the heated interview denied sending out the email or deflecting any and all questions surrounding the meeting.

In her email Mayor pro tem Chen said, "Given the facts I know of current(ly), if the bond passes it will impact/increase your property tax bill hundreds of dollars annually. ABCUSD School Board members Lynda Johnson and Soo Yoo both have reached out to me to get this information out to the public."

Based on the statement by Chen in the email where she said, "I wanted to get this information out to the public," HMG-CN contacted Chen by email to attend the meeting.

Chen's terse one-line reply was, "no media, invited guests only."

Cerritos City Manager Art Gallucci, who was not in attendance, was informed about Chen's meeting on Wednesday in an email from HMG-CN. Gallucci said, "The city was not aware of the meeting until you (HMG-CN) emailed the information to me. This is not a city meeting therefore the city will not be participating in any official capacity."

With a cell phone video rolling, HMG-CN captured both Yoo and Johnson arriving at the meeting at the same time carrying paperwork. Chen greeted the two ABC School Board Members with open arms and hugs before they went into a private elevator.

Johnson, when asked if members of the media could attend, responded that she was there as a "guest."

Earlier in the afternoon, Johnson told the newspaper that she was attending. "I am attending and will take input from attendees, but I am there as an observer

[See CHEN MEETING page 14]

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# CORRUPTION AND CRONYISM: VETERANS PARK CONSERVANCY

WLAVA for the past two decades. She has been described by Rosebrock as “a woman who has been hell-bent” on stopping the property from “living up to its deeded legacy of providing a quiet haven for disabled and homeless Veterans.”

It is the dirty little secret that everyone knows about in Brentwood.

Veterans have been abandoned literally on the side of the road along Sunset Boulevard in West Los Angeles fighting a war that has become heated and volatile led by Young and her VPC organization.

An investigation in June by HMG-CN revealed that cronyism and corruption filtered up to the highest levels in local, state, and even the federal government, all at the expense of mentally disabled and homeless Veterans in Los Angeles.

Powerful real estate developers, unresponsive government bureaucrats, and

Sue Young's VPC are strong allies against an army of outspoken critics, almost all of them former military Veterans, who line the streets around the property each weekend, donning protest signs and wearing trademark American military greens.

Hews Media Group-Community Newspaper spent countless hours researching records, emails, and other critical documents that outline how political leaders, led by Sue Young and WLAVA Director Donna Bieter, resorted to the implantation and execution of illegal lease agreements with commercial organizations on the Brentwood property.

It is a web of some of the most powerful people in the country who are catering to the Brentwood Elite and their representative Young, in a decades-old effort to keep Veterans “out of Brentwood,” in what one Veteran says is the “biggest land

fraud scheme in U.S. history.”

Local and regional media, weekly and daily newspapers, along with LA County Supervisors have ignored the problem for years, not wanting to anger the Brentwood Elite and face the political wrath of the uber-wealthy who reside there.

Those involved include former VA Secretary Eric Shinseki, California Senator Dianne Feinstein and her billionaire husband Richard Blum, Congressman Henry Waxman, LA County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, LA County Supervisorial Candidate Bobby Shriver, WLAVA Director Donna M. Beiter and the powerful Brentwood Veterans Park Conservancy run by Young.

Sources tell HMG-CN that others are also ignoring the Veteran's plight, including KFI's John Kobylt of the John and Ken radio show and Bill Handel who is heard daily on the same station.

Handel's spokesperson has denied any involvement with the property, even though Handel received several emails about the 388-acre property from Rosebrock and interacts daily with Kobylt.

The intricate case centers on the 388-acre property, which was deeded to the government in 1888 by John P. Jones and Arcadia B. de Baker to the State of California for the “to be used exclusively by

homeless and disabled Veterans.” Under the deed, anything done on the land should directly benefit Veterans and Veteran's health; anything else is illegal and a “breach of fiduciary duty.”

But in 2001, WLAVA began leasing land to commercial organizations. These organizations put the donated land to uses that had absolutely nothing to do with providing health benefits to Veterans, a breach of fiduciary duty and an affront to Los Angeles Veterans.

The ACLU finally got wind of this and filed a lawsuit to fight the leases and remove the companies. District Judge John Otero agreed in 2013 that the land, under the 1888 deed, is to be used exclusively by Veterans, and adjudicated the leases in Federal Court as “unauthorized by law and therefore void.”

Otero then entered a Federal Judgment against the Defendants, now-former Secretary of the VA Shinseki and Beiter.

Shockingly, Shinseki and Bieter appealed the judgment using the full force and power of the United States and the Department of Justice. One ACLU lawyer called the appeal “morally and legally indefensible.”

Newly appointed VA Secretary Sloan Gibson is the de-facto party in the lawsuit now, and is allowing the appeal to continue.

And incredibly, some of the companies with leases on the property are riding the coattails of Shinseki/Gibson and fighting the ruling while the media, newspapers, and politicians sit on the sideline and ignore the saga as a matter of political and monetary convenience.

Brentwood Private School and UCLA are leading the charge to have the appeal overturned.

But that is the way it has been since 2001; politicians and the VPC act to defend the Brentwood Elite and Los Angeles media disregards the story for fear of monetary retribution.

Rosebrock told HMG-CN that Young orchestrated an unlawful rent-free “sharing agreement” with the WLAVA for a 16-acre, billion dollar parcel of land to build

a public park “for the enjoyment of the entire community,” which she stresses on the group's website is to “honor our veterans.”

In 2007 when then-VA Secretary R. James Nicholson placed a one-year termination clause on the VPC's 16-acre park lease, Sen. Feinstein immediately wrote a letter on U.S. Senate letterhead on behalf of the VPC asking for the removal of the clause.

Three months later, lightning speed for any similar government action, Nicholson removed the termination clause and signed the 30-year rent-free “sharing agreement” basically giving the VPC a \$1 billion property free as a “public park.”

This free public park “gift” rendered the land unavailable for Veterans and VA development. The VPC and Young got what it wanted, a deal to keep Veterans out of Brentwood.

Feinstein, Waxman and Yaroslavsky turned a blind eye and allowed the agreement to be approved.

In 2007, a Los Angeles Times article described how Yaroslavsky stopped a development by Fox Entertainment on the same land. Yet the Supervisor let the VPC 16-acre public park deal go through.

Incredibly, the park is now padlocked and does not allow Veterans to enter while the WLAVA rents the land out for \$1,000 per plate fundraisers. Most of the park is in complete disrepair, with the exception of the \$1 million fence built by the VPC to enhance the entrance appeal into Brentwood.

Drivers around the park often see homeless Veterans sleeping outside its gates.

**Open Air Amphitheater**  
Fast forward to 2014. While the judgment is under appeal, Young and the VPC have arrogantly and defiantly ignored Judge Otero's ruling and recently broke ground to begin construction of a multi-million dollar open-air public amphitheater on the land.

“Sue Young shamefully conned so many innocent people into donating to her ‘honoring our veterans’ scam that personally earned her over a million dollars while tens of thousands of war-injured and impoverished Veterans have been forced to live homeless and hungry in back-alley squalor,” Rosebrock told HMG-CN in an interview this past week.

“Now she is building a theater on our land. She made over \$1 million at the expense of Veterans while stealing their land to benefit her fellow wealthy homeowners. It is reprehensible, immoral, and beyond comprehension. Compounding the dishonor of this egregious activity is that it had been suppressed by the major media,” Rosebrock said.

“Hews Media has fearlessly exposed this scandal and now it's time for the FBI and a Federal Grand Jury to fearlessly investigate Sue Young and her cronies, including an investigation by the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, “RICO”, for possible criminal violations,” Rosebrock concluded.

In a recent “Veterans Today” by Rees Lloyd titled “Shame on VA Bureaucrats and Shame on Congressman Waxman,” Rees pointed out the following on Young: “Veterans Park Conservancy, is manifestly not a Veterans organization but an organization of wealthy Brentwood residents whose principal agent [in advancing its own interests through arrogant manipulation] has been the politically-connected Sue Young — that is, politically connected to the Westside Machine.”

Several calls into Ms. Young for comment on the story went unreturned.



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**AB 2621**

*Continued from page 2*

day care. Dash died when he was unable to breathe after being improperly strapped into a car seat and placed in a closet to nap. The center had been issued multiple citations, but that significant information was never made accessible to the public. Julia Garcia added "Adam would still be alive today had his father and I been aware of the history of violations." Continuing her statement saying "Making complaints and violations easily accessible to parents online will prevent other families from the painful experience and the loss my family and I have suffered."

The operator of the child care center, Twinkle Twinkle Little Stars, had been cited in 2009 and 2010 for multiple violations and had more than twice as many infants than what was allowed under her license, yet none of the parents were. Last month the operator of the facility was sentenced to six years in state prison for the death of Adam Dash.

"It should not take a tragedy like Adam Dash to awaken the department on the need to have validated complaints online," Assembly member Garcia said. "This is where we are today, and it is time for us to hold the Department's feet to the fire."

**GIRL SCOUTS**

*Continued from page 3*

goals"

The second recipient is Giselle McAllister also a Downey resident and 16 year old junior at the Orange County School of the Arts. McAllister has a passion for museums, art, is an accomplished singer

/ songwriter and musician playing the piano, guitar, harp, and drums. McAllister also toured with the 20142 British Symphony of England. Her Gold Project was to combine music appreciation classes with an emphasis on music theory and musical styles, teaching these classes in the assisted living and senior living facilities in Downey. McAllister took time to thank her troupe leader saying "She really gave me the push to 'Go For The Gold'. I have learned so much about myself and the community. It was a real learning experience"

There are seven steps that are an integral part of the process. First, an important issue in the community must be identified and investigated. Leadership and cooperation skills are evident as the scout builds a team and creates a plan. The issue must be presented to the community and feedback gathered. Lastly, an action plan is put to work that will educate and inspire others to continue the work. By the time the final touches are complete for the seven-step task; a community problem will be assessed and resolved, not only for the present, but for years into the future.

Becoming a Gold Award recipient, is an elite group of young women. Starting in 1916, the best and brightest undertook projects that improved their communities. The Golden Eaglet insignia, the highest award in Girl Scouting from 1916 to 1939, marked the beginning of a long tradition of recognizing the extraordinary efforts of amazing girls. From 1940 to 1963, the Curved Bar Award was the highest honor in Girl Scouting. From 1963 to 1980, the highest award was called First Class. And since 1980, the Gold Award has inspired girls to find the greatness inside themselves and share their ideas with their communities.

**CHEN MEETING**

*Continued from page 11*

only."

One Cerritos resident who wanted to remain anonymous and who sent the email to HMG-CN said, "I'm guessing she (Chen) and the city probably doesn't want it (the Bond Measure) because the city has wanted to raise water rates and maybe a utility tax. This could cause conflict between the district and city hall. If she is against it, in my opinion this meeting is an attempt to sabotage funding for schools, while considering taxing residents to pay for council perks and lifetime benefits for her and her colleagues. We rank 46th in the nation in education, this is absolutely wrong, secret meetings are undemocratic."

HMG-CN Online Editor Randy Economy attempted to enter the meeting and was personally blocked by Chen and her longtime supporter Gordon Hom, who is

a key member of the Cerritos Republican Club. Several other residents of Cerritos wanted to attend the meeting and were turned away including former California Assemblywoman Sally Havice.

Also turned away was Cerritos residents Jay Gray and Jim McMahon. McMahon sent HMG-CN a copy of the email that showed he was invited, yet he was turned away.

At least 10 other local residents gathered outside the meeting in the parking lot after been denied as well.

Also attending the meeting was Cerritos Public Safety Committee Member Matt Kauble, Cerritos Republican Club Member Joan Plyman as well as Cecy Groom a former ABC School Board member who was censured in the past for make racially charged remarks to former school board member Louise Dotson who is an African American. Sources tell HMG-CN that Groom is contemplating a run in next year's ABC School board campaign for a seat on the Cerritos City Council.

**NOGUEZ**

*Continued from page 9*

the property devaluations.

Noguez allegedly accepted \$185,000 in bribes from Salari and used his influence to lower the appraised property values for Salari's clients, to help the clients save him millions of dollars in property taxes.

In total, the property tax fraud deprived the Los Angeles County of at least \$1.16 million in tax revenue.

Improper tax breaks were granted to more than 100 wealthy Westside property owners, HMG-CN reported.

If convicted, Noguez faces more than 30 years in state prison.

Noguez has been on paid leave for the past two years, and has banked more than \$400,000 in taxpayer salary and medical benefits without attending work.



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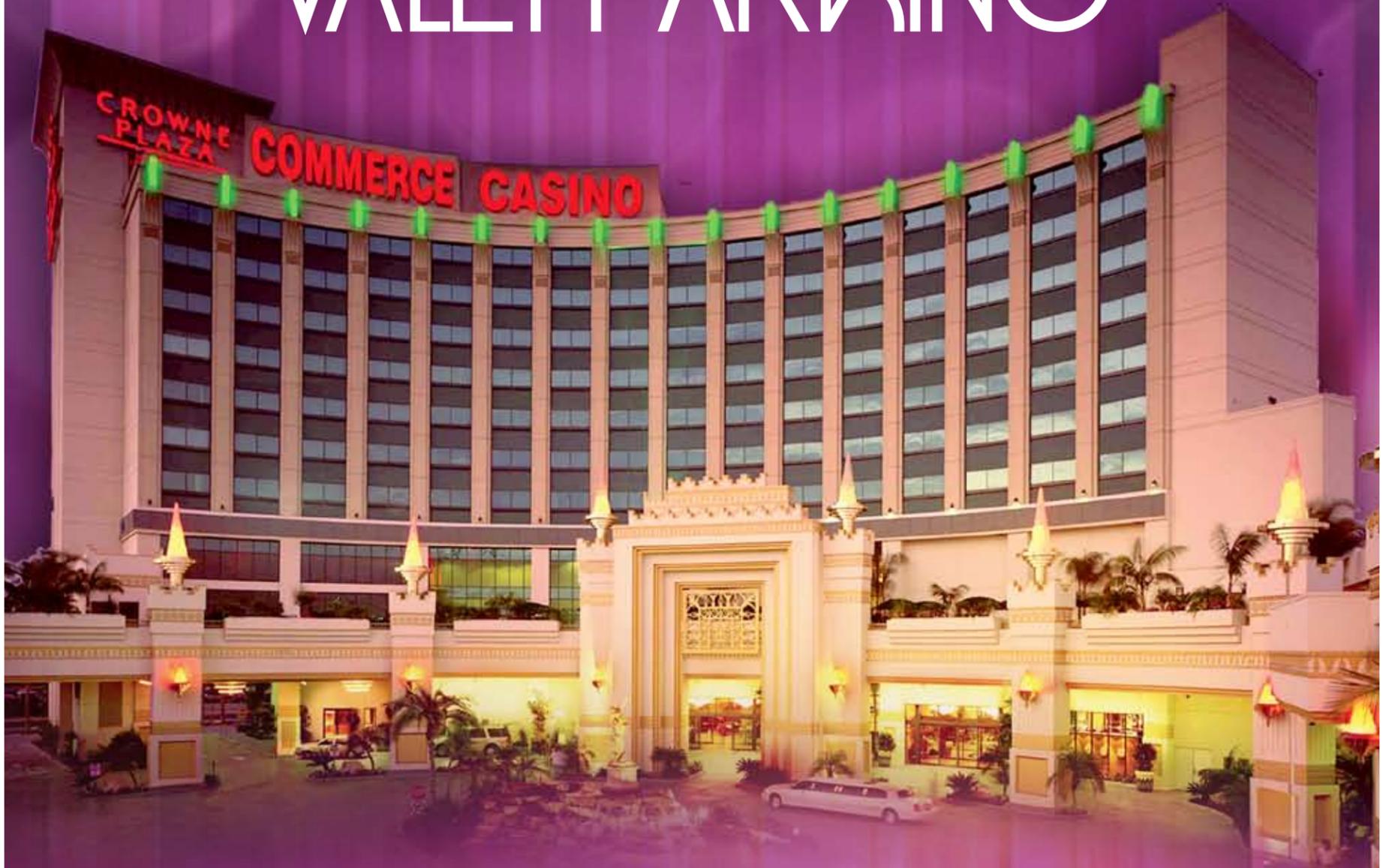
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