



## Johnny Ray Anderson Family, Supporters Fill Hawaiian Gardens Council Chambers

By Tammye McDuff

Hawaiian Gardens Council Chambers was packed to standing room only Tuesday evening, July 14, 2015. What began as the normal oral comments section for council meetings, turned out to be a two hour session of residents voicing their opinions, pain and concerns regarding the recent shooting of Johnny Ray Anderson.

Family members, friends and neighbors approached the Council one-by-one demanding to know why the sheriff in question was still on payroll. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Homicide Bureau Captain Rod Kusch, office in charge of this issue, responded saying, "There are a number of reasons why I can't discuss this specific case, however I will

See **ANDERSON** page 8

## Commerce Casino Gala Raises Over \$175,000 For Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team



The Commerce Casino held its First Annual Charity Gala Fundraiser honoring the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team (WWAST) at the Casino this past Friday night, raising over \$175,000 that will go directly to WWAST and its many outreach activities. Over 470 people attended the gala. State officials included State Senator Tony Mendoza, Assemblymember Cristina Garcia, and Assemblymember Jimmy Gomez. Long Beach Councilmember Stacy Mongo, representing LA County State Controller's office, presented 2 Certificates of Recognition, 1 from LA County Board of Supervisors and the other from LA County State Controller's office. Manny Lopez, Deputy Representative from Mayor Eric Garcetti's office, presented Certificate of Recognition from Mayor Garcetti. **Above:** Wounded Warrior Softball Team members listen as Casino President and CEO Haig Papaian talks about their courage, bravery, and philanthropic efforts in the community.

## Controversial Artesia Waste Hauler Contract Approved by Council

By Tammye McDuff and Brian Hews

A second special meeting in July was held this past Monday by the Artesia City Council to discuss concerns over the change from the 27-year contract with Consolidated Disposal Services, a subsidiary of Republic Services, to CR&R Incorporated.

The contract had come under fire from Artesia residents questioning the \$3 million up-front fee the city was receiving along with the \$450,000 "negotiating fee" paid by CR&R.

Also, representatives from the other six trash companies that bid for the contract were very upset at the bidding process that Mayor Miguel Canales called "unorthodox."

Finally, a local Teamsters Union representative spoke against the contract saying they "had not received offers for an employment contract."

The Senior Vice President of CR&R Dean Ruffridge addressed Council and residents noting that "the full benefits and components have not been fully explained to the public."

Some of the programs for residents include a walk-out service for residents with disabilities at no charge; automatic collection of solid, recycle and green waste; bin service for multi-family residential, bulky item service up to four collections per year at no charge and a 'sharps' collection for needles and medical home waste."

Beginning in 2016 an organic waste-recycling program will be implemented.

Mayor Miguel Canales added that many of his Council colleagues had made up their mind at the first meeting held July 1, 2015, but Canales wanted to hold an additional meeting to clear up any misconceptions that the City or residents may have had.

Canales added, "unfortunately there is a lot of fear and misinformation being circulated and I hope that we, the Council have earned your trust to make a decision that is best for Artesians. Not for me, not for us, but for you – the residents." Canales also noted that all waste haulers are a 'for-profit' service.

"We have hired a City Manager for the City of Artesia, that we feel will look out for the best interest of our City," Canales

See **ARTESIA** page 8

## Protestors Once Again Call For Central Basin Water Director Vasquez' Immediate Resignation

By Brian Hews

Vasquez pressured security personnel to tell protestors they cannot display signs, violating constitutional free speech rights

For the second time in less than 6-months, dozens of protestors attending the July 14th 2015 Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Board meeting called for the MWD Board to ask for Central Basin Municipal Water District (CB) Director Leticia Vasquez's resignation.



Leticia Vasquez

The protestors said, "Vasquez is an embarrassment" and that "her crooked southeast style of politics learned at the hands of both Albert Robles and Rick Mayer, is polluting the Metropolitan Water District."

Several of the protestors told HMG-CN that Vasquez, after seeing the protestors carrying signs, pressured MWD Security personnel to tell the protestors that

the signs were not allowed in the Board Room, a clear violation of a citizen's right for free speech and peaceful protest.

Spokesman for the protestors, Raymond Brown, spoke during public comment of the July 14th MWD Board meeting saying he was there "...to inquire about the results of the internal investigation that Metropolitan Water is conducting on the activities of Central Basin Director Leticia Vasquez."

In February 2015, HMG-CN reported that MWD Director Lowenthal requested that MWD Ethics Officer Deena Ghaly look into allegations against Vasquez raised by speakers at the February 2015 MWD Board meeting, particularly claims of Vasquez's Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC), District Attorney (DA) and FBI investigations.

Brown went on to list several of Vasquez's indiscretions, including falsifying and leaking of a confidential federal subpoena, her illegal vote to waive attorney-client privilege to support her qui tam "whistleblower" lawsuit-of which she is a

See **VASQUEZ** page 9

## La Palma Approves Ad Hoc Committee Members to Review City Finances

Staff Report

The City of La Palma is at a critical juncture in its 60-year history. After the Great Recession and loss of its largest sales tax producer, revenues have been reduced while pension and other costs have increased.

In response, the City Council continues towards a 20 percent reduction of its workforce to pre-1985 staffing levels, from 65 employees to 52, including the elimination of two department directors.

To begin to address these concerns, La Palma Mayor Peter Kim had submitted a Council Member Request on May 19 for the City Council to consider appointing a temporary ad hoc citizen committee that would be tasked with reviewing the City's operations and finances and then recommending to the City Council a plan to achieve long-term financial sustainability.

The City Council approved the committee and applications were due by July 7, with 35 applications being received

See **LA PALMA** page 9



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# Jet Blue and KaBOOM! Bring 'Playability' to Simms Park

By Tammye McDuff

John S. Simms Park was teaming with employees and volunteers from Jet Blue Airways, KaBOOM!, Bellflower Parks and Recreation Department, Bellflower City Council and community volunteers Thursday, July 16, 2015. The morning began at 6:30 am as Mayor and Council Members began flipping flap jacks and sausage, serving up a hearty breakfast for those who had come to raise a play park in one day.

Mayor Scott Larsen said, "We have opened up a number of parks in the city, from walkways, bike trails or just a neighborhood half acres for residents to relax, unwind and play," Larsen continued, "we are proud to be the fourth park built in California and the 22nd KaBOOM! built in the country." Volunteers transformed 48,600 square feet of space into an interactive play place by hand.

Simms Park is the 2,642nd organized KaBOOM! built playground since 1996. Dedicated to the bold goal of giving all kids the childhood they deserve, KaBOOM! believes that a childhood filled with balanced and active play, helps to shape healthy, thriving adults because

#playmatters.

Currently, many of the children served by the City of Bellflower do not have updated, safe and accessible play spaces. This new playground will replace old play structures and give the children the balanced and active play they need to thrive. The design is based on children's drawings created at a special design event in April. New sandboxes, swings, slides and gym structures were accented by painted sidewalks, with hop scotch, tic-tac-toe, twister and an interactive gadget wall.

Larsen thanked everyone for all the hard work and dedication over the past ten weeks stating, "If it wasn't for you, the volunteers, this would never have been completed. So from the community, the City Council, and our Parks and Recreation Department, we offer our heartfelt thank you for getting this park together in one day."

KaBOOM! considers a playground more than just a playground, it is a brain-expander, friend-maker, and source of exercise. Play is central to a child's ability to grow into a productive adult, changing a sedentary, bored and solitary child into a physically, mentally and socially active kid.

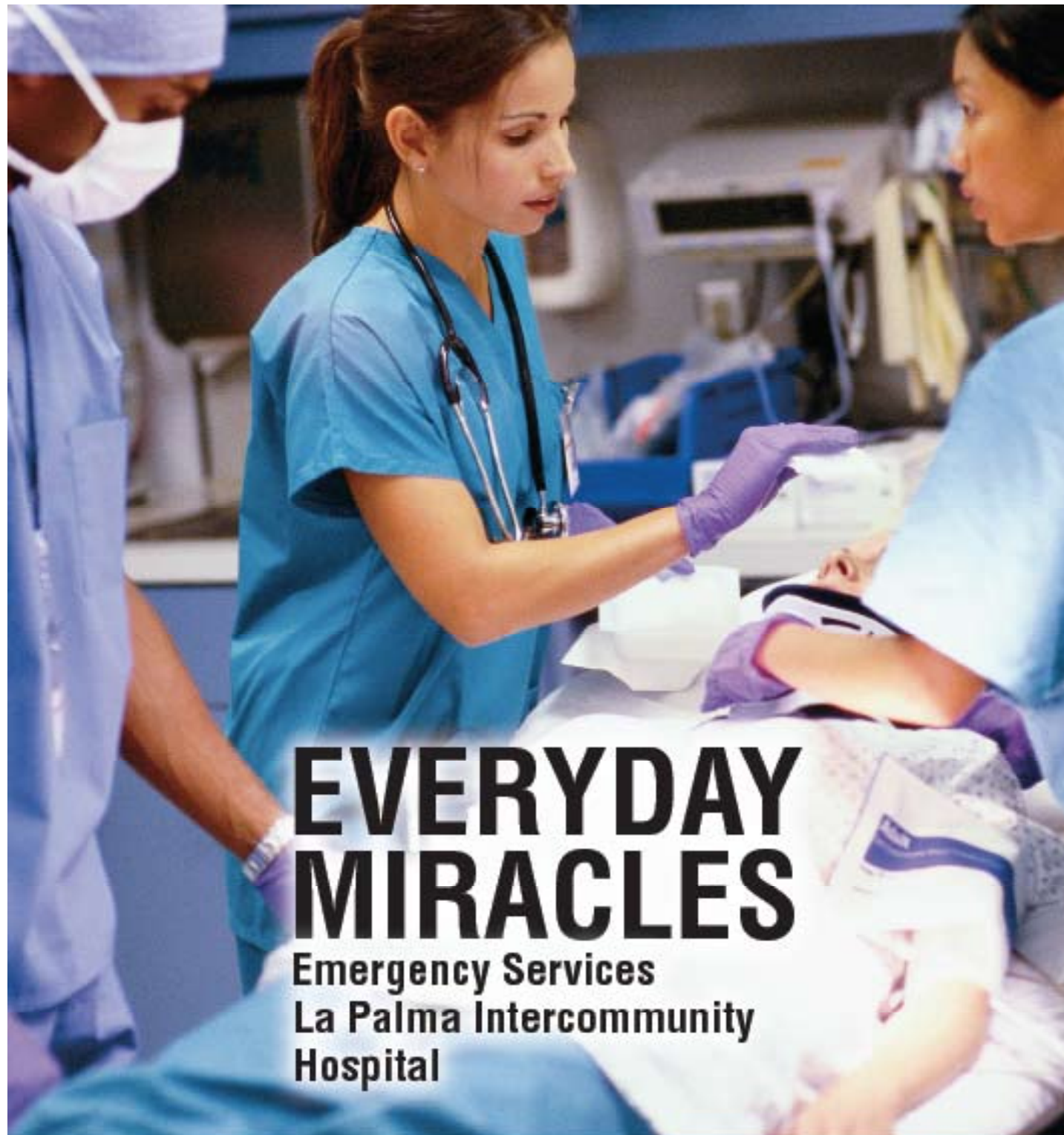


Bellflower Mayor Scott Larson [center] and members of the City Council help cut the ribbon of helping hands to officially open the park.

The City of Bellflower strives "to protect and enrich the quality of life, to make Bellflower an excellent place to live, work and play." As the 25th largest city in the Los Angeles County, Bellflower has become a city of 79,000 residents with an innovative approach to enhancing services and generating revenues to support the growing community.

KaBOOM! is a national non-profit

dedicated to giving all kids a childhood they deserve. Collaborating with partners to build, open or improve nearly 16,300 playgrounds, engaged more than one million volunteers and served 8.1 million kids. KaBOOM! creates great places to play, inspires communities to promote and support play, and works to drive the national discussion about the importance of play.



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## HHDC Welcomes Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia



By Larry Caballero

Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia was the special guest speaker at the July 20 General Meeting of the Hubert Humphrey Democratic Club that meets at Coco's every third Monday at 7:00 pm.

Garcia thanked the club for inviting her and shared the number of bills she has authored and have been signed by the Governor.

Garcia has been in office since 2012, but she is already on the Leadership Team of Speaker of the Assembly Toni Atkins, and that makes her one of the top five most influential assembly members in Sacramento.

Garcia is proud of her many district programs including #Pride 58 that recognizes deserving individuals, organizations, and/or businesses.

Garcia also announced that she is launching her inaugural Summer Reading Challenge "to stimulate students' brains, just in time for a new school year."

Students are encouraged to participate in the four-week challenge, and they will qualify for a raffle to win an iPad, gift cards and other great prizes.

For further information, visit Garcia's website or call her district office at 562-861-5803. Photo by Lou Delgado.

# Vigil Held at Cerritos' 30 Fire Station in Memory of the Granite Mountain Hotshots

By Tammye McDuff

A candlelight tribute to the Prescott 19 was held June 30, 2015 at Fire Station 30 in Cerritos, to commemorate the anniversary and loss of Granite Mountain Hotshots, firefighters and members of the Prescott Fire Department.

On June 30, 2013 a wildfire, now considered the deadliest in Arizona's state history, began near Yarnell, Arizona due to lightning strikes. The fire consumed approximately 200 homes and other structures in the area of Yarnell, a community of about 600 people.

One of the firefighters Kevin Woyjeck, 21, was the son of a Los Angeles County fire captain, Joe Woyjeck. Kevin was an avid outdoorsman and always wanted to be a firefighter like his father. Captain Woyjeck spoke to his son Sunday, June 28, 2013 by phone, he said, "Dad, we got a fire in Yarnell, Arizona. ... I'll give you a call later," the elder Woyjeck recalled. Kevin Woyjeck wasn't the only firefighter's son in the Granite Mountain crew. Christopher Mackenzie, 30, was the son of retired California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Captain Mike Mackenzie.

Engineer, Firefighter and EMT Scott Piche, from Station 30 and a Fireman for 18 years, stated the remembrance began with a moment of silence and respect at 4:42 pm, the official time of death of the Prescott 19, with a candle lit for each firefighter. "The loss of a brother is always a difficult situation," says Piche "but to lose a firefighter that you have worked with and watched grow up, like Woyjeck, was particularly hard. I actually had the privilege of working with four of the men."

It was reported that the firefighters had



[l-r] Fire Explorers Johnny Martinez, 15, Brett Corwin, 17, and Alex Hernandez, 15 stand beside the photo and candles at vigil. Gear was also included in the vigil that Kevin Woyjeck would have carried while performing hotshot duties.

deployed their fire shelters, an aluminum blanket that protects against the flames and heat, and a measure of last resort. Killed in the fire were Andrew Ashcraft, 29; Robert Caldwell, 23; Travis Carter, 31; Dustin Deford, 24; Christopher Mackenzie, 30; Grant McKee, 21; Sean Misner, 26; Scott Norris, 28; Wade Parker, 22; John Percin, 24; Anthony Rose, 23; Jesse Steed, 36; Joe Thurston, 32; Travis Turbyfill, 27; William Warneke, 25; Clayton Whitted, 28; Kevin Woyjeck, 21; and Garret Zupiger, 27.

Roy Hall, Incident Commander with the State Forestry Division commented, "We have a lot of hotshot crews in the nation, and they are the elite of the ground firefighters. They're highly trained and

highly specialized. They are a younger generation. That's the tragedy of it, that lives would be lost of such a young group."

"As is protocol," stated Piche, "one member of the crew will stand back as a watcher, to let the others on the line know what is happening." This member of the team remains anonymous. He radioed ahead to let the crew know the fire was approaching and to retreat. He saw the flames engulf his brothers. Prescott Fire Chief Dan Fraijo commented "There are very few words to express that kind of sorrow." The fire was considered the deadliest day for firefighters since the 9/11 attacks.

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# GREETINGS ARTESIA!

On Monday, July 20, 2015, the City of Artesia approved a new contract with CR&R Incorporated (CR&R) to become the City's new waste collection, disposal and recycling company to serve all residents and businesses. CR&R considers it a great honor to be selected as the City's new waste services provider and we are looking forward to becoming a partner and a friend with the community.



Here are some benefits of the new contract with CR&R:

- Trash rates remain the same until 2017
- All Brand New Trucks and equipment, including residential carts and commercial bins
- Free haul away of oversized items
- City of Artesia will have additional general fund money to spend on City services and/or capital improvements from greater franchise fees
- Friendly, helpful staff to assist residents with all of their trash needs and a dedicated representative to serve Artesia full time
- Many more benefits and features, too numerous to list
- NEW SERVICES BEGIN IN NOVEMBER!

In the near future you will be receiving information and additional details about this new contract and the exciting benefits it offers the residents and businesses of Artesia. Thank you and we look forward to serving you.

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## Re: Artesia Trash Contract....Good

### Dear Editor:

I serve as the lead government affairs representative in Los Angeles County for CR&R. [Your] article takes provisions of the proposed agreement out of context.

The City has been involved in the process of seeking a new trash hauler for the past 5 years, there was a need to move forward with a quick transition, as the old contract terminates in early November of this year.

CR&R competed in a rigorous process with six other companies. Rather than pay over \$100,000 to an outside consultant, the City developed a form of franchise agreement that served as the basic "bidding" specification. Those companies who asked to participate in the process then provided input on their ability to meet such requirements. Once responses were received, other questions were asked of participants, eventually resulting in negotiations of a final contract with the successful company.

Also, the \$2M paid to the City is an additional franchise fee that comes at no additional cost to the rate payers. The \$2M comes from CR&R's internal profit margin and is not a charge to the City or its residents. The proposed agreement also contains a provision to reduce fees and can be triggered by the City at any time.

The truth about rate hikes: The speculation that the payment of the advance franchise fees will lead to a rate hike is just that – speculation without merit.

The final contract preserves current residential and commercial trash rates. The speculation that rates will immediately go up in order to fund the financial enhancements offered to the City is unfounded as well, which assertion is either a misreading of the agreement or a complete fabrication intended to stop the award of the franchise to CR&R. In compliance with the City's stated objective to "maintain the current rate structure for residents and businesses", CR&R agreed to lock rates at current levels, with the opportunity to petition the City for an increase only once every two years, beginning in 2017, for CPI based rate adjustments that would be capped at an amount not to exceed four percent (4%) per year, or eight percent (8%) biennially. In contrast, the expiring contract has no such rate adjustment cap whatsoever.

Even more preposterous are the allegations that the monies to be paid under the contract to the City are going to the City Manager. Again, the allegations are based upon a lack of knowledge of how such contracts are negotiated. Given the length of the process and the work involved in the 100-page contract (and the

number of drafts), not to mention negotiating simultaneously with seven (7) separate companies, City staff and attorney costs for preparation of the franchise document are very substantial and the \$350,000 will be used to defray these heavy costs. Any successful company would have been asked to pay such costs. Similarly, a fee for participation is not unusual, meets legal requirements and would have been asked of any successful company.

I hope this information brings clarity and truth to your readers on this very important matter.

If you have questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at jatelelio@metropolispinc.com.

John A. Telesio  
Government Affairs  
CR&R Incorporated

## Re: Artesia Trash Contract....Bad

### Dear Editor:

Only 8 months after the message sent from Artesian's regarding the utility tax, our council decides that they know better than us, and over-ride our mandate, and pass what amounts to a trash franchise fee = utility tax! Shame on you...and this is not over! Thanks Hews for getting the story out...the chambers were full, and the story will grow!

### Dear Editor:

City council, let's call this what it is. These are not fees coming from business. This is a \$15 million Tax on residents! Residents will be paying the tax on our trash bill for two decades. The tax collector moves from city hall to the tax hauler.

And why is the city manager collection a bonus for negotiating contracts? Isn't that part of what he is suppose to be doing anyway? What's next, a bonus for buying toilet paper?

### Dear Editor:

So what now Mayor Canales? Are you going to prove the sceptics wrong? There are lots of residents watching you. Serve the people right.

### Dear Editor:

Smells like Athens in Montebello, West Covina, etc. Run Artesia, Run.

Letters and website submissions are not necessarily the views of the Editor. Letters can be submitted to editor@cerritosnews.net.

## New Artwork Approved for Los Cerritos Center

By Tammye McDuff

As part of the Center's project approval, the home company Macerich Cerritos was required to contribute to the Art in Public Place Program, which would be a commitment of one percent of the total building permit value in the form of a monetary contribution the Art in Public Places Trust fund or artwork placed within the City. The total contribution of the Los Cerritos Center improvements and Dick's Sporting Goods would be \$212,208.66

Property owner, Macerich and Cliff Garten Studio has submitted their public art application, which will be utilized in several different locations. Garten is the designer and artist that built the "Infinity" piece located in the Sculpture Garden at City Hall. The new tenant Harkins Theater proposed a contemporary design with tower elements, tube steel trusses that project above the building and elevate with a spire. The 80,000 square foot Dicks' Sporting Goods will feature a green steel framed metal entry structure with a metal canopy, finished in a combination of earth tone stucco panel and terra cotta brick columns and accent band on the front of the store. The proposed Cheesecake Factory Restaurant will follow the company's prototype with stone and mosaic tiles and Italian plaster.

In connections with the new buildings, Macerich will construct a large plaza entry area in the western portion of the project site between the Harkins Theater and the new restaurant tenant. The plaza will in-

clude decorative exterior pavement, landscape planters, rows of palm trees, lighting, site furniture and a valet station.

Artwork has been selected for this project, a contemporary sculpture titled "Quadra's" and will be sitting atop an 8'-0" concrete pedestal with four cylindrical pockets that house a LED color changing light system. The total height of the sculpture, included base and pedestal make it an art piece that reaches 17" feet. With laser cut rods that reflect and refract sunlight, the sculpture will appear gold or silver depending upon the quality of the light.

Macerich has retained Cliff Garten Studio to create a site specific sculpture for their project. Garten is a well known artist based in Venice and has been creating public art placements throughout the country for many years. Garten is known for creating a sense-of-place and excitement with his contemporary stainless steel sculptures.

The fine Arts and Historical Commission reviewed the proposal and unanimously approved the art piece titled "Quadra's". The total price of the new artwork will be \$254,238, exceeding the one percent requirement by \$42,000. Council had specific questions regarding the placement of the artwork, and the aesthetics of the current backdrop, Macerich representative stated that discussions are underway with the particular tenant and their ability to enhance the sculpture.

Council approved the submission unanimously.

## NORWALK HOSTS "NATIONAL NIGHT OUT"

Residents are invited to take a stand against crime by learning about available resources.

In conjunction with its Summer Concert Series, the City of Norwalk will host its annual "National Night Out" event on Wednesday, August 5 from 7 to 9 p.m. on the Civic Center Lawn.

"National Night Out" is a community-building campaign launched by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW). Each August, communities across the country gather to take a stand against crime, promoting law enforcement partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie, essential in making neighborhoods safer and improving residents' quality of life.

The event also aims to educate the community on crime prevention efforts and increase awareness about public safety programs in the community such as Neighborhood Watch, Business Watch,

and emergency preparedness.

This year we have collaborated with local agencies to host information booths for the community.

Participating agencies include LA County Fire Department, Southeast Area Animal Control Authority, Metropolitan State Hospital, LA County Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol, Helpline Youth Counseling and the American Red Cross.

Special appearances will be made by "McGruff" the crime fighting dog and Public Safety's "Rocky the Raccoon," and parents will have the opportunity to have their children fingerprinted by our Public Safety Cadets.

In addition, the award winning Mariachi Divas will be onstage as the evening's featured performers.

For more information, contact Public Safety at (562) 929-5732.

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## TRUCKING COMPANIES FOUND NEGLIGENT IN 2011 MONTEBELLO BRIDGE FIRE

Staff Report

(CNS) -A jury today ordered Peterbilt Motors Co. to pay \$3.5 million to the owners of a transportation company whose tanker truck exploded and caused the destruction of a freeway bridge in Montebello in 2011.

A Los Angeles Superior Court jury deliberated for about a day before finding that both Cool Transports and Peterbilt were negligent.

However, the six-man, six-woman panel assessed 60 percent responsibility to Peterbilt, which manufactured the big rig, and 40 percent to Cool Transports.

The week-long trial dealt with Cool Transports' attempt to recover at least some of the \$5.9 million it paid to the state to settle the underlying case filed in February 2013.

The state originally sought \$10.5 million from Cool Transports. Cool Transports attorney Michael Partos attributed the accident to a faulty universal joint, which is commonly referred to by mechanics as a u-joint.

He said he was pleased with the verdict. "The jury did a good job," Partos said. "It was a complicated case." A Peterbilt spokesman did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

Partos said that after the u-joint on the forward section of the interaxle drive shaft of the truck failed, bearing caps punctured the tanker.

The thousands of gallons of fuel that had just been picked up a few miles away became ignited by sparks, he said. "This case is about a manufacturer who didn't want to stand behind his product," Partos said in his opening statement. But lawyer Richard Moreno, on behalf of Peterbilt,

placed the blame for the accident squarely on Cool Transports' truck maintenance crew.

He said California Highway Patrol inspectors examined the forward u-joint and found no evidence it was recently greased. "There's no evidence of fresh lubrication on that drive shaft," Moreno said.

To bolster their explanations to jurors, both lawyers used computer-generated images, a replica complete interaxle drive shaft and the original section of the interaxle drive shaft that fell off the truck.

CHP officers recovered the part and conducted the investigation into the Dec. 14, 2011, accident that left the Paramount Boulevard bridge over the Pomona (60) Freeway too severely damaged to be repaired.

In December 2011, Peterbilt conducted a recall of trucks built between January 2006 and April 2007 because of issues with drive shafts and u-joints, Moreno said. However, the truck involved in the accident was not subject to the recall because the 2006 model big rig was built in 2005, he said. Moreno said the recalled trucks that were having problems were much newer than the one involved in the accident, which was six years old at the time and had close to 700,000 miles on it.

Cool Transports employee Bilal Ahmen Ghutta testified he drove the big rig that day from the company's Cudahy terminal to a Chevron refilling station in Montebello, then proceeded north on Garfield Avenue after the tanks were filled to the 60 Freeway. Ghutta, who was headed to his scheduled delivery locations, was in the eastbound right lane of the freeway when the accident occurred, according to the state's lawsuit. After Ghutta felt

the driveshaft detach, he stopped the front part of the big rig truck under the Paramount Boulevard bridge, where the tanker exploded, according to the state's complaint. The bridge, originally built in 1967, was shut down following the fire, which forced a lengthy closure of the 60 Freeway between the Long Beach (710) and San Gabriel River (605) freeways while Caltrans crews assessed the integrity of the structure. The bridge was demolished once it was determined the fire had caused too much damage. Its replacement, which opened ahead of schedule in May 2012, is 128 feet wide, 32 feet broader than the old one, and includes an additional northbound lane, an eight-foot shoulder, a 14-foot center median and six-foot sidewalks.



Inspectors check bridge after fire, both companies involved in the fire were found negligent.

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# BELFLOWER CIVIC CHORUS CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

Staff Report

The Bellflower Civic Chorus threw a big party on July 18, 2015 at the Eagles' Lodge in Bellflower, CA.

"We're fifty years old and we celebrated big time," said Alice Brindle, an alto and chorus president who's been a member since its founding in Downey in 1965.

Celebrating was chorus members and friends, supporters, and Bellflower civic officials. Bill Jones, the chorus' long time music director until his retirement this year, was honored. And of course, the chorus showed itself off with a few numbers.

"I'll miss conducting, but I owe it to my people to keep singing and help out the tenor section," said Jones, who's also been with the chorus from the start.

Numbering about forty, the chorus is made up of people who like to sing and hope their audiences enjoy what they hear. There are three performances a year at the William and Jane Bristol Civic Auditorium at Bellflower City Hall.

Admission is \$5 - it hasn't been raised since 1990 --and in addition to music, audiences get complimentary refreshments at intermission served by spouses of the singers.

The group also does what are called "sing outs" for churches, fraternal and veterans groups and civic organizations.

Over the years, the chorus has performed music of Broadway, the Roaring Twenties, the 30s and 40s country, vaudeville, big band, 50s, Irving Berlin and Cole Porter and Hoagy Carmichael and classical. There's always a Christmas show of sacred and popular favorites in December. "Our audiences like themed shows," said Brindle.

Last year, the chorus did a survey

asking audiences what shows they would like to see again. As a result, the chorus presented "I'll Be Seeing You", songs of World War II, in May and will do "Country Cookin' " on September 18 - 20, 2015.

The chorus was born in Downey when a group of people joined together for the pure joy of singing as the Voices of Phelan, named for the founding director, Marge Phelan. The name was later changed to Downey Civic Chorus and it was among the thousand voices singing at Dodger Stadium during the 1984 Olympics Festival. Chorus member Ray Brady, who is 88, also sang at the Olympics opening show at the Coliseum.

The chorus was conducted in one concert by Roger Wagner, founder of the Los Angeles Master Chorale. It performed in Guadalajara, singing in Spanish, as guests of that Mexican city during a Downey Sister City event.

The chorus moved to Bellflower in 1989, where it's sponsored by the city. It also depends on revenue from program advertisements and private donations.

Music for each concert is chosen by Brindle, working with Jackie Beery, who became music director this year. "I think about what would be nice to sing, what we've done in the past, what people would appreciate, what we've done too much of," Brindle said. Something already on tap for next year is a Disney Spectacular.

Beery, who studied voice and chorus music at Cal State University Long Beach and conducts church choirs in Lakewood, has sung with the chorus and sometimes substituted for Jones in the past. Now, she's in charge. "My style is to have fun and entertain, Beery said, adding that she wants the singers to expand their talents and knowledge of music and enjoy doing it. As for audiences, she said "We're there



to entertain and make audiences feel good, exhilarated, energized and get a song in their heads."

Beery hopes some audience members may be inspired to join the chorus as singers or sponsors. Rehearsals are held Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8 at Simms Park. The chorus is always looking for new members. "All are welcome," said Brindle.

Chorus members are decidedly in the seniors camp. Brindle, at 90, is the oldest. The youngest is Andrew Soto, a tenor who likes to say he's "24 and a half."

The oldest ever singer was Harry Andreson, who sang his last show at 101 in 2003. He wore a World War I army uniform and sang "I'll Be Seeing You".

John M. Bandsma, a baritone, called the chorus a "friendly bunch" and enjoys learning to sing better with every show. He especially likes the Christmas concerts because his whole family attends.

Richard Balling, a tenor and principal soloist with the chorus, said he's sung all his life --sacred music and popular songs with church choirs and other singing groups. He joined the Bellflower chorus 20 years ago after his sister saw a newspaper ad looking for singers.

"I focus on the audience," Balling said. "One positive comment on a song keeps me going." His favorites are love songs and ballads.

An important part of every show are the narratives provided by Gregg Nighswonger, who, wearing his swallowtail coat, has emceed the concerts for 20 years.

Every song gets an introduction -- when it was written, which artists have sung it and where it fits in American culture. "These shows spark memories and put people in a whole new world," he said.

With a background in broadcasting, theater and business, Nighswonger has

amassed a library of information over the years. His family had show business connections so he learned about music going back to the 1920s. Jazz and big bands came along when he ran a radio station. Two older sisters turned him on to popular music.

"I have a mind like a sponge for trivia," Nighswonger said. "I was born on January 4, which is National Trivia Day.

One of the newest chorus members is Willie Solomon, who said she saw a flyer for the group at a restaurant. She's been a school and church singer. "I love classical, jazz and blues, but I'm a soprano and soprano's don't sing jazz." So she joined the chorus because "she wants to sing some."

Another newcomer is Ioana Gocan, who knows chorus members at church who suggested she "come along and have a good time. So she did.

Pamyla Jagger, a voice teacher and coach who's been with the chorus since 1998, is partial to country music and songs from movie musicals. "I feel like I can use my training and experience in music to make other people happy and use my talents for as long as I can," she said.

A non-singing member but one who's vital to the chorus is Hani Yang, who plays the piano at every concert and all rehearsals and seems to be master of everything she plays. The chorus accompanist for three years, Yang's experience is in classical and liturgical music and she's a church organist in Lakewood.

She said music the chorus sings was new to her when she started but she's come to like it. "I sight read and I know some of the music. It's easy to adapt," she said. Yang gets high marks from some singers for her ability to quickly pick up on rhythms and styles of the songs in rehearsal.

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## FERNANDO CHACON PULLS NOMINATION PAPERS TO RUN FOR MONTEBELLO CITY COUNCIL



*Fernando Chacon is seen left taking out his nomination papers for his run for Montebello City Council. Incumbent Jack Hadjinian and four challengers have taken out nomination papers for two seats on the Montebello City Council. The challengers include Fernando Chacon, Kimberly Ann Cobos, Vanessa Delgado and Randy Smith. Irma Bararjas also has been issued papers to run for city clerk.*

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## La Mirada Hosts Welcome Event for Special Olympics Athletes



*La Mirada Mayor Pauline Deal joins Whittier Mayor Fernando Dutra and Biola President Dr. Barry Corey in welcoming delegates from Russia and Macau.*

### Staff Report

The City of La Mirada partnered with Biola University to host a welcome event at Biola University for 2015 Special Olympic World Games athletes from Russia and Macau.

The event was held Wednesday on the Metzger Lawn with lunch provided by Chick Fil-A. Athletes and other attendees socialized and participated in games on the lawn.

Welcome speeches and presentations were given by La Mirada Mayor Pauline Deal, Whittier Mayor Fernando Dutra, Biola President Barry Corey, and delegates from Russia and Macau.

“La Mirada is honored to serve as a Host Town for the 2015 Special Olympics,” says La Mirada Mayor Pauline Deal. “It was a great experience meeting with athletes and delegates from Russia,

and we hope they enjoyed their stay in our wonderful City.”

La Mirada served as the host town for Russian athletes and Whittier hosted athletes from Macau. Biola University provided housing for 240 athletes, coaches, and support staff from July 21 - 24 in campus dorms. The City hosted two welcome events, allowed athletes to train at City facilities, and provided in-town transportation during their stay.

The 2015 Special Olympics World Games is one of the largest events hosted by Los Angeles since the 1984 Olympic Games. About 7,000 athletes from more than 170 countries will compete in 25 sports during the event. Opening ceremonies take place Saturday, July 25 at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

La Mirada was one of about 100 Cities throughout Southern California selected to serve as a Host Town.

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## I-5 Florence Avenue Interchange Project COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

**Learn about the project. Talk with project staff.**

► **WHAT:** Open House to provide an opportunity for you to talk with project staff. The I-5 Florence Avenue Interchange Project is a series of major improvements to I-5 in Santa Fe Springs and Downey, including: widening structures at Florence Avenue and Orr and Day Road, shoulder widening, new on-ramp and off-ramp designs, and reconfiguring the Florence Avenue interchange at I-5.

► **WHEN:** Thursday, July 30, 2015,  
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

► **WHERE:** Florence Avenue Foursquare Church,  
11457 E. Florence Avenue, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

► **CONTACT:** Call (855) 454-6335 or email [my5LA@dot.ca.gov](mailto:my5LA@dot.ca.gov)

Learn more about  
the project at:  
**My5LA.com**



**ANDERSON***Continued from page 1*

explain the process that we use." When the LA County Sheriffs' department is called to a crime scene, there are seasoned investigators that respond, their purpose is to collect evidence and talk to witnesses. Also called out are members of the District Attorney's Office, members of the Inspector General's Office and those in the Internal Affairs Bureau. The purpose is to be able to put together all the evidence and coroners reports to form a complete view of the incident, "this could take many weeks or months," noted Kusch, "typically it will take us around three months to get the report to the DA's office."

In an attempt to inform residents of new policies that are being put into place within the police department, Assistant Sheriff Michael Rothans spoke for Sheriff Jim McDonnell, "It is important to hear from the community. One of the new policies instituted is a critical review of all incidents. This is a quick look at each incident. We look at the practices and protocols, to see if we can do something different; do our job better so that we can react in a timelier manner." There is a Deputy union, that in some ways protects police officers and their personal records, a Deputy cannot just be fired. Rothans noted "Because of these unions a criminal investigation must take place and then and administrative investigation. Until the investigation is completed the officer remains on payroll and on the force."

Dan Baker, Chef Deputy at the Office of Inspector General [OIG] stepped to the microphone, "We are interested in making sure all the processes are thorough. Has all the information been collected correctly? We make sure that all the policies and prac-

tices are put into place." The reporting of the OIG is to determine that the practices and investigative procedures are followed correctly, recommending that policies are revised if they are not working in the best interest of the general public.

It is unfortunate that Hawaiian Gardens has become known as a gang environment, due to the Varrio Hawaiian Gardens. It was brought to light that many innocent residents have been harassed by sheriffs' just because they had been identified as living within the city. Bruce confessed to the fact that his own children had been detained by police, because their student I.D. stated Hawaiian Gardens. This particular gang, according to LA County Sheriffs has over 1,000 members with 365 members listed on the gang injunction. On March 7, 2008, the Court issued a permanent injunction against those involved with criminal street gang, which is tightly enforced in the "Safety Zone".

"I understand that when someone wants justice, they want it now, but this is a lengthy process," commented Bruce, "I want bad cops to be off the force, arrested and see jail time. We will continue to do the best investigation that we can possibly do, to bring justice to this situation."

**ARTESIA***Continued from page 1*

continues, "even though I do not agree with every staff recommendation, I have no reason that our staff benefits from anyone else, other than the City of Artesia." He continues to add that he looks forward to hearing the concerns of residents and addressing any distortion of misinformation, "It is our responsibility that our residents and merchants received the best we can comply with." The contract with

consolidated is close to 30 years old and outdated, which will expire in November 2015. The new contract will allegedly but a freeze on any rate increase for a period of two years.

An article published by HMG-CN was brought into question by residents, some thought it to be negative, others were glad to have received a better explanation of the new waste hauler contract.

It was requested that questions brought up by the article be answered, and the contract brought to a vote.

City staff stated that it would not change the outcome, also adding that there was no rush to come to a decision that evening, but stressed there was a bigger issue with the article and its negative connotations.

Canales addressed staff stating, "thank you for bringing up the article. Sometimes the mass media, in general, focus on sensationalizing these things, whether it is fact or it is fiction," Canales went on to say "the article did not incorporate the press release, or information that was read by City Attorney. We are not breaking the law. We are going in with an unorthodox process, but it is a perfectly legal process."

Questions were asked of the City Attorney regarding the length of the new contract, sole discretion of the Council to extend any length of the contract, and the rate adjustments that may be made by the City Council.

The contract is for seven years but can be extended an 5 additional years. Also CR&R can raise rates 8% every two years with another clause that accounts for "unforeseen expenses" that can add another 4%.

In addition, if revenue numbers for commercial services do not hit a certain level - a level provided by CR&R that

CR&R admitted was a "best estimation" - during an audit that will occur within the first three months after the contract is signed in November, Artesia residents could get hit with a 4% increase in January 2016.

Matt Nicholas, representative for Consolidated Disposal Services conveyed to Council, "because there seems to be many questions that are unresolved here this evening and some uncertainty with the City, we are offering the City \$500,000 less in franchise fees, so that the City can move forward and properly analyze any new contracts being offered."

Amendments were made to the CR&R contract to consider hiring from the local union to preserve jobs and to keep fees as they are with no increase for second bins or bulky item pick up.

The motion to accept the bid from CR&R was made by Mayor Pro Tem Victor Manalo, seconded by Sally Flowers and was passed unanimously by City Council.

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**VASQUEZ**

*Continued from page 1*

“party plaintiff”-against former vendors and employees of CB, and her voting to dismantle the CB Ethics Committee.

Vasquez is no stranger to having the public call for her removal from office, having been recalled from the Lynwood City Council in 2007 amid charges of corruption.

HMG-CN was the first to report in July 2014 that a confidential federal subpoena had been falsified to slander CB Director Phil Hawkins, and was publically distributed by a private citizen during the July 2014 MWD Board meeting. The private citizen, Lorraine Cervantes is a close friend of Leticia Vasquez, who had been replaced by Hawkins as the CB representative to the MWD Board. Sources within the District claim that Vasquez was the only person that had a copy of the subpoena. Several witnesses who spoke on the condition of anonymity claim that Vasquez paid Cervantes to speak against Hawkins and distribute the forged subpoena.

HMG-CN was again first to report that Vasquez was a party plaintiff in her qui tam “whistleblower” lawsuit against former lawyers, vendors and employees of CB, alleging that the defendants colluded to illegally steer \$2.7-million to themselves, ostensibly to prepare an environmental impact report. Vasquez stands to reap over \$2-million if she prevails.

Despite Vasquez’s repeated claims she is not suing the District, and that her suit will not adversely affect CB’s finances, the District has spent in excess of \$200,000 in legal fees related to the qui tam, and has already agreed to pay the attorneys’ fees, and presumably any penalties as-

signed to the defendants. The penalties to the defendants could reach \$8-million if Vasquez prevails.

In order for her qui tam suit to continue, a judge ruled that the District had to waive attorney-client privilege to allow the defendant lawyers to properly defend themselves. Vasquez participated in a CB vote waiving privilege, despite being warned by several lawyers in open session that she was financially conflicted and her participation in such a vote was illegal.

HMG-CN was first to report that the FPPC is currently conducting an investigation into Vasquez’s illegal vote to waive attorney-client privilege, in addition to charges that she does not live in her district.

Central Basin Water Director Art Chacon commented, “I wholeheartedly support the protestors and their call for Vasquez’s resignation. She leaves a trail of corruption wherever she goes, and has already wasted and will continue to waste hundreds of thousands and possibly millions of ratepayers’ dollars if she is allowed to remain on the CB Board.”

**Transcript of Raymond Brown remarks to MWD Board on July 14th 2015:**

*I’m here to inquire about the results of the internal investigation that Metropolitan Water is conducting on the activities of Central Basin Director Leticia Vasquez per the suggestion of Director Lowenthal.*

*Last year, Ms. Vasquez sent an ally of hers, Ms. Lorraine Cervantes, here to Metropolitan to deliver a confidential, falsified and forged federal subpoena aimed at discrediting then MET Director Phil Hawkins. Former Central Basin General Manager Tony Perez initiated an investigation and was fired as a result. He has now filed an \$8.2-million lawsuit resulting in Central Basin being fired by its sec-*

ond insurance company in 6-months.

*By the way, Ms. Cervantes mysteriously passed away a couple of weeks ago and along with her possible evidence, (an event) that Ms. Vasquez must be rejoicing.*

*Ms. Vasquez also participated in an illegal vote to waive attorney-client privilege in order for her qui tam whistleblower lawsuit against vendors at Central Basin to proceed. Multiple attorneys present during that vote pointed out that she was in conflict and should not participate in the vote. She didn’t listen or care.*

*Ms. Vasquez also voted to dismantle Central Basin’s Ethics Committee claiming at the time that she wanted the committee to more resemble Metropolitan’s Ethics body. But more than 2-years later the Committee is still gone, thus shielding her, Mr. Apodaca and their “teacher jail” partner Jim Roybal from necessary investigations.*

*Leticia Vasquez is an embarrassment to this proud agency. Her crooked south-east style of politics learned at the hands of both Albert Robles and Rick Mayer, is polluting the Metropolitan Water District, and this Board needs to act now to ask her to resign. Waiting to remove her at the polls in November 2016 is simply too long to wait.*

**LA PALMA**

*Continued from page 1*

by the deadline. Any resident, business owner, or person who works in La Palma could have applied for consideration.

The committee will have support and assistance from the City Manager and the Administrative Services Director to carry out its mandate. In addition, Department Directors will formally present to the

Committee a review of their respective departments that include functions mandated by law.

The Committee is tasked at a minimum to answer questions and to provide recommendations to the City Council by February 16, 2016.

Questions include what operational efficiencies can still be achieved while maintaining critical services expected by the residents, and are the current revenue sources sufficient in keeping La Palma sustainable.

Appointments to the Committee were made at the July 21 meeting.

Council Member Hwangbo appointed long-time residents Robert Carruth and Keith Nelson. Council Member Steggell appointed Jan Jensen and Kris Moskowitz. Council Member Shanahan appointed Mark Waldman and Lisa Walker. Mayor Pro Tem Goedhart appointed Richard Lutz and Jim Teeple. Mayor Kim appointed Jonathan Dhauw, Christine Kim, and Cordell Porter.



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# ARTESIA PUNISHERS 18 GOLD SQUAD HOPE THIRD TIME IS CHARM AT PGF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Loren Kopff

For the next two weeks, the Premier Girls Fastpitch National Championships will take center stage and the first of two Artesia Punisher squads participating in the event will be in action. The Artesia Punishers 18 Gold team will be one of 124 teams from that age group, spanning two divisions, which will occupy the eight fields at the Huntington Beach Sports Complex, seven fields at the Fountain Valley Sports Park and one of seven fields at Harvard Athletic Park in Irvine this weekend. The 32 10-Under teams and 52 12-Under teams will also vie for a championship with their first three games being played at Harvard Athletic Park as well as Bill Barber Park in Irvine.

This is the sixth year that the PGF has been in existence and the fifth time that a Bob Medina-coached Artesia Punishers team has played in at least one of several PGF qualifiers, hoping to clinch an automatic berth in either the Premier or Platinum Division. But this is the third straight summer that the Punishers 18 Gold team has been invited to participate in the last major tournament of the summer.

"Every year they invite people and they invite teams that are above other teams and I think we're probably one of the better teams in the area," Medina said. "So, I wouldn't see any reason why they wouldn't invite us. They want competition; they want the best competition. So that's what I think the reason why

**A quick look at the Artesia Punishers 18 Gold team, which will be making its third straight appearance in the PGF National Championships.**

## COACHING STAFF

Head coach: Bob Medina  
 Assistant coaches: Ed Blanck, Deann Medina, Tim Rivera  
 ROSTER (returning players in bold type)

00. Breanna Larez	1B/OF	El Rancho High School
<b>1. Raquel Manzo</b>	<b>1B/3B/OF</b>	<b>La Habra High School/Felician College</b>
4. Leah Gonzales	P/1B	Banning High School
5. Alexis Weekes	IF	Lakewood High School/Calif. State Univ., Monterey Bay
<b>6. Toshonnie Baker</b>	<b>SS/OF</b>	<b>North Torrance High School</b>
<b>7. Hailey Hoffman</b>	<b>P/OF</b>	<b>Lakewood High School</b>
<b>8. Alexis Ponce</b>	<b>C/SS</b>	<b>Santa Fe High School/Portland State University</b>
<b>11. Kayla Hemni</b>	<b>OF</b>	<b>South Torrance High School/Chaminade University</b>
<b>12. Monica Rodriguez</b>	<b>C/3B/SS</b>	<b>Banning High School/Notre Dame de Namur University</b>
14. Taylor Escobar	C	Whittier Christian High School/Grand Canyon University
15. Summer Bodkin	2B/SS	Banning High School
17. Isabel Sanchez	OF	Alhambra High School
19. Jessica Delgado	OF	El Rancho High School/Manhattanville College
25. Logan Miller	2B/SS	Lakewood High School
27. Mia Wyatt	3B/IF/OF	West Torrance High School
32. Lauren Sabihon	OF	North Torrance High School
34. Cayman Hunter	1B/3B	Santa Monica High School/Occidental College
44. Jackie Vargas	P	Cantwell Sacred Heart of Mary High School
72. Jasmine Higa	OF	Apple Valley High School/Monmouth University
77. Alexis Sargent	OF	North Torrance High School
99. Alissa Cienfuegos	P/OF	Carson High School/Odessa College

## PLATINUM DIVISION SCHEDULE

*Pool play games at Harvard Park, Field #3*

Sat. July 25 vs. Birmingham Thunderbolts	5:30
Sun. July 26 vs. (Mesa) AZ Killer Bees	3:20
Sun. July 26 vs. (Long Beach) So Cal Jets	7:00
Mon. July 27 TBA (first playoff game)	
Mon. July 27 Opening ceremonies @ Huntington Beach Central Park	5:00-7:00
Tues. July 28-Fri. July 31 Playoff games	
Sat. Aug. 1 Championship game @ Deanna Manning Stadium, Bill Barber Park	8:00

Last month, the team went 1-2 in the Southern California qualifier and 2-2 in the Las Vegas qualifier. While Medina is looking to secure his second national championship (he won the 2007 Amateur Softball Association 'A' National Championship), he has always said it's more about getting the players noticed and signed to a college or university.

"It's all [about] scholarships," Medina said. "We probably diminish all of our energy and time on running the scholarships and getting the kids signed. That's our main purpose now. Winning the national championship...there are so many great teams out there, there really are. Some of them are being funded by other people and there's no money down. So you're getting all of the quality kids and some of them are getting kids who are verballed, then they put these teams together and they're all going to Division I schools. It's going to be tough to compete against that stuff."

Medina, whose 18 Gold team also won the 2012 Triple Crown Sports Sparkler Pikes Peak Division tournament in Westminster, CO after outscoring its six playoff opponents by a combined score of 56-10, has seen his 2015 team compete in several other showcase tournaments since the end of May, including the popular Zoom Into June tournament.

"I think the team is doing really good," Medina said. "I think we learned a lot. It's really nice to get the kids to compete again and I think they're at that level right

we're getting invited."

In 2013, Medina's team did not earn the automatic berth from the Southern California or Las Vegas qualifiers. That team ended up tied for 33rd place out of 68 teams and went 1-2 in pool play action, which has no bearing on the double elimination playoff portion. Then the team lost its first playoff game before winning the next, then falling in the third game.

Last summer, the Artesia Punishers 18 Gold team went 3-2 in the Southern California qualifier, 1-2 in pool play action of the PGF National Championships before going two and out in the playoffs.

now."

The team has four solid pitchers-Alissa Cienfuegos, Leah Gonzales, Hailey Hoffman and Jackie Vargas. The first three just wrapped up their high school junior seasons while Vargas recently completed her freshman campaign. Vargas is also the youngest player on the team with the other players either having just graduated, or will graduate in 2016. Only Hoffman is a returning hurler, but any of the four are capable of being the team's No. 1 pitcher.

"I've had several coaches from Divi-

See **PUNISHERS** page 12

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- Special Facial (3 times)
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## Artesia Mayor Canales Holds Fundraiser at La Mirage



Artesia Mayor Miguel Canales held a July 16 fundraiser at the La Mirage Restaurant. Welcoming guests were (l-r) Cudahy Vice-Mayor Christian Hernandez, former Artesia Mayor Isidro Menezes, Norwalk Mayor Leonard Shryock, State Senator Tony Mendoza, Cudahy Councilmember Baru Sanchez, Mayor Canales, Artesia Councilmember Ali Taj, Pico Rivera Councilmember Gustavo Camacho, Bell Mayor Ali Saleh and Cudahy Councilmember Chris Garcia. *Caption and photo courtesy Larry Caballero.*

## Liberty Tax Service Hosts Artesia Chamber Mixer



Greeting more than 30 guests as they arrived for an evening mixer July 16 at Liberty Tax Service in Artesia were (l-r): ABC Adult School Principal and Artesia Chamber Treasurer PaoLing Guo, President Parimal Shah, and Liberty Tax Service owner Kimberly Le and event coordinator Christian Rivero. Liberty Tax is the fastest growing retail tax preparation company in the industry's history. Founded in 1997, Liberty has prepared more than 12,000,000 individual income tax returns. Much of the growth and success of the company is a direct result of a unique marketing technique: Thousands of marketers dress as Statues of Liberty and wave on street corners, visit businesses and march in parades. *Caption and photo courtesy Larry Caballero.*



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<b>Cerritos</b> 10745 South Street (562) 207-9464	<b>Long Beach</b> 8155 E. Wardlow Rd (562) 719-9242	<b>Redondo Beach</b> 317 Torrance Blvd (310) 379-4612	<b>Wilmington</b> 311-A Pacific Coast Highway (310) 835-1047
<b>Gardena</b> 727 W. Redondo Beach Blvd (310) 323-2173	<b>Manhattan Beach</b> 1145 W. Artesia Blvd (310) 802-6431	<b>Torrance</b> 25425 Crenshaw Blvd (310) 602-5870	 www.ThinkGood.org
<b>Long Beach</b> 2610 Atlantic Ave (562) 989-3630	<b>Norwalk</b> 12827 Pioneer Blvd (562) 864-0662	<b>Torrance</b> 22725 Western Ave (310) 328-5542	
<b>Long Beach</b> 800 W. Pacific Coast Hwy (562) 435-8214	<b>Rancho Palos Verdes</b> 28901 S. Western Ave (310) 241-6660	<b>Torrance</b> 1307 W. Sepulveda Blvd (310) 602-3042	



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**PUNISHERS**

*Continued from page 10*

sion I schools come by and they've said, 'you have probably the strongest pitching that I've seen that is still available by far', Medina said. "Each kid is pitching about 61 miles an hour, 59-60 miles an hour. They have pretty good control, they're right there and I think they're ready. The pitching staff is going to be solid. Everybody walks in there with one good pitcher. We walk in there with four and I'm not going out from that. I get them all back next year. They're all going to be seniors and they should all be verballed."

Taylor Escobar, Alexiss Ponce and Monica Rodriguez will handle the duties behind the plate with the latter two getting the bulk of the action this summer.

"Taylor comes up with a good strong arm," Medina said. "She has a sense of good presence out there behind the plate. Monica, a shortstop and catcher, has a good strong arm and has been catching for us for a couple of years. Ponce has a good strong arm [and is a shortstop]. It gives us the versatility of putting a shortstop at any position."

The infield is one of the best that Medina has had, anchored by Toshonnie Baker, Summer Bodkin, Cayman Hunter, Raquel Manzo, Logan Miller and Monica Rodriguez, among others.

"The infielders I have are really good and year after year we talk to the kids and we always tell them about being a part of the solution and not the problem," Medina said. "They all are the solution. I have eight shortstops, including Logan, but we move them over to second base, we move them over to first base and put them in the outfield. Good athletes are what we're looking for."

Again, everyone is interchangeable and can play multiple positions but the main outfielders consist of Jessica Delgado, Kayla Hemni, Jasmine Higa, Lauren Sabihon, Isabel Sanchez and Alexis Sargent, among others.

"What's cool with the outfield is I have real legit outfielders," Medina said. "They come from the left side depending if we need someone to hit from the left side or if we need someone to hit from the right side, if we power, if we need bunters. They have such good talent and versatility."

Medina says that his hitting is the team's number one strength and is capable of putting together big innings. In three games played at Artesia Park on June 14, the Punishers pounded out 28 hits. As far as any weaknesses, Medina said the only one that his team has faced has been in the form of bad calls from the umpires.

"I think the team is all together," Medina said. "I think they like each other, they play for each other and they fight for each other. That being said, I think this team can go at least four games and send a message, if not win the whole thing. If we're on fire, we're just as good, if not better than all of the other teams. We've played all of the teams that are qualifying and we're better than them."

# Artesia Punisher 16-Under (Paiva) dominating Triple Crown Sports World Series early

By Loren Kopff

The Triple Crown Sports 16-Under World Series in Reno, NV has been very kind so far for the Artesia Punishers team coached by Chris Paiva. His team won all four pool play games and as a result, has been put in the Gold bracket of the playoffs.

The Punishers began pool play action this past Tuesday morning with a 1-0 win over the (Arvada) Colorado Invasion-Browdy and a 10-0 romp over the Bakersfield Babes-Puente. Both games were played at Bishop Manogue High School. The next day the Punishers blanked the (Burlingame) California Gamers 5-0, then followed that up with a 6-4 victory over the (Fremont) Lady Wolfpack. Those two games were held at the Centennial Park Complex in nearby Carson City.

The team's first playoff game in the Gold bracket was on July 23 against the (Mission Viejo) Firecrackers-Ensey/Singer and the Punishers fell 4-0, which sent the team to the loser's bracket where it will face the (Granada Hills) INSANITY (Mendoza) today.

Also in the tournament, the Artesia Punishers 16-Under team, coached by Mike DiMase, had a tough time in its four pool play outings. This past Tuesday morning, the Punishers tied the (Thornton, CO) American Freedom 6-6 before falling to the (Buena Park) Orange County Strikeforce-Bustamante 9-0. Those games were played at Tighe Park. This past Wednesday, the Punishers fell to the (Sanger) Central California Insan-



HMG-CN Sports Editor Loren Kopff

**NEWS AND NOTES FROM PRESS ROW**

ity 8-0 before knocking off the (Concord) Lady Hawks 6-4 at the Centennial Park Complex.

DiMase's team began the playoffs on July 23 against the (Pengrove) Northern California Impact in the Bronze bracket and came away with a 7-2 victory. That set up a meeting with the Bakersfield Babes, the same team that Paiva's squad crushed in pool play action.

Elsewhere in the Artesia Punishers organization, the 14-Under team, coached by Danny Guerrero, will compete in the USA Preps Showcase this weekend in the Antelope Valley. Unlike most of the other showcase tournaments where college coaches from across the nation come out to scout prospective players, the coaches actually get more involved, i.e. running several camps, sitting in the dugouts and more interaction.

"You get to meet with the college coaches for an hour before their camp; that's if you go to their camp on Friday and then you have a camp for three hours with them," Guerrero said.

A total of 82 14-Under, 16-Under and

See **NEXT PAGE COLUMN 1**



**Los Cerritos Community Newspaper**

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18-Under teams will compete in the USA Preps Showcase, which will take place at the Best of the West Park in Palmdale and the Big Eight Softball Complex in Lancaster. The Punishers are one of eight teams in one pool and will play three games on Saturday with more on Sunday.

In addition, second baseman and outfielder Danielle Lew (Los Alamitos High School) is one of 103 all-stars who will compete against each other later today.

Guerrero's team will also face the Chinese National Team from its younger division on Tuesday at 11:00 at Cerritos College. The next day at the same place and time, the Artesia Punishers 16-Under team coached by Armando Canizales will play the same Chinese National team. The entire Artesia Punishers organization would like to invite everyone to one or both games.

## LA MIRADA STROLL IN THE PARK SET FOR THURSDAY JULY 30

La Mirada's annual Stroll in the Park will be held Thursday, July 30 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Creek Park. Come out and enjoy live music, food, games, and fun at one of La Mirada's most popular events of the summer.

"This free event is fun for all ages and allows residents to stroll through Creek Park and hear performances from three live bands," says Community Ser-

vices Director Lori Thompson.

"Kulayd" will be playing a variety of Doo Wop and Motown, "Loa Greyson" will play Island Soul music, and the "Iliana Rose Band," will feature Latin Jazz.

Crafts and face painting will be available for children to enjoy. Community members are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets. A variety of food will be available for purchase.

Stroll in the Park is sponsored by the City of La Mirada and Supervisor Don Knabe. This event is pet friendly with a pet adoption sponsored by Los Angeles County Department of Animal and Care Control.

Creek Park is located at 12021 Santa Gertrudes Avenue. For more information, contact La Mirada Community Services at (562) 943-7277.

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### CITY OF CERRITOS STATE OF CALIFORNIA NOTICE OF A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES IN THE CITY OF CERRITOS

Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the City Clerk of the City of Cerritos, First floor, 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield Avenue at 183rd Street, Cerritos, California 90703 until 11:00 a.m. on August 14, 2015 for providing professional engineering services for "CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF CERRITOS." Proposals must be made in accordance with Sections VI and VII of the City's "Request for Proposal for Traffic Engineering Services for the City of Cerritos." Proposals are required on the entire scope of work outlined in the Request for Proposal.

The term of the proposed contract is twelve (12) months with a provision for up to three (3) twelve-month extensions. The Request for Proposal is currently available from the Engineering Division of the Public Works Department of the City of Cerritos.

The consultant awarded the contract shall save, keep and hold harmless the City, its officers, officials, employees and volunteers from all damages, costs or expenses in law or equity that may at any time arise or be set up because of damages to property or personal injury received by reason of or in the course of performing work which may be occasioned by any willful or negligent act or omissions of the consultant, any of the consultant's employees, or any subconsultant.

The consultant shall procure and maintain for the duration of the contract insurance against claims for injuries to persons or damages to property which may arise from or in connection with the consultant's performance. The cost of such insurance shall be borne by the consultant.

General Liability: \$1,000,000 combined single limit per occurrence for bodily injury, personal injury and property damage. If Commercial General Liability Insurance with a general aggregate limit is used, either the general aggregate limit shall apply separately to this contract, or consultant shall receive written permission by City for variation.

Workers' Compensation and Employers Liability: Workers' compensation limits as required by the Labor Code of the State of California

NOTE: The insurance policy must include a special endorsement to policy that provides:

1. The City of Cerritos, its officers, officials, employees, agents and volunteers are included as additional insureds but only insofar as operations under the contract are concerned.
2. The insurer shall not cancel or reduce the insured's coverage without first providing thirty (30) days advance written notice to the City of Cerritos.
3. The City of Cerritos will not be responsible for premiums or assessments on the policy.

The Insurer shall furnish the City of Cerritos a certified copy of the policy within five (5) days upon request. The successful consultant shall maintain during the life of the contract the above specified with the above-referenced special endorsement.

Pursuant to Section 1735 of the California Labor Code, the consultant shall not discriminate in the employment of persons for the work as described in the Request for Proposal because of race, religious creed, color, nation of origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, marital status, or gender of such persons. If the consultant is found to be in violation of this Section on this work, the consultant shall be subject to all penalties imposed in Part 7, Chapter 1 of the California Labor Code.

The City of Cerritos reserves the right to award a contract to any respondent the City may select, and is not obligated to award to the respondent who submits the lowest fee schedule. The City further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals or waive any informality or irregularity in a proposal to the extent allowed by law.

This Notice of Request for Proposal is not a comprehensive listing of all requirements with which the successful consultant must comply. This list only identifies minimum standards that the successful consultant must comply with during the term of a contract for traffic engineering services. For a complete list of requirements, please review the Request for Proposal.

In case of a conflict between this Notice and the Request for Proposal, the terms of the Request for Proposal shall govern.

Proposals are required for the entire work described in the Request for Proposal.

By order of the City of Cerritos.

Dated/posted/published: July 24, 2015

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 7/24/15

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE AND OF INTENTION TO TRANSFER ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE (U.C.C. 6101 et seq. and B & P 24074 et seq.)

Escrow No. 153583-MC

Notice is hereby given that a bulk sale of assets and a transfer of alcoholic beverage license is about to be made. The names and address of the Seller/Licensee are: TINA EVELYN WILKE, 17832-34 S. CLARK AVE, BELLFLOWER, CA 90706

The business is known as: FRANKS PLACE

The names and addresses of the Buyer/Transferee are: WESTLEY CHRISTOPHER PEARSON, 14267 HARVEST VALLEY AVE, EASTVALE, CA 92880

As listed by the Seller/Licensee, all other business names and addresses used by the Seller within three years before the date such list was sent or delivered to the Buyer/Transferee are as provided to Buyer by Seller.

The assets to be sold are described in general as: STOCK IN TRADE, FURNITURE, FIXTURES, EQUIPMENT AND GOODWILL and are located at: 17832-34 S. CLARK AVE, BELLFLOWER, CA 90706

The kind of license to be transferred is: Type: ON-SALE BEER AND WINE-PUBLIC PREMISES License No. 42-506380 now issued for the premises located at: 17832-34 S. CLARK AVE, BELLFLOWER, CA 90706

The anticipated date of the sale/transfer is SEPTEMBER 9, 2015 at the office of: R ESCROW CORPORATION, 1205 E. CHAPMAN AVE, ORANGE, CA 92866

The amount of the purchase price or consideration in connection with the transfer of the license and business, including the estimated inventory, is the sum of \$61,500.00 which consists of the following: DESCRIPTION, AMOUNT: CASH \$61,500.00

It has been agreed between the Seller/Licensee and the intended Buyer/Transferee, as required by Sec. 24073 of the Business and Professions Code, that the consideration for transfer of the business and license is to be paid only after the transfer has been approved by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

DATED: JULY 10, 2015

TINA EVELYN WILKE, Seller(s)/Licensee(s)

WESTLEY CHRISTOPHER PEARSON, Buyer(s)/Applicant(s)

LA1563203 LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS 7/24/15

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By order of the City of Cerritos.

Dated/posted/published: July 24, 2015

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 7/24/15

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

CHU-NENG LIN  
CASE NO. BP164135

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of CHU-NENG LIN.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by YAH-HWA EVA LIN in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that YAH-HWA EVA LIN be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 07/29/15 at 8:30AM in Dept. 29 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner

DAVID K. W. CHANG

SBN 107420

1440 N. HARBOR BLVD. STE 900

FULLERTON CA 92835

7/10, 7/17, 7/24/15

CNS-2769141#

LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS

## ROTARY CLUB OF LA MIRADA AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS

The Rotary Club of La Mirada has selected five graduating seniors at La Mirada High School students to receive

was a founding member of the La Mirada Rotary Club. Along with other Rotarians, he helped to establish the La Mirada Chamber of Commerce. He served on the La Mirada Planning Commission, and was a leading member of the local business community for many years.

The Rotary Club is working in conjunction with the La Mirada Community Foundation, which will process



LA MIRADA SCHOLARSHIPS – Recipients of \$1,000 scholarships were recognized at the Rotary Club of La Mirada meeting this week. Pictured are (l to r): Rotary President Russell Hall, Luis Mancheno, Cornel Van Dam and Cheryl Rushing representatives of the Van Dam Family Foundation, and Eric Rhee. Not pictured are: Stephanie Beresewicz, Damaris Castro and Vanessa Lechuga.

\$1,000 scholarships, according to President Russell Hall.

Recipients of the Rotary Club of La Mirada scholarships are: Stephanie Beresewicz, Damaris Castro, Vanessa Lechuga, Luis Mancheno, and Eric Rhee.

“Rotary is very pleased to present scholarships to young leaders who embody our belief in service above self,” says Hall. “We are confident that these students will succeed in their educational pursuits, and will become highly productive members of their communities in the future.”

Providing scholarship opportunities is in keeping with the six primary areas of focus for Rotary International’s efforts throughout the world. Rotary’s areas of focus include: basic education and literacy, disease prevention and treatment, economic development, maternal and child health, peace and conflict resolution, and water and sanitation.

The C. A. Van Dam Family Foundation made a generous \$3,000 donation to support the scholarship program in memory of Cor Van Dam, a charter member of the club who owned the former Valley View Farms dairy. Van Dam helped to pioneer the La Mirada area. He

the scholarship payments. Rotarians will be present the scholarships awards to the students at graduation events at La Mirada High School.

Applications for the scholarship program were distributed in the Spring of 2015, and applications submitted were reviewed by a committee of Rotarians.

In addition to the scholarship awards, other community service projects are conducted annually by the Rotary Club of La Mirada include the Eileen Wade Clothes for Kids Holiday Shopping event. More than 40 La Mirada children are taken to Marshall’s department store on Imperial Highway and Santa Gertrudes Avenue to shop for warm clothing, jackets and shoes in December. A holiday party is held following the event at the La Mirada Activity Center. Members of the Rotary Club and the Interact Club at La Mirada High School also participate in numerous community events throughout the year. In addition, Rotarians work with the Walmart Neighborhood Market to provide food for needy families through the Good Sam Pantry at Beatitudes Church during the Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter holidays.

## Cerritos Based Trinity Worldwide Reprographics Monthly Speaker's Forum

The Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts was the place where over 150 local residents gathered this past Friday morning at the Cerritos-based Trinity Worldwide

Waters Ministries Founder and CEO Ray Comfort, President “E.Z.” Zwayne, and V.P. of Outreach Mark Spence all joined together in praying for Chad. It was a



U.S. Navy S.E.A.L. Chad Williams share his experiences in the Navy at the monthly speaker's forum.

Reprographics’ Speakers Forum to hear U.S. Navy S.E.A.L. Chad Williams share his experiences in the Navy and coming to Christ. Chad began by explaining the deep connection he established with his trainer/mentor Scott Helvenston, who worked with him almost daily in preparation for Chad joining the Navy.

Chad went on to share that when he heard his mentor had been killed, it served to fuel his desire to reach the top of the Navy S.E.A.L. “mountain.” When Chad reached the top, he stated, “There was nothing up there. I was empty and I tried to fill that emptiness. I fell into a depression.”

His parents pleaded with Chad to accompany them to church and Chad continually refused until, one day, in order to quickly “please his parents” he agreed to attend church with them. He knew that afterwards he was going to go out and drink, but what Chad didn’t know was that God had planned an encounter with him. That night Chad accepted Jesus as his Savior and has never looked back. His life took a 180° turn for the better.

At the conclusion of Chad’s presentation, Pastor Joe Enriquez from Point Man International Ministries along with other members of Point Man, as well as Living

privilege to witness these great men together on stage—a beautiful portrait of the body of Christ.

It was a glorious morning filled with a powerful message, key leaders in the Christian community, and birthday cupcakes for the man who works behind the scenes to make Speakers Forum possible, Trinity’s CEO Paul Rosenow.

We do hope you will join us next month on August 21st for a special Speakers Forum featuring The Gutierrez Brothers. This group has been playing music professionally since 1981. Since coming to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior in 1988, their greatest desire has been to share this Good News with others around the world. You don’t want to miss this great event!

Additionally, for the upcoming months of August, September, and October we are partnering with Save A Child’s Heart as our Love Thy Neighbor initiative, where we will be fundraising to provide a child with urgent heart surgery. For more information about Love Thy Neighbor or Speakers Forum, please contact us at (562) 567-2050 or www.Trinity3in1.net.

“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” John 15:13.

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