



HMG-CN INVESTIGATION: COMMERCE CITY ATTORNEY FEES AVERAGING OVER \$47,000 PER MONTH

By Brian Hews



City Attorney
Eduardo Olivo

Hews Media Group-Community News has obtained records that show current Commerce City Attorney Eddie Olivo has billed the City of Commerce nearly \$2 million since 2011, averaging well over \$47,000 per month

in 2014 alone.

Documents were obtained via the Freedom of Information Act through public records request on the City of Commerce.

See **OLIVO** page 6

Cerritos State of the City Hosted by the Cerritos Regional Chamber

By Tammye McDuff

Cerritos held their annual State of the City luncheon hosted by the Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce at the Performing Arts Center this past Wednesday.

Cerritos City Manager, Art Gallucci gave an update to the condition of the City stating, "well I have some not so good news, and I have some great news."

"The bad news," notes Gallucci, "are the funds taken from the City by the state of California." These monies include non-parking fines, cigarette taxes, alcohol taxes, highway carrier fees, and inventory exemption reimbursements from 1984 to 1997 totaling \$633,552.

The Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund [ERAF] shift totals \$4,528,451; the supplemental ERAF shift from 2009 to 2010 of \$11,812,007; from the year 2010 to 2011 - \$2,326,350 and from the low/mod housing fund 2012-2013 \$10,092,815; giving a grand total of \$29,393,175 monies the City did not receive.

See **STATE OF THE CITY** page 7

Miss Artesia and Teen Contestants Visit Artesia Historical Museums



Contestants for the title of Miss Artesia and Miss Artesia Teen were given a private tour of the Artesia Historical Museum and the Old Fire Station #30 Museum this past Saturday. The tour was arranged by Pageant coordinator Erin Miranda and was hosted by Barbara Applebury and Dolores Eveland, President and Vice President respectively of the Artesia Historical Society. Winners of the contests will represent the City for one year as they attend City events, charity events, Chamber of Commerce grand openings, neighboring pageants, and other events. The Miss Artesia Gala Night will be held on May 29th at 6:00 pm in the Albert O. Little Community Center at 18750 Clarkdale Ave. The outgoing 2014-15 Royal Court will be honored and contestants for 2015-16 will introduce themselves to the community. The new 2015-16 Royal Court will be crowned on Saturday, June 20th at 4:00pm in the Community Center.

La Mirada Matadores 5th Grade Boys Win National Basketball Title



La Mirada 5th grade boys battled it out at the Championships that played on Mar 15, 2015. The Central California team was undefeated coming into their game, averaging a whopping 50 points a game. Undaunted, the La Mirada 5th graders held them to 23 points. Cal scored a total of 174 points in their four games, the La Mirada 5th graders scored 207.

EXCLUSIVE: Central Basin Water District's Law Firm Hired Under Questionable Circumstances

By Brian Hews

Hews Media Group-Community News has learned that Central Basin (CB) President Robert "Bob" Apodaca and newly hired General Manager Kevin Hunt met privately with the Los Angeles based law firm of Nossaman LLP, who had connections with the Calderon family, in direct violation of CB procedures for hiring firms that contract with the Commerce

See **CENTRAL BASIN** page 7

VISION TO LEARN HELPS BELLFLOWER KIDS

By Tammye McDuff

It is said that the eyes are the window to the world. But if your vision is blurry, what type of world can you see?

As many as 1.5 million children across the country lack the glasses they need to see the lessons on a classroom board or read the words in a book. Children with poor vision experience difficulty paying attention in class and may be labeled as problem learners. They tend to shy away from participating in class, suffer low self esteem and often receive bad grades.

The Rotary Club of Bellflower saw the need for vision care in some of the local low-income communities and wanted to address it. Partnering with Vision to Learn and Caring Connections, Washington Elementary, the largest Title 1 School in the Bellflower Unified District, was chosen to be pre-screened. The Club raised the funds and brought in the Vision to Learn mobile unit.

Vision to Learn began in Los Angeles in 2012, and has expanded to serve over a dozen school districts in Southern California, from Los Angeles Unified to Pomona, from Long Beach, Compton, Lawndale, Redondo Beach, Lennox, and Pasadena. In Southern California, Vision to Learn has made over a thousand visits to public,

See **VISION** page 12



La Palma Intercommunity Hospital

We are a full service,
general acute care
hospital and have been
a part of the
community since 1971.

- 24-Hour Emergency Services
- Behavioral Medicine
- Maternity Services
- Comprehensive Wound Care
- Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory

7901 WALKER STREET | LA PALMA, CA 90623
(714) 670-7400

Norwalk Mom & Daughter Chosen For Weight Loss Challenge

Staff Report

A Norwalk mother and daughter were among 7 others who have been selected to compete in a weight-loss challenge.

From more than 100 submissions, Tina and her daughter, Nathalie, are among the "Lucky 7" who will undergo a free 10-week treatment offered by Lindora, the nation's largest weight loss company.

They also will receive 3 free meals each week from the "New Lean For Life Menu" offered by co-sponsor, the Anaheim White House restaurant.

The program is designed to help patients lose 10% of their body weight in 10 weeks.

Tina, a 47-year-old schoolteacher, and her 19-year-old daughter Nathalie, a Cerritos College sophomore, desperately want to lose weight as Tina suffers from type 2 diabetes and the excess weight is keeping her from doing the things she loves.

She's also afraid Nathalie is going to follow in her footsteps as she sees her as "a mirror image of herself." Tina thinks this will be a great way to bond and motivate one another.

Among the tools they received to accomplish their goal was a copy of "The New Lean For Life" diet book that was

written by Lindora President & CEO Cynthia Stamper Graff.

Among the other teams comprising the Lucky 7 are Sarah & Teresa Solis, Nancy & Alyssa Lopez, Yuri Acuna & Maria Peneda, Heather & Autumn Wright, Megan West & Elizabeth McCombs

Lindora combines diet, moderate exercise and motivational tools to help patients become Lean for Life.

Its success is due to a structured diet plan that allows for rapid weight loss; intensive support; and a 12-month follow-up maintenance program that provides patients with the eating and coping skills necessary for long-term success.

For more information, call (800) LINDORA or visit <http://www.lindora.com>.

The Anaheim White House is situated in a historic national landmark mansion dating to 1909.

The Italian Steak House offers a varied menu, extensive wine list, unparalleled service and an elegant setting to create an unforgettable dining experience.

The restaurant is located at 887 South Anaheim Blvd. in Anaheim. Reservations are recommended. For more information call (714) 772-1381 or visit www.AnahemWhiteHouse.com.



[l-r] Tina and her daughter, Nathalie, are among the "Lucky 7" who will undergo a free 10-week treatment offered by Lindora. They also will receive 3 free meals each week from the "New Lean For Life Menu" offered by co-sponsor, the Anaheim White House restaurant. The program is designed to help patients lose 10% of their body weight in 10 weeks.

La Palma Housing Development on Walker Street Approved

By Rico Dizon

40 years ago, a 1.3 acres of land on Walker St. was targeted for a subdivision development. The development may now finally come to fruition following last May 19 approval by the City Council of a resolution to select "the best alternative" and directing City staff and owner-applicant to proceed with the processing of Tentative Trade Map 17828.

The land area is specifically located at 7601 and 7621 Walker Street and is owned by the Ozawa family. This piece of land is enough to accommodate seven single-family dwelling units, each approximately 5,000 sq. ft.

The best alternative selected was the 4th option, which is Project Access on Walker St. only. This action is for "conceptual approval and preferred subdivision alternative." Formal action by the Planning Commission will be required to adopt a Tentative Tract Map and Precise Plan for the future dwelling units.

During the public hearing, the City Council Chamber was filled up mostly by the residents living in the neighborhood where the planned subdivision will be built. All the individuals but one who spoke during the public hearing chose the 4th option over the other three others. This 4th option, which is "Walker Street only access", was chosen as the preferred concept.

One resident who spoke in the meeting even brought with her poster signs that shout "Keep off Andrew Lane & Dirk Circle" just to demonstrate the fierce opposition to one of the alternatives suggested by the developer.

The 1977 Plan for the proposed subdivision failed to draw support and was "absolutely unacceptable" in regards to the developer's objective of connecting Dirk Circle and Andrew Lane to the subdivision.

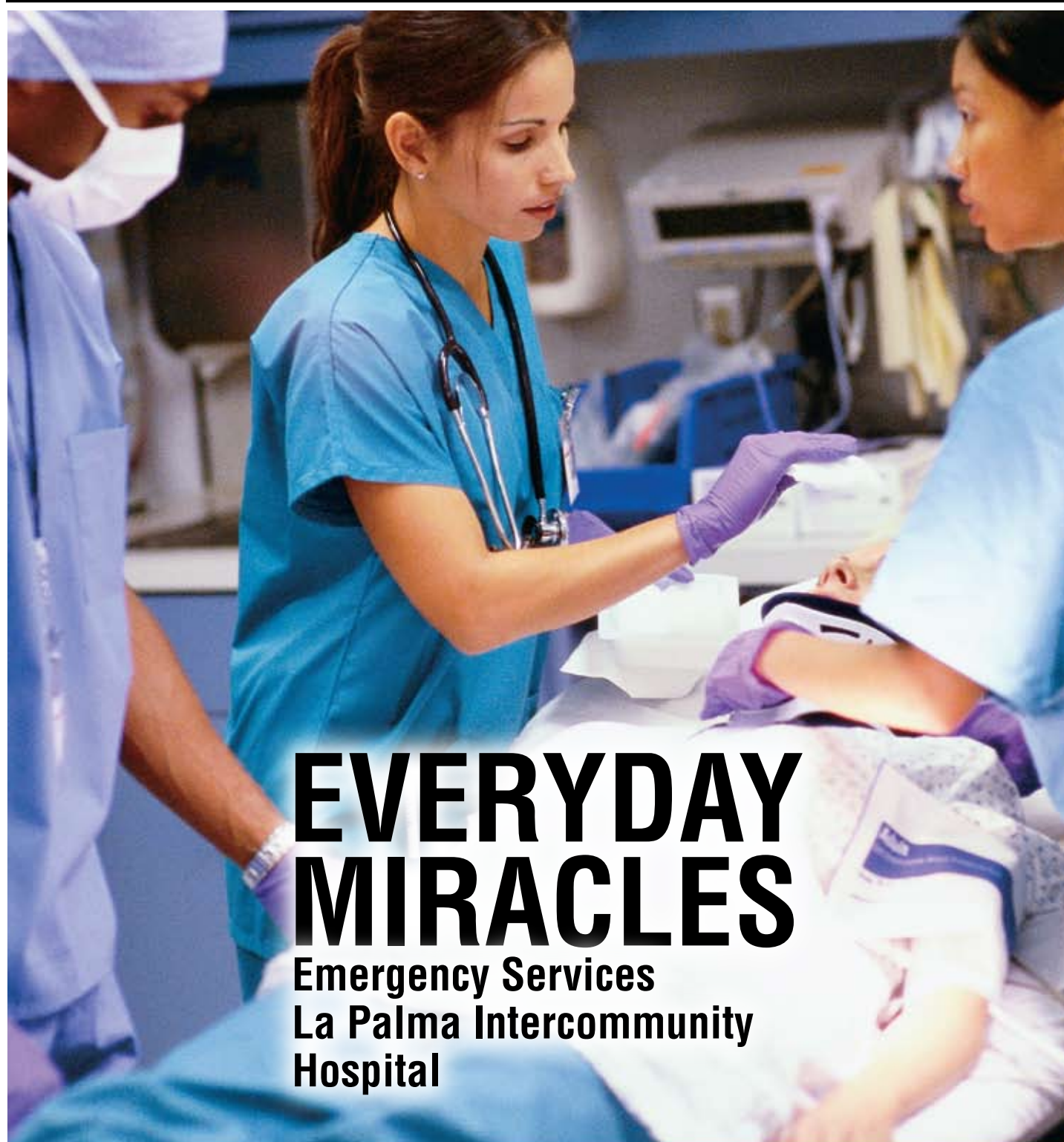
From the initial Town Hall meeting, the adjacent neighborhood residents claimed that the 1977 Study Map was "antiquated and needed to evolved again." The result put the plan on hold for over 40 years.

It was only recently in March this year that issue resurfaced and put back for discussion. The residents asked the Planning Commission to investigate all the four alternatives.

The three other alternatives trashed by the residents included connecting Dirk Circle to Andrew Drive; extending Andrew Drive into cul-de-sac; and extend Dirk Circle into cul-de-sac.

The Planning Commission had also commissioned a traffic analysis, fire escape and utilities studies. No additional traffic mitigation measures are warranted for the project except for a traffic control device that would have to be installed in the designated area.

Asked by HMG-CN regarding the timetable of the project, La Palma's Community Development Director Douglas Dumhart said, "the construction job is expected to commence by October of this year."



**EVERYDAY
MIRACLES**
Emergency Services
La Palma Intercommunity
Hospital

Prompt care by dedicated and committed
Emergency Service professionals. We provide
exceptionally short wait times for you to be seen.



LA PALMA
INTERCOMMUNITY HOSPITAL

7901 WALKER STREET | LA PALMA, CA 90623
714/670-7400



Get breaking news!
Like us...
Los Cerritos
Community Newspaper

00902.031411

Hubert H. Humphrey Democratic Club Attends California Democrats State Convention



Cerritos resident Charles Ara with California State Senator Nancy Pelosi at the California Democrats State Convention that took place this past weekend at the Anaheim Convention Center.

City of Cerritos to Honor Meritorious Marine From Camp Pendleton May 30

Sergeant Adam Smith, a member of the 1st Combat Engineer Battalion will be hosted and honored in the City of Cerritos on Saturday, May 30th at 11:30 am at the Sheraton Hotel Fountain Court. The public is cordially invited to attend the presentation by the Mayor and City Council of a city proclamation to honor him for his service. Residents will have an opportunity to personally meet and express their appreciation for Sgt Smith's service.



Sergeant Adam Smith, wife Trisha and their two small children, will spend the weekend in Cerritos with lodging and meals complements of our sponsors: Sheraton Hotel and restaurants Grille 91, Mimi's, TGI Friday, Ranch House BBQ, Stackers, and the Macaroni Grill. The Friends of the 1st Combat Engineering Battalion are providing tickets to Knott's Berry Farm for the family.

Boogie with best buddies!

Let's **DANCE!** 



TM/©2015 Sesame Workshop. All Rights Reserved. 69724 5/15

become a favorite friend at sesamestreetlive.com  

May 30 & 31
NOKIA
Theatre
L.A. LIVE

STAPLES Center Box Office
888-929-7849 • AXS.com

June 26 & 27

CITY NATIONAL
GROVE
OF ANAHEIM

City National Grove of Anaheim Box Office
800.745.3000 • ticketmaster.com

ABC Fun Run/Walk & Wellness Fair

Saturday, June 20, 2015 • 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Los Cerritos Center (mall) • 239 Los Cerritos Center, Cerritos

Thanks to our early sponsors!

Platinum Sponsor: Los Cerritos Center

Gold Sponsors: Kaiser Permanente-Downey Medical Center

Hews Media Group-Los Cerritos Community Newspaper

Silver Sponsor: LBS Financial Credit Union

Friends of ABC sponsors: ABC Federation of Teachers, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo and Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Don Knabe

Community Sponsors: Bayley Construction, Camino Federal Credit Union, Celia & Howard Spitzer, Cindy Yen Chen, Dr. Mark Chung, Driftwood Dairy, Evertrust Bank, HM Flooring Group, ICES Education, Intelli-tech, Mrs. Letty Mendoza, Senator Tony Mendoza, Power Pro Plumbin, Olympia Chen

Family Sponsors: Dr. Milagrosa M. Cabanban, Interstate Cleaning Corporation, Mark Pulido, Power Pro Plumbing and Sydney Pringle

Wellness Fair: Babalu's Iron Gym, Cerritos Amateur Radio League, Michael "Tyler" DeCotis, Lifeway Foods, Inc, Modern Eyes Optometry and Which Wich



Register Today!

www.abcsummerfunrun.org



Your Own Little Slice of Heaven

Now offering Cremation Niches.

Artesia Cemetery District grave sites available.

\$2,000 and up. Payment plans available on preneeds.

Call 562-865-6300

Catherine Grant Wieder

Attorney & Mediator

Probate,
Wills & Trusts
Conservatorship,
Guardianship,
Dispute
Mediation



562-404-4039

Cerritos Based Trinity Worldwide Reprographic's 'Trinity Speakers Forum'

By Tammye McDuff

Trinity Reprographics believes in giving back to the community. Each month the company hosts Trinity Speakers Forum, with a free continental breakfast, in-house musical performance and a special speaker. This month the Clean Comedians, laughter you can trust, brought in two extraordinary comedians, Taylor Hughes and Pete McCloud.

Clean Comedians' Master of Ceremonies Adam Christing told HMG, "our humorous speakers replace vulgarity with variety. When you hire corporate entertainment from Clean Comedians, you don't have to worry about embarrassing your organization or upsetting your human resource department. Our performers say 'No' to G.R.O.S.S. material such as gender bashing, racially offensive jokes, obscenity, sexual innuendo, and swearing. Fun is not a 4-letter word."

Since 1990, Clean Comedians has managed to make people laugh out loud at every one of their events without resorting to filthy jokes. Even when entertaining a diverse group of people, they make sure to never step on anyone's toes with inappropriate jokes. "Clean Comedians are the pioneers of clean comedy in a society that is saturated with the opposite," says Christing, "we offer world-class entertainment. And unlike the majority of corporate entertainment, our professional speakers are hilarious without offending anyone."

Pete McCloud is known for his amazing sleight-of-hand tricks with hilarious stand-up comedy, side-splitting musical parodies and hysterical audience involvement. Trinity Reprographics owner and CEO Paul Rosenow was chosen from the audience to participate in a skit with Mc-



[l-r] Adam Christing, Taylor Hughes and Pete McCloud talk to the crowd after their performances. The next Speaker's Forum will host national recording artist Ryan Stevenson in the Sierra Room at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts on June 19, 2015. The event is free and open to the public. Photo by Tammye McDuff.

Cloud. The objective of the skit was to cut a tie into several pieces and then put it all back together via a special magic box. "I had no idea what to expect," stated Rosenow, "I have had that tie for many years and it is one of my favorites, I was kind of floored when he cut it ... and then kept cutting it!" As the trick is performed a tie is cut, the magician not being able to put it back together continues to cut it and then removes the tie, places it in the box and 'ta-da' it is back into one piece. Rosenow commented he was very happy to report that the tie is still together and is even more special now.

McCloud has been described as a combination between Bob Newhart, Red Skelton and Carrot Top. His act has a wide, cross-generational appeal. He is a performing member of the world famous Magic Castle in Hollywood, and more than a million students have seen his edu-

cational programs. McCloud is one of only a handful of people to ever win the coveted Golden Wand Award for excellence in stage magic.

Taylor Hughes has been entertaining for more than 20 years, inspiring audiences with his unique blend of clean comedy, magic and audience interaction. Hundreds of top organizations around the US have hired him to both entertain their audience and effectively deliver their message. Hughes is a performing member of the Academy of Magical arts and is one of the few performers to have been featured in all three showrooms at the World Famous Magic Castle.

Trinity Speakers Forum hosts the national recording artist Ryan Stevenson in the Sierra Room at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts on June 19, 2015. The event is free and open to the public.

Artesia High Theater Group Performs at Hawaiian Gardens Council Meeting



Artesia High School theater group performed an outstanding number from 'High School Musical', Tuesday evening for the City Council. If anyone attending the Council meeting that evening came in with a depressed state of mind, they could not have stayed with that attitude for long. Director Teresa Campbell and members of the Artesia High School took over the podium moving and chanting, "I'm gonna do whatever I do with good energy!" Performers strutted around the council, enticing the audience with enthusiasm rapping, "today was a good day, tomorrow is gonna be an even better day!" The theme was strong stating that, "we are all in this together." The group generated a standing ovation and was awarded a Certificate of Recognition by City Council. Mayor Barry Bruce commented "That is some really good energy. Congratulations on your outstanding success. This was a great message of working together." Photo and caption by Tammye McDuff

•NOT SATISFIED WITH YOUR CURRENT HOUSE PAYMENT?
•BIG BANK TURNED YOU DOWN?

I can help you with that.

DeAnna Allensworth
Broker - Advisor

Phone: 562-533-5600
www.CenturionMF.com
CA DRE 01443787
NMLS 206457

INSURANCE
DollarDayInsurance.com

Se Habla Español

ANY DRIVER. ANY CAR. GREAT SERVICE FOR LESS.

Insurance for as low as a dollar a day.
SR 22 Insurance Available

562-633-4678
7359 A Rosecrans Ave., Paramount, CA

CITY OF CERRITOS

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

The community is invited to attend the City of Cerritos' Memorial Day ceremony.

CERRITOS CIVIC CENTER
MONDAY, MAY 25, 2015
Prelude Music 9:45 a.m.
Formal Ceremony 10 a.m.

For more information, call (562) 865-8101

UNIQLO Store Opens in Los Cerritos Center



Front of UNIQLO store located in Los Cerritos Center's East Court.

Edited by Brian Hews

UNIQLO, the in-demand Japan-based global apparel retailer of casual clothes for women, men, kids and babies, opened a new UNIQLO store this past Friday, May 22, at the Los Cerritos Center.

The addition of UNIQLO brings one more traffic-driving attraction to the strong roster of stores at Los Cerritos Center, which is anchored by Nordstrom and currently undergoing a 130,000 square-foot renovation this year to add a new Harkins Theatres, Dick's Sporting Goods, and Cheesecake Factory.

"Los Cerritos Center continues to be a major draw for both retailers and consumers in one of the most vibrant parts

of Southern California," said Ken Kraus, Senior Property Manager, Los Cerritos Center. "UNIQLO is a tremendous fit for this important fortress property, which our company continues to elevate through exciting new retailers, smart renovations and an always-evolving shopper experience."

UNIQLO ambassadors will be on site at Los Cerritos Center's East Court giving the first 200 customers in line at the new store each day a free UNIQLO tote bag. On Saturday, May 23, the first 102 UNIQLO tote bags will be filled with prizes courtesy of iHeartRadio, with a DJ on site from 12-2pm.

ABC'S INTO THE SUMMER FUN RUN

Staff Report

The ABC Into the Summer Fun Run 2015 may be just five weeks away, but already 300+ registered Fun Run participants are gearing up for close competition not just for best times, but for largest and best costumed teams! Teams are forming from both ABC schools and local community firms. Sponsored by the ABC Education Foundation, this year's Fun Run will be held at the Los Cerritos Center shopping mall on June 20, 2015 and features a 5K run/walk starting at 7:45 a.m.; a 2K run/walk at 9 a.m. and a Kid's Run starting at 9:30 a.m. Everyone who participates will receive medals. Trophies for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers by age/gender categories and Best Team Perpetual trophies will be awarded.

"So far, there are 40 teams signed up from the ABC community with Marvellous Melbourne Mustangs from Melbourne Elementary School in the lead – but ABC's Maintenance, Operation & Transportation is coming from behind," stated the Education Foundation's Fun Run Co-Chair Heather Summers, Sr. Vice President of Marketing for LBS Financial Credit Union. Community/business teams who are in the lead include Teams LBS Financial Credit Union and Kaiser Permanente but Camino Federal Credit Union promises a last minute rush of entrants! New teams to the Fun Run this year include Babalu's Iron Gym and ICES after-school education.

"Sponsorships beginning at \$100 for Family Sponsor; \$500 for Community Sponsor; \$1,000 for Friends of ABC Ed Foundation; \$1,500 for Bronze Sponsor; \$2,500 for Silver Sponsor; \$5,000 for Gold Sponsor; \$7,500 for Platinum Sponsor and \$10,000 for Title Sponsor are needed!" stressed Cindy Yen Chen, Foundation Chair. "Every dollar raised by the ABC Fun Run is returned to ABC

to support students and programs," states Mark Anthony Ruiz, Foundation President.

The Fun Run proceeds ensure the Foundation's project to provide school supplies and backpacks for very low income or homeless students, or grants for innovative teacher projects can happen.

School and community teams are encouraged to come up with clever names and costumes.

To register, visit the website abcsummerfunrun.org and select Register. You will be directed to the Active registration site. Creating a team is easy; just follow the online steps in the registration process. Registration prices go up on June 17, 2015. A Wellness Fair will provide free health, physical and dental screenings, wellness information and fun activities, including a stage featuring The School Tour as well as ABCUSD stars.

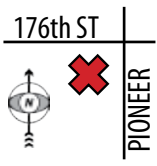
The ABC Education Foundation is the fundraising arm for the ABC Unified School District. For more information on the ABC Education Foundation or how to participate as a Fun Run Sponsor, contact Terri Villa-McDowell at 562-926-5566, ext. 21150.

The Medicine Shoppe
PHARMACY & MEDICAL SUPPLIES

- Local Delivery Available
- We Are A Compounding Pharmacy
- Ask About Our Weight Loss Program



17623 PIONEER BLVD.
ARTESIA
562-402-1000
fax 562-402-2471



Stan Winters, R.Ph

Saks Fifth Avenue OFF 5TH to Open In Cerritos' 'Plaza 183'

Saks Fifth Avenue OFF 5TH announced plans to open a new store at Plaza 183 in Cerritos in September 2015.

The new 30,000 square foot store will be fashioned in an open, modular layout, and feature a unique and unparalleled selection of designer finds for both men and women.

Saks COO told HMG-CN, "his new Saks OFF 5TH will cater to the market with luxury, on-trend shopping all at incredible prices, and become a fashion must-shop destination within the area."

"This location puts us in the heart of Cerritos, and we are thrilled to bring the outstanding selection of Saks Fifth Avenue OFF FIFTH merchandise to this wonderful suburban city within Los Angeles

County," stated Jonathan Greller, President of Outlets, HBC. "This new Saks OFF 5TH will cater to the market with luxury, on-trend shopping all at incredible prices, and become a fashion must-shop destination within the area."

With new arrivals shipped to the store weekly, customers will discover new and exciting merchandise, including one-of-a-kind designer finds, every time they shop. For additional OFF 5TH shopping benefits, customers may sign up for the More! program on saksoff5th.com. Rewards include insider access to exclusive discounts, new arrival alerts, and more.

The new Saks Fifth Avenue OFF 5TH will reside in Plaza 183 at 183rd & Gridley, Cerritos, CA 90703.

Dodger Stadium Express

NOW – Service from Union Station and Harbor Gateway Transit Center.



Metro Briefs

GATEWAY CITIES

Go Metro to see the Dodgers

Want to reach Dodger Stadium faster this season? Now you can Go Metro to Union Station or Harbor Gateway Transit Center and connect with the Dodger Stadium Express. Your Dodger ticket is good for the fare! For more information, visit metro.net/dodgers.

Save Up to \$10 on Your Transit Pass

Are you a regular rider of public transit? You may be eligible for a lower fare. Rider Relief Coupons can save you up to \$10 on your transit pass. Find out if your income qualifies, and learn how to apply at metro.net/riderrelief.

Reload Your TAP Card by Text

Looking for a faster way to load your TAP card? Now you can purchase a Metro 7-Day or 30-Day Pass via text message. Join the TAP-TO-GO program today. To get started, text TAPSIGNUP to 28950.

Blue Line Upgrades Project

Work continues on Metro's \$1.2 billion Blue Line overhaul. Stations are receiving new tile, new audio/visual enhancements, fresh paint and more. Learn which stations are currently being worked on and check service advisories at metro.net/bluelineupgrades.



Metro

- metro.net
- [@metrolosangeles](https://twitter.com/metrolosangeles)
- [losangelesmetro](https://www.facebook.com/losangelesmetro)



Get breaking news!
**Los Cerritos
Community
Newspaper**

OLIVO

Continued from page 1

Olivo's actual billings have been rising from a monthly average of \$31,000 in 2011 to the \$47,000 monthly average in 2014.

Olivo racked up \$571,000 in fees in 2014, up from \$378,000 in 2011. In April and May he billed the city \$110,000; August and September he invoiced \$106,000; and in November and December, Olivo billed the city a staggering \$173,000.

The \$173,000 for two months, at the \$180 per hour that Olivo said was his rate, is equal to billing over 24 hours per day.

The amounts were based on when Olivo submitted the invoices to the City.

In an email response to HMG-CN Olivo wrote, "there may be higher amounts billed in certain months because of heavy trial preparation and work in a complicated case involving the City and a few significant property transaction issues involving the [Redevelopment] Successor Agency."

A recent decision by a California Appeals Court bars public access to billing explanations of work done by City Attorneys such as Olivo, therefore there is no way to analyze the "significant property transaction issues" Olivo mentioned in his email to HMG-CN.

Commerce City Administrator Jorge Rifa told HMG-CN in an email, "the City's annual budgets and expenditures for legal

services, 2011 until early 2015 (\$400,000 to \$450,000) have generally been on track within the budget appropriations for that timeframe."

According to online documents, Cerritos with 49,000 residents and almost 9 square miles budgeted \$480,000. Commerce with 12,500 residents and 6.5 square miles budgets about the same amount.

As mentioned before, 2104 Olivo billings totaled \$571,000, \$121,000 over budget according to Rifa's statement.

And it appears as if Commerce City Council's Mayor Lelia Leon, Mayor pro tem Tina Baca Del Rio, and Council persons Ivan Altimirano and Oralia Reballo, minus newly elected Councilman Hugo Argumedo, are ready to spend more money on legal fees to retain power in the city and keep Olivo happy.

Recently, it was first reported in this newspaper that the Council voted 4-0 in a closed session to initiate a "Quo Warranto" action against Argumedo in relation to a complaint letter sent in by former Commerce candidate and bitter Argumedo rival, John Soria.

Based on the vote, City Attorney Olivo will likely earn hefty fees during litigation, as the process is very detailed.

Quo warranto is a special form of legal action used to resolve a dispute over whether a person has the legal right to hold the public office that he or she occupies. For example, a quo warranto action may be brought to determine whether a public official satisfies a requirement that

he or she resides in the district; or whether a public official is serving in two incompatible offices.

Interestingly and pertinent to Councilman Argumedo, quo warranto is not available to decide whether an official has committed misconduct in office.

One attorney told HMG-CN, "a [Soria] public letter is not a basis for a Closed Session unless Olivo believes, or wants to have people stupidly believe, the letter writer is going to sue the city. In that case, I am not sure Argumedo is conflicted since the defendant will be the city and if Argumedo is named as a defendant, which many council members are often named, the Tort Claims Act give him automatic legal defense which the others cannot strip him of and he can sit in Closed Session since he is one of the clients."

This is not the first time Olivo has tried to influence and control a city to his advantage.

In 2006, Olivo bought a building for over \$200,000 in Vernon and, working with convicted felon "Big Al" Robles from South Gate, Robles' cousin Angel Gonzales, who was convicted of a felony in 2001 but plead down to a misdemeanor, and current Water Replenishment District Director and Carson Councilman "Lil Al" Robles, attempted to orchestrate a coup and take over the city.

Olivo and Company brought in several "candidates" to "live" in the building he bought, and set them up to run for Vernon City Council.

During the election controversy, city officials based their voter fraud case for canceling the election on their allegations that certain people -- including Robles and Olivo -- were behind the coup.

Olivo actually represented the challengers in the case that he and Robles brought into the city after the April election, and was blasted by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Aurelio Munoz during the voter fraud trial.

At times during the trial, Munoz said that he thought there were "too many coincidences" to believe that people moved into Vernon for "cheap rent" and then decided to run for office.

"I think this was a scheme thought out by Eduardo Olivo, Cris Summers and Albert Robles, basically they saw a chance to take over this city," said Munoz.

Recent history shows that Olivo will fight for, as well as ignore, issues related to any Commerce council person other than Argumedo.

HMG-CN e-mailed Mayor pro tem Tina Baca Del Rio, a staunch ally of Olivo, for comment on his large legal fees.

HMG-CN recently revealed in a two article expose that Baca Del Rio was paid \$2,500 in car allowance money while still using the city-owned vehicle, a violation of the city's Vehicle Use Policy (VUP) and a misuse of public funds which is prose-

cutable as a felony and up to 3 years in prison.

But Olivo did not act on the story amid the valid documentation.

The payments to Baca Del Rio were obtained through a public records request.

Prior to the first article publishing, in an angry email to HMG-CN, Baca Del Rio denied receiving the \$500 car allowance and threatened to sue HMG-CN for "slander."

The second article once again caught Baca Del Rio lying about using the city-owned car when a second public records request revealed Baca Del Rio never signed the city-owned car out or back in to the city's Transportation Department, another violation of the VUP and misuse of public funds.

HMG-CN then sent a letter to Olivo asking him to investigate the misuse of public funds, but apparently fearing for his job, Olivo once again failed to act.

It was Baca Del Rio that got Olivo hired. The aforementioned Angel Gonzales ran Baca Del Rio's last city council campaign.

As compensation for the win, Gonzales demanded Baca Del Rio hire his good friend Olivo as the City Attorney, which she eventually did.

During that campaign, the unemployed Baca Del Rio was hit with a \$26,000 fine by the Fair Political Practices Commission for violating the Political Reform Act by: 1) failing to timely file three semi-annual campaign statements, for the reporting periods from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 and from October 19, 2008 through December 31, 2008, 2009; 2) failing to timely file two pre-election campaign statements, for the reporting periods of July 1, 2008 through October 18, 2008; and, 3) failing to timely file two pre-election campaign statements, for the reporting periods from January 1, 2009 through February 14, 2009.

It was alleged that Olivo got together with Citadel Outlet Mall owner Steve Craig and had a "fundraiser" to successfully pay off Baca Del Rio's fine.

After learning and inquiring about the violations, HMG-CN found that Baca Del Rio is once again under investigation for similar violations and could face additional massive fines.


The new FPPC investigation commenced October of 2013.

Baca Del Rio was recalled from Commerce City Council on November 2008 and was subsequently reelected to the City Council in March 2009.

According to officials at the FPPC, in 2011 Baca Del Rio was slammed with seven counts of failing to file pre-election and semiannual campaign statements for her candidate controlled campaign committee Friends of Tina Baca Del Rio.

See **OLIVO** page 11

General & Cosmetic Dentistry
For all your family dental needs.



\$39 exam
Exam, X-rays & Cleaning
new patients only, scaling extra.
(in absence of gum disease)

Aarti Shah, DDS
562-809-8482

With this ad.
Valid for non-insurance patients only.
Not valid with other offers or prior services.
OFFER EXPIRES 6/30/15

Aarti Shah, DDS
17613 Pioneer Blvd.
Artesia, CA 90701
562-809-8482
www.shahdentistry.com

**Don't Go Broke
Paying the
Nursing Home!**

**Save Up to \$8,000
a month**



Karl Kim, CFP®, CLTC
Investment Advisor Rep.
CA Insurance License:
#0810324

16700 Valley View Ave.
Suite 160
La Mirada, CA 90638
800-414-6722
or 714-994-0599
Karl@RPAfinancialcoach.com

**RETIREMENT
PLANNING
ADVISORS, INC.**
Investments • Long term care • estate planning

Learning Center • Kids Gym • Event Parties



PLAY, LEARN AND GROW TOGETHER!

562-888-1496
Info@oodlesusa.com
www.oodlesusa.com

SUMMER CAMP
OODLES KIDS PROGRAMS UNDER ONE LOCATION
IS RATED #1 WORLDWIDE...NOW IN CERRITOS!
Summer Camp Dates: June 23th - August 29th
Flexible fees and enrollment \$75/week and up
Academic (K-12 & SAT), Arts, Field Trips, Dance,
Gymnastics, Sports, Swimming, Park Visits and more!
For More Details And Options For Summer Camp, Go To www.oodlesusa.com

Birthday Parties
Private Party Packages Starting
\$199*
• 2 Full Hours of Fun
• Full of Assisted Activities
• Unlimited Free Play
• Outside Food Allowed

Kids Gym, Art & Dance
• Climbing, Rides & Sports
• Hip Hop, Ballet & More
• Mommy & Me
• Free Play for Members
• Arts & Crafts
4 Sessions
45 Mins each
\$45/month
Age appropriate classes ranging from 1yr to 12 yr

AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING & PRESCHOOL ACADEMIC PROGRAM
www.oodlesusa.com


**17420 Carmenita Road
Cerritos, CA 90703
(Corner of Artesia & Carmenita)**



*Fees & Timings subject to change without notice. Terms and conditions apply.
Prices and timings subject to change. One time Oodles lifetime membership fee \$35.00.
All Oodles Franchise locations are independently owned.
Now accepting Oodles Franchise applications in select cities.

**"Life Without A Limb
Is Limitless"**

SAVE THE DATE
FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2015
at 7p.m.



A CHARITY GALA HOSTED BY
**THE COMMERCE
HOTEL • CASINO**
6131 EAST TELEGRAPH ROAD
COMMERCE, CALIFORNIA 90040
WWW.COMMERCECASINO.COM

CENTRAL BASIN

Continued from page 1

based water agency.

Sources are telling HMG-CN that CB Vice-President James Roybal also met with Nossaman representatives.

On April 6, 2015, HMG-CN was first to report that Nossaman had applied for and won the CB lobbying contract under similar suspicious circumstances.

Nossaman LLP is a national law firm with 160 attorneys and policy advisors located in seven offices throughout the United States.

A review of Nossaman's website by HMG-CN found that the firm had previous connections with the Calderon family, "...Nossaman advisors are well respected in Sacramento, reflecting the strong legacy of former Senators Dick Ackerman, John Foran, and Charles Calderon, former Assembly Members Jack Knox and Bill Bagley, and California's longest serving Legislative Counsel, Bion Gregory.

Both Apodaca and Hunt have previous ties with the Calderons and Nossaman, LLP, respectively.

Hiring Procedure

HMG-CN was told that the procedure for hiring a law firm for CB initially starts with a top administrative "panel" interviewing potential firms.

To ensure transparency, the GM along

with CB Board Members do not participate in this process.

The firms are classified and only those designated as "Tier 1" move on to closed session interviews with the GM and Board Members after which a decision is made.

The winning firm is announced at the next CB Board meeting.

But in a recent meeting, CB Directors Art Chacon and Phil Hawkins were stunned when they were told by Hunt, "President [Bob] Apodaca and I met privately with Nossaman recently."

The meeting between Apodaca, Hunt, and Nossaman took place prior to the closed session interview of potential law firms, violating the procedure for hiring and calling into question the entire hiring process.

One week ago, HMG-CN exclusively reported that Apodaca was the unnamed "local elected official" cited in a recent FBI court filing in the Calderon corruption case. The article also revealed that Apodaca had failed to file "Form 700 Statement of Economic Interest Form" with the Fair Political Practices Commission, a major violation of the Political Reform Act.

The article connected Apodaca to the Calderons in a pay-to-play scheme to land Ron Calderon's brother Tom, a lucrative contract with CB.

Charles Calderon worked for Nossaman as a consultant right around the time Apodaca was working for Charles' brother Sen. Ron Calderon.

Hunt Connections to Nossaman

In 2014, KPCC reported that Dick Ackerman, who is a senior member of Nossaman, had been on several MWD rate payer financed trips with his wife Linda, who is an MWD Board member, and one with Larry Dick, another MWD board member who represented the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC).

Ackerman and his PAC donated to Dick's water district campaign, and Ackerman and his Nossaman law firm received a contract from the MWDOC.

Current CB GM Kevin Hunt was general manager at the Municipal Water District of Orange County from 2004-2013.

CB Director Art Chacon was perplexed about the whole situation. "Kevin told me several times that our current law firm, Glassman, was the best, then all of a sudden Glassman is not the best and we need to go with Nossaman? The interesting fact is that Glassman was the lowest bidder and Nossaman was the highest and that Nossaman's monthly contracted hourly rate jumps after a certain amount of hours."

Chacon went on, "this has been a pattern with CB. Rick Oliveras overbilled us, then we brought in [Arnold] Glassman and our fees dropped precipitously. Now we bring in Nossaman, who won the CB lobbying contract, who was the highest bidder, it does not make sense."

CB Director Phil Hawkins told HMG-CN, "here we go again, for some reason certain people are ignoring the lessons

sales per square feet in 2014.

The Center employed 3,878 people; that is a breakdown of 479 management employees, 774 full time employees, 1,750 part time employees and 864 seasonal. Sears Holdings Corporation and Macerich Company recently formed a joint venture that will develop 20 acres of the Sears property at the Los Cerritos Center. New stores expected are UNIQLO, opening May 22; opening this summer will be The Art of Shaving, Kiehl's since 1851, Pandora, Adidas, and Shoe Palace.

Coming fall of 2015 expect to see the opening of The Cheesecake Factory and DICK's Sporting Goods. Harkins Theatres will be set to open in the spring of 2016. Remodeled stores Ben Bridge Jewelers, Things Remembered and Reflection will reopen summer of 2015, also retailers Motherhood Maternity and Love Culture will return this summer and Pac Sun will reopen September/October of 2015.

Retail rent revenue for the City is an estimated \$6,255,250. Projected revenue from the State for "no/low" property tax is an estimated \$2,800,000; vehicle license fee revenue, paid by residents to the State, \$4,900,00. The proposed City operating budget is \$84,400,000 and the amount of City operating budget funded by the City is \$76,700,000.

The annual operating budget has been

reduced by approximately \$11.5 million from 2008-2009 to fiscal year 2014-2015. This savings was achieved from not filling more than 48 City positions totaling approximately \$5.4 million per year. The additional savings has been achieved through operating expenditure reductions.

The drought is a major factor for the City of Trees. Cerritos has one of the largest potable reservoir systems in California with a 22 mile underground loop. Since 1988 when the system was constructed, the use of recycled water has saved 11.8 billion gallons of drinking water. The city's recycled water system has the capacity to provide up to 4,000 acre feet of recycled water annually which translates into 1 billion gallons of water per year. The Cerritos City Council recently approved a proposal to construct a recycled water pipeline originated in the City and continuing through portions of Lakewood and Cypress to service Forest lawn Memorial park. Once completed, the project will result in an annual savings of 81,462,857 gallons of drinking water.

Many new retail establishments can be expected within the next two years: Plaza 183 has signed contractual agreements with 24 hour fitness, TJ Maxx, Old Navy, The Habit, Lena Gull Blaze Pizza, EasyLife, Saks 5th Avenue and Nordstrom Rack.

STATE OF THE CITY

Continued from page 1

The redevelopment dissolution litigation became effective February 2012 with a total of 190 lawsuits being filed against the State related to the dissolution of redevelopment. The City of Cerritos is a plaintiff in three of the lawsuits and is a real party to two additional lawsuits.

"The good news folks is that retail sales are recovering from the recession," noted Gallucci. The overall retail sales in Cerritos are an estimate \$2.722 billion for the fiscal year 2014-2015, with the Cerritos Auto Square set to improve by 8.7 percent for 2014-2015 year and increase another 3.5 percent in the fiscal year 2015-2016. The automotive sales trend has seen new car registrations increase by 8.0 percent and are expected to exceed 1.9 million units in 2015 for the State. Nationwide, 16.5 million cars were sold in the United States in 2014. From January to May of 2015, Cerritos Auto Square sold 21,875 of those vehicles.

Total retail sales in Cerritos for 2014-2015 are projected at \$2,722,969,000, averaging daily sales of \$7,460,189. The Los Cerritos Shopping Center, with 1.3 million square feet of retail service, saw \$704 in

**Over 20 Years of Experience
Diana Needham
Realtor**



**Berkshire
Hathaway**

**FREE Staging
& Virtual Tour
for Sellers**

FREE Evaluation and Comparable
Prices for Your Property.

LIST your property with Diana
and consider it **SOLD**.

562-533-8083

www.diananeedham.com

Keeping It Flowing For You!

**Pete's
PLUMBING**

Over 25 Years of Quality Service
Family Owned & Operated

- Fast & Friendly Crew
- Same Day Service
- Free Estimates
- All Types of Repair

CALL FOR INFORMATION
**800-21-4PETES OR
562-599-0106**
3099 E. Pacific Coast Highway
LONG BEACH
MOST MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

**NORWALK/LA MIRADA
Plumbing
Heating & Air Conditioning**

SINCE 1958
COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL

- Drains and Sewers Cleaned •
- Copper Repiping • Furnaces • Water Heaters
- Air Conditioning • Water Piping • Hydrojetting
- Leak Detecting • Water Softeners • Disposals
- Bath Remodeling • Backflow Testing & Repair

11661 Firestone Blvd. Norwalk
State Contractor License: #271767

24 HOUR SERVICE

(562) 868-7777

\$20 off with this ad!

PRESCOTT
Hardware & Sheet Metal Works

11840 E. ARTESIA BLVD. ARTESIA CA.

562 865-9593 Visit our website www.phsmw.com

MON.-FRI. 8AM-6PM • SAT. 8AM-5:30PM • CLOSED SUNDAY

SEWER & DRAIN CLEAN-OUTS • FAUCETS • VIDEO SEWER INSPECTION • GAS LINES

BENEFITS OF COPPER REPIPING:

- ✓ Increased water pressure
- ✓ No more rusty or discolored water
- ✓ Being able to use more than one faucet at a time
- ✓ No more leaky pipes
- ✓ No scalding in the shower when someone turns on a faucet
- ✓ Greater peace of mind
- ✓ Positive selling point for your property

WE USE Radiodetection AN EPA APPROVED EQUIPMENT

EMERGENCY 24/7 SERVICE

\$5 OFF WITH THIS AD!
This offer is only good on service calls over \$79.00 to first time customers.

CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE
(562) 924-2565 • (714) 527-5300
20014 State Road, CERRITOS

Bonded & Insured • California Contractors Lic. #458625

SEWER LOCATION • WALL & FLOOR HEATERS • CIRCULATING PUMPS

SLAB LEAKS • WATER HEATERS • DISPOSALS

RIO HONDO COLLEGE UNVEILS VETERANS MEMORIAL

Staff Report

WHITTIER – Rio Hondo College celebrated the completion of its long-awaited Veterans Memorial at a special ribbon-cutting and flag-raising ceremony today attended by College leaders, members of the Board of Trustees and veterans groups from the college and surrounding community.

During the ceremony, members of the El Monte Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10218 posted the colors and veterans from the College's staff and student body raised flags to the backdrop of the National Anthem – one for the U.S., one for California and one for Rio Hondo College.

"This memorial has been a long time coming to all the veterans who served," Rio Hondo Trustee Gary Mendez told the assembled crowd. "I want to say welcome home, welcome to Rio Hondo College."

Mendez, a veteran, first suggested creating a memorial a decade ago and has authored actions by the Board of Trustees to allow the project. The memorial was designed over the last two years by a campus committee that included students, staff and administrators.

"The Rio Hondo Veterans Memorial and flagpole is dedicated to all who have served in the U.S. armed forces – Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and the U.S intelligence and national



Rio Hondo College leaders stand with veterans from the region and the College community as they mark the unveiling of the Rio Hondo Veterans Memorial on Wednesday, May 20. Photo by Roberto Chavez.

security agencies," Mendez said. "This memorial is especially dedicated to all of the students, staff, faculty, administrators and board members who have served in the U.S. armed forces."

The memorial, which sits at the center of the campus, includes several elements: A concrete monument that stretches 8 feet long and rises 3 feet high topped with a brass plaque and bearing discs for each of the five branches of the U.S. military; a bench where students and guests may reflect on the contributions of the nation's veterans; and the three flagpoles bearing the banners of the U.S., California and Rio Hondo College.

Those who attended the event also re-

ceived specially minted Challenge Coins, part of a long-standing military tradition, custom made for military units and depicting symbols and mottos unique to each unit. Issuing a Challenge Coin has become popular at civilian functions, especially events that commemorate public safety programs.

"I'm delighted that we have this moment to celebrate the veterans today," Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss said during her remarks. "This memorial stands as a tribute to the contributions of America's armed forces and helps to celebrate the warm relationship between the College and the veterans in its student body."

All That Dance Returns to La Mirada

Staff Report

Pull out those dancing shoes and get ready to enjoy a fun-filled summer evening. The All That Dance event returns for a "Summer Bash" themed evening on Friday, June 5 from 7 to 10 p.m. "Summer Bash" will be held at the La Mirada Activity Center located at 13810 La Mirada Boulevard. Bring friends and come ready to have a good time.

Jim Gilman & Associates is set to be the live entertainment for the evening and will be playing a variety of musical favorites sure to make you want to get up and dance. The event will also have refreshments and door prizes. Refreshments are sponsored by Home Care Providers and Synergy Home Care. Entertainment is sponsored by Triune Health Services.

"This event is the perfect way to celebrate the start of the summer season," says Community Services Supervisor Lisa Montoya. "Come dressed in your favorite dancing attire and enjoy a fun evening of dancing and socialization."

Anyone ages 18 and over is invited to come out and dance! Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased in advance, at the Activity Center, or at the door. Pre-registration is encouraged.

For more information, call (562) 902-3160 or visit cityoflamirada.org



Follow us!
@cerritosnews

SSB HAIR SALON

★ Hair

- Men-Women's Haircut
- Japanese Straight Perm
- Digital Perm
- Hair Botox
- Up-Do Style & Blow Dry
- Keratin Brazilian
- To Treat Damaged Hair (We use the best products)

★ Skincare

- Try our Authentic Acupressure Facial for Dramatic Lift, Balance Even Pain Relief

Regular Facial

- Whitening
- Lifting
- Acne

10 min \$600

Special Facial

- Powerful Skin Renewal Technology
- NIR Gold Therapy
- Steam Cell
- Gold Therapy

8 min \$899

Facial & Body Program

- Special Facial (3 times)
- Body Diet Program (3 times)

8 min \$599

OPEN HOURS 9:00am-7:00pm

The Best Hair Designer!
The Best Service!

Receive the Best Skincare Treatments
for Noticeably Younger & Radiant Skin

10% OFF

Tel 562.924.0060

12228 South St
Artesia, CA 90701

CERRITOS DENTAL SURGERY
SHAWN HOFKES, DDS

Complete dental care in a comfortable atmosphere.

- Wisdom Teeth
- Dental Implants
- Cosmetic Dentistry
- Oral Biopsies

- Tooth Extraction
- Bone Grafting
- IV Sedation, Nitrous Oxide
- Emergency Dentistry

11480 South St. #201, Cerritos, CA. 90703 | Conveniently located across from Los Cerritos Mall

Denture Slipping or Sliding?
Call for a FREE consultation!

\$500 OFF to secure your dentures!

New patients always welcome!

cerritosdentalsurgery.com

562-584-4082

Honoring Memories.
Celebrating Lives.

FUNERALS | CREMATION

We know that each family is unique. That's why we care for families we serve as if they were our first.

Experience our understanding, our caring, and most of all our personalized service. It's the least we can do to show you that in our eyes your family's attention is second to none.

STONEBRIDGE
Memorial

www.stonebridgememorial.com

(562) 404-1287

14624 Carmenita Rd.
Norwalk, CA. 90650
Lic-FD#2209

DOWNEY SOROPTIMIST AWARD \$6,500 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

By Tammye McDuff

The Soroptimist International [SI] Club of Downey was the idea of Dr. Elizabeth S. Wright, a Soroptimist from the Soroptimist International Club of Huntington Park the early fall of 1951. At the first meeting the "Founding Five" outlined the principles of the organization. The charter party was held January 12, 1952 at the Woman's Club in Downey. There were 25 charter members according to records that year. Today membership is growing and SI of Downey support many local charities; organizations and award scholarships.

A Scholarship Celebration was held Thursday, May 14, 2015 at the Rio Hondo Event Center. SI has six different scholarship categories. The Marvel Dodson Art Scholarship is awarded to local high school students who, after graduation are pursuing a career in the field of art. The 'Marvel Dodson Art Scholarship' is in memory of long time Soroptimist member and funded by donations from the family and friends of Dodson. Recipients for 2015 are Breanna Gomez and Luz Perez Sanchez of Warren High School and Aneesha Brooks, Downey High School.

The Millie Black Memorial Scholarship is named in memory of Millie Black who joined the Downey Soroptimist Club in 1983 and was co-owner of Saywell Florist. The award was presented by third generation member and Black's granddaughter Mia Vasquez to Juliana Toloza Gomez from Downey High School.

Awarded to a Cerritos Community college student who is continuing educational studies in a business related field, the Della Doyle Scholarship is in memory of Della Doyle the first woman City Clerk for Downey. Scholarships were awarded



2015 Scholarship Awardees with Claudia DeLeon, SI President. The Scholarship Celebration was held Thursday, May 14, 2015 at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

to Kevon Burgess and Natasha Wynter.

The Health & Medical Profession Scholarships are awarded to Licensed Vocational Nurses [LVN] students at Downey Adult School who are in final completion of their license and who are committed to further their education in the health and medical fields. Yadria Rad and Floridel Rhea Fernandez have experience in the field and have achieved a high academic achievement in the course, displaying a 'can do' attitude throughout the program.

Given in recognition of outstanding achievement and improvement in academics as well as special contributions to their schools, Zachary Winter of Downey High School and Louies Ochoa of Warren High School are graduating seniors who are recipients of instructional support ser-

vices in Downey Unified School District High Schools.

Vocational Scholarships are awarded to students at each high school in Downey who are continuing with education or training in pursuit of a vocational career. The 2015 awardees are Natalie Turcios, Downey High School; Briana Dominguez, Columbus High School and Kevin Lujan of Warren High School.

The Scholarship Committee received over 200 applications, narrowing the potential recipients down to five or six in each category. Beverly Mathis, Committee Chair and long time member noted, "This year is was not an easy process. There were so many deserving applicants. We really had to work had to narrow it down."

Cerritos Recycled Water System to Service Forest Lawn

Staff Report

The Cerritos City Council has approved a proposal to construct a recycled water pipeline originating in the City and continuing through portions of Lakewood and Cypress to service the Forest Lawn Memorial Park.

Estimated to cost \$2.37 million, the project will be paid partially with grant funds from the California Department of Water Resources. Forest Lawn Memorial Park will cover the remaining costs.

Grant guidelines dictate that the project be fully completed by December 2015. To meet the deadline, Forest Lawn has agreed to finance the costs associated with the design and construction phases of the project. VA Consulting of Irvine has completed the design and the City will soon be soliciting bids for construction.

The expanded service to Forest Lawn would generate approximately \$50,000 in annual revenue for the City.



los cerritos community newspaper



Follow us! @cerritosnews

the
Gardens
CASINO

Limit Hold'em Progressive
\$8 - \$16 and up
Seeds at \$30,000

\$60,000

Texas Hold'em Bonus Jackpots

Limit Hold'em \$3 - \$6 & up No Limit Hold'em \$100 Buy-in & up

www.thegardenscasino.com

See website for details

GEGA 000280, 000570, 001182, 001462, 001465, 001477, 002889

Hawaiian Gardens Casino 11871 Carson St., Hawaiian Gardens, CA 90716 (562) 860-5887

All players must have positive ID. Hawaiian Gardens Casino reserves the right to change or cancel all promotions at any time. Must be 21 to enter casino.

Gambling Problem? Call 1-800-GAMBLER or visit www.problemgambling.ca.gov

**CIF-SOUTHERN SECTION
SOFTBALL PLAYOFFS**

**VALLEY CHRISTIAN'S
MORROW CURES HER
ILLNESS WITH
WALK-OFF SINGLE**

By Loren Kopff

Emily Morrow wasn't feeling too well this past Monday and even during the morning hours this past Tuesday. But the Valley Christian senior shortstop felt a whole lot better in the bottom of the seventh inning in her team's California Interscholastic Federation-Southern Section Division IV softball wild card game against Quartz Hill.

With senior second baseman Nicole Parker on third with one out, Morrow singled to right field on a 1-1 pitch to give the Lady Crusaders a 3-2 victory that sent the team into a May 21 first round road game at Golden West League champion Segerstrom. Morrow, a Boston University signee, was hitless in her first three at-bats but V.C. head coach Jim Snyder had a feeling that she was due.

"She's been really hot and seasoned and she had been trending up for about

nine or 10 games here," Snyder said. "It's one of the reasons why she found a way back in the leadoff spot where we desperately needed her at. I just had a feeling that the law of averages was going to catch up to her."

"I think I was just struggling at the plate, not having a good enough plan and not being so decisive as to whether I wanted to slap, bunt or hit," Morrow said. "I just went back to the basics and hit off of the tee every day."

Briana Garrett had led off the inning by walking Parker, who was then sacrificed to second from freshman right fielder Hannah Buckley. Following a wild pitch, Morrow came through which capped off a late inning rally that in which the hosts had trailed 2-1 heading into the bottom of the sixth. Morrow had entered the game batting .354 with 29 hits and 15 runs batted in.

"I got into the on-deck circle and all I was thinking was just to get a good pitch which I could hit and just to remember to let my mechanics just go for it," Morrow said. "I know I have good mechanics, so it was just a matter of executing them at a good time."

Both teams had trouble getting hits in the early innings as the Lady Crusaders were limited to just a two-out, first inning single from sophomore first baseman Briana Lerma. Meanwhile, junior pitcher Anna Collier was throwing a no-hitter through the first five innings. But she had walked a pair with three other runners

reaching on a fielder's choice and two more being safe on errors.

V.C. (13-13 overall), the second place representative from the Olympic League, struck first in the fourth inning when Lerma singled with one out and came home on a double from freshman Chloe Malau'ulu. The Rebels finally got to Collier with one out in the fifth when she walked Jaquelyn Goodman before serving up a single to Garrett, a double to Sierra Fiala and a base hit to Lyndra Fenald.

"We've been giving up three or four of those [walks] in a game and they always seem to come at tough times," Snyder said. "And that one with one out came at a real rough time. They had some high averages further on down in their lineup and...we could not take another walk that inning."

V.C. came right back in its half of the inning when senior left fielder Madison Wright, who will be attending Simpson University in Redding, singled down the left field line, marking the end of Melony Howarth's time in the circle. Enter Krystal Waters, who promptly yielded a single to Lerma which just got under the reach of shortstop Amanda Almond.

Junior third baseman Chanel Varney then hit a grounder to Fiala, whose attempt to force Wright out at third was too late. Following a strikeout, Wight tied the game on a sacrifice fly from senior designated hitter Tia Naulls.

"It's a very good Quartz Hill pitching staff but they opted for one who didn't

See **VALLEY CHRISTIAN** page 12

**CIF-SOUTHERN SECTION
SWIMMING AND
DIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**Cerritos swimmers
dominate Division IV
finals as girls win
third straight title**

By Loren Kopff

The Cerritos High girls swimmers didn't just win their third straight California Interscholastic Federation-Southern Section Division IV championship. They routed the competition in a historic way last Friday night at the Riverside Aquatics Complex.

The Lady Dons racked up a Southern Section record 455 points and was nowhere in sight of second place Alta Loma, which finished with 173 points. The 282 points that Cerritos won by is also the widest margin of victory in Southern Section history. Last season, the girls easily defeated Orcutt Academy 449-322 and in 2013, the Lady Dons barely won the title by three points over Orcutt Academy (415-412)

"We were just having a conversation with all of the kids, talking to them about how CIF championships don't come easy, that it's really a testament to their hard work and everything that they put in," said Cerritos head coach Paul Park. "For our senior girls, this is three in a row. For our senior boys, this is two in a row. It's a good footprint that they're leaving for the school as they graduate."

The girls wasted no time in its dominant performance as the 200-yard medley relay team of seniors Kiri Harvey, Alexa Ocampo, Roxanna Yu and sophomore Maya Valdoria set a division record with a time of 1:50.09. Sophomore Arina Yu then won the 200-yard freestyle (1:58.61) while Ocampo finished in sixth (2:04.07). Through the first two events, Cerritos had already racked up 91 points on its way to the rout while no other school had more than 38 points. In fact, Cerritos would go wire to wire throughout the meet.

Later in the meet, Harvey would win the 100-yard butterfly (58.71) while Valdoria was right behind her at 58.97. The girls would also set a division record in the 200-yard freestyle relay with senior Julia Reyes, junior Megan Ma, freshman Breanna Rigor and Arina Yu setting the mark at 1:39.74. The Lady Dons wrapped up their championship by winning the 400-yard freestyle relay (3:41.37) with Harvey, Rigor, Arina Yu and Roxanna Yu.

Roxanna Yu also finished in third place in the 100-yard freestyle (54.52) and in the 100-yard breaststroke (1:09.73) while Harvey came in third place in the 100-yard backstroke (59.49). Fourth place

See **CERRITOS** page 12

Protect
What Matters Most!

Give the Gift of Security with Life Insurance!

- Pay off a Mortgage
- Provide for a Child's College Education
- Leave a Legacy for the Next Generation
- Replace Lost Income for Beneficiaries
- Pay for Funeral and Estate Settlement Costs

No Medical Exams Up to \$350k

No Hassle, No Waiting No Phone Call

Policy Issued Within Minutes Of Approval

For More Information
www.OneClickBenefits.com

ONECLICKBENEFITS.COM
JUST A CLICK AWAY

Here we grow again!
HMG-CN's New
Santa Fe Springs Community News
Delivered to 5,000 homes,
over 10,000 readers
every week!
Call
562.407.3873
Ask for Dario

Pair of young Cerritos swimmers honored for achievements

By Loren Kopff

Kevin Lee and Ethan Umpornpuckdi from the Cerritos Aquatic Club were awarded for their fine accomplishments at the Southern California Swimming banquet this past Sunday. In the 10 and under age category, Lee finished in second place



[l-r] Kevin Lee and Ethan Umpornpuckdi from the Cerritos Aquatic Club.

in Southern California in the 100 meter butterfly with a time of 1:14.71.

In the same age group, Umpornpuckdi finished in third place in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5:33.24. He also finished in the National top 10 in three events for the age 11 group. Umpornpuckdi came in seventh place in the 400 meter freestyle (4:42.93), eighth place in the 800 meter freestyle (9:52.67) and ninth place in the

1500 meter freestyle (19:02.56).

BASEBALL

The California Interscholastic Federation-Southern Section playoffs began on May 21 for Valley Christian, which hosted former Olympic League rival Paraclete in a Division V first round game. The Crusaders, who finished in a three-way tie for second place in league, ended the regular season at 16-11 and split a pair of games with Maranatha and Whittier Christian the last two weeks of the regular season. If V.C. comes away with the win, it will most likely face third seeded Santa Ynez on Tuesday in a rematch of last season's first round meeting. Santa Ynez, the defending division champion, edged the Crusaders 3-1 last season.

In Division II action, San Gabriel Valley League champion Gahr hosts Pacifica out of Oxnard today. The Gladiators (20-11) struggles throughout the early part of the season and at one time was 8-7. But the team went 8-2 in league and has won 10 of its last 13 games since a 7-6 loss at Warren in the league opener. A Gahr win will set up a second round tilt against the victor of the Bonita/Cajon game on Tuesday.

John Glenn is also home today as the Suburban League champions face Royal. The Eagles (18-8) won its first league title since 1990. The Eagles have won nine of their last 10 games with the lone setback coming on Apr. 24. Their win total matches that of last season but the eight losses are the fewest since going 12-9-1 in 1999. A Glenn win will most likely set up a meeting against third seeded Glendora in the second round on Tuesday.

SOFTBALL

Suburban League champion Cerritos (18-7) hosted California on May 21 in a Division III first round game. The Lady Dons won their second straight league ti-



HMG-CN Sports Editor Loren Kopff

NEWS AND NOTES FROM PRESS ROW

tle and went undefeated in league play for the first time since 2000. Cerritos has won 38 games in two years, the best two-year win total since winning 49 games in 2000 and 2001. The Lady Dons are hoping to advance to the second round for the first time since 2004 and if so, they will play the winner of the Don Lugo/St. Paul game on Tuesday.

Gahr, which tied Warren for first place in the San Gabriel Valley League for the second straight season, is seeded fourth in Division III and hosted the winner of the Chaffey/Fontana wild card game that was played this Tuesday. The Gladiators (21-7) have lost three games by one run and two more by two runs, both 5-3 losses to Warren. Gahr would most likely face Alemany in the second round on Tuesday if the bracket stays true to form.

Also in Division III action, Norwalk visited Sherman Oaks-based Notre Dame on May 21. The Lady Lancers finished in a three-way tie for second place in the Suburban League but goes in as the league's No. 2 representative. Norwalk (13-8) would most likely host second seeded La Serna in the second round on Tuesday.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

A return trip to the Division III championship match fell short for Gahr as host Quartz Hill knocked off the Gladiators 25-18, 17-25, 27-29, 25-23, 17-15 this past Wednesday night. Gahr ends its season at 21-9.

OLIVO

Continued from page 6

Another article first reported by HMG-CN showed Olivo once again ignoring Council violations, the latest one by newly elected Councilwoman Oralia Reballo.

A public records request documented Reballo receiving \$1,307.41 as a City Council member and \$1,409.01 as an employee of Commerce as the Recreation Leader.

Under the Attorney General's own rules, the fact Reballo is taking a check from the city as an employee and taking a City Council check, places her in an "incompatible office" position.

Ironically, a quo warranto action could be initiated against her, and is actually a better litigation case than Argumedo's.

Yet Leon, Baca Del Rio, Altamirano, and City Attorney Olivo chose to overlook Reballo's obvious violation and instead initiated the action against Argumedo.

Several emails into Mayor Leon, Mayor pro tem Baca Del Rio, Councilmembers Altamirano and Reballo, went unreturned.

Councilman Argumedo did not want to comment given the impending litigation.

Please support our advertisers!
They are why we publish every week!

Elena Vege-tarian

Mosquito Human-itarian

Don't Be Their Next Meal

Experiencing mosquito bites? We can help residents for FREE.

www.LAmosquito.org | 562-944-9656

VALLEY CHRISTIAN

Continued from page 10

have the control that the starter had, and I think that hurt them," Snyder said. "It hurt them right down to the point prior to the walk-off when we get the wild pitch and get [Parker] over to third base with less than two outs. That was kind of a gift and they kind of handed that one to us. But the pressure was on them and they let it get away."

Collier, who has pitched every inning

this season, scattered four hits and struck out one. V.C., which has not advanced past the first round since making it to the quarterfinals in 2012, improved their home record to 9-2. That mark is significant considering the team began the season with five straight losses and 10 of its first 12.

"I think it just makes the team more comfortable, especially for our first CIF game and with our freshmen and underclassmen because last year our first CIF game was an away game," Morrow said. "Half of the team hasn't experienced a home [playoff] game. So, I think it was good for everyone to get a good, exciting game here at home."

Should the Lady Crusaders defeat fifth ranked Segerstrom, they would play the winner of the Jurupa Hills/Ramona game on Tuesday in a second round tilt.

CERRITOS

Continued from page 10

finishers included Rigor in the 200-yard IM (2:14.56) and Ma in the 100-yard backstroke (1:01.72).

"We don't think of [winning] as in points," Park said. "We just go out there and swim. We just tell the kids to swim, do your best, get your best times and go out and win your races."

For the second time in school history, the boys went back to back. After picking up the title last year over Citrus Valley (299-217), the boys got by Malibu, picking up 279 points and winning by 24 points. The boys also won the 2001 and 2002 titles.

"I know we had a couple of years where we were runners-up and I think it

takes that sometimes to get to that next step," Park said.

The big winner of the meet was senior Angel Alcalá, who set division records in the 100-yard butterfly (49.47) and in the 100-yard backstroke (49.58). In addition, Alcalá has qualified for the Inaugural CIF State High School Swimming and Diving Championships at the Clovis Olympic Swim Complex today and tomorrow.

"I think it's a big deal," Park said of going to the state championships. "We want to represent our school; our area really well. We're sending four girls up there and also four guys. Angel Alcalá is ranked in the top 10 two events. It's going to be fun to watch."

Alcalá was part of the 200-yard medley relay team that won with a time of 1:38.00. Senior Dominick Nevarez, junior Joseph Gomez and sophomore Alex Alcalá were also on that relay team. The 400-yard freestyle relay team of the senior Jeffrey Park, Alex and Angel Alcalá and Gomez came in second with a time of 3:17.07 while Nevarez placed third in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:02.02.

In other swimming and diving news, Valley Christian senior and University of Nevada, Reno-bound Rebekah Dominik won the girls diving finals with 527 points. She was nearly 30 points better than Michelle Lee of Fairmont Prep. Whitney freshmen Adriane Tam (422.90 points) and Alyson Tam (410.45) finished in ninth and 10th places respectively in the diving finals.



Los Cerritos Community Newspaper

HealthyLiving

THE WELLNESS GUIDE FOR ALL AGES

40,000 circulation, over 80,000 readers

- Distributed by the Los Angeles Health Services Association to all monthly HSA local health fair events
- Partnering with 25 different Southeast Los Angeles Cities.

VidaSaludable

LA GUÍA DE SALUD PARA TODAS LAS EDADES

40.000 circulación, más de 80.000 lectores

- Distribuido mensualmente por Los Angeles Health Services Association en todas las ferias de la salud.
- Con la colaboración de 25 ciudades ubicadas en el Condado de Los Angeles.

In collaboration with several area health organizations.
En colaboración con varias organizaciones de salud del área.



HealthyLivinghm.com



Healthy Living



HealthyLivinghm

VISION

Continued from page 1

charter and Catholic schools, as well as to preschools, health fairs, churches, Boys & Girls Clubs, and other community locales. They have examined over 26,000 children and provided glasses to over 18,000.

Founder and Chairman Austin Beutner notes, "kids vision issues often go undetected, as many as one in every five children lack the ability to see clearly. Students with impaired vision can struggle to read a book, study math, see the board, or even participate in class, which can result in poor grades and adversely affect academic achievement." Vision To Learn alters these outcomes by coordinating screenings for children, and supplying those in need with eye exams and glasses, a simple yet critical tool for success.

Healthy Living was invited to sit down with Vision to Learn supporter Rotary International Bellflower / District 5280 and club President David Davis. In December of 2104 the Rotary Club called on Washington Elementary School. The pre-screening for children who had visual impairment had actually occurred the month prior. It was determined the lab unit would return in March of 2015. Davis recalls, "it was so hard to send some kids back to class knowing they could not see the charts." Every child in the school had been previously identified with a possible vision impairment either through pre-screenings by Rotary members, volunteers or by the state mandated vision and hearing testing." The lab and staff examined 146 children and prescribed to 103 kids.

Out of the 146 students tested, 102 students received a new pair of glasses. Vision to Learn returned to the school three weeks later to provide the kids brand new glasses. Rotary Club of Bellflower sponsored this event donating \$7,500 to Vision to Learn and served the BUSD students. Davis points out, "those that need eyeglasses will get them. The glasses are guaranteed for a full year."

*Join Us in the Poker Section
to get your share of*

\$888,000

in Rollover Drawings

Start Qualifying May 18TH

When a Jackpot occurs From May 18th to July 31st, all seated players in that game (limit) will receive a drawing ticket for the following drawings:

**\$500 Drawings Every
Sunday thru Thursday
in June & July at
12PM, 3PM, 6PM, & 9PM**



**See Floorperson
for Details**

**THE
COMMERCE
HOTEL · CASINO**

6131 E. TELEGRAPH ROAD · COMMERCE, CA 90040 · 323.721.2100 · COMMERCECASINO.COM
GEGA-001899 - Management reserves the right to alter or cancel promotion at any time. No purchase necessary. Customers initials on the winning ticket selected must match their initials on their identification. Must be present to win, winners have 5 minutes to claim prize. If a winner is not present the prize money will roll over to the next Rollover Drawing time. Employees not eligible. See casino services for details. Must be 21. Play responsibly. 1-800-GAMBLER or www.ProblemGambling.Ca.Gov