



## ABCUSD Board Elects Officers, Vice President Lynda Johnson Snubbed

By Rico Dizon and Brian Hews



Lynda Johnson

In a controversial 5-2 vote, with Vice President Lynda Johnson and Board Member Soo Yoo voting no, the ABCUSD Board of Education elected former Clerk of the Board Maynard Law as President of the Board.

Nominated for President was Johnson, but she lost on a 3-4 vote with Law, Board Members Olympia Chen, Armin Reyes, and Celia Spitzer voting no. Johnson along with Board Members Soo Yoo and Sophia Tse, voted in favor of Johnson.

Elected with Law as the new Vice Pres-

See **ELECTIONS** page 13

## FIRE DESTROYS ICONIC CARRIAGE HOUSE IN LA MIRADA

By Tony Aiello

A fire broke out in the early morning hours at The Carriage Coffee Shop at 14871 Imperial Highway.

Nobody was hurt and the building was unoccupied when the fire started in the kitchen of the 49-year-old eatery about 3:30 a.m.

Later in the morning, owner Louis Liu said he doesn't know how the fire started.

The kitchen appears to be destroyed. Cost estimates are in the hundreds of thousands of dollars to repair.

Officials continue to investigate the incident.

Residents who consider the diner a cultural icon stormed city hall this past March to protest a decision by the owners of the property, Rich Development Co., to replace the diner with a McDonald's.

Because of the traffic concerns expressed by residents at that meeting in the form of a petition, the La Mirada Planning

See **CARRIAGE HOUSE** page 6

## Tracy High School Students Pack Holiday Boxes for Troops Overseas



Tracy High students with boxes of food items for U.S. troops overseas. With them is Pat Alviso, 3rd from right and Pablo Vega, center back. Photo by Brian Hews.

By Brian Hews

Students at Tracy High School, with donation drive help from Faye Ross Middle School in Artesia and MacArthur Elementary School in Downey, packed over fifty boxes with food items at Tracy High this past Tuesday to be sent to troops overseas.

Pat Alviso, who works for Military Families Speak Out and Veterans for Peace said, "This is a result of the hard work of every home room in Tracy. They have boxes in their homerooms and the teachers ask them for donations, they really get them pumped up about it. All of the students also write personal holiday cards to the soldiers."

Pablo Vega, Activities Director with Tracy, described the long address forms that are used for shipping, one for each box they send out.

"The students fill out an address form for each soldier or for each general location. The form is placed on the 'if it fits it ships' USPS box and sent off."

"Its amazing how much you can put in the boxes," said Alviso.

Boxes include canned goods, dry goods, beef jerky, sausages, hot cocoa, Cup-of-Soup, Slim Jims, and the ever-popular red vines licorice candy.

The group sends the boxes to either one soldier or one soldier who will then give them out to several soldiers.

Jeff Green Principal at Tracy High told HMG-CN, "Pat started this program six years ago and we picked it up and ran with it. We not only get support from our stu-

dents but from all Faye Ross homerooms, Faye Ross has supported us for three years. McArthur has also been a great supporter and we always get items from ABCUSD personnel."

"Its very gratifying," said Green, "every year we get at least one letter from a soldier saying it was great to hear from the states, thanks for your support."

Green had a son deployed in Afghanistan four years ago, so the group sent boxes directly to him during that time.

"My son became Santa Claus for a day," said Green.

Faye Ross is heavily involved with families of troops that have been deployed that are called "Blue Star Moms." The boxes are sent out and eventually get to soldiers in the field.

"That's where the food is most welcomed," said Green. "My son was saying when he was out in the field, the cans of Chef-Boyar-Dee Ravioli were going for \$20 bucks apiece."

Green, Alviso, and Vega thought the boxes might come in under the target of 50, but after the packing they were actually at 52.

Military Families Speak Out is an organization of people opposed to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan who have relatives or loved ones currently in the military. Their website is militaryfamiliespeakout.com.

Veterans For Peace is a global organization of Military Veterans who inform the public of the true causes of war and the enormous costs of waging wars. Their website is veteransforpeace.org

## ARTESIA'S PRIORITY LIST COMPLETED, CITY LOOKS FORWARD TO 2015

By Rico Dizon

During the regular November meeting of the Artesia City Council, City Manager William Rawlings presented what could have been one of his shortest but most compelling reports ever delivered.

"I am happy to report that my Staff has completed the Priority List adopted by the City Council last Feb.10, 2014. Included in that list was the original 13 priority items, but we added 7 more. Some of them are long-range, and I expect to include them in the January meeting for the 2015 list of priorities."

Rawlings added, "We will also be showing you photos of the individual light poles and temporary sidewalks projects now going on the northern part of town."

His report drew immediate praises and

See **ARTESIA** page 6

## Commerce Retail Center Meetings Scheduled for Dec. 11

By Brian Hews

The City of Commerce recently released a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the proposed Commerce Retail Center Project. The DEIR will circulate for community review until Monday December 22, 2014. During this time, community and business members can review the DEIR and submit comments on the document.

The 13.16-acre project site is located at the intersection of Washington and Atlantic Boulevards. The project site is bounded by Interstate 710 to the west, Washington Boulevard to the north, Atlantic Boulevard to the east, and Sheila Street to the south.

The proposed project consists of the removal of the existing commercial and industrial uses on the project site and the development of a 142,511-square-foot commercial retail center.

The mix of proposed uses and build-

See **RETAIL CENTER** page 6



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### ASSEMBLYMEMBER GARCIA TAKES OATH OF OFFICE



Assemblymember Cristina Garcia (D-Bell Gardens) takes her oath of office during Monday's Swearing in ceremony in the California State Assembly. Garcia, now in her second term, has been appointed as Democratic Assistant Majority Floor Leader and was elected and will serve as Vice-Chair of the Legislative Women's Caucus. Photo courtesy the office of Assemblywoman Garcia.

### Whitney High School's "Visions Thru Song" Club Brings Holiday Joy to the AAUW

Photos and Story by Edna Ethington

Christmas Carols and other holiday songs by Whitney High School's "Visions Thru Song" Club (VTS) at their General Meeting on Thursday, November 20, 2014, at the Skyline Room of the Cerritos Library. Members were impressed with the enthu-

Members and guests of the La Palma-Cerritos Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) were treated to a special choral performance of



Pictured at the November 20, 2014 meeting of the La Palma-Cerritos AAUW are members of the "Vision Thru Song" Club from Whitney High School in Cerritos. The club sang nine holiday songs for the AAUW.

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siastic acappella singing of the eighteen students who came to share their songs of the season. They were accompanied by their Student Intervention Advisor, James Gibson, and also some of their parents.

The La Palma-Cerritos Branch of the AAUW will not be holding a regular General Meeting in December. Instead, members will be meeting for a Holiday Party on Saturday, December 13, 2014, at the home of Carol and Bob Marsh, 5092 Cadiz Circle, La Palma, starting at 7:00 p.m. Members are asked to bring hors d'ouvres or desserts to share and BYOB. Potential members are also invited to

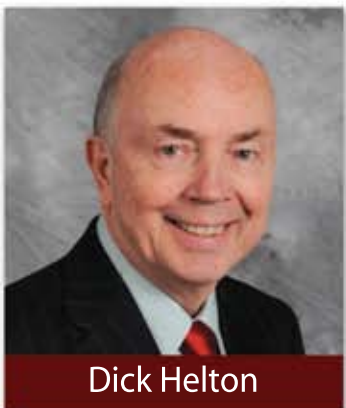
come to the Holiday Party.

As part of the AAUW's Holiday Giving Project for 2014, members are asked to bring gifts or gift cards to the Holiday Party for the family of seven that the La Palma-Cerritos AAUW has adopted for the Holiday Season. Contact Judy Figal at [judyfigal@gmail.com](mailto:judyfigal@gmail.com) regarding suggested items for gifts.

For more information about the AAUW's programs in 2015, contact Program Co- Vice-President Barbara Dunstan at 562-404-4760 or <http://aauw-lapalma-cerritos.org>.

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# 'STOP KILLING JOURNALISTS' FILIPINO-AMERICAN CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

By Rico Dizon

The "Stop Killing Journalists" campaign by the National Union of Journalists in the Philippines (NUJP-US Chapter) kicked off on in November with the formal



Boi Sibug (above) and Matt Relox (below) beside their respective paintings on exhibit at La Habra Art Gallery.



opening of an art exhibit "Peace on Earth: Visions of Love, Joy and Tranquility" at the La Habra Art Gallery in La Habra, California.

Journalists and artists in Southern California joined hands to vigorously support the global protests emanating from the brazen and unsolved killings of journalists in the Philippines.

"We're saying 'No' to violence and 'Yes' to justice, peace and love," said Mat Relox, best known for capturing in canvass the exotic and distinct lifestyle of his people – the peace-loving Mangyan tribe in Mindoro. He is joined by fellow artists Boi Sibug, Vics Magsaysay, Rafael Maniago and Therese Sabino among others. Special guests included first FilAm Emmy-awardee Jess Espanola for his animation work as assistant director for The Simpsons.

Fully-covered by FilAm news photographers and journalists, the art exhibit organized by La Habra artist Luz Spanks and FilAm writer Nimfa Rueda will continue until Jan. 3 next year. Part of the proceeds will go to the campaign that launched a memorial event and traveling photo exhibit last Nov. 22 at the Filipino American Community in Los Angeles (FACLA).

Called a "Day of Remembrance," the memorial event marked the 5th anniversary of the infamous Ampatuan Massacre named after the politically-powerful Ampatuan clan - the principal suspects in the gruesome murders where more than 30 journalists formed part of the 58 people ambushed on that fateful day, Nov. 23, 2009 in a remote village in the Southern province of Maguindanao, Philippines.

Although former provincial governor Andal Ampatuan and his son who bears his name are in jail, the horrible tragedy plus the separate occasional killings of radio and print journalists in that country disturbingly remain unsolved with no formal convictions up to this very day half a decade ago.

In the Philippines, the National Press Club Bldg. is draped in black to demonstrate the journalists' message: "We will never forget!"

# Man Dies in Solo Crash in La Palma

Kevin Rosales, 19, of Buena Park died Tuesday night after crashing his car into a block wall in La Palma at the intersection of Sandpiper Drive and Moody Street.

The La Palma Police Department received calls about a car colliding with a wall at around 7:51 p.m., Sgt. Raul Morales told HMG-CN.

The late model grey Honda slammed into the block wall killing Rosales instantly.

Three hours later firefighters were still working to cut Rosales out of the mangled wreckage.

No other cars were involved in the crash. Rain was thought to be a factor as the streets were wet from Tuesday's rain.



Crash scene at Sandpiper and Moody in La Palma. It took firefighters more than three hours to extricate Kevin Rosales, 19, of Buena Park from the wreckage.

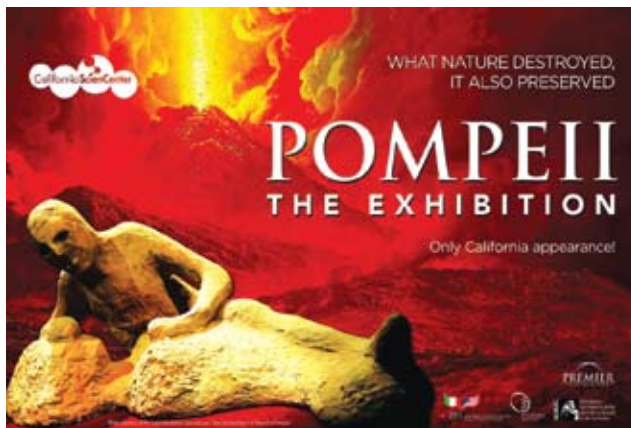
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## Enjoy Holiday Cheer at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts

By Mayor Mark E. Pulido



Cerritos Mayor Mark Pulido

Get in the spirit of the holiday season by enjoying one of the many festive shows being offered this month at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts (CCPA). The theater rounds out the year with an exciting December lineup of holiday shows filled with seasonal spir-

it and cheer.

Tonight the theater presents "An Irish Christmas," an enchanting show sponsored by Tourism Ireland. The performance mingles ancient traditions with the modern art-

istry of the country's finest performers. It's a family-friendly evening of merriment, filled with seasonal songs, Celtic music, lively story-telling and spirited dancing. Tickets start at \$35.

An annual favorite, "Merry-Achi Christmas," returns on Saturday, December 6 at 7 p.m. The nation's premier Sol de México de José Hernández Mariachi headlines this traditional Mexican holiday celebration extravaganza of seasonal songs, dance and festive merriment. America's first all-female Mariachi – Reyna de Los Angeles – and the captivating Grandeza Mexicana Ballet Folklórico company also perform. Ticket prices start at \$35.

Three-time Grammy winner Debby Boone, who lit up the world and music charts with the Oscar-winning ballad "You Light Up My Life," teams up with Emmy- and Grammy-nominated pianist-singer Michael Feinstein in the tribute "Remembering Rosemary Clooney Swingin' White Christmas" on Friday, December 12 at 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$55.

For 21 seasons, the popular "Colors of

Christmas" showcase has delighted CCPA audiences. The lively annual tradition returns with Grammy winner Peabo Bryson, Grammy nominee Taylor Dayne, Tony and Grammy winner Jennifer Holliday and "American Idol" champ Ruben Studdard in a program full of holiday cheer and seasonal favorites. Don't miss this annual holiday celebration on Saturday, December 13 at 8 p.m. Ticket prices start at \$55.

The CCPA presents a special added Performance Partner Program of the "Christmas Concert of Los Angeles Symphony" on Sunday, December 14 at 7 p.m. Los Angeles Symphony will present a holiday concert showcasing classic Opera arias, Korean art songs, Christmas music and pieces by George Frideric Handel, Charles Gounod and Georges Bizet. Maestro Hyun S. Joo leads 50 musicians, a 50-member choir and three singers. Tickets start at \$25. Because this is a Performance Partner Program, this show has a no refund, no exchange policy.

"Dave Koz and Friends Christmas Tour 2014" – featuring acclaimed Jazz-R&B singer-songwriter Jonathan Butler, Oscar

and five-time Grammy winner Christopher Cross and award-winning vocalist Maysa – marks its 17th anniversary at 8 p.m. on Friday, December 19 and Saturday, December 20. Ticket prices start at \$50. A special Dave Koz "Happy Holidays" VIP experience is available, which includes premium orchestra level seats, a 30-minute meet-and-greet prior to the show, a photograph and Q&A session with Koz, an autographed VIP laminate and an autographed copy of the "Dave Koz & Friends The 25th of December" album. There are limited spaces available. For more details about the VIP experience, call (877) 606-9222.

With the holidays quickly approaching, don't forget the option of giving CCPA gift certificates, which are available in any denomination. The certificates do not expire and can be shipped directly to your recipient of choice in festive-themed envelopes free of charge. Gift certificates and tickets to the December shows are available at cerritoscenter.com or by calling (562) 916-8500.

I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season, and I hope to see you at the theater!

## A Holiday Message from La Mirada Mayor Larry Mowles



La Mirada Mayor Larry Mowles

La Mirada is in the spirit of celebrating the holiday season. This time of year offers some of the best programs and events to bring our community together and spend time with family, neighbors, and friends. Be sure to take part in these festive holiday activities.

The Holiday Home Decorating program is officially underway. Many homes are already beautifully decorated, and

there's still time to decorate your home by the Dec. 12 deadline. Top decorated homes in La Mirada will be recognized for their festive designs. We all look forward to seeing these creative holiday displays.

Join friends and family at the annual Chili Holiday Celebration on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Splash!. This event features live entertainment, a tree lighting ceremony, holiday craft making, children's games and train rides. Don't forget your appetite because free chili, hot dogs, cookies, hot cider and cocoa will be served.

While at the Chili Holiday Celebration, be sure to participate in the Festival of Trees Silent Auction. Fresh holiday trees, fully-decorated by local non-profit organizations and businesses, will be available for purchase. Proceeds from this auction will support community programs and events.

Now through Dec. 16, all are encour-

aged to donate new, unwrapped toys and nonperishable food items in support of La Mirada's Holiday Toy and Food Drive. You may drop off your holiday goods at the Activity Center, Resource Center, Community Gymnasium, Community Sheriff's Station, Splash!, City Hall and at participating local businesses. This program helps provide holiday gifts and meals to La Mirada families in need during the holiday season.

Special mailboxes have been placed at City Hall, Splash! and the Resource Center, for children to drop off their letters to Santa Claus. Make sure to include a return address on your letter, and your child will receive a personalized reply. Letters must be received by Dec. 12 in order to receive a reply.

Celebrate the New Year at Splash! on Thursday Jan. 1 from 2 to 4 p.m. with the Polar Bear Plunge. Bring your family and friends to join in as you slide down the un-

heated waterslides in Buccaneer Bay. The heated 25-yard pool will also be open.

Be sure to visit the award-winning La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts. "The Magic of Christmas" starring The Young Americans is playing Dec. 12-24. These high-energy performances will provide holiday entertainment for the whole family.

Finally, please remember to shop and dine locally this holiday season in support of La Mirada businesses. The "Shop! See! Splash!" campaign is continuing through the end of the year. Shoppers can earn rewards such as discounts on Splash! passes and Theatre tickets by spending at least \$300 at La Mirada restaurants and stores. Shop La Mirada!

As you can see, there is festive fun for everyone in La Mirada. On behalf of the City of La Mirada, I wish everyone a joyful and safe holiday season.

## Assemblyman Calls for Greater Transparency for Government Officials

Sacramento, CA - A key reform was



California Assemblyman Mike Gatto

introduced by Assemblyman Mike Gatto (D-Glendale) today – AB 10, which would increase financial-disclosure requirements and modernize the "Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests" used by government officials to report their interests.

Government officials who must file include employees, appointed officials, consultants, candidates running for local elective offices, and others.

HMG-CN has reported on several politicians who violated the policy by filing false Form 700's including Deputy Legislative Secretary Martha Guzman-Aceves who works for California Governor Brown.

The current system mandates officials fill out several "Schedules."

One asks what stocks, bonds, and other interests the official has in business entities. The schedule simply asks for the name of the business entity and general description of the business.

Another asks what investment income and assets of businesses that they own, again requesting only the name of the business, no contact names.

"Increased transparency is essential to protecting public resources, preventing corruption, and restoring public trust," said Gatto. "This legislation will bring disclosure requirements into the 21st century. These reforms will shed light on business dealings of political insiders and give Californian's greater access to the information they deserve."

Concerns over the "Form 700" documents required by the Fair Political Practices Commission were brought to light by the Bay Area News Group, which noted that "California hasn't significantly updated its financial disclosure laws for elected officials in decades, and the forms that officials must fill out require only the vaguest information... Elected officials also need not disclose exactly what their businesses do or who their partners are."

Gatto's legislation would address these concerns by modernizing the Form 700 disclosure document in four specific ways:

(1) Clarifying the reporting ranges for investments, property, and income to be less broad, and more specific, providing tax payers a better picture of the financial interests of an elected official;

(2) Requiring elected officials to disclose who their business partners are;

(3) Requiring elected officials to disclose what exactly their businesses do; and

(4) Requiring elected officials to report the number of times they excused themselves from a vote because of a conflict of interest.

"AB 10 will increase transparency by making the financial disclosure of elected officials more clear," said Gatto.

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# CRIME SUMMARIES

**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 24 Part 1 felony crimes reported in Cerritos this past week, a substantial increase over the 17 reported the previous reporting period. The following is a breakdown of crimes by category: one robbery; two aggravated assaults; one residential burglary; two commercial/other burglaries; four grand thefts; six vehicle burglaries; and eight auto thefts. Deputies made seven felony arrests, four misdemeanor arrests, and issued 82 traffic citations. The Sheriff's dispatch center also received a total of 268 calls for service, slightly more than this year's weekly average of 265 calls.

### Robbery:

16200 block Monica Cir (11/26): Victim's date took her cell phone during an argument and drove off in his car.

### Aggravated Assault:

19211 block Studebaker Rd – Liberty Park (11/26): Argument between victim and his sister's boyfriend resulted in victim being struck several times in the face with fists which caused significant injuries.

16700 block Cobblestone Ct (11/29): When asked to leave a party two women attacked a third, striking her with fists and knocking the victim to the ground and slamming her head into the pavement.

### Residential Burglary:

13500 block Semora Pl (11/28): The resident reported the loss of two laptop computers, but no point of entry found.

### Commercial/Other Burglary:

16500 block Valley View Ave (11/27-28): Lock cut on storage locker and a bag of coins stolen.

16500 block Valley View Ave (11/29-30): Watches were stolen by suspect(s) who entered a storage unit by cutting a hole through the drywall and entering from the adjoining unit.

### Vehicle Burglary:

11400 block South St (11/24): Window on '06 Mercedes shattered and a backpack stolen.

12700 block Towne Center Dr (11/24): Window on a '03 Chevy Tahoe shattered and a bag and wallet stolen.

19800 block Bloomfield Ave (11/25): Occurred at Regional Park and report not available at this time.

12700 block Center Court Dr (11/25-26): Door pried on a GMC Yukon and 3rd row seat stolen.

11100 block 183rd St (11/26): Door lock punched on a GMC Sierra and purse and credit cards stolen.

11200 block 183rd St (11/30): Passenger window shattered on a Jeep Cherokee and wallet stolen.

### Grand Theft:

15900 block Piuma Ave (11/21-24): Twenty truck batteries stolen from ten trucks parked at a business.

12800 block Cantrecc St (11/23-24): New desktop computer stolen from vehicle parked in victim's driveway. Victim stated the vehicle was locked but no evidence of force entry observed.

200 Los Cerritos Ctr (11/23): While shopping, victim set her purse down on a table and turned away for a brief moment. When she turned back around she observed her purse containing \$2,500 in cash was missing.

13900 block Artesia Blvd (11/25): Two suspects arrested on top of a two-story building while trying to steal copper wire.

### Grand Theft Auto

13800 block Cerritos Corporate Dr (11/24-25): Commercial truck trailer stolen

from commercial parking lot.

17700 block Center Court Dr (11/25): '07 Chevy Tahoe stolen from commercial parking lot.

19000 block Pires Ave (11/26): '01 Dodge pickup stolen from victim's driveway.

239 Los Cerritos Ctr (11/26): '96 Honda Civic stolen from mall parking lot.

13800 block Carnaby St (11/26-27): '96 Jeep Cherokee stolen from driveway and recovered 12/1 in Anaheim.

11100 block 183rd St (11/30): '95 Acura Integra stolen from commercial parking lot.

239 Los Cerritos Center (11/30): '93 Honda Accord stolen from mall parking lot.

239 Los Cerritos Center – Attempt (11/28): Victim returned to her truck and observed door handle broken.

## La Mirada

### Residential Burglary

A residential burglary was reported on the 14300 block of De Alcala Dr. Various electronics were stolen from the residence. An incident was reported on the 14500 block of Hardaway Dr. Two laptop computers were among the items stolen in the burglary.

### Vehicle Burglary

A window smash burglary was reported on the 13300 block of Beach Blvd. The victim's window was shattered to gain entry into the vehicle.

### Grand Theft

A theft of rims and tires from a big rig truck was reported on the 14800 block of Firestone Blvd. Two separate thefts of catalytic converters from sport utility vehicles were reported on the 15900 and 15600 blocks of Imperial Hwy.

### Grand Theft Vehicle

A vehicle was reported stolen from the 13900 block of Imperial Hwy. The vehicle was recovered two days later by the Los Angeles Police Department.

## Two Suspects Arrested for Alleged Grand Theft

Two Cypress residents were arrested for alleged grand theft and possession of burglary tools after officers responded to a call at an office complex on November 25.

An employee at the Artesia Boulevard property reported hearing footsteps on the roof. When deputies responded at 12:31 a.m., a search uncovered an industrial air-conditioning unit had been dismantled and

the copper wiring and radiator had been removed.

The suspects, ages 43 and 36, admitted to disassembling the air-conditioning unit and taking the contents.

Cerritos Station detectives are handling the follow-up investigation.

## Car Burglary Season

The City of Cerritos is averaging 3.8 car burglaries since the beginning of 2014, which is a nice reduction from last year's weekly average of six through the same period. This is no time to relax, however, as the coming holiday season means more packages and valuable items in cars that will be irresistible to thieves (six reported this past week).

Remember these crime prevention shopping tips: When shopping, travel with a companion if possible, don't wear expensive jewelry or take lots of cash if you don't need to, and never leave items visible in your car whether it's parked at a mall or in your driveway (a thin sheet of window glass will not stop a determined car burglar). Thieves can't steal what's not there, so don't even give them a chance.

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## ARTESIA

*Continued from page 1*

accolades from the City Council.

"Mr. City Manager, we expected a lot from you and you passed it with flying colors," remarked Mayor Pro Tem Miguel Canales.

Mayor Tony Lima said, "That is a great achievement and I thank you and your staff."

Council Member Ali Taj reiterated the mayor's commendation and appreciation. For her part, Council Member Sally Flowers said, "I seldom make this kind of remark but this is exemplary work."

Some of the most challenging in the list but otherwise "completed" included the following:

Priority one was staff submitting a balanced budget with cuts in several areas. Staff had informed council that without a balanced budget that did not reduce levels of service, all other priorities would be unsustainable.

Another priority was to have a budget with full and accurate cost allocation to different departments. The city wanted to accurately allocate resources to city programs and projects, so the true cost of programs and operations had to be known. Costs were ascertained and distributed to each department to show the true cost of those departments.

The city has arranged for payments at targeted quarters of the calendar year, reducing the need for a larger volume of unassigned funds, thus improving the financial stability of the city. The city must keep almost \$1.6 million in cash on hand to pay for expenses at the beginning of fiscal year. A majority of city revenue does not materialize until mid-year. By this arrangement the city will not have to keep

as much money on hand, reducing the so-called "budget float."

The city has placed a priority on increasing revenues. After the loss of measure Y in the recent elections, this topic has turned crucial for the city. In order to increase revenues to pay for increased service levels and improve quality of life for the city residents, a specific "Economic Development Plan" will be formulated and adopted.

One plan calls for the development of idle properties that will include the construction of multi-level parking structures.

Another plan calls for making the business area more retail competitive, increasing employment, which in turn will increase the city's sales tax revenue.

Another priority Rawlings identified was development of the city's management team. He wrote that, "the key to the success of any organization is the professionalism and proficiency of its management team as key problem solvers, innovators and leaders of the city. They should be appropriately trained, encouraged, compensated and held accountable."

Rawlings reported on examples of completed projects on the priority list including the South Street Improvement with the recent installations of the "Welcome to Artesia" luminous monument.

Also cited was the landscaped center island road divider and bike friendly path which have been put to good use for public safety and environmental aesthetics.

"We are on the right path," commented councilman Ali Taj, "let's keep the momentum going."

Thursday, December 11, 2014 in the City Council Chambers, 5655 Jillson St., in Commerce.

Residents & general public meeting will run from 5pm-8pm, Thursday, December 11, 2014 in the City Council Chambers, 5655 Jillson St., in Commerce.

If you have any questions, you may contact Mr. Matt Marquez at the City of Commerce Public Works/Development Services Department at 323 722-4805.

In other news the city rescheduled its tree lighting ceremony to Dec. 8 due to a forecast of inclement weather. The ceremony will take place at 6 p.m. If inclement weather occurs on the rescheduled date, the ceremony will be moved into the Council Chambers. For more information, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 323-887-4434.

## CARRIAGE HOUSE

*Continued from page 1*

Commission suggested a traffic study be executed to address these potential issues.

The final draft of the study has been completed since August and has been sent to the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Traffic Division for final approval.

That final approval has still not come however and the decision on the fate of The Carriage House has been delayed—not appearing on either the October or November commission agendas.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 18th.

## RETAIL CENTER

*Continued from page 1*

## 'Visits from Santa' Returns to La Mirada

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ings will include an additional five buildings over the original proposal. The city is targeting a major anchor store such as a Walmart, Target, or similar big box retailer with a grocery format. This building will be approximately 122,456 ft.

In January of this year, when the project was first proposed, during public comment community members voiced their concerns with a Walmart being developed at the site. They voiced their opinion on Walmart's reputation of hiring only part-time workers and not offering benefits to its employees.

Other buildings will include a bank with drive-through capability at approximately 4,000 sq. ft.; a retail or restaurant space at approximately 5,000 sq. ft.; an additional retail or restaurant space at approximately 8,000 sq. ft.; and finally, a restaurant with a drive-through at approximately 3,000 sq. ft.

Meetings will commence for the Business Community from 12pm-2pm,

The City of La Mirada is inviting residents to sign up for a "Visit from Santa."

The visits will begin the weekend of December 5, and will continue every weekend thereafter until Christmas Eve.

Santa visits taking place on Christmas Eve are \$45 and \$35 on all other days.

Due to Santa's busy schedule, visits will last 10 minutes.

If you have more than six children you must sign up for two visits.

Registration is open to La Mirada residents only and will take place at the La Mirada Community Gymnasium on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 5 to 9 p.m.

Registration for this special program is ongoing and space is limited, so be good for goodness sake and sign up today!

For additional information, call (562) 943-7277.

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From left to right are Marlene Rofe, Mickey Christiason, Councilman George Ray, Jamie & Sgt Douglas Cox, Councilman Bruce Barrows, Maryanne & Chris Tierheimer, Laurie Forward, and Planning Commissioner Chuong Vo. Picture courtesy Friends of the 1st CEB.

### FREE: "Medicine, Munchies and Movies" Nutrition Tips This Holiday Season for Older Adults

Join the MemorialCare Senior Plus Program at Long Beach Memorial for this month's free "Medicine, Munchies and Movies" health education lecture on "Nutrition Tips for the Holiday Season."

Dietitian, Cathy Fagan, MA, RD, will host an hour-long lecture and 15-minute question and answer session, followed by a screening of "Enough Said," starring James Gandolfini and Julia Louis-Dreyfus.

Full lunch provided. Call (562) 933-1650 to register.

The event will take place Friday, Dec. 12 at noon at Long Beach Memorial in the Houssels Forum.

Long Beach Memorial is located at 2801 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806.



Remember to shop La Mirada this holiday season. Purchase gifts, decorations, home furnishings and other holiday items in support of La Mirada stores.



Redeem receipts from La Mirada businesses for discounts to Splash!, La Mirada Theatre, and recreation classes. Shop! See! Splash! runs through December 31.



For more information on Shop! See! Splash! and everything that La Mirada has to offer, call (562) 943-0131.

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# PAIR OF GAHR SOFTBALL STANDOUTS SIGN LETTERS OF INTENT

By Loren Kopff

Longtime friends Brianna Besenty and Deidra Genera of Gahr High's softball team recently signed letters of intent to continue playing upon graduation in June. Besenty, who doubles up as a catcher and second baseman, signed on Nov. 7 to play at Hope University in Fullerton while Genera, a pitcher, inked her name to Bethune-Cookman on Nov. 13.

Besenty, whose career batting average of .355 is currently fourth among Gahr players this century, said Hope University



HMG-CN Sports Editor Loren Kopff

## NEWS AND NOTES FROM PRESS ROW

was the first school she looked at and immediately fell in love with it. She added that she liked the campus, liked the team and is close to home. Besenty will major in psychology.

"I'm pretty excited," Besenty said. "The coach is really nice; I've worked with her before. I know she's really tough on the field. I know we're going to get down to business and get done what needs to get done."

Besenty, a second-team member of the Los Cerritos Community News All-Area Team in 2013 as a catcher and a first-teamer last season as a second baseman, also ranks in Gahr's top 20 this century in hits (50), runs batted in (42) and walks (15). Besenty's 27 RBI last season is the most by any junior this century.

Genera, who will be going to the Daytona Beach, FL-based university on a full ride, has been one of the top pitchers in Gahr history. Genera needs one more victory to move into a tie for second place in victories this century and her 179 strikeouts as well as 174 innings pitched are second since 2000. Last season, Genera posted an earned run average of 3.26 with 75 strikeouts while walking only 17 batters.

Genera, who also looked at Hope University, Humboldt State University and New Mexico State University, has been on the LCCN All-Area team as a pitcher in 2012 (honorable mention) and on the first team as a third baseman and pitcher the past two seasons respectively.



Gahr seniors Brianna Besenty (left) and Deidra Genera proudly don the apparel of their college choice after they signed their respective letters of intent last month.

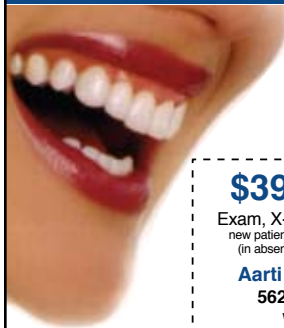
## Artesia 10-Under Amnesia Monkeys Win Tournament



The Artesia 10-Under Amnesia Monkeys won the Spooktacular West Grove Tournament in late October. They defeated Santa Ana Bulldogs 12-1, Fountain Valley Outlaws 15-0, Santa Ana Rebels 7-3, West Grove Warriors 10-3 and West Grove Bruisers 5-2. The members of the Amnesia Monkeys are: Leila Brady, Alexandra Chavarin, Kalena Dawson, Leila Howder, Megan Maki, Emily Mariscal, Hailee Nelson, Jady Nielsen, Adriana Portillo, Anela Samala and Sofia Wesson. The manager is Jon Nielsen, the head coach is Cy Maki and the assistant coaches are Daniel Chavarin, Peter Dawson and Ray Portillo.

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# ROTARIANS HELP LA MIRADA FAMILIES DURING HOLIDAYS

Members of the Rotary Club of La Mirada are busy again this holiday season helping needy families in the La Mirada area.

Rotary assisted with two projects held in the week prior to Thanksgiving. The third project will be held prior to Christmas.

Rotarians donated \$1,000 in turkeys, canned goods and other food items to the Good Sam Pantry at Beatitudes Church in La Mirada. Rotarians purchased the supplies with the generous support of the Walmart Neighborhood Market, located at Imperial Highway and La Mirada Boulevard in the Crossroads Shopping Center, on the morning of Thursday, Nov. 20. The food was distributed to needy families later that afternoon by volunteers at the Good Sam Pantry.

Rotarians also arranged for the purchase of \$750 worth of turkey dinners from Polly's Pies located at Beach Boulevard and Rosecrans Avenue in La Mirada. The food was served by youth volunteers to hundreds of local residents at the annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner at Foster Road Elementary School. The project was a joint effort by La Mirada Rotary, Kiwanis, Living Faith Church, Calvary Chapel and Polly's Pies.

A Holiday Shopping Spree for needy children will be sponsored by the Rotary Club on Wednesday, Dec. 10 at Marshalls in La Mirada. Rotarians work in conjunction with local elementary schools to identify children in the community who are in need of assistance during the

holidays. The children, assisted by adult volunteers, will select clothing items they need from lists provided by their parents.

"Rotary has been very active in La Mirada for more than 50 years," says club president Sean Bracey. "Rotary has gained additional momentum locally in recent years, and we plan to increase our level of activity as we go forward."

"Rotary is made up 1.2 million neighbors, friends, and community leaders who come together to create positive, lasting change in their communities and around the world," adds Bracey. "Our many different occupations, cultures, and countries give us a unique perspective. Our shared passion for service helps us accomplish the remarkable."

Rotary Club of La Mirada assists with a variety of community service projects throughout the year. The group meets on Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. at the Elephant Bar Restaurant, 14303 Firestone Boulevard in La Mirada. Individuals interested in learning more about the Rotary Club are welcome to attend a club meeting. Additional information is available at <https://www.facebook.com/Rotarycluboflamirada>.



Members of the Rotary Club of La Mirada and volunteers from Good Sam Pantry at Beatitudes Church provided holiday meals for families in La Mirada. Rotarians supplied \$1,000 worth of food for the project with the assistance of Walmart Neighborhood Market. Pictured are (l to r): Good Sam Pantry volunteers Jeff Ferrin, Julie Yniguez, Bill Baker, Carmen Rawson, Cathy Ferrin, and Rotary Club of La Mirada members Hal Malkin, Russell Hall and Phil Bracey.



Rotary Club of La Mirada members joined with volunteers from the Good Sam Pantry at Beatitudes Church again this year to provide Thanksgiving dinners for families in need. The Walmart Neighborhood Market in La Mirada generously supported the project.

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## LA MIRADA HOLIDAY HOME DECORATING CONTEST



The Holiday Home Decorating program is officially underway. Many homes are already beautifully decorated, and there's still time to decorate your home by the December 12 deadline. Judging for the Holiday Home Decorating program will take place December 1 through December 12. Award winners will receive a holiday ornament and will be announced on the City's website at [www.cityoflamirada.org](http://www.cityoflamirada.org). For more information on the program, call the Community Sheriff's Station at (562) 902-2960.



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## 2014-2015 BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW

### MIDDLE OF SUBURBAN LEAGUE TO BE TIGHT AGAIN WHILE GAHR LOOKS FOR CONSISTENCY

By Loren Kopff

Since Artesia went through its championship runs from the 2004-2005 season to the 2006-2007 campaign, Mayfair has been the top dogs of the Suburban League. While the Monsoons are still the favorites, along with La Mirada, three area league teams feel they have a shot of moving closer to the top. Gahr is once again seeking its first San Gabriel Valley League crown since 2010 while Valley Christian is primed for a big season with its most experienced teams in several years.

#### ARTESIA PIONEERS

**17-11 overall last season, 5-7 in the Suburban League, tied for fourth place, lost to Gladstone 50-41 in the Division III-A second round playoffs.**

Head coach: Ray Walker (third season, 26-30)

Team's record previous five seasons: 59-77

Last time missed the playoffs: 1981

STARTERS LOST: Jon Campbell (7.9 points per game last season), Korey Joseph (4.9 ppg.), Brandon Paris (7.4 ppg.)

STARTERS RETURNING: SR Dontae Smith (11.3 ppg.), SR Akil Williams (4.1 ppg.)

OTHERS RETURNING: SR Chris Pendley

Head coach Ray Walker hoped his team's fast start last December would continue once Suburban League action began. But the Pioneers finished the season 5-9 after winning their first six of the season and 12 of their first 14. Walker said the early confidence of winning games helped prepare the team for league.

"It was important because there had not been a winning season since 2007," Walker said. "Any type of success that we can have we appreciate it. We wanted to make sure we could get [those wins]. It was important to win those couple of tournaments and start the season out correctly."

Artesia graduated half a dozen seniors and two other players who would have returned, are not back. So, Walker has to build around three returning players including senior Dontae Smith, one of the league's top players. But Walker is more concerned about the improvement from senior Akil Williams, who was more of a defensive player last season but could be another double-digit scorer to complement Smith.

"This year we're going to count on him a lot more to score," Walker said of Williams. "He's a key defensive player for us and this year, he's going to be a starter."

Walker admits his team might struggle this year with all of the young newcomers, but is insistent that the future looks bright. That future begins with, among others, junior Semaje Chatman, junior point guard Martin Villeses, sophomore Bryan Hughing, sophomore point guard Alex Linao and sophomore Devion Smith, a 6'4" post player who was the freshmen most valuable player. Since its last league title, Artesia hasn't finished higher than fourth place.

"I don't know how many wins we're going to end up getting," Walker said. "I think we're going to be competitive. I don't think we're going to have enough to blow people out. But I also know we're

going to be talented enough and have enough to be in every game."

#### CERRITOS DONS

**14-13 overall last season, 7-5 in the Suburban League, third place, lost to Arroyo Grande 65-41 in the Division II-A first round playoffs.**

Head coach: Jonathan Watanabe (14th overall, 186-177)

Team's record previous five seasons: 71-68

Last time missed the playoffs: 2007

STARTERS LOST: Sham Shah, Kelechi Ukoha (10.7 points per game last season)

STARTERS RETURNING: SR Henry Buycks (8.4 ppg.), SR J.J. Rivera (4.7 ppg.), JR Evan Leonard (17.1 ppg.)

OTHERS RETURNING: SR Andrew Bui (3.3 ppg.), SR Dante Gilmer, SR Brian Kim, SR Jordan Wong, JR Daniel Kim (3.6 ppg.), JR Brandon Yoon

Longtime Cerritos head coach Jonathan Watanabe picked up a winning season after consecutive seasons of under .500. But the Dons have the potential to win more games and get close to the 20-win mark as nine players return, including three who have been on varsity since they were sophomores. Cerritos was swept by Mayfair and La Mirada and split with Norwalk in which both of those games were decided by a combined seven points.

"We dropped the one over here to Norwalk that I didn't figure we would do," Watanabe said. "But again, you have to be ready every game. You just never know what's going to happen from year to year and game to game. You have to be prepared for everyone."

The heart and soul for the Dons will

be junior Evan Leonard, who has emerged as a serious threat to any league team, as well as any of Cerritos' other foes. Watanabe says Leonard still has work to do on the defensive end but is improving in all areas and is just a 'workhorse'. Even though Mayfair and La Mirada has all of the transfer players, Leonard has the potential to be the league's most valuable player.

"It's his job to keep working so he is the best player in the league," Watanabe said. "With other teams bringing players in, it just raises the bar, which actually helps players. I think our players are more motivated to get better because they know they have to be better."

But it's not going to be the Evan Leonard show all the time. Seniors Henry Buycks and J.J. Rivera could easily average 10 points a game, or more as the Dons will be using their size to their advantage this season as they will force teams to play at an up-tempo pace. That has been the team's focus since last spring.

Watanabe says he can go 10 or 11 deep and probably has the deepest and most talented team in his 14 seasons. He adds that senior Andrew Bui is a defensive stopper, senior Brian Kim gives the team a post presence and everyone will play significant minutes.

"In general, we go from a young and inexperienced team to an older, veteran team within a matter of one season," Watanabe said. "We have all juniors and seniors for the first time in... I can't even remember. We have nine returners and some good, quality guys coming up. We're ex-

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## THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY – PART 1

By Jason Ooi  
HMG-CN Film Critic



JASON OOI  
WHITNEY HIGH SCHOOL

By taking a page out of what its young adult movie adaptation predecessors Twilight and Harry Potter did before it, The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1 turns itself into an ever so blatant attempt to milk every last penny out from the franchise. It's insultingly obvious that this episode of the Hunger Games series is merely just filler, as nothing of importance really happens throughout the movie until the very end.

The newest addition to The Hunger Games series takes place right after the events of Catching Fire, on the eve of a full out civil war in Panem. It follows the propaganda war that takes place between the Capitol and Peeta, and District 13 and Katniss, both presumed to be dead. The film is essentially on the propaganda making process, as the leaders of District 13 try to provide each other district a symbol to rally around.

The film is aimless, devoid of the action that drew audiences to the first two films of the series, and honestly, completely pointless. There is no reason for an entire film to be made for the events that span this one. Still, the film maintains some entertainment value, as it's composed of surprisingly great acting, and a somewhat interesting premise, more refreshing than the usual formula, which has thankfully not been beaten to death with this film. Despite this unbeaten horse in the form of premise, the movie still feels completely campy. The love triangle be-

tween Katniss, Gale, and Peeta, is, at this point, completely hackneyed and tiresome. Mockingjay also manages to take a darker turn, which I feel has positively affected the series as a whole by turning it away from the young adult flick that alienates the older audience.

With the inclusion of Julianne Moore and more of a presence coming from Philip Seymour Hoffman to supplement the already-brilliant work of Jennifer Lawrence, Mockingjay manages to keep a film that revolves primarily around deceit and dialogue interesting. Lawrence gives a surprisingly matured performance, as she is forced to come to terms with the albeit necessary, evils that she has indirectly caused. She evokes a lot of solid emotion without being reduced to helplessness. Josh Hutcherson, in what little screentime he received, is amazing as a tortured, haunting Peeta, who steals every scene that he is in. In this sea of great, effective performances however, lies the outlier: Sam Claflin, who plays fellow victor Finnick Odair. It's disappointing how little he was used in this movie, and I really wish he was given more of a script to work with; to seem like an actual character, rather than just a source of hollow aphorisms.

Despite all of the negatives, it is certain that Mockingjay has paved the way for the true finale of the series. It was pointless, but did effectively make the final conclusion of the series seem more desired, and for all the right reasons. For those still on the fence about seeing the movie, who don't care as much for the series, it's a negligible film; you could wait for the finale next year, save \$10 and two hours of your life, without missing a single thing.

## LA MIRADA KIWANS CLUB SPONSORS A HOLIDAY SHOPPING SPREE FOR NEEDY CHILDREN



Students from Elementary Schools in La Mirada enjoyed a morning of shopping for clothes and shoes at Sears in Whittier. The event was sponsored by Kiwanis Club of La Mirada. Photo courtesy LM Kiwanis Club.

On Thursday, December 4, forty-six students from various Elementary Schools in La Mirada enjoyed a morning of shopping for clothes and shoes at Sears in Whittier. The event was sponsored by Kiwanis Club of La Mirada and chaperoned by members of Kiwanis, Ebell Women's Club, and the Key Club at La Mirada High School.

Each child purchased \$100 of clothes and shoes from funds provided by Kiwanis and community friends.

Sears Store awarded special discounts for the purchases. The Norwalk-La Mirada School District provided transportation to Sears and back to the schools following the breakfast.

Following the shopping spree students were escorted to Ruby's in the Mall to enjoy a breakfast of pancakes and juice donated by the restaurant as a

special Holiday reward.

Kiwanis Chair Skip Ricarte organized the event and stated, "It is a joy to see the happy faces of the children as they make their purchases." Kiwanis President Pete Dames was on hand and said, "This annual event is one of our Club's most enjoyable and rewarding programs. Our chaperones from the High School and the community have a ball helping the students to select their purchases."

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## PREVIEW

Continued from page 11

cited about the season. It's just a matter of can we get to the potential of where we could get to?

"If we put the work in between now and the time league starts, and we play as a team and we're unselfish, doing the things we need to do, we're definitely capable of knocking off anybody making a long run," he later added. "But there's a big 'if'."

**GAHR GLADIATORS**

**15-12 overall last season, 7-3 in the San Gabriel Valley League, tied for second place, lost to Palos Verdes 78-77 in the first round of the Division III-AA first round playoffs.**

*Head coach: Ricky Roper (fifth season, 72-45)*

*Team's record previous five seasons: 99-51*

*Last time missed the playoffs: 1997*

**STARTERS LOST:** SR Cory Chavers, Malachi Hoosein (24.9 points per game last season)

**STARTERS RETURNING:** SR Gregory Carlyle (11.7 ppg.), SR Jeremy Carlyle (12.3 ppg.), SR Darrell Harris (8.1 ppg.),

**OTHERS RETURNING:** SR Andrew Weber, JR Evan Anderson, JR Justin Smith, SO Marvin Bragg

Once again Gahr had a season in which it hovered around .500 as head coach Ricky Roper saw a lot of inconsistency despite having Malachi Hoosein score close to 25 points a game. He said the Gladiators played some special games but didn't have a special season. This year, he hopes the team will be more consistent as the Gladiators lost just one senior from last season, which was Hoosein.

"We just didn't get it done," Roper said. "We were playing our best basketball

at the end of the season and we honestly felt like we were going to make a run. It was a very disappointing way to end the season, especially when you look at Brea Olinda, which went to the finals of our division last year and we beat them in a December tournament. Inglewood went to the semifinals of Division I-AA and we beat them.

"I really enjoyed the team last year," he later said. "So it was disappointing that the season got cut short because we were having a lot of fun. We were working hard."

One bright spot came towards the end of the season when Gahr gave Downey its lone San Gabriel Valley League loss. But he hopes the vast experience his team has this season will be enough to bring home a league title. Senior brothers Gregory and Jeremy Carlyle, both of whom had great offseasons, will be the leaders as both have the ability to get close to 20 points a game and, according to Roper, are just as good as anybody around. But the team is loaded with senior Darrell Harris and sophomore Marvin Bragg expecting to be emerging stars. Roper says both are very key to the team being very versatile with Bragg being someone people will talk about. Gahr will have eight seniors on the team with half being varsity rookies.

"Malachi was a great competitor and he really worked on his game," Roper said. "He played [on the junior varsity team] as a sophomore. He kept us competitive for a couple of seasons. But he's the only guy we lost. Hopefully we've learned from last season."

Gahr's schedule will be stacked again with its tournament co-hosted with Cerritos ending on Saturday, an appearance in both the tough North Orange County Championships and the MaxPreps Holiday Classic in Palm Springs and single games against Price and Lawndale on the docket before even starting league action, which will be up for grabs again.

"It's still a pretty good league," Roper said. "I know Downey and Lynwood will have good teams this year. Paramount is always tough. I'm not sure about Dominguez and Warren."

**JOHN GLENN EAGLES**

**7-20 overall, 1-11 in the Suburban League, 7th place, lost to La Canada 59-39 in the Division III-A first round playoffs.**

*Head coach: Wesley Phillips (second season, 8-44)*

*Team's record previous five seasons: 19-107*

*Last time missed the playoffs: 2013*

**STARTERS LOST:** Suni Bedi (11.3 points per game last season), Ardale Encabo (7.3 ppg.), Antonio Lucero (4.8 ppg.), Erich Webb (10.2 ppg.)

**STARTERS RETURNING:** SR Daniel Morales (10.6 ppg.)

**OTHERS RETURNING:** SR Alan Solorzano

John Glenn's first trip to the postseason since 2000 came with mixed reviews. While the nine seniors gladly welcomed the rare opportunity to play a playoff game, head coach Wesley Phillips wished his team had performed much better in the regular season given the high number of upperclassmen.

"I know we played some tough games and we may have earned it that way because we showed some respectability," Phillips said. "But as far as the record is concerned [it] was not deserving."

Now, the Eagles are facing a major uphill battle with only two returning players with senior Daniel Morales clearly the go-to player as he reached double figures 17 times and scored a career-high 29 points at Bellflower. Although senior Alan Solorzano scored 15 points all of last season, Phillips is counting on his returners.

"Their leadership is very important and they have to act as such," Phillips said. "You have to walk the walk and talk the talk. We have a lot of youth here and if they don't lead them, there's no telling what's going to happen."

Glenn will have 10 players on varsity this season with senior Javier Avalos, junior Nathan Lopez, who was the junior varsity most valuable player last season, and sophomores Hugo Aguiano, Sean Espineda, six-footer Cruz Gomez and Josh Verduzco the top varsity rookies.

Phillips is not counting this as a rebuilding season but has high expectations and believes this is a year in which the team can actually take fourth place.

"It's a challenge, but all of this youth that we coming and all of the players we have on varsity now should be on [the junior varsity team]," Phillips said. "But for some reason, I'm kind of optimistic about what could happen. But I was that way last year, too. For some reason, I think our role players will be exactly that."

**NORWALK LANCERS**

**11-17 overall last season, 5-7 in the Suburban League, tied for third place in the Suburban League, lost to Colony 66-42 in the Division II-A first round playoffs.**

*Head coach: Jim Webster: (13th season, 85-106)*

*Team's record previous five seasons: 63-77*

*Last time missed the playoffs: 2012*

**STARTERS LOST:** Dante Foster (6.7 points per game last season), Rashaad Penny (9.4 ppg. In 17 games), Alex Vidana (11.1 ppg.)

**STARTERS RETURNING:** JR David Suarez (5.7 ppg.), JR Keno Valdenor (8.3 ppg.)

**OTHERS RETURNING:** SR Ishmael Townsend, JR Omar Tinoco, SO Jordan Volpei

Despite Norwalk finishing six games under .500 after a season in which it had a winning mark for the fourth times in the prior five seasons, veteran head coach Jim Webster still saw a silver lining. The Lancers played nearly the first third of the season without two of their leading scorers, who were still involved with the football team, and went 4-6 in those games. Once Suburban League action began, the Lancers started off 1-4 with all five games being decided by three points or less.

"Last season, we missed Rashaad Penny and Dante Foster for the first six or seven games," Webster said. "So when they came in, we had a transition period. Even though we struggled the first round of league, we had four games that were [lost by] three points or less. We played really well down the stretch and we played well in the first round. We just couldn't close games out."

This season, Norwalk will be young again with only two seniors, Ishmael

Townsend, who scored 66 points, and newcomer Mark Roca. That doesn't concern Webster, who says his team will be able to handle the ball and handle pressure. Norwalk will be trying to build its game inside out and will have to make outside shots in order to stay in its games and/or win them.

Juniors David Suarez and Keno Valdenor will have to be the leaders as they are projected to get the majority of the shots. If they're on their game, they can reach double figures. But look for sophomore Jordan Volpei to be the highest percentage shooter. The top varsity newcomers are all juniors-Greg Deed, Emmanuel Lateju and Rudy Tellez.

"Hopefully we're competing for third," Webster said. "I think Bellflower has improved, from what I hear. It's always tough; every game is always tough. Who knows how your kids show up? If we can keep improving and peak at the right time, we'll get a good run in league and maybe upset someone at the top and finish in the top three."

**VALLEY CHRISTIAN CRUSADERS**

**11-17 overall last season, 2-6 in the Olympic League, fourth place, lost to Crespi 57-37 in the Division IV-AA second round playoffs.**

*Head coach: Bryan Branderhorst (ninth season, 118-106)*

*Team's record previous five seasons: 55-81*

*Last time missed the playoffs: 2011*

**STARTERS LOST:** Brian Bischoff (3.9 points per game last season)

**STARTERS RETURNING:** JR Stedmon Bryant (10.1 ppg.), JR Ronald Massey (5.9 ppg.), JR Jordan Mitchell (6.6 ppg.), JR Vaj Rice (10.9 ppg.)

**OTHERS RETURNING:** SR Kyle Westra, SO Johnny Johnson (6.7 ppg.)

For the fifth straight season, Valley Christian failed to reach .500 and in three of the past four seasons, the Crusaders finished in fourth place in a very tough Olympic League. But V.C. advanced to the playoffs and for the second time in the past three seasons, moved on to the second round.

"You kind of are what your record is in the end," said V.C. head coach Bryan Branderhorst. "I'm not going to say we're better than our record or anything [like that]. But coming off of last season, we took some lumps. We are in a very good league and it will continue to be a very good league this year. It's very thick with talent at the top."

V.C. had two seniors on last season's team and will have one this year in Kyle Westra. Still, Branderhorst feels his team is experienced even though on paper, they are young 10 juniors and three sophomores on the squad.

Juniors Stedmon Bryant and Vaj Rice will be pacing the Crusaders but look for fellow 11th graders Ronald Massey and Jordan Mitchell to score a little bit more to give the Crusaders probably their best starting rotation in quite some time to go along with the deepest and most athletic team Branderhorst has ever had. This will be Bryant's and Rice's third season on varsity.

"We're excited about our two lefty's coming back, one inside and one outside," Branderhorst said of Bryant and Rice. "Both are all-league guys for us last year. This year they'll be big contributors for us again."

Branderhorst says Massey will surprise some people as he has developed his game and will be tough to stop. He added that this season will be a fluid situation with a lot of guys coming from the junior varsity team. Sophomore Aaron Purnell will play a lot of minutes and can play inside or outside and is also an aggressive rebounder. The same goes for sophomore

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**PREVIEW**

*Continued from page 12*

Jalen Hines. Junior Robert Downs, fresh off the football team is another varsity newcomer to keep an eye on.

As far as competing with the league powers, Branderhorst says his team just has to grind every night and come out and play. Don't be surprised if the Crusaders are able to split with one of the tougher teams. After all, they knocked off John Muir in the first round of the playoffs on the road.

"It's a really challenging league," Branderhorst said. "We have a couple of teams who are likely to be in the Open Division again [for the playoffs]. I would guess Maranatha will actually be a heavy favorite with the addition of Tyler Dorsey from St. John Bosco and [Trevor] Stanback from Chaminade, a 6' 10" center. Village [Christian] is always bringing new guys in to go along with Bennie Boatwright, who has just committed to USC. There's a lot of PAC-12 caliber talent in our league. We're excited about that. That motivates us and inspires us to get better all the time."

**WHITNEY WILDCATS**

**8-16 overall last season, 4-8 in the Academy League, fifth place.**

*Head coach: Ruben Guerrero (eighth season, 87-89)*

*Team's record previous five seasons: 75-55*

*Last time made the playoffs: 2013*

*STARTERS LOST: Justin Kwon (5.7 points per game last season)*

*STARTERS RETURNING: SR Tim Han (5.7 ppg.), SR Antony Thomas (7.5 ppg.), JR Michael Hamakawa, JR K.J. Hardrict (5.3 ppg.)*

*OTHERS RETURNING: SR Turath Liebenau, SR David Lu, SR Jeremy Simbol, JR Luigi Gonzales, JR Jason Yoon*

After five straight seasons of going to the playoffs, Whitney stumbled to its worst record since the 2007-2008 season. Head coach Ruben Guerrero considered last season as a rebuilding one with five

sophomores and five juniors along with a pair of seniors. It was easy to see why Guerrero didn't even bother applying for an at-large playoff bid.

"In the past, I've always felt that if we don't earn a spot, we don't belong there, especially with our division being so tough," Guerrero said. "To take an at-large bid and then end up at JSerra or at Harvard-Westlake...it wouldn't be fun for anybody. So, with that happening, we just let the season ride out."

Last season, the Wildcats learned a lot and were in a lot of games, but just couldn't finish. This season, the Wildcats should be a tad bit better, but not quite ready to take home the Academy League championship. Guerrero said he's very hopeful of this season as the 'Cats return four starters and five other players. Senior Antony Thomas led the team in scoring but after that, Whitney had a balanced team as there was no one go-to player or standout. Thomas does have the potential to score at least 10 points a game.

"I believe so," Guerrero said. "His problem last year was he wanted to be an all-around team player, which is fine. And a lot of [the team] struggled with that. They all wanted to make that extra pass and a lot of times they were passing up on open looks. This summer, we pushed the scoring aspect of it. I tell the guys, if you're within the three-point line and you get a wide open look, take the shot. I'm not going to be upset whether you make or miss it."

Guerrero added that he wants the scoring to come from everybody but is looking for Thomas and senior Tim Han to be more of the glue that keeps the team together. Sophomores Ben Barnett, Peter Kang and freshman Heaven Flores are the only newcomers to varsity. As far as making the playoffs, Guerrero believes that could happen.

"If they look to score and they're more offensive-minded, I believe they can," he said. "I don't really put anything on paper. I put all of our playbooks on YouTube so the guys can review them. One of the boys asked me, 'hey coach, can you e-mail the team the plays'. I said yes but the problem is there's no playbook for hustle. There's no playbook to compete. That's one area our team lacks-just competing on a consistent basis."

**ELECTIONS**

*Continued from page 1*

ident was Olympia Chen, who has been with the board for 15 years. Armin Reyes, going on his 12th year with the Board, was installed as Clerk. The Board Secretary position automatically went to ABC Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu.

Sources told HMG-CN that Johnson's opposition to Measure AA and her alignment with Cerritos Councilwoman Carol Chen, who also opposed Measure AA, severely hurt her chance to be President of the Board.

HMG-CN reported in July of this year that Cerrito's Mayor pro tem Carol Chen sent a personal email with addresses obscured from her individual Yahoo email account on Monday June 30 calling an "urgent meeting" to seek input on the proposed ABCUSD \$680 million Facilities Master Plan and \$235 million Bond Measure AA.

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

Johnson's said after the Measure AA election, "The results of the election clearly show that there is still some anger after the loss of the AA bond measure. The defeat of the measure represented the voice of 9,679 voters in the whole district. What we need is complete healing." She reiterated her genuine desire "to collaborate with all stakeholders in reviewing, researching and working for alternative funding to be able to provide our students 21st century learning environment."

When asked for a comment for HMG-CN on Wednesday Johnson responded, "I would like to first congratulate Maynard Law on becoming our newly elected President. However, it was very clear last night that the majority of the board members still need to heal from the election results of Measure AA. They are still angered and acted upon it. For some reason, they feel that my vote against placing the bond on the ballot is the reason why Measure AA

did not pass. It was not my vote alone... it was the voices of the 9,679 residents that voted against it. Their voices were heard and their vote needs to be respected. I am hoping that this board will set their anger aside. There are times when there will not be a unanimous vote by the board. A 6-1 vote is just as healthy as it shows transparency. I encourage my colleagues to respect the voters and to value the opinions of the ABC community, myself included. We all need to move forward in developing a plan and to also work together for the best interest of our students, parents and teachers.

Law, a resident of Cerritos for 38 years with both of his sons educated in the ABCUSD, was first elected to the ABC Board in 2007 and re-elected in 2011. He is a retired Special Education Teacher as well as a retired public administrator. He has had extensive involvement in the school district and the community. Law is liaison to Head Start/State Preschool Program.

Immediately after his election to president, he announced the holding of the ABC 50th year celebration on March 28, 2015 at Cerritos High School. He said he looks forward to working with ABC's seven different districts.

He smilingly said, "As president, I will now be in front of every picture after always being at the back."

Outgoing president Sophia Tse received accolades and praises for her "unceasing hard work during an extraordinary year at ABC," as Superintendent Sieu put it. For her part, 15-year board member Celia Spitzer said, "Sophia handled it very well."

Tse was presented with certificates of recognition by several local and state officials. Newly elected State Senator Tony Mendoza, Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia (who sent a representative in her behalf), Cerritos Mayor Mark Pulido, Artesia Mayor Tony Lima who came with his Mayor Pro Tem Miguel Canales and Council Member Ali Taj, and Vice Mayor Jeff Wood of Lakewood.

Pulido referred to the outgoing board president as 'a watershed' during a very difficult and challenging year. On the other hand, Lima said, "I also wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to Sophia for her great contribution to the success of our recently-concluded Diversity Festival in Artesia."

The board re-organization election was followed by a public reception for the outgoing and incoming ABC board officers.

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# Kaiser Permanente Downey Donations Help Local Families in Need

Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center physicians and staff recently assembled more than 500 boxes filled with all the makings of a holiday meal for local families in need. The boxes were distributed to families this past weekend at the Watts Learning Center and the Bellflower Community Center. Kaiser also has offices in Cerritos.

**RIGHT:** The ObGyn Department from Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center was one of several departments to assemble "Boxes of Love." Each year, Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center partners with Canning Hunger—an organization that provides holiday meals to needy families—for the Boxes of Love Holiday Food project. This year, Canning Hunger collected 514 Boxes of Love. This provided more than 3,000 holiday meals to local families in need.



**ABOVE:** A 5K Turkey Trot run/walk and turkey giveaway was hosted by the Watts Healthy Farmers Market on Saturday, November 22. Names of deserving families were submitted by local community partners, churches, and schools. In partnership with the Watts Learning Center, 500 turkeys and 200 "Boxes of Love" filled with Thanksgiving dinner necessities donated by physicians and staff from Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center were distributed to these families. Each year, Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center partners with Canning Hunger—an organization that provides holiday meals to needy families—for the Boxes of Love Holiday Food project.

**RIGHT:** Samantha Edwards volunteered at the Bellflower Community Center on Saturday, November 22, to distribute "Boxes of Love" to local families in need. Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center physicians and employees filled 514 "Boxes of Love" with all the contents needed to make and enjoy a holiday dinner. Each box helps a family of six to eight to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. Each year, Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center partners with Canning Hunger—an organization that provides holiday meals to needy families—for the Boxes of Love Holiday Food project.



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