

HMG-CN EXCLUSIVE

LA MIRADA FOOTBALL BOOSTER CLUB UNDER SCRUTINY BY ATTORNEY GENERAL

By Brian Hews

For almost 10 years, the La Mirada Football Booster Club, run by Diane Grimajo and La Mirada football coach Mike Moschetti, have taken in more than \$110,000 every year supporting the football program at La Mirada High School.

All levels of the program, Freshman, Junior Varsity, and Varsity, are required to raise funds for the booster club, with each of the 150 team-members giving \$250, or \$37,500 annually.

Money is also raised through various fundraisers such as the annual Booster Club fireworks stand that earns a reported \$20,000 per year, sales of "Spirit Packs" that earned \$35,000 annually, the "Powder Puff" game that earns nearly \$10,000 per year, the "50/50" drawing at football games that earns over \$11,000, as well as many other seasonal fundraisers.

La Mirada High School and the Nor-

walk-La Mirada School District also gave money to the program.

Even Coach Moschetti's family got in on the fundraising, donating \$15,000 per year.

Yet Grimajo, who was the only person to handle money and had signing authority to issue checks, and Moschetti were the only people who knew how the money, totaling over \$1 million, was spent in the last few years.

But now others, along with the California Attorney General, want to know.

A Hews Media Group-Community News investigation has revealed that the Booster Club has violated several Califor-

nia laws and had little or no oversight on where and how hundreds of thousands of dollars were spent every year.

Even more alarming, the Booster Club indicated on all donation documents that it was a registered 501c3 non-profit organization, going so far as using an inactive and non-existent identification number.

The investigation also revealed that the organization did not have a California Franchise Tax Board number, and therefore did not remit taxable sales from fundraisers to the state.

Finally, no year-end or internal financial statements have been generated since 2006, and sources told HMG-CN that

there are no bank statements available from the organization.

Given the lack of a registered 501c3, the booster club has also placed any person or organization that donated money to the club in a tax liability position.

As a result of this stunning mismanagement, the organization could be facing huge monetary penalties for failing to pay payroll taxes, failing to withhold taxes on independent contractors, and failing to pay sales tax.

The investigation has also revealed that current and past Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District School Board members, ex-NLMUSD Superintendent Dr. Ruth Perez, La Mirada High School (LMHS) Principal William "Bill" Seals, Moschetti, and LMHS Athletic Director Armando Rivas knew what was going on and either took action to cover the mismanagement up or did nothing about it.



See FOOTBALL page 10

Artesia Council Sends Vehicle Impact Ordinance Back to Planning Commission

By Rico Dizon

The Artesia City Council, during its Dec. 9 regular meeting, unanimously voted to send back the proposed draft Vehicle Impact Protection Ordinance to the Planning Commission for further review.

Mayor pro tem Victor Manalo immediately expressed his elation over "the good comments" from the Planning Commission about the proposed ordinance the moment this agenda item came up under the consent calendar.

However, Manalo's high spirit was cut short by strong objections from Councilmember Sally Flowers.

"I don't like what I see in the update. \$150,000 for one business to install barriers is just not reasonable. Wait until the Planning Commission takes another look. I don't even have an answer to the 10 questions raised by the commission. This

See VEHICLE IMPACT page 11

Cerritos Employees and Sheriff's Station Toy Drive



Employees from Cerritos and the Cerritos Sheriff's Station with the over 300 gifts they collected for needy families. Photo and story courtesy City of Cerritos.

More than 300 gifts and nearly \$650 in gift cards were donated by City of Cerritos and Cerritos Sheriff's Station employees to help families this holiday season. Employees brought new, unwrapped toys or gift cards to the City's employee holiday luncheon.

The gifts have been distributed through the Artesia Cerritos Community Christmas Program, The Salvation Army Angel Giving Tree Project, the Cerritos Optimist Club's Needy Family Project and Toys for Tots.

"My City Council colleagues and I are proud of the generosity displayed by our City employees," said Cerritos Mayor Mark E. Pulido. "Their actions will help brighten the holidays for many of the less fortunate people in our community this holiday season."

"City staff is to be commended for their contributions to the community and for their ongoing efforts to serve the people who live and work in Cerritos," Pulido added.

LA PALMA'S BILLBOARD PROJECT UNRAVELING

By Rico Dizon

The City of La Palma amended its zoning code to allow for the construction of huge digital billboards within its city limits as part of the agreement for turning the revenue-making project a reality.

However, their contractor, La Palma Signs Partners (LPSP), after over a year since its official appointment in October 2013, has so far failed to deliver.

Douglas Dumhart, Community Development Director of La Palma, said, "There is not a single site recommendation yet presented to the City Council. In the meantime, the city needs an additional deposit of \$20,000 from the company to pursue

See BILLBOARD page 13

HMG-CN Sports
2014 FALL
ALL-AREA TEAM
See page 12

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Reorganizations Held in Artesia and La Palma

By Rico Dizon

The cities of La Palma and Artesia recently held their re-organization meetings.

Elected Mayor of La Palma is Peter Kim while the new Mayor Pro Tem is Gerard Goedhart. Kim and Goedhart were elected by the residents to the City Council in November of 2012.

"First and foremost, I want to again thank the people of La Palma for giving me the opportunity to serve the community by electing me to the City Council. My first three priorities as mayor include developing a balanced budget. Second, will be an effective and meaningful ne-

gotiation with labor unions towards the renewal of city's expiring labor contract and third would be the more vigorous and vibrant development of new and current businesses in the city," said Mayor Kim.

Both of them will hold their respective positions in one year duration and their term in the City Council will be for four years with the chance of re-election for another four-year term.

In Artesia, Miguel Canales was nominated as mayor and Victor Manalo as Mayor Pro Tem. Both of them are passionately engaged in the same teaching profession in addition to their community service vocations.

Canales told HMG-CN, "I am very proud to serve this great city as Mayor and I look forward continuing the momentum built up by our previous Mayor Tony Lima."



REORGANIZATION: Artesia Mayor Miguel Canales center with, from l-r; Councilmember Tony Lima, Mayor pro tem Victor Manalo, and Councilmembers Ali Taj and Sally Flowers.



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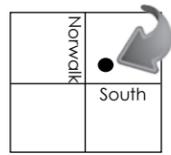
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NLMUSD Toy Drive for Families in Transition

Norwalk-La Mirada Unified is accepting unwrapped gifts for its sixth annual "Toy Shop," where families who are living in transitional housing can choose new toys to gift to their children on Christmas Day.

During the private event, about 150 District families will also enjoy breakfast, community-building activities and the opportunity to have their toys wrapped and write a personal message to their children.

Toys will be accepted now through Dec. 17 at the District's McKinney-Vento Program Office, at 12820 Pioneer Boulevard, Norwalk.

The District is in need of gifts for chil-

dren in grades K-12, including toys and gifts for teens, including perfumes, book novels, sports equipment, jewelry, scarves, hats and gloves and gift cards.

Norwalk-La Mirada's McKinney-Vento program serves approximately 4,000 families living in transitional housing situations, including living with other families, in hotels and motels, garages or single rooms due to economic need or loss of housing.

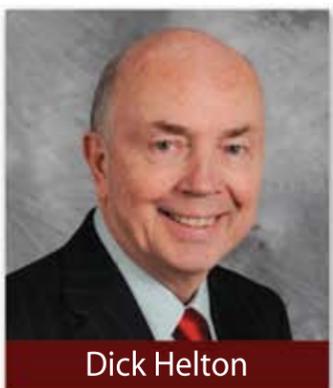
This event was created to provide parents with the dignity and satisfaction of being able to choose a gift for their children for the holidays.

It also provides children the joy of receiving a gift from their parents and not from an agency or stranger.

For more information on Norwalk-La Mirada's McKinney-Vento program go to <http://www.nlmusd.org/Page/2340>, or call the NLMUSD offices at (562) 868-0431.

Spotlight on Cerritos

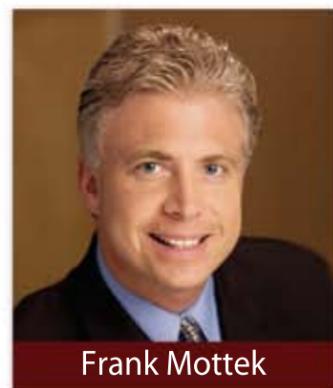
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No Candidates File to Run Against Norwalk Incumbents Rodarte, Shryock, or Vernola

By Brian Hews



Norwalk Councilmember Luigi Vernola

For the first time in its 57-year history, three Norwalk incumbents, the Mayor, Mayor pro tem, and councilman will run unopposed in the March 2015 election.

The City Clerk reported at 1 p.m. that no candidates filed papers to run against Norwalk incumbent Mayor Marcel Rodarte, Mayor pro tem Leonard Shryock, or Councilman Luigi Vernola.

The lack of candidates filing to run against the incumbents will save the city a reported \$130,000.

When contacted by HMG-CN Councilman Luigi Vernola said, "This the first time in the history of this great city that council candidates have run unopposed. I want to thank God for giving me the chance to serve Norwalk and its residents for another



Norwalk Mayor Marcel Rodarte



Norwalk Mayor pro tem Leonard Shryock

four years. We have tremendous challenges ahead, but with the vote of confidence Norwalk residents have given me, I look forward to tackling those challenges head on and improving the quality of life for all in Norwalk."

Mayor pro tem Leonard Shryock said, "I thank God for the opportunity to serve for another four years, it is quite a compliment from the community, they are telling us we are doing a good job and I am looking forward to building on what we have started."

HMG-CN left a message with Mayor Rodarte, but he had not returned the call at time of publication.

Nine Candidates File for Open Cerritos Council Seats

In Cerritos, nine candidates pulled papers by today's deadline according to Cerritos City Clerk Vida Barone.

The list includes Sultan Ahmad, former Cerritos Mayor Jim Edwards, former ABC Board Member James Kang, former Cerritos Mayor Grace Hu, current Mayor Mark Pulido, Meninberbir Singh Sethi, current Cerritos Planning Commissioner Naresh Solanki, ABC Board Member Sophia Tse, current Cerritos Planning Commissioner Chong Vo, and former candidate Frank Yokoyama.

Election day is March 3, 2015.

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Hawaiian Gardens Bingo Club Employee Appreciation Lunch

By Brian Hews

The Hawaiian Gardens Bingo Club held its annual Employee Appreciation Lunch this past Saturday Dec. 6.

Present at the event were members of the Hawaiian Gardens City Council, and ABCUSD Board Members.

Sal Flores, representing the Irving J. Moskowitz Foundation, told HMG-CN, "Our employees are the backbone of this organization. Every one of them is a dedicated, outstanding employee. It is the least we can do to hold this appreciation lunch to thank them for all they do."



(l-r, front row) Sal Flores, representing the Moskowitz Foundation, Bingo Club Manager Dora Francovig, ABCUSD Board Member Sophie Tse, Alba Bac, Carmela Maher, Santa Claus, ABCUSD Board Member Celia Spitzer, Hawaiian Gardens Mayor Reynaldo Rodriguez. (l-r back row) Hawaiian Gardens Councilmember Victor Farfan, Moskowitz Foundation Board Member Oren Ben Ezra, Hawaiian Gardens Councilmember Barry Bruce. Photo courtesy City of Hawaiian Gardens.

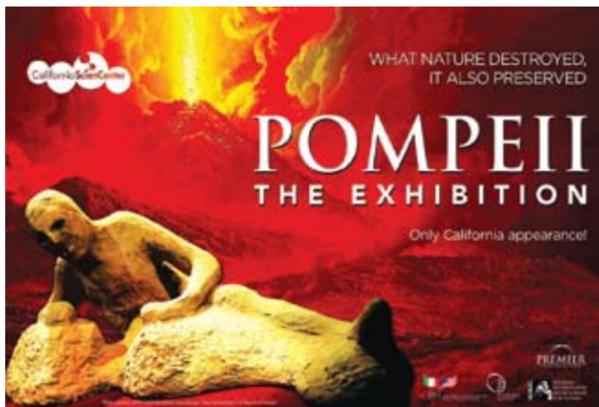
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Message from the ABC Superintendent

By Dr. Mary Sieu



As the 2014 year comes to a close, it's difficult not to reflect on the extraordinary year that ABC Unified School District has experienced. Change is simply a fact of life in public education. Winston Churchill reminded us that "To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often." The following is a recap of some of the highlights of our year of change.

Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and New State Test- ABCUSD has been in the process of implementing the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics adopted by the California Dept. of

Education. Professional development has been provided for the past couple of years and there is a cadre of teacher leaders and coaches that are supporting the schools in the implementation process. This is the critical work that is taking place every day in classrooms across the District. New units of study were developed by teachers in the District and a new textbook adoption and framework in Math took place before the new school year began. The CCSS is aligned to the new State test. A new online State test called Smarter Balanced Assessment will begin in the spring of 2015 for all students in grades 3-8 and 11.

Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) and Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) – The comprehensive LCAP is a planning tool over the next three years that must address the State's eight priorities. The Board of Education has grouped the eight priorities into three major areas: a) Conditions for learning; b) Pupil outcomes; and c) Engagement. After extensive meetings throughout the year with parents and the community, annual goals and expected targets were developed. The schools realigned their school plans with the LCAP goals. The

LCAP is a tool that must be revised each year with the engagement of key stakeholders including parents, students, teachers, unions, community members, English learners, and foster parents. The LCFF, a new funding formula for all public schools in California, must be aligned to the goals of the LCAP.

Changing Board Elections to Trustee Areas – As part of a settlement to a lawsuit, the ABC Board of Education agreed to transition to elections by trustee area beginning with the November 2015 election. The District engaged the community in determining how the trustee areas were to be structured. Plans with draft maps were shared with the community in a series of town hall meetings throughout the spring. By May, a final map was approved by the Board of Education followed by a public hearing with the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization in September.

Facilities Master Plan (FMP) – A comprehensive Facilities Master Plan was developed with the input of over 300 people including District staff, parents, teachers, community members and architects from Flewelling & Moody. This is a long range planning tool that

will be used in improving and upgrading the schools facilities needs. Although the bond measure for school improvement called Measure AA did not pass, the FMP will be used in defining the continuous needs of the District.

Information regarding all these highlights this year is available on the District's website. We encourage the community to be informed and to access the information on the District website at www.abcsud.k12.ca.us.

We look forward to a great new year in ABCUSD. We welcome the community to join us as we move forward in 2015 by attending the community forums, parent and community events and Board of Education meetings. You may also follow me on Twitter: @abcsupt to learn more about our schools and accomplishments on a daily basis. We have a bimonthly e-newsletter call the District Digest that is also available on our website as well as my weekly report called the Monday Message.

We wish you all a safe, joyous holiday season and a wonderful new year! Twitter: @abcsupt

Web Submissions to the Editor

Measure AA/Lynda Johnson Snub

Dear Editor:

Congratulations to Mr. Law on his election to President of the school board. I hope this election and the difference in opinion with regards to Measure AA doesn't cause a lingering riff amongst the board members. I applaud Ms. Johnson

& Ms. Yoo for standing their ground in opposition to Measure AA. It shows that they are the ones more in tuned with the voters. I would hate to see voting members become followers of the crowd and afraid to voice their opinion if it differs from the majority.

Bernard J.

Dear Editor:

Johnson attempted to divide the district and used her opposition to AA as a political stunt. Now as then, she has no real solutions to move the district forward.

AA may not have been the right direction; however, Johnson has no workable alternative solutions. It is clear from her involvement with councilman Carol Chen, Johnson is NOT a leader, she is a wantabe, a follower.

Cerritos Resident

Dear Editor:

For the most part, board positions are ceremonial and little influence is derived from being board President, just perfect for the newly-selected board president.

Some must have been sleeping for the past six months, because there have been numerous alternatives suggested to the bad Measure AA plan. Let's start with liquidating that multi-million dollar asset sitting on the corner of Norwalk Blvd & 166th. There are also classrooms all over the District that sit empty. Of course, just thinking about selling off underutilized campuses gets one accused of being some monster that hates children.

Johnson clearly understands the condition of school facilities in ABCUSD are in need of modernization. She also clearly understood the District needs to reach out to those in the community that do not have contact with the District on a day-to-day basis and learn their concerns, because there were clearly concerns with Measure AA. In fact, the worst trouncing in the State of California for school bond measures last month was right here in ABCUSD.

Several board members need to understand the concept that they serve at the pleasure of voters. If any board member doesn't understand this, just wait until their names appear on the next ballot.

Arthur, Cerritos

Dear Editor:

Johnson is a 'follower' and she somehow feels 'entitled' to hold the title of President of the Board. Both personality traits we don't need in our community leaders.

First, I opposed AA. I'm always opposed to giving wasteful spending politicians my money. So, this isn't about AA. It is about Johnson in her role as a (not) qualified leader.

From my own conversations with Johnson I will suggest she did not have the best intentions of the students in her opposition to AA. It was clear from my conversations she was following direction from Carol Chen and others – for her own gain.

Remember, Johnson attended secret meeting(s) with city council members

(one reported in this paper held at the multimillion dollar real estate business of Councilwoman Chen), school district officials and individuals with close ties to Cerritos real estate (99.99% of ABC district parents were locked out! She promised to release information from those meetings – to this date I have not heard a word.

Do honest public leaders attend secret meetings and then expect the public to trust them to do the right thing?

Honestly and trust are two character traits missing in the district. As such, I believe the trouncing wasn't all about AA. The district has a black eye from recent publicized legal trouble.

A handful of alternatives have been suggested (after the fact), which brings up the question, where was Johnson before we got to this point?

It is my understanding that zero alternatives are being seriously pursued by Johnson. Maybe, she is willing to publicly clarify what she is doing?

We all want our schools to succeed and have to the best. We want fairness and honesty. I don't believe we are getting any of this from Johnson.

Johnson is not entitled to sit as president. However, we are entitled to real leadership not some playground pit bull who's leash appears to be held by City Councilwoman and local real estate businesswoman Carol Chen.

Cerritos Resident

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Police Body Cameras

Dear Editor:

The massive public reaction to the tragic deaths of three black teens at the hand of white police officers has led to a national call for use of body cameras to record and prevent any future mistreatment of suspects.

There is ample precedent. Animal protection activists have used bodycameras to document egregious atrocities and safety violations by workers in the meat, dairy, and egg industries. The resulting videos have led to a number of corrective actions, as well as felony convictions, meat recalls, and even a \$500 million civil settlement.

How ironic then that agribusiness interests in seven states (Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, and Utah) have now enacted "ag-gag" laws imposing severe penalties for using body cameras in their agricultural facilities. The language is typically drafted by the anti-consumer American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC).

Let's hope that other vested interests do not impose similar restrictions on the use of body cameras by law enforcement officers.

*Christian Katz
Cerritos*

Dear Editor:

I just had to tell you I enjoy your articles and paper very much. You have terrific insight to some of the happenings going on in politics.

You are so right on in so many articles. I sure hope the investigators take the bread crumbs/leads you give them and soon justice/karma will find them.

Keep up the awesome news reporting.

*Cathy Bearegard
Cerritos*

CRIME SUMMARIES Dec. 1-7, 2014

EDITOR'S NOTE: The crime summaries are sent in to HMG-CN by the respective cities, HMG-CN publishes the summaries as a public service.

Cerritos

There were 19 Part I felony crimes reported in Cerritos this past week (three occurred in prior months), a notable decrease from the 24 the week prior. The following is a breakdown of crimes by category: one robbery; one residential burglary; four commercial/other burglaries; five grand thefts; four vehicle burglaries (one was an attempt); and four auto thefts. Deputies made four felony arrests, seven misdemeanor arrests, and issued 105 traffic citations. The Sheriff's dispatch center also received a total of 291 calls for service, a substantial increase over this year's weekly average of 265 calls.

Robbery:

13167 Brookhaven St (12/6): Victim parked his car adjacent to Brookhaven Park at about 12:45 a.m. and fell asleep. He subsequently heard a knock on the window and was confronted by a suspect with a rifle who robbed him of his phone and wallet.

Residential Burglary:

20200 block Avenida Barcelona (12/4): The victim returned home and found that a suspect entered the residence through an open bathroom window and ransacked the residence. The loss included a rifle, purses, and a camera. The stolen items were recovered in a church parking lot located behind the residence.

Commercial/Other Burglary:

16500 block Valley View St (12/1): Lock removed from a storage unit, the loss is unknown at this time.

16500 block Valley View St (11/30-12/1): Lock cut on a storage unit and 15 designer handbags stolen.

16500 block Valley View St (7/20-11/29): Hole cut in drywall from an adjacent storage unit, the loss is unknown.

11000 block South St (12/3-4): Suspect entered service station bathroom through an unlocked transom window and unsuccessfully attempted to enter the business office.

Vehicle Burglary:

13000 block Alondra Blvd (12/1): Eight Charter Communications trucks targeted, no further information at this time.

10800 block Alondra Blvd (12/2): Driver's door lock punched on a '07 Chevy pickup but vehicle not entered.

17700 block Dumont Ave (12/2): Passenger window shattered on a '07 Escalade and a purse stolen.

500 Los Cerritos Center (12/3): Driver's door lock punched on a '04 Chevy Suburban and iPad stolen.

Grand Theft:

11500 South St (12/1): Six propane tanks stolen from the rear of the Target store.

19600 block Bouma Ave (11/28): Victim scammed out of \$1,400 through a fake check cashing scheme.

12300 block Semora Pl (10/17): Victim reported that about \$8,000 in fraudulent charges were made on her credit card.

16300 block Stone Grove Ln (12/4-5): Victim had his cell phone stolen from his vehicle's trunk which he had left open.

163 Los Cerritos Center (12/6): Victim reported that someone had stolen her wallet from her purse while she was shopping.

Grand Theft Auto

17400 block Caliente Ave (12/1): Victim's '91 Toyota pickup stolen from his driveway.

11300 block Palm St (12/3): Suspect stole a '93 Toyota Corolla that was parked and running in the victim's driveway. The Corolla was recovered intact on 12/3 in Santa Ana.

13700 block Alondra Blvd (12/2-3): A '03 Ford van stolen from commercial parking lot and recovered on 12/9 in Long Beach.

11200 block 183rd St (12/7): A '97 Honda Accord stolen from commercial parking

Dr. and Grovedale Dr. stemming from a confrontation. Various items were taken from the victim. No injuries were reported. The incident remains under investigation.

Aggravated Assault

An assault was reported on the 15000 block of Imperial Hwy. A victim was struck in the head with a pool cue during a fight at the location. The incident remains under investigation.

Vehicle Burglary

A window smash burglary was reported on the 12900 block of Bluefield Ave. A purse was stolen from the vehicle. A burglary was also reported on the 12000 block of Santa Gertrudes Ave.

Grand Theft

A catalytic converter was reported stolen from a vehicle parked in the parking lot on the 15800 block of Imperial Hwy.

Grand Theft Vehicle

A cargo van was reported stolen from the 14100 block of Rosecrans Ave. The vehicle was recovered the same day by the Buena Park Police Department.

La Mirada Robbery

A robbery was reported near Grayville

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Cerritos Council Candidate Solanki Holds Fundraiser



On December 2nd despite the wet weather, over 350 supporters came out to spend an evening with Commissioner Naresh Solanki who is running for Cerritos City Council 2015. "I am humbled and grateful by so many taking time out of their busy schedules to show their support for my Council candidacy," said Naresh Solanki. Notably, five former Cerritos mayors were out in force to endorse Naresh. Pictured (left to right) are Dr. Bob Hughlett, Councilman George Ray, Laura Lee, Naresh Solanki, Carol Chen, Sherman Kappe and Bruce Barrows.

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LCCN Donates Advertising Proceeds to ABCUSD Education Foundation



Once again Los Cerritos Community News, architect of the annual ABC Into the Summer Fun Run Special Advertising Supplement, gave 30% of the advertising proceeds to the ABCUSD Education Foundation. The four page insert generated \$300 for the foundation. Holding the check is ABCUSD Chairman Sal Flores. The mission of the foundation is to provide financial support for the schools of ABC in order to maintain consistently high quality educational opportunities for the children of the communities served.

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OUR COMMUNITIES

Original Taco Bell Stand in Downey Now Neglected

By J. Mahone

Oldies never die. The original Taco Bell stand opened in 1962 on Firestone Blvd. in Downey. Location was in the city's western boundary, south side of Firestone, adjacent to the Los Angeles Riverbed.

Little old orange grove Downey, was home to California's first Taco Bell Stand. Hurray for Downey.

A lot of people back then had never seen a taco, so the place was always packed with customers.

Across the street from the Taco Bell was the home to Anthony Pool Builder, contractor for many swimming pools in

Cerritos, during Cerritos build out stages in the 1960's- 1970's.

Prices for tacos back then went from a dime to fifteen cents. Prices were in competition with McDonalds Hamburgers and penny donuts from Winchell's.

Dab of sour cream cost one penny more and came with free hot sauce.

Today the Taco Bell stand is in ruins, as the Downey's Historical Society has done nothing to preserve this icon.

Compare that to the original McDonald's Museum, located in trendy North Downey on Lakewood and Florence.

Write the DHS by going to their website at <http://www.downeyhistoricalsociety.org/>.

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YALE GRADUATE TO SPEAK AT GAHR AND ARTESIA HIGH SCHOOLS

HMG-CN Health Wire
 Edited by HMG-CN Staff

In an effort to promote STEM fields in the community, Broadview Mortgage Long Beach has created the ABC Legacy Speaker Series, which brings top scholars from across the country to ABC Unified School District.

The acronym "STEM" stands for "Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics." It is the focus of public education at all grade levels and is the purpose for the creation of the speaker series.

"We are excited to have scholars from the cutting edge of the various STEM fields visit our schools in ABC Unified," says Chris Apodaca from Broadview's Long Beach Branch. "We will have a neuro-scientist from Yale who is on the front lines, conducting research to find a cure for Alzheimer's and a rocket scientist from Stanford who has worked for the Air Force and NASA. If you're a student at Artesia or Gahr High School, you can claim you have met them, thanks to the Broadview Scholar Program."

Every 67 seconds a person is diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, while 5,000,000 currently live with it, and 500,000 will die from the debilitating disease this year in America.

These statistics from the Alzheimer's Association are at the core of Yale's Santiago Viveros Salazar, and the first Broadview Scholar to present this year.

"If I told you where I come from, you would never believe that I'm one of a handful of researchers who have embarked on the quest to not only control, but cure Alzheimer's disease," says Salazar. "I'm living proof that the American Dream is alive and well."

Salazar had a first rate resume as an undergraduate researcher at UC Santa Cruz, which has allowed him to currently work as a PhD researcher at Yale.

"For every person that has said 'You can do it, keep going', I have had ten tell me 'Quit your dreaming, just get a regular job', which is really sad. I made a vow to move forward for my family, community, and legacy. I strive to do that which others have said is impossible for someone with my humble roots to accomplish," says Salazar.

Due to a generous donation from Broadview Mortgage Long Beach, Salazar will be taking a brief trip from Yale University, an Ivy League college located in New Haven, Connecticut, to present at Artesia and Gahr High Schools on December 19th.

The topic will be "You're Out of Your Mind! The Latest in Alzheimer's Research" and will be moderated by Chris Apodaca, who is a former classmate and long time friend of Salazar.

"It is amazing to think that not too long ago we were suiting up for football practice and asking girls to the homecoming dance," says Apodaca, "his story is one that I can attest to and empathize with."

The presentation at Gahr High School will begin at 9:45am and conclude with a "Q & A" session at 10:30am.

The presentation at Artesia High School will begin at 11:30am and conclude at 12:30pm.

NLMUSD Moves Ahead on Bond Construction Projects

HMG-CN Education Wire

The Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District is preparing to launch \$375 million in construction projects.

More than 56 percent of voters on Nov. 4 approved the \$375 million Measure G, which will provide funding to renovate, repair and modernize the District's schools and facilities, some of which were built more than 75 years ago.

The District has developed a Facilities Master Plan that features \$600 million in proposed projects, including approxi-

mately \$360 million in projects designated as priorities.

The Facilities Master Plan represents a collaborative effort between community members, staff, teachers and students, who came together for many meetings at venues District-wide.

"The plan calls for projects at each campus across the District," said Interim Superintendent Ginger Shattuck. "Taking the necessary steps to ensure we have 21st century schools in Norwalk and La Mirada is an important factor in this bond."

On the list of priorities are several projects that are proposed to take place at every school District-wide. They include technology infrastructure upgrades, irrigation and roofing projects.

The District is determining next steps, including the formation of a Citizens Oversight Committee. For more information on the bond, please visit nlmusd.org.



Metro Briefs

GATEWAY CITIES

Go Metro for the Holidays

Whether you're shopping, attending a holiday event or entertaining out-of-town visitors, avoid the traffic and parking hassles by going Metro. Remember that TAP card holders get holiday discounts for everything from food to events to ice skating, too! Details at metro.net/holidays.

Blue Line Upgrades Project Continues

Construction is now underway as part of the \$1.2 billion overhaul of the Metro Blue Line. The project includes track replacement, station improvements and new rail cars. Construction occasionally affects service; before you ride, check service advisories at metro.net.

Getting Help During the Holidays

Metro has teamed up with Metrolink and Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services to help people that are experiencing emotional hardships during the holidays. If you know of someone who is having a difficult time in their life, call the Suicide Prevention Line at 800.273.4747.

Twitter Service Alerts

Know what's happening with your Metro bus or rail line. Follow @metrolaalerts on Twitter to stay on top of all service alerts on the Metro system.



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Bellflower Sparkles for the Holiday Season

By Tammye McDuff

The City of Bellflower is famous for their holiday traditions and 2014 will be a year for special sparkle. On December 5th, Bellflower hosted its 14th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony held at Friendship Square in downtown Bellflower to ring in the holiday season.

Santa Clause made a special appearance and engaged everyone in the world's largest Elfie Selfie, which included Mayor Sonny Santa-Ines and all those in attendance. The Mayfair High School vocal Ensemble performed a variety of holiday songs and performances. Bellflower Recreation In Motion [BRIM] built a rink for scooters and skates as well as presenting holiday crafts for the kids. Refreshments were free and donated by local businesses, homemade peach cobbler contributed by Johnny Rebs' Restaurant with coffee and hot chocolate provided by Starbucks.

The Bellflower Youth Cultural Arts Foundation [YCAF] will bring more holiday cheer to the community through the Holiday Festive Performance. Tickets can be purchased for \$3.00 and as a holiday special, purchasers can present their ticket stub to participating restaurants and receive a special discount through December 21, 2014. For more information about the performance and ticket discounts contact the Public Affairs Department for the city of Bellflower by calling 562.867.3524.

"Most importantly," said Santa-Ines, "Bellflower is a community that gives back. " The Bellflower Volunteer Center carries on their annual tradition of service



Bellflower Mayor Sonny Santa-Ines takes a 'selfie' with Santa, Bellflower council members and the Bellflower Court. Photo by Tammye McDuff.

through a Holiday Food and Toy Drive. The city teams up with local community groups, schools and organization that provided Thanksgiving meals and will provide Christmas Day dinner boxes or gift certificates for those families in need. Residents may also opt to create a personal box for a family and schedule a special delivery. Donations are being accepted through the Volunteer Center for canned foods, dry good and new unwrapped toys. For more information or to get involved with the Bellflower Volunteer Center call (562) 925-9003 or email to cvan@bellflower.org.

Cindy Van Meeveren, Recreation Coordinator told HMG, "Its hard to believe, but the 2014 holiday season is almost here. As in past years, the Bellflower Volunteer Center is working closely with residents, community groups, schools, service clubs and organizations to provide for our most needy families. We can also provide people with details of our adopt-a-family program."

The Bellflower Volunteer Center served over 600 families and donated over 1000 toys to children for the 2013 holiday season. Van Meeveren stated, "This year, more than ever, help is vital!"

Fullerton Fire Fighters Appeal for Toys for Needy Children

Supporting "Spark of Love" Toy Drive

Santa is looking for your help. The Orange County Toy Collaborative and the Fullerton Firefighters are joining their counterparts across the county in appealing to citizens to donate new, unwrapped toy or sports equipment to ensure every underprivileged child receives a gift.

The Collaborative, through their warehouse, supports the holiday toy drives of numerous nonprofit organizations, including the Orange County Firefighters' "Spark of Love Toy Drive," the Marine Corps' "Toys for Tots," Orange County Social Services' "Operation Santa Claus" and the St. Vincent de Paul holiday charities programs.

Deadline for donations is at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, December 24.

Further information about the "Spark of Love" Toy Drive may be obtained by calling the Fire Prevention Division of the Fullerton Fire Department at (714) 738-6500.

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FOOTBALL

Continued from page 1

The questions of mismanagement started in 2012 with a series of emails from concerned freshman parents.

There was no communication from the booster club informing the parents where the money their children raised from fundraisers was going.

One parent had the opportunity to ask Moschetti personally where the money was going and Moschetti responded "its none of your business."

At the time, money was being paid to eighteen varsity coaches, three varsity team trainers, a varsity team chiropractor, and a public relations company.

LMHS Principal Bill Seals was informed in 2012 of the discrepancies and told Moschetti about them, but nothing was done.

According to the emails obtained by HMG-CN, questions began resurfacing in August of 2013 when former La Mirada Mayor Pete Dames received a request for donation letter from the football team.

The donation letter was on LMHS letterhead.

Dames found it unusual that the letter was on LMHS letterhead so he decided to look into the Federal Tax ID Number (FTIN) and non-profit number listed on the letter.

Dames learned from a Certified Public Accountant that the FTIN was delinquent since 2004 and found that the non-profit number was non-existent.

Dames sent an email to Grimajo who blamed the Treasurer before her and said that she was "working on that (the FTIN) now, and that the taxes have not been filed,

but it was no biggy."

One month later, Dames sent an email to NLMUSD Board Members Jesse Urquidi and Chris Pflanzner, along with Principal Seals and Brooks.

Dames indicated that the booster club did not have an FTIN, had not filed taxes for over ten years, and nobody except Moschetti and Gramajo knew where the money was going.

No action was taken, although sources tell HMG-CN that Pflanzner and others were stonewalled by some members of the NLMUSD Board.

Frustrated by their inaction, sourcing telling HMG-CN that Board Member Urquidi had several good friends as varsity coaches, Dames fired another email to LMHS Principal Bill Seals explaining the donation letter and the lack of transparency and control within the Booster Club.

Eleven days later, Dames got a response from Seals that said, "I met with Kim Brooks (former LMHS Athletic Director), Moschetti, and Gramajo, I asked for documentation, they provided me with some paperwork which I'm mailing to your home."

Dames did not receive the "financials" until almost one month later on Dec. 4, 2013, and found them to be "extremely unprofessional with some numbers not matching up from the year before," according to Dames.

In the interim, several additional emails that indicated complete mismanagement started in November 2013 when a parent, who had a son in the football program, sent an email to Grimajo asking for an accounting of the money generated by the freshman team.

Gramajo had recently sent an email out to the parents indicating the freshman

"were \$7,000 short in their fundraising and they (the kids) would not participate in any year-end activities unless the money was sent in."

As the Gramajo email circulated, one mother asked for an accounting of the funds received and spent exclusively on the freshman program.

The email faulted Gramajo for "not communicating whatsoever with the freshman team" in regards to fundraisers, how they were conducted, and how the money was spent.

She also pointed out several discrepancies in the program including how the freshman team paid for new football jerseys that Grimajo said "must be returned to the team at the end of the year for use next year."

The parent also copied the email to Moschetti and Dames.

One hour later Grimajo's responded with a terse email saying, "revenues are lumped into one pool...it is the collective opinion of the entire coaching staff that we do that. I am working on financials and they will be available soon. Any questions regarding how the money is spent should be directed to the head coaches."

The parent snapped back in a later email, "I'm struggling to see how keeping everything lumped together allows you to account for the \$7,000 loss the freshman team has."

The communication between the parents and Gramajo would have likely ceased, but she copied the email to Dames.

Dames then began comparing the financials from 2012 with financials he received on Dec. 4, 2013 and immediately noticed some major discrepancies.

He compared what was given to him by the parents and noticed that items were missing from the financial reports included \$9,000 from the "Powder Puff" football game and over \$10,000 from 50/50 drawings at football games.

Frustrated, Dames fired another e-mail to Seals, Urquidi, and Pflanzner outlining the discrepancies. Dames ended the e-mail by saying, "there is no need to reply to my questions. I know the situation will not change, it appears some leadership at NLMUSD and LMHS has stuck their collective heads in the sand."

It would be almost another year of non-reporting and fundraising before the issue with the Booster Club resurfaced.

In that time former LMHS Director Brooks was removed from his position after an audio was released of him verbally abusing some of his baseball players. Brooks was replaced by Armando Rivas.

That is when the Booster Club began

playing hardball with Dames through Rivas, in apparent retribution for Dames bringing attention to the mismanagement.

Dames had been a volunteer coach at LMHS for the past 30 years.

Asked to coach again in early September 2014, Dames learned through a third party days later that Rivas did not want him on the staff.

After several emails over a five-week period, Rivas, a known friend of Moschetti who sources tell HMG-CN that "Rivas will not do anything unless Moschetti approves it," wrote back to Dames.

Rivas wrote, "this communication is in regard to the freshman baseball coaching position at LMHS. During the past couple of years you've developed concerns relating to procedural practices being utilized in the LMHS Athletic Department. ... You e-mailed school board members and district personnel without first approaching the Athletic Director to express your concerns... ultimately these actions made it more difficult for the department to attempt to find solutions to your concerns... as a result I have determined... that I will not employ you as coach.

Only days later, Dames was slammed on the "Eagle Lancer" Facebook page for his opposition to the Measure G Bond for the Norwalk-La Mirada School District.

The administrator, who is anonymous, wrote several disparaging remarks and posts against Dames even going so far as posting his address and cell phone and calling him "a despicable 70 year old man who hates kids and you should go to his house and tell him off."

Now California Attorney General Kamela D. Harris' office is inquiring.

The Booster Club has received four letters from the Attorney General warning of assessment of penalties and late fees and suspension of registered status.

The letters were dated February 21, 2014, March 13, 2014, May 8, 2014, and September 9, 2014.

The letters indicated that the Booster Club had not filed the registration renewal fee and paperwork or filed financial statements dating back to 2008, and warned of suspension or revocation of the nonprofit status.

Penalties and fees would be assessed if the paperwork was not filed correctly. The letters noted that money from the booster club cannot be used to pay penalties and that officers of the organization would be personally liable.

Apparently Grimajo and Moschetti did not pay attention to the warnings.

In checking the Attorney General's website, the Booster Club was officially suspended on October 27, 2014.



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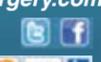
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VEHICLE IMPACT

Continued from page 1

is so onerous."

During a special meeting on Nov. 18, 2014, the Planning Commission discussed the ordinance in great length and requested additional information and statistics from the funding level. Specifically, the PC focused on 10 critical questions.

A few of the questions: How many properties in the city in addition to the 383 commercial properties will be subject to the ordinance? How will the city be able to recover the costs? What is the impact on a resistance level of 5,000 pounds against a vehicle running at 30 miles an hour?

City Attorney Kevin Ellis said, "There will be more discussions on issues. Maybe one solution is to consider just the handicap area. We need to review the issues when we continue on the 16th."

City Council Member Tony Lima said, "This is too expensive and not even one city in the whole country has this ordinance except one in Florida that is under study." Mayor Miguel Canales suggested to send it back to the Planning Commis-

sion to which Lima quickly agreed, "Yes, they need a lot of time to straighten out the issues."

At this point, City Manager William Rawlings cautioned "against the negative effect of sending back the ordinance to the commission as it relates to the volunteers who had started and worked very hard on the project."

"The Planning Commission's role is advisory, we make the decision," countered Flowers.

The VIPO was an idea of Manalo to reduce the incidents of vehicle into building crashes. According to reports, there are about 60 of these types of crashes daily with an average of 10 people injured and 1 killed.

Manalo is solidly behind the ordinance. In April of this year, Marisa Malin, Manalo's mother-in-law and a resident of Cerritos, was killed when an SUV drove into a crowd standing outside the recently built Farrell's Ice Parlor in Buena Park. Manalo's two children were injured also.

In response to the oppositions, Manalo said, "How much cost shall we put on the dead and the injured?"

The council will review the ordinance at a later date.

Sure It Tis, An Irish Christmas Comes to Cerritos

By Glen Creason

Any concert describing itself as an Irish Christmas allows for plenty of leeway for the American imagination.

Such a show might range from the Pogues singing "Fairytale of Old New York" to a swinging version of "Buala Bas" (Jingle Bells) with uilleann pipes accompaniment.

However, the Irish Christmas that visited the Performing Arts Center over the weekend was full of homespun Irish yuletide joy with a bit of Kerry for spice and filled with plenty of surprises and authentic folk material that made it indeed %100 delightful.

It was not like an old "Firestone Your Favorite Christmas Album" full of the old chestnuts of the season but a heady mix of excellent Irish dance, sprightly jigs and reels played by the Kerry men and women plus the sweet-as-a morning lark singing of an interesting variety of a few old favorites and more true Irish folk delicacies.

To balance the wildly exuberant and thrilling dancing alongside the spirited, three part harmonies the show was held together by a wise narrator, Sheelagh Cullen whose memories of an Irish Christmas and selected prose and poetry gave the whole an air of authenticity.

Sure, there was plenty of music, sung in pristine harmony by Koral Aakre, Caitlin Ary and Tamora Pellikka who were seamless throughout in versions of the familiar "Carol of the Bells," "The Holly She Bears a Berry," "the Wexford Carol," "Silent Night," and a jocular "the Twelve Days of Christmas." These were mixed in with true Irish gems "Ding Dong Dedered," "Children's Song," "Si



Do Mhaimeo," Cead Mile Failte Romhat a Losa" and the wonderful "Wren Song" (featuring, appropriately to Los Angeles, one of the Rodriguez dancing girls) that was a delightful morsel for the finish after this big banquet of fun.

Certainly, a great part of this joyful celebration of the season was the marvelous Irish dancing by a dozen beautiful young lasses and three handsome lads.

The stamina and skill was remarkable but the obvious joy in the numbers when the dancers challenged each other to reach greater heights elevated the show above mere holiday entertainment.

Certainly, part of the appeal of the evening was the fun the entire cast seemed to be having, quite like an actual family Christmas celebration.

This is a terrific show with the exhilarating dancing and music of a Riverdance without the entire slick Vegas dazzle that has attached itself to that once grand show.

For the first holiday show at the Center for the yuletide this Irish Christmas was a fine one.

Donate Canned Goods to Support the Women Shelter of Long Beach

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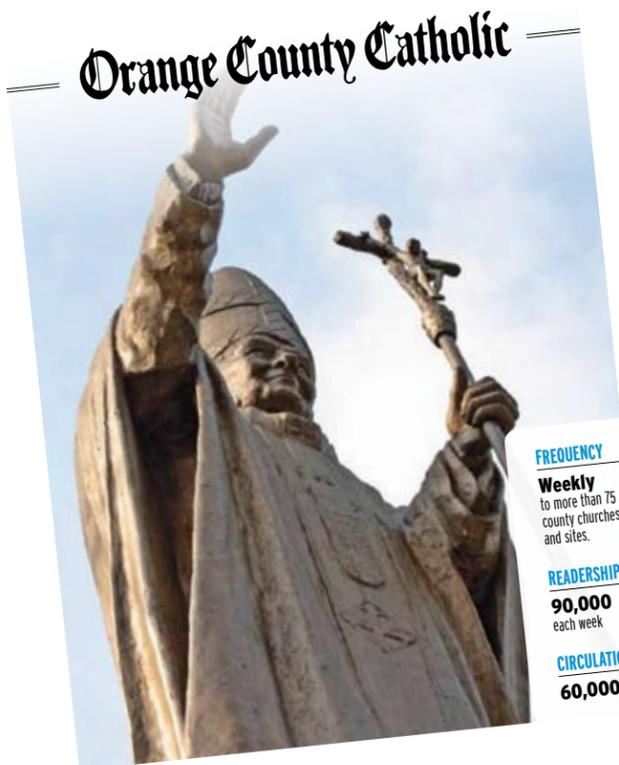
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AUDIENCE PROFILE

Orange County is home to more than **1.2 million** Catholics living in more than **300,000** households. Orange County Catholic is delivered to **62 parishes** and Catholic centers in Orange County.

Here is a snapshot of this audience:

AGE

- 14.2%** age 25 to 34
- 24.5%** age 35 to 44
- 24.7%** age 45 to 54
- 16.8%** age 55 to 64
- 17.3%** age 65+

AUDIENCE INCOME



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AUDIENCE HOUSEHOLD



EDUCATION

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- 12,600** elementary school students
- 31,000** elementary age students in Catechesis
- 6,500** high school students
- 11,700** high school age students in Catechesis

Source: Scarborough Research R2, 2013 (Base: Orange County adults).

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HMG-CN-2014 FALL ALL-AREA TEAMS

Norwalk, Valley Christian players rewarded for solid fall performances

By Loren Kopff
HMG-CN Sports editor

Although there were no league championships won, nor were there any deep playoff runs, the Norwalk and Valley Christian football and girls volleyball teams still had great seasons and are being rewarded for their hard efforts. Norwalk's football team advanced to the California Interscholastic Federation-Southern Section playoffs for the eighth straight season while the V.C. girls volleyball team had another 20+ win season. The Cerritos and Gahr girls volleyball teams also went to the playoffs but were first-round exits.

Listed below are the HMG-CN, Los Cerritos Community News 2014 Fall All-Area teams.

FOOTBALL

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

QB-Malik Smith (Gahr)
RB-Aaron Conrad (John Glenn)
RB-Jonathan Nicholson (Valley Christian)
RB-Chris Walker (Norwalk)
WR-Justin Garrett (Gahr)

WR-De'Jah Pickett (Gahr)
LT-Joe Castanos (Valley Christian)
LG-Chandler Roth (Norwalk)
C-Gabriel Silva (Norwalk)
RG-Eric Schoonover (Valley Christian)
RT-Rodrigo Sanchez (Norwalk)

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

DL-Nate Aaronsen (Valley Christian)
DL-Esteban Rosiles (Norwalk)
DL-Enoka Sautia (Artesia)
DB-Will Brines (Valley Christian)
DB-Kevin Cabot (Norwalk)
DB-Leotis Johnson (Gahr)
DB-Kent Running (Valley Christian)
LB-Kirk Brown (Norwalk)
LB-Tyrant Davis (Norwalk)
LB-Rick Pena (Valley Christian)
LB-Latrell Stearns (Gahr)

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

QB-Jack Struiksma (Valley Christian)
RB-Robert Downs (Valley Christian)
RB-Leotis Johnson (Gahr)
RB-Ki'Jon Washington (Cerritos)
WR-Jaydon Logan (Artesia)
WR-Kyle Westra (Valley Christian)
LT-Jake Kim (Cerritos)
LG-Garrison Coley (Valley Christian)
C-Sean Davenport (Artesia)
RG-Tonatiuh Ocampo (Cerritos)
RT-Roger Ramos (Valley Christian)

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

DL-Juventino Liera (Norwalk)
DL-Roger Ramos (Valley Christian)
DL-Michael Partida (Gahr)
DB-Mark Dominguez (Gahr)
DB-De'Jah Pickett (Gahr)
DB-Cristian Rodriguez (Artesia)
DB-Chandler Vos (Valley Christian)
LB-Andrew Castro (John Glenn)
LB-Garrison Coley (Valley Christian)
LB-Ryan McDowell (Norwalk)
LB-Christian Veazie (Cerritos)
HONORABLE MENTION OFFENSE
QB-Jimmy Rodriguez (Artesia)
RB-Kory Boyd (Cerritos)
RB-Carlos Jaurequi (Norwalk)
RB-Ryan McDowell (Norwalk)
WR-Alonzo Davis (Gahr)
WR-Kent Running (Valley Christian)
LT-Ryan Valencia (Artesia)
LG-Vander Ferrer (Cerritos)
C-William Ruano (John Glenn)
RG-Juventino Liera (Norwalk)
RT-Justin Martinez (John Glenn)

HONORABLE MENTION DEFENSE

DL-Neel Patel (Cerritos)
DL-Beau Williams (Valley Christian)
DL-Anthony Varoz (John Glenn)
DB-Remy Harvey (Norwalk)
DB-Gevon Moore (Norwalk)
DB-R.J. Van Kampen (Valley Christian)
DB-Antonio Perez (Cerritos)
LB-Devon King (Artesia)
LB-Troy Orozco (Gahr)
LB-Christian Payton (Artesia)
LB-Ivan Perez (Cerritos)

Offensive Player of the Year-

The heart and soul of Valley Christian's offense began with senior running back Jonathan Nicholson, who led the area with 1,446 yards and 20 touchdowns.

He accounted for 56 percent of the Crusader's rushing yardage and scored all but 18 touchdowns on the ground. He leaves V.C. with 3,382 yards and 39 touchdowns.

Defensive Player of the Year-

Valley Christian senior defensive back Kent Running did exactly that-run all over the place He led the Crusaders with 61 tackles with 38 of them all by himself.

Coach of the Year-

After beginning the 2013 season with a 1-5 start, Valley Christian second-head coach Woodie Grayson nearly reversed the roles this past season. Grayson guided the Crusaders to a 7-4 mark in 2014 and won three of the first four games.

The team rebounded from an Olympic League-opening loss to Maranatha to win the final three games of the regular season by outscoring the opposition 135-83.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL FIRST TEAM

S-Lorinet Marquez (Cerritos)
OH-Caroline Hefley (Valley Christian)
OH-Athena Sio (Norwalk)
MB-Jazmin Guzman (Norwalk)
MB-Madison Huizar (Valley Christian)
OPP-Karly Dantuma (Valley Christian)
DS-Annaliza Bustos (Norwalk)
L-Kathleen Perez (Norwalk)

SECOND TEAM

S-Chloe Winter (Valley Christian)
OH-Madison Holmes (Valley Christian)
OH-Lauren Oh (Cerritos)
MB-Crystal Amalu (Cerritos)
MB-Megan Nolasco (Norwalk)
OPP-Ashley Whittall (Norwalk)
DS-Emily McLurg (Valley Christian)
L-Allison Sutherland (Valley Christian)

THIRD TEAM

S-Frankie DiIorio (Gahr)
OH-Leslie Larranaga (John Glenn)
OH-Sam Yang (Valley Christian)
MB-Katelyn Albani (Valley Christian)
MB-Kaitlyn Bales (Cerritos)
OPP-Tyra Parrish (Gahr)
DS-Naomi Belgrave (Gahr)
L-Kashmir Davies (John Glenn)
HONORABLE MENTION
S-Elena Auwae-Ortiz (Norwalk)
OH-Nicole Cruz (John Glenn)
OH-Martina Kim (Artesia)
MB-Ifeoma Okoli (Cerritos)
MB-Zahory Ramirez (John Glenn)
OPP-Niahni Moultry (Gahr)
DS-Kaylee Westra (Valley Christian)
L-Allison Oh (Whitney)

Co-Players of the Year-

Once again, Norwalk senior middle blocker Jazmin Guzman proved why she was among the best volleyball players in the Suburban League.

Guzman easily posted double digits in kills in virtually every match as she helped her team to a 12-12 record. Joining her is Valley Christian senior opposite hitter Karly Dantuma, who led the Lady Crusaders with 257 kills from 601 attacks. Dantuma also had a .253 hitting percentage and 46 blocks, both tops on the team.

Coach of the Year-

The writing was on the wall for a very successful season when Valley Christian first-year head coach Melody Nua saw her team win 24 of its first 25 sets before falling to Downey in the finals of the Valley Christian-Mayfair tournament.

When it was all said and done, Nua had posted a 20-4 mark, the school's best record since 1998 when the Lady Crusaders went 33-0 and were USA Today National Champions.

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GAHR BLASTS CERRITOS IN CHAMPIONSHIP GAME OF OWN CO-HOSTED TOURNAMENT

 **NEWS AND NOTES FROM PRESS ROW**

HMG-CN Sports Editor Loren Kopff

The Cerritos and Gahr boys basketball teams have been co-hosting a tournament that kicks off each season since 1998. But only twice had the two city rivals ever met in the championship game of said tournament entering last Saturday night. The Dons and Gladiators experienced that for the third time at Cerritos and unlike the previous meetings, this one was a rout in the second half. Gahr went on a 14-0 run in the third quarter and went on to crush the Dons 81-42 to move to 4-0 for the second time in the past three seasons. Gahr also knocked off Cerritos in the finals in 2009 (100-84) and in 1999 (49-33). In addition, the two met for third place in 2004 and Gahr won that meeting as well, 61-58. "It's just exciting, it's just a rivalry," said Cerritos head coach Jonathan Watanabe, with his voice nearly gone. "So, it's exciting for our players, it's exciting for the school. You could see the turnout tonight. We had great support and the more times

See **NEWS AND NOTES** page 13

NEWS AND NOTES from page 12

you can be in situations like this, the better you are in the long run. You can't emulate this in practice."

Both teams went back and forth in the first quarter with neither team leading by more than three points. But with Gahr in front 16-15 early in the second quarter, a three-pointer from senior Jeremy Carlyle, with the assist going to junior Evan Anderson, began a 12-4 run. The Gladiators eventually led by nine at the half (39-30) thanks to 17 Cerritos turnovers.

The Dons would score five quick points to begin the second half as senior J.J. Rivera scored on an offensive rebound, was fouled and hit the subsequent free throw. Almost a minute later, he scored on a steal to make it 39-35 before the Gladiators ran away. In fact, Cerritos went two of 23 from the field over the final 14-plus minutes of the game.

"We just had too many turnovers throughout the entire game," Watanabe said. "We were playing very tentative tonight and that's something that Gahr feeds on. And they're hoping that you play a little tentative against their pressure. We'll learn and we'll get better and we have the whole week to recoup and get better."

Senior Gregory Carlyle, the tournament's most valuable player, led everyone with 25 points while senior Malik Smith came off the bench to score another 12 points. All-tournament participants Jeremy Carlyle and sophomore Marvin Bragg pitched in with 11 and nine points respectively.

Senior Andrew Bui led Cerritos with 10 points while senior Henry Buycks, who made the all-tournament team, and Rivera each added eight points. Junior Evan Leonard also made the all-tournament team as he scored 58 points in the four-game event.

Both teams will meet again tonight at Gahr in their annual city tussle. Gahr holds an 8-7 advantage in this non-tournament rivalry and has won the last five meetings. Watanabe says that Cerritos, which is off to its best start since 2009 and third best since 2002, needs to work on the basic fundamentals in order to have a better performance tonight.

In other boys basketball action, Whitney earned its first victory of the season after breezing past host John Glenn 60-37 this past Tuesday night. Whitney put the game away by outscoring the Eagles 25-8 in the

second quarter as it held a 41-19 halftime lead. All 10 players scored for the Wildcats, led by sophomore Peter Kang's eight points. Four other players all added seven points as the Wildcats visit Bolsa Grande on Saturday and Chadwick on Thursday.

The Eagles fell to 0-5 and were paced by sophomore Hugo Aguiano (16 points) and junior Nathan Lopez (10 points). Glenn will participate in the Pioneer Tournament beginning on Monday and lasting until Dec. 20.

Artesia defeated Santiago 56-48 this past Tuesday night to begin pool play action of its own tournament. The Pioneers (3-2) played Locke on Dec. 11 and will wrap up the Artesia Varsity Winter Classic tonight.

Norwalk (0-4) dropped its two pool play games of the 54th annual Valley Christian Tournament, falling to Flintridge Prep 43-31 this past Monday and St. Margaret's 59-54. Host V.C. improved to 4-0 with pool play victories over Santa Fe 45-42 and Bellflower 78-45. The tournament will wrap up tonight.

In girls basketball action, the 15th annual John Glenn-Norwalk Tournament kicked off this past Wednesday with a pair of blowouts at Glenn. First, Whitney connected on only three field goals and was run off the court by Downey 48-11. Sophomore Nicole Lee scored five points while seniors Tushara Govind and Shiraya Thompson each added three points.

Following the game, Whittier took care of Glenn 61-11 as the Cardinals went on a 19-0 run over the final six minutes of the first half to turn a seven-point game into a rout. Junior Natalie Cardenas led the Lady Eagles with six points.

At Norwalk, the co-host Lady Lancers crushed Pioneer 61-15 to improve to 4-2 and Valley Christian lost to Estancia 56-34, dropping its mark to 2-1.

Finally, Artesia wrapped up the Oxford Tournament with a 33-18 win over the host team last Saturday for its first win of the season while Cerritos was on the short end of a 56-35 decision to Los Alamitos last Saturday in the ninth place game of the South Coast Classic at University High in Irvine. Senior Alyssa Movchan led the Lady Dons (2-3) with 15 points while sophomore Cailey Vitug added 10 points. Cerritos would then knock off Schurr 55-43 this past Monday in the opener of the 1st annual Bill Kristinat Classic at Fountain Valley High.

BILLBOARD

Continued from page 1

other paper work required for the project including the application and securing of environmental permit or CEQA.

Recently it was learned that LPSP's financial arm Lakeside Capital called it quits even before the project has taken off the ground.

As a result, LSPS' Kai Giffen, the sole owner of the company, is currently negotiating for the fast completion of the agreement with its new partner Oakland-based Foster Inter State Media.

The new partner reportedly will help provide both the technical and financial requirements of the project. "Hopefully, I can get the formal confirmation from our new partners and get back to you some time next week to be able to inform you details of the project's concrete plan and timetable," Giffen told Los Cerritos Community News.

When told about this, Dumhart said, "maybe a month." The extended deadline given to LPSP, according to Dumhart, is Feb. 3, 2015.

LPSP, a hurriedly formed consortium, won over the more established and well-experienced outdoor sign experts Clear Channel in the bid for the digital billboard project primarily because of the generous offer by the Giffen of a \$50,000 deposit to the city making it possible for the city not to touch the general fund.

Moreover, the estimated revenues that a back-to-back digital billboard will generate for the city at the time of presentation was placed at \$240,000 for the first year and increasing by 2% a year for the succeeding years. Based on a 30-year contract, the city would earn a projected gross income of approximately \$12.1 million.

During the presentation, then City Council Member Peter Kim hesitated, "Since the consortium is new, nothing is written about its experience." Mayor Steve Hwangbo countered, "No matter how big and well experienced are some companies, we have seen them fail and mess up. It is good for the city that no amount will have to be taken from the general fund as this project is not in the budget for the current fiscal year."

The La Palma City Council voted 3-2 in favor of LPSP with Kim and then City Council Member now Mayor pro tem Gerard Goedhart voting no.

HMG-CN contacted a local outdoor advertising executive based here in Southern California. Commenting on the project he said, "The La Palma Sign Partners had no experience whatsoever in outdoor advertising. You had three companies with experience in small sign making, a construction company, and another company with no sales connections or sales experience in outdoor advertising. The amount of money projected was ridiculous, what the city wanted upfront was unreasonable, that is why Clear Channel walked away from the deal."

**ARTESIA LIBRARY
CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Tuesdays,
December 16, and 23, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Family Storytime and Art Activity

Saturday December 13,
2-3:30 p.m. Magazine Holiday Tree
Make and Take.

Saturday, December 20
11 a.m.-12 p.m. Rhyming Bingo.

Artesia Library is open Tuesdays 12-8 p.m., Wednesdays 12-8 p.m., Thursdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Fridays 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and Saturdays 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

**EDCO TO OBSERVE THE
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY**

In observance of the upcoming Christmas holiday on Thursday, December 25, 2014, EDCO will not be performing any collection services in the City of La Mirada. As a result, all regularly scheduled collection services will experience a one-day delay in service the remainder of the week.

Street sweeping will not be provided on December 25th or January 1st. Street sweeping services will continue on all other days as scheduled.

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Downey Appoints New Youth Commissioners

By Tammye McDuff

The Downey Youth Commission is the brain child of current Downey Mayor Fernando Vasquez and Councilman Mario Guerra. The youth task force was formed to allow Downey youth an opportunity to share their needs and desires with local

The city of Downey has hosted and engaged many new events the past couple of years in hopes of involving the growing younger generations of citizens. Many of the recent events have been the direct input from the Downey Youth Commission, such as the FIFA city viewing and festival; The Rooftop Concerts; Stay Gallery



Guerra introduced the new appointees: from Downey High School are Nicholas Acosta, Victoria Arguello, Molly Donahue, Jonathan Jin and Matthew Perez. The appointees from Warren High School are Angelique Franco, Jailene Lemus, Sandra Ortiz and Rodrigo Quintas. Photo by Tammye McDuff.

policy makers and dignitaries

At the council meeting on November 25, 2014 new members were inducted into the Commission. Vasquez stated "As you know our city is becoming younger and younger, meaning that the average age of our residents are in their mid-30's. With that comes a responsibility to modernize our city, reach out to our citizens and to their growing families. These new events have resulted in the input of our Advisory Youth Council and the Downey Youth Commission."

Art Walk and the wildly popular Dia de los Muertos Festival.

Downey City Council Members appoint Youth Commissioners annually from a pool of applicants. Youth Commissioners must be enrolled in high school and reside in the City of Downey. The purpose of this Commission is to provide Downey youth with leadership development, civic and local government education, participation in annual assignments, to assist the City Council and Chamber as well as direct input to Council Members.

Christmas Comes to Downey

By Tammye McDuff

The City of Downey hosted the 63rd Annual Christmas Parade, Sunday, December 7, 2014. The parade began at Downey Avenue and Florence Avenue and ended at Civic Center Drive.

Prizes awarded for Musical Sweep-

Food and refreshments were sold by the Downey Rose Float Association with proceeds benefitting this year's Downey Rose Float entry, which will participate in the Annual Rose Parade.

Downey Lion's Club was the special sponsor of this year's event.

Registration for the annual Holiday



Downey Mayor and Council stand in front of Downey's Xmas tree.

stakes: Downey High School Band, Float Sweepstakes: County Inn of Downey, Mayor's Award: Downey Mustangs youth football and cheer and Santa Award: Shock Treatment [highest scoring drill team]. It was also approximated the parade attracted over 10,000 spectators.

Downey's Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony was held Monday, December 8, 2014. The Tree Lighting took place at the Civic Center, right outside Downey City Hall. The event was free to the public, and featured entertainment from local schools, a snow play area, arts & crafts and photos with Santa Claus. The actual lighting of the tree was held approximately 6:30 p.m.

Home Decorating contest began in October. Top categories include Best Use of Lights, Lawn/Room Display, Animated Display, Religious Display, Total Display and Window Display. Awards are given in the following themes: Mayor's Award, Santa's Award, Christmas Spirit, Santa's Workshop, Toyland, Winter Wonderland, Christmas Magic, North Pole and Holiday Fantasy. Contestants were announced after the Tree Lighting Ceremony. For a complete and comprehensive list, please contact the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center. For more information, call (562) 904-7223.

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