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#### HMG-CN EXCLUSIVE:

## UNSCRUPULOUS ATTORNEY TO BE CONSIDERED AS CENTRAL BASIN WATER DISTRICT'S SPECIAL COUNSEL TO CONDUCT ETHICS INVESTIGATIONS

HMG-CN was alerted by agency watchdogs, Central Basin GM Kevin Hunt and law firm in charge of choosing the ethics counsel had "no idea" about the law firm's transgressions.

By Brian Hews

n May 2015, Hews Media Group-Community News exclusively reported that the Water Replenishment District (WRD), based out of Lakewood, California, paid nearly \$10 million in legal fees since 2012, with one of the biggest recipients, Los Angeles based Harris & Associates and its principal owner, John W. Harris (Harris), billing the water agency nearly \$2 million in less than two years.

It was reported that Harris billed WRD over \$700,000 -\$87,000 per month - in an eightmonth span.

Inside sources also told HMG-CN that Harris was "cut off" in late April 2014, subsequently engaged in dispute negotiations, and came under an "independent investigation" related to the massive legal fees.

Many in the water industry knew about the investigation at

Those same sources said that documents existed outlining the Harris transgressions, but HMG-CN could not obtain the documents at the time.

But that May 2015 HMG-CN article apparently did not cause concern at Central Basin Municipal Water District (CB).

During tomorrow's "special meeting," the CB board will consider Harris as the District's Special Counsel to Conduct Eth-

ics Investigations, even though the dark cloud of overbilling WRD hangs over Harris' head.

More egregious, the hiring will basically give Harris a blank check to conduct investigations because the CB Board "cannot tamper" with any ethics investigation.

Long time water veteran, CB GM Kevin Hunt, who surprisingly did not know about Harris' overbillings at WRD, told HMG-CN, "we were out of loop

on this, the firms were selected by (CB's law firm) Nossaman based on the criteria we gave

The Nossaman attorney in charge of vetting the law firms, Alfred E. Smith II, told HMG-CN in a phone interview, "I had no prior knowledge of the circumstances surrounding Mr. Harris, but thank you for letting me know."

See **CENTRAL BASIN** page 16

#### **Hawaiian Gardens Misses Water Conservation Goal**

By Tammye McDuff

The Golden State Water Department gave an update of Hawaiian Gardens conservation efforts at the latest City Council meeting held last week. The State assigned a 16% conservation goal in April of this year, for the month of November the city missed its mark, according to reports from the State Water Resources Control, conserving only 9.5%.

The good news was that the City thus far has cut cumulative water usage from See **HAWAIIAN GARDENS** page 13

#### **Cerritos Resident Sings National Anthem at Laker's Game**



Cerritos resident Miss Ranella Ferrer sings our National Anthem at a Los Angeles Lakers' basketball game this past Jan. 10. Ferrer has been pursuing a professional music career for over 10 years and said "it was a dream come true."

#### **Downey Council Votes** on Pot Ordinance

By Tammye McDuff

The Downey City Council adopted Ordinance No. 11-1288 in August of 2011, amending the zoning code establishing a prohibition on the operation and establishment of medical marijuana dispensaries.

This ban was due to a conflict between State and Federal law dispensaries. However recent changes in State law require cities to enact an ordinance that explicitly prohibits the delivery and / or cultivation of medical marijuana before March 1, 2016. If this is not done, then medical marijuana will be allowed and licensed by

See **DOWNEY** page 15



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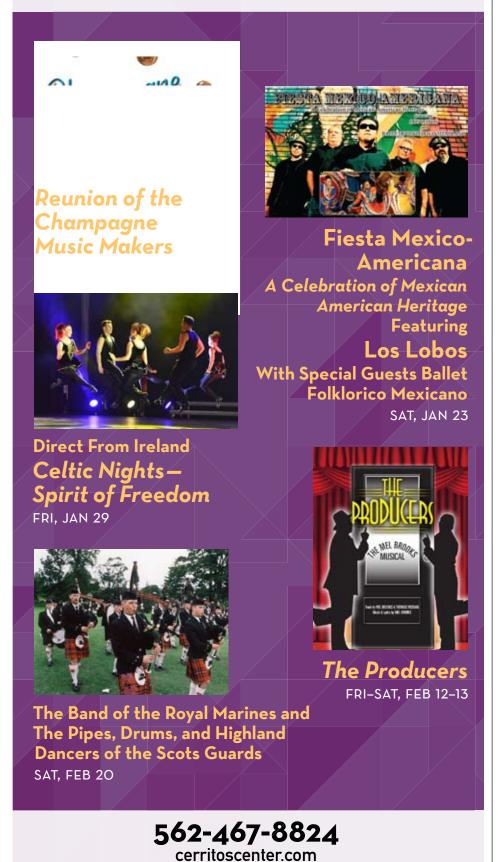
Stuffing party participants included (l-r) Chris Tierheimer, Olivia Ortiz, Mickey Christiason and Clint Mosley.

On Saturday Jan. 9th at the LA County Fire Museum in Bellflower a group lead by Firefighter Clint Mosley from Station 30 which included students and volunteers from Rossmoor Elementary School, held a stuffing party for 800 California National Guard soldiers in the Middle East. Mosley is also a helicopter pilot with that unit of soldiers

Members of the Friends of the 1st CEB Support Group from Cerritos assisted as volunteers including Dorothy Owen, Chris Tierheimer, Michelle Hickey, Mickey Christiason and Cerritos City Councilman Jim Edwards.



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#### **Edison Grants \$4,000 for USMC's 1st CEB Library**



Receiving the delivery of books from left to right are SSgt Mark Galindo, L/Cpls Basco Vincent, Justin White, and Jacob Meckler.

A grant proposal submitted by Dorothy Owen, President of the 1st CEB Adoption Committee, was approved by Southern California Edison, and a grant of \$4,000 was awarded for the purpose of advancing Professional Military Education (PME) amongst the Marines.

In consultation with the commanding officer, LtCol Colin Smith, and SgtMaj Gregory Harting, of the 1st Combat Engineer Battalion (1st CEB), the bulk of the grant funding was directed to opening a battalion-level PME library, located adjacent to the battalion headquarters.

Another set of books, titled Six Essential Elements of Leadership, specifically selected to advance the leadership

potential of newly promoted Marine Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs), was set aside as a congratulatory promotion gift from the 1st CEB command to the newly promoted NCOs.

This last December, the publisher of the book, Six Essentials Elements of Leadership, and many other PME books, the US Naval Institute, offered a 50% discount on selected books plus free shipping.

Motivated by the price discounts, permitting the purchase of a larger number of PME books, the entire \$4,000 grant was expended.

Altogether, some 271 PME books were purchased with the grant funds from Southern California Edison.

#### La Mirada Hosts Community Workshop Jan. 20

The City of La Mirada is developing the La Mirada 2020 Strategic Plan. The Plan will build upon the 2015 Strategic Plan, identify key City priorities, and guide La Mirada's future. Residents recently provided feedback through a Community Satisfaction Survey, an online survey, and at the recently held Community Forum.

The City is hosting a Community Workshop to share new ideas and discuss the feedback received. The 2020 Strategic Plan will focus on six core strategies and, at the workshop, residents can share their ideas and provide input on each of the core strategies. The workshop is an opportunity for residents and community members to be a part of the process of creating the new Strategic Plan.

All residents and community members are invited to attend the workshop.

The Community Workshop will be held on Wednesday, January 20 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at La Mirada City Hall.

For more information on the 2020 Strategic Plan or Community Workshop, contact (562) 943-0131.



Stan Winters, R.Ph

#### **Passings**

#### La Mirada Resident, Former LM Mayor Wilfred Louis Simendinger



Will at his 94th birthday, his favorite newspaper was the Lamplighter.

Wil Simendinger passed on, 7:22pm Saturday, December 19, 2015 from natural causes. Wil grew up in Summerhill, PA, resided in La Mirada, CA, most recently in Jacksonville, Or.

Wil was a US Navy Vet during WW 2. He worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad before and after the Navy. Wil worked for ATT for over 30 years. During this time he was also a La Mirada, CA City Councilman and Mayor for 11 years. He and his wife Rachel were avid Dodger fans, backpackers and loved to fish. Wil collected, displayed and operated antique toy trains. He lived life to the fullest and will be remembered.

His son Mark was at his side reading scripture as he passed. He is survived by his daughter Terry and sons Tim and Mark Simendinger. Wil left seven grandchildren. Four granddaughters; Rachel Stull, Ellie Brink, Anna Baker and Rebecca Bramnick. Three grandsons; Ben, Luke, Chad Simendinger. Also nine great grandchildren; Peter and Isabella Stull, Addison, Emelia, Elliot and Charlee Baker, Sydney and Maddox Brink and Malia Simendinger.

Wil's ashes will be interred next to his wife of over 50 years, Rachel Sorrells Simendinger at Eagle Crest Point Cemetery, Medford, Oregon.



#### **MAKING A DIFFERENCE ONE NOTE AT A TIME**

By Tammye McDuff

World renowned vocal coach Billy Purnell and Singer/Songwriter Gina Walden teamed up for their very first

who was diagnosed with Autism. "When Ethan was diagnosed," said Walden, "it was like a kick in the stomach to me. I never anticipated this happening in my family." Walden went on to state that be-



(l-r) Gina Foglio Walden, Alexis Shafira Cunningham, Alicia Joy, Aubree Archibeck and Billy Purnell at The Rock Church Riverside. Photo by Tammye McDuff.

Christmas concert which will benefit families of children with Autism. Christmas classics were performed by some of the most talented kids in Southern California, sponsored by the Brand new Day Foundation, Kids 4 Kids Foundation and The Rock Church in Riverside.

Walden began vocal training with Purnell when she was very young. Purnell worked with her promoting her as national gospel singer and songwriter. After Walden married, they had a second son cause she is a Christian recording artist, you would think that she would be full of faith. "I pulled myself together," Walden stated, "we made a therapy room out of our garage, and began working with him every day."

By the age of kindergarten Ethan was in regular education classes, learning beside typical children. Today, Ethan is at the top of his class, has lots of friends, and loves to learn. He just started 6th grade and no longer has any signs of Autism. Ethan was recently awarded the California Young Scholars Award. Walden has written a book on the journey entitled 'A Brand New Day'. "When I created the Brand New Day Foundation, I wanted to include Purnell, because he has a child with Autism."

Kids 4 Kids Foundation is just that, an organization founded by kids... for kids and building the next generation of leaders

Believing that children are naturally creative, giving and caring, the Foundation is passionate about making a difference and teaching children to do the same, empowering and inspiring children to become intentional young leaders. The end goal is simple, to impact a community through giving and unite a community with future leaders. Giving generously, they serve other kids in need, and look for ways to show they care and make a difference.

HMG-CN was able to take a few minutes with some of these talented children and teenagers before the concert began. Audrey Gelb, 17, has been training with Purnell for three years. "When I heard about the concert, I decided I really wanted to participate for Billy, because he has done so much for me." Gelb is the lead singer of Detour 91 and is rising as a fresh new voice in jazz and blues.

Erin Metz is an 18 year old solo artist. "I have been with Purnell for half of my lifetime, since I was nine years old," states Metz, "this is a wonderful cause. Billy works with many children that have disabilities, I just wanted to help out." Metz is currently auditioning for the Musical Arts Department at NYU, is a Young Arts Scholarship winner and hopes to further her career all the way to Broadway.

# ASSEMBLYMAN GATTO ANNOUNCES DRONE ACT

Sacramento, CA – Assemblyman Mike Gatto announced a comprehensive solution to the challenges that drones pose, The Drone Registration/Omnibus Negligence-prevention Enactment (DRONE) Act of 2016. The Act would:

- Require registration of, and tiny physical or electronic license plates for, drones.
- Require inexpensive (\$1, or so) insurance policies sold at the point-of-sale, much like CRV is collected for bottles and cans. This will ensure that if a drone hurts someone or damages property, the victim can be compensated.
- Mandate that drones of a certain size, and equipped with GPS capability, feature automatic shut-off technology that would activate if approaching an airport. This technology already exists, and is critical to protecting commercial passenger flights.
- Implement various other provisions designed to enhance responsibility and mitigate risk.

"If cars have license plates and insurance, drones should have the equivalent, so they can be properly identified, and owners can be held financially responsible, whenever injuries, interference, or property damage occurs," said Gatto.

"2015 showed that the nation's laws must adapt to the reality that hundreds of thousands of plastic and metal vehicles will be overhead in the years to come."

"One could imagine the auto industry balking at the idea of registration requirements at the turn-of-the-century, but the industry survived," explained Gatto. "As technology evolves, so must our laws in order to protect our citizenry. This is a sensible measure that will increase public safety and encourage responsible use of drones in California."

HewsMediaGroup.net

#### **GUEST OP-ED**

# Confederates on the Front Porch

Facing a populist surge, a candidate finds unity to win the White House.

By Karl Rove



Partisan gridlock in Washington, the two parties at each other's throats. The economy wracked by disruptive new technologies and jostled by rising foreign competition. A growing concern that the divide between the

rich and poor is growing.

If that sounds like America today, it was actually where the country stood during the election of 1896, only things were

There had been five presidential elections in a row where no one received 50% of the vote.

In two of them, the winner in the Electoral College lost the popular vote – and one of those contests involved a five-month dispute about the outcome in Florida.

For 20 out of 24 years, the government was divided with one party holding the White House and the other controlling one or both houses of Congress.

The result was stalemate on the major issues of the day.

The economic divide was made worse by the lingering effects of the Civil War, which had a major impact on American politics, especially in the South where powerful myths were woven to justify succession and slavery and explain away defeat as the result of Northern barbarity and material advantage.

Southern resentment of the North was exacerbated by the differences in economic modernization between the regions. The North ended the war with its manufacturing base intact while the South saw most its factories and much of its agricultural production disrupted.

The economic disparity only increased as the economic growth in the North and Midwest outstripped that in the South in the decades after the Civil War.

At the time, many Southern farmers were forced to participate in the crop lien scheme where local "furnishing merchants" supplied them with necessities in return for title to their crops.

At "settlin' time" when the harvest came in, the farmers' debts routinely exceed the value of their crops, making them "another day old and deeper in debt."

In 1896, both Democratic and Republican candidates addressed these economic concerns. William Jennings Bryan, the 36-year old Democratic nominee, lashed the Northern Money Power, Wall Street and the foreign financial houses on which the U.S., a developing country, relied for investment.

His was a negative campaign which deliberately pitted class again class and region against region, with Bryan calling the industrial East "the enemy's country."

By contrast, his opponent, Republican William McKinley, deliberately struck a note of national reconciliation, saying that Americans were in this together. The fortunes of labor and capital were inexorably tied. This led McKinley to emphasize both economic and national unity.

One way the McKinley campaign showcased these appeals was to do something that no Republican presidential candidate had done since the end of the Civil War: meet with a group of ex-Confederates.

On the afternoon of October 9, two large trainloads arrived in Canton, Ohio, McKinley's hometown, disgorging thousands of men, many in butternut or grey uniforms, along with their families. These were Confederate veterans, mostly from Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, where McKinley had fought at first as an enlisted man and then, after battlefield promotions for valor, as an officer with the 23rd Ohio. Rev. Abram P. Funkhouser of Harrisonburg, Virginia, had organized the Southerners.

The former rebels were met at the depot by a mounted honor escort, a Grand Army of the Republic band and several hundred Union veterans in their blue wartime uniforms. The wives of the GAR members presented the Southerners an elaborate silk banner to mark the visit. Then with the band blaring and American flags flying, the Southerners marched to the Tabernacle, a local meeting hall, where Canton women served lunch to the men and their families as they waited for one more trainload of their comrades to arrive.

Each ex-Confederate was given a knife from Canton's Novelty Cutlery Co. engraved with the American flag, McKinley's portrait and the words, "No East, No West, No North, No South, the Union Forever." There were matching badges, with ribbons half blue and half grey, topped with a red, white and blue rosette, and bearing a similar sentiment with a medallion featuring portraits of McKinley and his running mate, Garrett Hobart.

By 4:30 P.M., the final train had arrived and Southern men gathered in the Stark County Courthouse Square behind their new banner that read "United We Stand." The reverse displayed an American eagle resting on a shield with the words, "Presented to the ex-Confederate Veterans of the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, by the ex-Union Veterans of Canton, Ohio." They were joined by groups of Union veterans and Northern and Southern units mingled together, the men formed up behind bands and flag bearers and then marched up North Market Street. The sidewalks were packed with cheering spectators, standing under billowing flags and patriotic bunting. Many people were weeping as former battlefield adversaries marched together in a display of national unity. The march ended at a stage built on McKinley's lawn; a crowd jammed the intersection to witness the historic moment.

McKinley was moved by the presence of men he may have faced in battle. His remarks were deeply personal. "Patriotism is not bound by State, or class, or sectional lines," he told the Southerners, "we are a reunited country. We have but one flag... Sectionalism was surrendered at Appomattox." His campaign stood for "Country first, Country last and Country with stainless honor." McKinley noted this was the

first time a Republican presidential candidate had met with ex-Confederates and urged veterans North and South to support "the enthronement of justice and the supremacy of law."

The crowd cheered what was an intensely emotional moment, both for McKinley and the former combatants. Speeches over, the Southern men filed across the porch to shake the Republican Presidential candidate's hand before returning to the Tabernacle for dinner. The Confederate veteran bands offered a concert in the Courthouse Square before their trains left for Virginia at midnight.

It is hard now from a distance of nearly 120 years to understand what a powerful moment this had been. America had not seen the like of it since Lee surrendered to Grant 31 years before. And that McKinley – who had enlisted as a private at age 18 to answer Lincoln's call to save the Union and then fought through to the war's conclusion, ending the conflict as a major – had caused such an event to happen spoke volumes about his character and purpose.

Four weeks later, McKinley was elected the 25th president of the United States with the largest popular margin since Grant's reelection in 1872. And while the divide between North and South was not erased, sectional tensions eased, the bitterness of the war receded and nearly four decades of Republican dominance followed.

Such was the result of a remarkable campaign in which one candidate sought to bring the country together while another was willing to tear it apart to win.

Mr. Rove, a former deputy chief of staff for President George W. Bush, helped organize the political-action committee American Crossroads. He is the author of "The Triumph of William McKinley: Why the Election of 1896 Still Matters."

# Re: Albert Robles and Former LCCN Reporter

Dear Editor:

Are you going to follow up on Mr. Sheldon's letter that your former reporter, who had a "radio show" on Saturdays from 8-9 p.m. on AM 870, took \$6,800 from the notorious "Lil Al" Robles, Carson Mayor and WRD Director?

This is the same Robles who will be sued by the LA District Attorney for incompatible offices and who will eventually leave his WRD post, but not until he takes more taxpayer money.

I did a public records request and found that no other organization came close to getting \$6,800 in advertising, including the Los Angeles Times.

So how is it that a 6 month old weekly show that basically no one listened to, (he is off the air now), that was miles from WRD's borders, get more than the Los Angles Times in advertising dollars for drought education?

Bribery, that's how.

This is another instance of public corruption and must be looked into, especially since an ex-reporter, who has posted many article slamming Lil Al Robles, took more money than any other organization for "education."

Great article on Commerce giving away almost \$10 million to a company who donated tens of thousands to the current City Council of Tina Baca Del Rio, Lilia Leon, and Ivan Altamirano.

Examining their campaign reports show that all three received money from Justman the company, Catherine Justman, and Morley Justman of \$1,000 which is an FPPC violation and a violation of Commerce campaign laws

merce campaign laws.

Mike Conrad, Commerce



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#### LA MIRADA HIGH STUDENTS CHOSEN FOR PRESTIGIOUS ALL STATE HONOR CHOIR

Staff Report

Two La Mirada High students were recently selected as members of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) All State Honor Choir, a prestigious ensemble that offers student musicians the opportunity to work with peers from across the state to create and perform a concert of challenging music in less than three days.

Students are selected based not just upon their talent, but their dedication and choice to spend extra time doing what it takes to qualify.

LMHS students accepted into ACDA All State Honor Choir are seniors Kelsey Garcia and Courtney Johnson, who will perform with the ensemble on Saturday, Feb. 13 for the California All State Music Education Conference in San Jose.

"Norwalk-La Mirada is committed to fostering our students' creativity, whether it's musical performance or visual arts," said NLMUSD Board President Karen Morrison. "Being selected to sing with some of the best choral students in the state just shows they are getting the instruction and the encouragement to really refine their craft," she said.

Garcia and Johnson were selected from a pool of 1,000 high school students across California to join the All-State Honor Choir after advancing from the choir's regional counterpart – the Southern California Vocal Association (SCVA), which encourages young musicians to pursue creative and rewarding professions in music. LMHS junior Edward

Si Joon Yoo was also accepted into this highly selective ensemble after com-



La Mirada High All-State Honor Choir members Kelsey Garcia, Courtney Johnson and Southern California Regional Honor Choir member Edward Si Joon Yoo.

pleting an audition process that included sight-reading, tonal memory, scales, and the preparation of an Italian aria or a poem or other text set to music.

"It is a unique and exciting opportunity for high school musicians that they will remember for the rest of their lives." said Evan Eliason, director of the LMHS String and Choral music program. "These students worked very hard both in class and after school to prepare for their auditions and are well deserving of their positions in the Regional and All State Honor Choirs."

Garcia and Johnson are honored to be part of such a prestigious choral ensemble.

"When I found out I was accepted, I was very excited to be given such an incredible opportunity to grow as a vocalist," said an elated Johnson. "Honor choir is a once in a lifetime experience and I am so blessed to be a part of it."

"Above all, what I enjoy most about my involvement in Honor Choir is being surrounded by so many talented vocalists. Their level of achievement really showed during rehearsal," added Garcia.

Superintendent Dr. Hasmik Danielian applauded the students' accomplishment, citing the District's commitment to provide all students with the opportunity to engage in the arts.

"Our talented music students have earned an experience of a lifetime with their dedication to their passion," said Superintendent Dr. Hasmik Danielian. "We are extraordinarily proud of them and their instructors for earning this honor and for representing Norwalk-La Mirada Unified in both the regional and all state choirs," she said.





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### Ross Academy Middle School Selected as a 2016 California Schools to Watch

Staff Report

Ross Academy Middle School Celebrates Selection as One of California's 2016 Schools to Watch

On Tuesday, February 9, at 1:00 pm in the Promotion Stage area located near the basketball courts, students, staff, parents, district leaders, school board members and community members will celebrate the selection of Ross Academy Middle School as one of California's 2015-2016 Schools to Watch-Taking Center Stage model middle schools.

"We are thrilled to have received this recognition." said Principal, Ricardo Brown. "Our staff and students have worked very hard in an exciting and challenging middle school program to demonstrate strong student achievement. This ceremony is an affirmation of the fine work so many have done in the school, district and larger community."

The celebration will feature an address to the student body on their school's selection as a model and the presentation of a banner. Dr. Irvin Howard, Co-director of California's Schools to Watch-Taking Center Stage program, noted, "Ross Academy Middle School is a model of what an outstanding middle school can be. School leaders from across the state will now turn to Ross Academy Middle School for guidance on improving their programs to better serve their students."

Ross Academy Middle School located in the city of Artesia serves 7th and 8th grade students in the ABC Unified School District. California's Schools to Watch-Taking Center Stage program uses a competitive, rigorous review process to identify high performing, high impact middle schools so that all middle schools may have models of real-world success. Ross Academy Middle School is one of just of 78 model schools that have been identified

statewide since 2003.

Superintendent of ABC Unified School District, Dr. Mary Sieu shared that Ross Academy Middle School is now the fourth middle school in the District to be selected as a California Schools to Watch. Carmenita MS, Tetzlaff MS and Fedde MS received the designation during the past two years.

The program is provided by the California Middle Grades Alliance, which includes the California League of Middle Schools (CLMS; the lead agency), California Department of Education, and other statewide educational organizations who are partners in the California Middle Grades Alliance. For more information on the program, contact Dr. Irvin Howard,at (951) 318-7515 or STWCAL@gmail. com or visit www.clms.net/stw. For more information about Ross Academy MS, please contact Ricardo Brown at 562-229-7785 or ricardo.brown@abcusd.us.





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to donate to a local food pantry.

#### DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY **CEREMONY**

Monday, January 18, 2016, 10 A.M. Cerritos Civic Center

Participate in a celebration of the American civil rights leader and 1964 Nobel Peace Prize winner. The ceremony will include comments by the Cerritos City Council and musical performances. Light refreshments will be served. Event will occur rain or shine.



**GATEWAY CITIES** 

#### **Regional Connector Project Closures**

If you work or live in Downtown LA, please note that the Gold Line Little Tokyo/Arts District Station is closed for track relocation. A free bus shuttle takes passengers between Union Station, Little Tokyo/Arts District and Pico/Aliso Stations. Plan ahead to avoid delays. For more information on closures in the Downtown LA area, visit metro.net/regionalconnector.

#### Go Metro in the New Year

The New Year is starting and it's a good time to consider going Metro. Regular Metro riders can save as much as \$10,000 a year on gas and parking. Plus, they can relax on their commute to work! Plan your trip at metro.net.

#### Metro Lost & Found Facility

Each month, Metro finds hundreds of items left behind by people traveling on our buses and trains. If you've lost something, it could be at our Lost & Found facility, located adjacent to the Gold Line Heritage Square station. The facility is open Monday - Saturday, 9am - 5pm. Learn more at metro.net/lostandfound.

#### Can't Find a Place to Park?

Metro is developing a Supportive Transit Parking Plan, which will provide a road map for parking management, enforcement and technology. Please provide input to help shape potential improvements in this plan by filling out the survey online at metroparkingsurvey.com.





#### LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

#### **NEW PIANO STUDIO KICKS OFF NEW YEAR** WITH FUN MUSIC LESSONS

SEILER

By RM 102 MUSICAL

What could be a better New Year's resolution for your children than giving them piano lessons? Scientific research studies have shown playing piano

makes children smarter. In fact, students who took music lessons scored significantly higher in standardized testing.

Northwestern University scientists demonstrated musical training adds new neural connections that im- pact speech, memory, attention and emotional expression in profoundly positive ways.

Further, classical music improves moods, communication, and creativity.

Given these vast benefits of piano instruction, it is vital to begin musical instruction under the proper guidance.

Your child can perform better, faster, and more confidently with customtailored, fun music lessons with professional and experienced instructors.

Recently, a new piano studio

called RM 102 MUSICAL opened

in Artesia offering one-on-one piano lessons with a focus on delivering these proven benefits of piano lessons.

RM 102 **MUSICAL** of-

fers seasoned instruction with experience deliverbenefits of music

RM 102 MUSICAL offers complimentary music consultations for children and parents from the Southern California region.

decades of

locally and abroad.

ing the joy and

RM 102 MUSICAL is located at 178th Street and Pioneer Blvd., across from 99 Ranch Market Their address is 17806 Pioneer Blvd. Suite 102, Artesia, California.

Mention this article, and receive a free gift when you register for the 2016 New

For more information call (562)-303 0609.

#### **Heart of Compassion's Annual Christmas Drive Draws Thousands**

By Tammye McDuff

Heart of Compassion held their annual 'Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope' Christmas drive, on Saturday December 19, 2015.

know that someone cares. This is what community is about; this is what service is about."

The mission of Heart of Compassion is to stand in the light of God's presence to give new hope to those that are in need



Families line up to receive food and gifts from Heart of Compassion.

With more than 400 volunteers, over 3,000 thousand people lined up to receive help for the holidays. Founder and Pastor Eric Tietze commented, "What a blessing to give food to those in need. Folks will be able to put a meal on the table; we give them food for over a week. I want to thank all of those who have helped pass out toys, bicycles, trees, and clothing. We have been able to give haircuts, a warm meal, some entertainment plus a family photo with Santa."

When the gates opened up, there were just a few hundred people camped out to be the first in line; however within hours the line to get into the facility was down the street covering more than five blocks. Pastor Tietze told HMG, "It breaks my heart that people have camped out just to receive a little Christmas cheer. Along with all the goods that will be distributed today, we hope that the Christmas Spirit is what we give the most of. Letting folks

to receive just a few items that meet basic needs, and something that we tend to forget is missing in the less fortunate hope, love, and abundance.

Volunteers entertained children with photos from Santa, passing out cupcakes, playing with bubble balloons and a demonstration of BMX bicycle stunt riders.

Heart of Compassion worked with 150 churches and organizations to distribute food and produce. In 2013-2014, H.O.C. fed a total of more than 1.4 million people including 303,560 families. They secured and distributed 18 million pounds of goods, which would average out to \$35.2 million dollars. HOC partners with various city organizations to host a monthly outreach where food is provided to those

"This was an explosion of love," said Tietze, "God brought me out of my darkness, changed my life and this is why I do

#### CRIME SUMMARIES Jan. 4 - Jan. 10, 2016

#### **LA MIRADA**

#### **Aggravated Assault**

• An assault was reported on the 15000 block of La Mesa Dr. The incident is currently under investigation.

#### **Other Structure Burglary**

• A burglary to a business was reported on the 14900 block of Firestone Blvd. Generators were reported stolen from the location.

#### **Vehicle Burglary**

• A vehicle burglary was reported on the 15100 block of Caravaca Rd. Various paperwork was stolen from the vehicle.

- Two separate window-smash burglaries were reported on the 12000 block of Santa Gertrudes Ave. Purses were reported stolen from both vehicles.
- Tools were reported stolen in a vehicle burglary on the 14400 block of San Ardo Dr.
- A burglary was reported on the 14700 block of Gardenhill Dr. A third row seat was stolen from the vehicle.

#### **Grand Theft Vehicle**

- A SUV was reported stolen from the 15500 block of Valley View Ave.
- A semi-trailer was reported stolen from the 16400 block of Knott Ave. The vehicle was subsequently recovered at the location.
- A vehicle was reported stolen from the 14400 block of San Ardo Dr. The vehicle was recovered the following day

by personnel from Lakewood Sheriff's Station.

- A truck was reported stolen from the 15600 block of Hesse Dr. The vehicle was recovered the following day by the Los Angeles Police Department.
- An older model Honda was reported stolen from the 14700 block of Borego Dr. The vehicle was subsequently recovered by the Anaheim Police Department.
- A vehicle reported stolen from Long Beach was recovered on the 15400 block of La Mirada Blvd.
- Two vehicles reported stolen from Placentia were recovered on the 15700 block of Valley View Ave.
- A semi-truck was recovered at Desman Rd and Knott Ave. The vehicle had been reported stolen from Riverside.

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#### La Mirada Offers AARP Tax Assistance Program

The City of La Mirada offers residents the opportunity to receive free tax assistance with the AARP Tax Assistance Program at the La Mirada Activity

With this program, free federal and state income tax assistance is offered to seniors and low-income community members. Taxpayers are asked to bring records of income and deductions including forms W-2, W2P, and IO99's, statements showing interest and dividends, a copy of last year's tax return, and any other pertinent records. Other information such as identification and proof of health insurance will also be needed.

Income tax assistance for seniors will

be held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Activity Center and low-income tax assistance will be on Fridays, also from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This program will begin Feb. 2 and end April 15.

Walk-ins are welcome but space is limited. Appointments are preferred. Tax assistance is offered by trained AARP volunteers,

For more information, call the La Mirada Activity Center at (562) 902-3160. The Activity Center is located at 13810 La Mirada Boulevard.

#### La Mirada Father-Daughter Dance Feb. 5

This year's Father Daughter dance will be "A Night to Remember" and will be held on Friday, Feb. 5 from 7 to 9

p.m. in the La Mirada Gymnasium.

This special event provides the perfect opportunity for fathers to bond with their daughters and enjoy a memorable night out. Fathers and daughters will be in for a night of dancing and creating memories. In addition to music and dancing, there will be crafts, refreshments, and fun activities.

Guests are encouraged to dress in their favorite party attire. There will also be a photo booth at the event to provide souvenir photos.

The cost is \$37 per couple with the cost of each additional daughter set at \$17. All girls ages 3-14 are encouraged to attend the dance with their fathers and dance the night away.

For more information or to sign up, call La Mirada Community Services at (562) 943-7277.

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## ARTESIA RECOGNIZES HOLIDAY HON

By Tammye McDuff

In order to promote civic pride and community spirit, the City of Artesia holds an annual Holiday Home Decoration Contest hosted by the Beautification and Maintenance Commission.

Residents and citizens were encouraged to nominate well decorated homes. The Artesia Beautification and Maintenance Commission and City Council drove to each display. First and second place winners were judged in the following categories: Best Use of Lights judged on the total effect and extent of the use of lights; Lawn/Roof Display; Animated Display – outdoor display that has more than one object in motion; Total Display - may include lights, window, lawn, roof, and animation.

Steve Diaz, Chair for the 2015 Holiday Home Decorating contest noted, "It was enjoyable driving through the city this year. Many of our residents took a tremendous amount of time and care into decorating this year. The city was beautiful during the holidays. It was certainly a tough decision this year."

Winners were announced the week after the judging, and the gift certificates presented at the January 13, 2016 Council meeting. Mayor Victor Manalo presented the winners with gift cards and Certificates of Recognition to the following winners:

Best use of Lights first place winner was 12231 Carver Lane, owner John Barcelos who thanked the council saying, "We have received several awards in the past. Our family really loves to participate." Second place winner was 18627 Grayland Avenue.

For best lawn and roof display 11457 187th Street, owner Nick Chiotakis won first place. The Bertao family at 18429 Devlin Avenue came in second, "Thank you for recognizing all our hard work. Next year we will have more lights and more decorations!"

Most animated display went to Dolores Gonzales at 11402 Curry Lane, Manalo stated, "If you are driving down Gridley, You can't miss her house, it was delightful!" Second place was awarded to 11949 Ashworth Street, owner Marie

For overall total display Jeannette and Tony De Freitas of 19012 Horst Avenue took first prize; taking second prize was Tara Olivia

Manalo commented "It is not an easy job to be a judge for these wonderful houses. Next year I think the entire council should participate!"



First place for most animated di



Home owner John Barcelos receives first

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## ME DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS



splay went to Dolores Gonzales.



place award for Best Use of Lights.



The De Freitas Family won first place for Best Overall Display.

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#### DEMOCRATIC CLUB TO REMEMBER MLK'S DREAM

Charlie Ara, long-time Cerritos resident and retired Catholic Priest, will be the guest speaker at the Monday evening, January 18 meeting of the HHDC that meets at Coco's in Cerritos at 7:00 p.m.

One of the few living locals who was actually present at the famous March on Washington in August 28,1963, Ara will describe what it was like to stand a few feet in front of the podium at the Lincoln Memorial The HHDC invites all interested Democrats to attend. For further information, please call 714-350-4629.





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#### WHITNEY HOOPSTERS STUMBLE IN SECOND HALF AGAINST ARCH RIVAL ON HOMECOMING NIGHT

By Loren Kopff @LorenKopff on Twitter

hitney High School's 40th
Homecoming theme last
Friday night was 'A Cosmic
Collision' and when the boys and
girls basketball teams played Oxford
Academy, it seemed to be a collision of
sorts between these Academy League
arch rivals. Inside a standing room only
gymnasium which included former
Associated Student Body presidents and
homecoming queens, the Lady Wildcats
and Patriots girls' squads each went
through disastrous shooting slumps.

While Whitney dominated the second quarter, it was Oxford Academy which



came through in the fourth quarter and squeaked out a 39-36 victory. A pair of free throws from Austyn Masuno with 9.4 seconds left in the game sealed the win as junior Nicole Lee's desperation shot at the end fell short.

Whitney head coach Jeff Day had seen his defense hold the Patriots without a field goal for 15:26 from late in the first quarter to late in the third quarter. The visitors from Cypress had a 15-6 lead with 2:13 left in the first quarter and didn't connect from the field until 2:47 remained in the third quarter. By then, the Lady Wildcats were up 28-22. But the hosts went three for 27 from the field in the second half. Day would have his theories on why both teams went through long scoring slumps.

"The homecoming, the crowd, having six freshmen in the game," Day said. "That's probably the first game in high school where there's been that kind of atmosphere. That was kind of like playoff atmosphere and I think everyone knows it. They're a good team. Going into the season, everyone [knew] that was the best team in the league."

Whitney (6-6 overall, 2-1 in league) scored the final six points of the first quarter and took its first lead of the game 43 seconds into the second quarter on a three-pointer from Lee. Masuno scored the lone points for her team in the stanza

on a pair of free throws with 6:22 left in the half. But Lee converted on a threepoint play and hit a three-pointer to close out the first half scoring with freshman Christine Hamakawa getting the assists on both of those baskets.

On the first possession of the second half, freshman Justine

Wu drained a perimeter shot to increase Whitney's lead to 28-18, the largest of the game. She would later add another downtown shot with 1:11 left in the stanza as the Lady Wildcats continued to lead at 31-22. After that, Whitney went one of 14 from the field the remainder of the game.

"I knew we could play with them," Day said. "We had a good plan. I thought it worked; we stayed with it early on. We're streaky shooters. But our depth is what hurt us tonight."

With sophomore Caitlin Cheung still sidelined with an injury, the Lady Wildcats tried to get the most from the five starters. Lee led Whitney with 15 points and three steals while Wu added nine points and grabbed 11 rebounds. Freshman Kiana Sanchez chipped in with seven points and eight boards.

"We're playing seven girls," Day said. "Of those seven girls, five of them I'm asking to play 28, 29, 32 minutes. I don't think Christine came out of the game. Hamakawa probably played all 32 minutes, Nicole probably played 30-plus, [senior] Annika [Brandes] is coming off an injury too, and she didn't play in the last game."

Before last season, Whitney had gone undefeated in the league for four straight seasons. Then Crean Lutheran High claimed the league title last season. Now, Oxford Academy figures to be the newest contenders after winning a combined eight league games over the past five seasons. The win over Whitney puts the Patriots at 11-3 overall and 2-0 in the circuit. All indications point to Whitney and Oxford Academy as league title favorites in the near future with both teams fielding a combined seven freshmen, six juniors and five sophomores this season. And of the 23 girls in the Whitney program this season, 17 are new.

"Until I see St. Margaret's and Sage Hill, we'll see, because Sage Hill has two or three really good sophomores" Day said. "So the league is young and Sage played [Oxford Academy] the other day and I think it was [63-56]. This league has kind of been dull and boring as far as the excitement point of view for a long time. We haven't had a playoff-type of game in league since I've been here."

Following the game and the homecoming ceremonies, the boys had a meltdown in the third quarter after an eight-point halftime lead and came up short in a 61-57 decision. Oxford Academy outscored the Wildcats 26-8 in the third quarter as the hosts went four of 14 from the field during that time.

It was the third straight game in which Whitney struggled in the third quarter. Against Los Amigos High on Jan. 2, Whitney scored five points in the third quarter but still won 39-29. In the

See WHITNEY page 12



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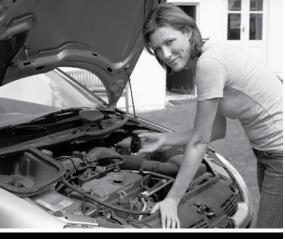
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#### WHITNEY

Continued from page 10

league opener against Calvary Chapel Downey High on Jan. 5, the 'Cats scored just two points in the third quarter and saw a 23-16 halftime lead turn into a 42-

"I wouldn't necessarily say it's the third quarter," said Whitney head coach Ruben Guerrero. "We've always had that one quarter letdown. The last two games it's been the third quarter. But a lot played into that tonight with the nervousness [of homecoming] and the big crowd and all that kind of stuff, especially with such a young team."

Whitney (5-6, 0-3) rallied from an early 9-3 hole to tie the game on three-pointers from sophomore Heaven Flores. It was his third downtown shot of the opening stanza but Whitney could not gain a lead until senior Michael Hamakawa scored on one of his two steals in the game to put Whitney in front 21-20 with 1:32 left in the half. That would be the beginning of an 11-0 run to end the half as the 'Cats led 28-20. But Guerrero wasn't quite satisfied.

"When we went into the locker room, they were screaming and hollering and all of that," Guerrero said. "And I went in there and yelled at them and told them to settle down. The one thing with a young team a lot of times is the emotions get the best of them. I told them we still had to focus on defense."

Oxford Academy began the third quarter on a tear and went on a 10-2 run to tie the game following a basket from Jairaj Singh, who would be a thorn in Whitney's side the entire game. Singh would score 10 points in the stanza and finished the contest with 24 points, half of them coming from three-pointers.

Meanwhile, Whitney was still holding onto a 36-21 lead with 2:23 left in the third quarter before the roof caved in. The Patriots scored the next 16 points before the 'Cats tried to make a furious rally in the fourth quarter. They scored six consecutive points to make it a 48-42 contest less than two minutes into the final quarter.

Then Whitney went on another 6-0 run to trail 53-48 with three and a half minutes remaining. Flores scored a basket with 26.3 seconds left to cut Whitney's deficit to two at 59-57. But Ahmed Osmen iced the game with a free throw with 3.4 seconds remaining following a Whitney turnover. Flores led Whitney with 17 points and four steals while senior K.J. Hardrict added 14 points and 11 rebounds.

"We're really excited for Heaven," Guerrero said. "I think the one thing we were trying to work on over the summer with him is the mental aspect of the game. And I think he's starting to figure it out. He used to let the emotions get the best of him. But he's actually doing very well."

Both Whitney basketball teams visited St. Margaret's High this past Tuesday with the girls coming away with a 43-27 win while the boys fell 50-39. Whitney then hosted Brethren Christian on Jan. 14. and will travel to Sage Hill High on Saturday and Crean Lutheran on Tuesday. In addition, the girls will host St. Lucy's High on Monday.

"We just have to look forward to the next game and not dwell on the last two games," Guerrero said. "The most we can do is keep fighting for whatever we need to fight for and try to keep our season alive. This stings because these past two games are the games we had to win. We kind of dug a hole for

#### SUBURBAN LEAGUE BASKETBALL

#### NORWALK BOYS STAVE OFF LATE RALLY TO POST RARE HOME WIN OVER CERRITOS

By Loren Kopff @LorenKopff on Twitter

The Norwalk High boys basketball team may not be the favorites to win the Suburban League every year or come close to achieving that feat. But the Lancers are certainly becoming spoilers to those who are favored to win the league.

After seeing his team build a 12-point lead against visiting Cerritos High with 5:59 remaining in this past Monday's game, Norwalk head coach Jim Webster saw the Dons go on a 17-6 run after senior Brandon Yoon sank three free throws. But with 12 seconds remaining, senior Keno Valdenor iced the game with two clutch free throws as the Lancers escaped with a 45-42 victory. It was only the second Norwalk home victory over Cerritos with 2011 being the only other time, a 62-60 win. In fact, since 2008, these two teams have played eight games decided by four points or less. It was a game that Webster summed up in one word.

"Tremendous," Webster said. "To hold them to 42, 20 under their average and at halftime, it was in the teens. I know they missed a lot of shots and free throws. But that was the intensity of the game and stuff that we can cause. I couldn't be any prouder."

Last season, Norwalk lost to Cerritos 51-48 in overtime at home and two seasons ago, it defeated Cerritos 46-42 at Cerritos while losing to the Dons 61-58 in double overtime at home.

Cerritos grabbed an early 6-3 lead before the Lancers reeled off seven straight points. Norwalk took the lead for good 70 seconds into the second quarter when Valdenor hit a three-pointer from the right corner. A minute later, he would feed an ally-oop pass to senior Omar Tinoco.

The Dons (11-8 overall, 3-1 in league) would close the gap to a point on consecutive baskets from sophomore Jyvonnte Moore before the hosts closed out the half with six straight points over a span of 2:22

Norwalk's defense limited the Dons to seven of 25 shooting from the field in the first half. But offensively, the Lancers (11-7, 3-1) were controlling the pace by

chewing most of the shot clock and not taking a shot until there were at least five seconds remaining.

"It was, to control the tempo," Webster said of his game plan. "But I think in the last 10 seconds, sometimes our plan wasn't good and we didn't get enough good shots in the last 10 seconds like we had hoped to. But it is something we need to work on."

The low scoring affair continued in the third quarter as Norwalk scored three baskets within the first 4:32 while yielding a Moore free throw. By the end of the third quarter, Norwalk had a 33-23 lead but the other storyline was the job Norwalk's defense did in senior Evan Leonard. The University of California, Irvine commit was held to seven points through the first three quarters on three of 11 shooting. He finished, though, with a game-high 20 points, nine rebounds and three steals. It's the ninth time in 11 games played this season that Leonard has scored at least 20 points.

"You can't hold a guy down like that," Webster said. "It seemed like he took every shot in the fourth quarter. We know it's

See **NORWALK** page 15

#### ARTESIA GIRLS SOCCER ON THE HEELS OF FIRST PLACE FOLLOWING DEFENSIVE WIN OVER CERRITOS

By Loren Kopff @LorenKopff on Twitter

There was a time when the Cerritos High girls soccer team owned Artesia High, winning 16 out of 21 games from 1998-2007. But since then, the Pioneers have turned the tables on their Suburban League rivals and are using their defense to show the rest of the circuit that they have what it takes to win the program's first league championship.

Host Artesia blanked Cerritos 1-0 this past Wednesday to improve to 9-3-1 overall and 2-1 in league action. It was the second straight 1-0 win as over the Lady Dons as well as their 12th win in the past 15 meeting with Cerritos. Now, Artesia is 7-8-4 on its home turf over Cerritos since 1998 with this encounter being the first time it has shutout the Lady Dons.

What made this game even more interesting was the fact that both teams had combined to win 16 games while allowing a combined 15 goals in 24 games played.

"Cerritos has been playing defensively," said Artesia head coach Octavio Marquez. "They're well organized and do a good job of defending. That's what's been carrying us ever since last year. We've been defending well. We were fortunate to get one through and give us that 1-0 win."



NEWS AND NOTES FROM PRESS ROW

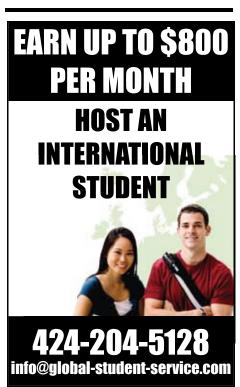
Both teams were stagnant offensively for much of the first half with neither team getting off a shot until the 16th minute. The lone Cerritos shot in the first half, which was by junior forward Lauryn Bautista, didn't come until the 25th minute. In the 31st minute, the Pioneers had something going but a pass from freshman midfielder Celeste Rodriguez to senior defender Guadalupe Trejo was off the mark.

But with two minutes left before halftime, junior midfielder Karina Murguia fed a pass to sophomore forward Brittany Llanes who weaved through the defense and challenged Cerritos senior goalie Yvette Galicia, who met Llanes at the top of the penalty box. However, Artesia's second leading scorer had enough to bypass Galicia and poke in her seventh goal.

"I thought we came out a little flat,"

See **NEWS AND NOTES** page 15







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404-4039



T.S. No.: 15CA-0053 Order No.: 730-1503041-70 A.P.N.: 7044-030-023 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED NOVEMBER 15, 2005. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings sands, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings association or savings association, on all right, title, and interests conveyed to held by the saving association association, bath association associa

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. CA-15-680032-CL Order No.: 150196239-CA-VOI YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 6/14/2005. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING A GAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by attee or federal redit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal redit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal redit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal redit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 to the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE. Trustor(s): LARRY L. CROOM Recorded: 6/20/2005 as Instrument No. 05 1435398 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of LOS ANGELES County, California; Date of Sale: 1/29/2016 at 10:00 AM Place of Sale: 1/29/2016 at 10:00 AMP Place of Sale: 1/29/2016 at 10:00 AMP Place of Sale: 1/29/2016 at 10:0 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALETS No. CA-15-680032-CL Order No.: 150196239-CA-VOLVOU ARE IN DEFAULT LINDER A DEED OF occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgage, or the Mortgagee's Attorney. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holders right's against the real property only. As we you are hereby notified that a negative credit report reflecting on your credit record may be submitted to a credit report agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligations. QUALITY MAY BE CONSIDERED A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECTA DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Date: Quality Loan Service Corporation 411 Ity Street San Diego, CA 92101 619-645-7711 For NON SALE information only Sale Line: 916 939.0772 Or Login to: http://www.qualityloan.com Reinstatement Line: (866) 645-7711 Ext 5318 Quality Loan Service Corp. TS No.: CA-15-680032-CL IDSPub #0098926 1/8/2016 1/15/2016 1/22/2016

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF TODD YOSHINOBU SAKATA

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of TODD YOSHINOBU

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Naomi T. Sakata in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Naomi T. Sakata in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Naomi T. Sakata be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

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 on January 4, 2016 at 8.30 AM in Dept. No. 67 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 admail 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 statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may 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, y

Attorney for petitioner: BRADLEY L CORNELL ESQ, SBN 162384, CORNELL LAW FIRM, 1095 NORTH ALLEN AVENUE, PASADENA CA 91104

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property pursuant to sections 21700 – 21716 of the CA Business and Professions Code, CA Commercial Code Section 2328, Section 1812.600 - 1812.609 and Section 1988 of CA Civil Code, 353 of the Penal Code.

The undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding on Wednesday the 19th day of January, 2016 at 3:00 P.M., on the premises where said property including: household goods, tools, electronics, and personal effects, have been stored and which are located at Cerritos Self Storage 16515 Valley Avenue, City of Cerritos, County of Los Angeles, State of California, the following:

Customer Name Brenda Colon Chante Figueroa Bobby Khammiy I20 A90

Purchases must be paid for at the time of the purchase in cash only. All items are sold "as is", "where is" and must be removed at the times of sale. Sale subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party without notice

Dated this 8th day of January 2016 and the 15th day of January 2016.

Self Storage Management Company Bond #: WLI1181098 310.318.0000

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 1/8, 1/15/16

#### 2015273040

#### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as I-FOOD ADVANTAGE, 12175 FIRESTONE BLVD., NOR-WALK, CA. 90650. The following business is conducted as an INDIVIDUAL. The registrant's name and location is PHIL AN, 12175 FIRESTONE BLVD., NORWALK, CA. 90650. and has NOT began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. /S/ PHIL AN

The statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on 10/26/15.

rom the date it was filed in the office of NOTICE: This fictitious nam the County Clerk. A new fictitious statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (see section 14400et seq. Business and Profession Code), Published at LCCN on 1/1, 1/8, 1/15, 1/22/16

#### Case # VS028167

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 12720 Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk, CA. 90650

Petition of PAUL S. LEE for change of name TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

Petitioner PAUL S. LEE filed a petition with this court for a decree changing name as follows: Present name PAUL S. LEE. Is changed to Shu Chung Lee. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant a petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING: 2-17-16, 1:30 pm, Dept C. Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 12/25, 1/1, 1/8, 1/15/15.

#### NOTICE OF SALE OF ABANDONED PROPERTY

Notice is given that pursuant to sections 21700-21713 of the Business and Professions Code, Section 2328 of the Commercial Code, Section 535 of the Penal Code. 1812.607, that Norwalk Self Storage at 11564 E. Firestone Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650 will sell by competitive bidding by Climer's Auctions (Bond # S915-1221), on or after January 28, 2016 @ 10:00 a.m., property belonging to those listed below. Auction is to be held at the above address. Property to be sold as follows: household goods, furniture, personal items, clothing, electronics, DJ equipment, papers, tools, auto parts and miscellaneous boxes, belonging to the following.

NAME Christian Burwell UNIT # B642 Robert Gasca B310 Eleanor Madrigal A237

notice is given in accordance with the provisions of Section 21700 et seq. of the Business and Professions Code of the State of California subject to prior cancellation in the event of settlement between Owner and obligated party.

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 1/8, 1/15/16

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. CA-14-630649-RY Order No.: 140150093-CA-MAI YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 2/7/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by state or federal credit union RUSI DATED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal acredit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or the check of the check ment Line: (866) 645-7711 Ext 5318 Quality Loan Service Corp. TS No.: CA-14-630649-RY IDSPub #0097742 1/1/2016 1/8/2016 1/15/2016

Integer CA-2110 19-54-3-711 Ext 5318 Quality Loan Service Corp. TS No.: CA-14-630649-RY IDSPUB-90097742 11/12016 1/8/2016 1/15/2016

Trustee Sale No.: 00000004998936 Title Order No.: 8516672 FHA/VA/PMI No.: NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 10/10/2005. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE RATURE OF THE PROCEDING AGAINST YOU. YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TREDER & WEISS, LLP, as daily appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded on 10/14/2005 as Instrument No. 05 2479805 of official records in the office of the County Recorder of LOS ANGELES County, State of CALIFORNIA. EXECUTED BY: SOON AE PARK, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIERS CHECK/CASH EQUIVALENT or other form of payment authorized by California Civil Code 29/24(b), (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States). DATE OF SALE: 10/28/2016 TIME OF SALE: 10:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: BEHIND THE FOUNTAIN LOCATED IN CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, 400 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, POMONA CA. STREET ADDRESS and other common designation, if any, ofthe real property described above is purported to be: 17503 LA BONITA WAY, CERRITOS, CALIFORNIA 9073 APN#: 7022-200-022
The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, the total amount of the unpain by the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said D

#### NOTICE OF SALE OF ABANDONED PROPERTY

Notice is given that pursuant to sections 21700-21713 of the Business and Professions Code, Section 2328 of the Commercial Code, Section 535 of the Penal Code. 1812.607, that Cherry Carson RV Storage 4160 Cherry Ave. Long Beach CA, 90807, will sell by competitive bidding by Climer's Auctions (Bond # S915-1221), on or after January 28, 2016 @ 10:30 a.m., property belonging to those listed below. Auction is to be held at the above address. Property to be sold as follows: household goods, furniture, personal items, clothing, electronics, DJ equipment, papers tools, auto parts and miscellaneous boxes, belonging to the following.

NAME UNIT# Sarah Stanley B12

This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of Section 21700 et seq. of the Business and Professions Code of the State of California Sales subject to prior cancellation in the event of settlement between Owner and obligated party

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 1/8, 1/15/16

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF SHIRLEY L. MUNGER aka SHIRLEY LORRAINE MUNGER

Case No. BP169163

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both,

of SHIRLEY L. MUNGER aka SHIRLEY LORRAINE MUNGER

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Paul Ferandell in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Paul Ferandell be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of

the decedent. 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 on January 15, 2016 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 67 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles,

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. Attorney for petitioner:

CATHERINE GRANT WIEDER ESQ
SBN 163718
323 E BROADWAY
LONG BEACH CA 90803
KAREN A STEVENSON ESQ
SBN 143385
13122 STERR AVE
LA MINE THE CALIFORNIA BE CALIFORNIA PROBATE
CALIFORNIA STEVENSON ESQ
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SBN 143385

LA MIRADA CA 90638

Trustee Sale No.: 00000005331665 Title Order No.: 8562359 FHA/VA/PMI No.: NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 09/20/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD AT APOBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EAPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST TOU, TOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TREDER & WEISS, LLP, as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded on 09/28/2007 as Instrument No. 20072239281 of official records in the office of the County Recorder of LOS ANGELES County, State of CALIFORNIA. EXECUTED BY: ROY F PUTNAM AND REBECCA PUTNAM, WILL SELLAT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHLER'S CHECK/CASH EQUIVALENT or other form of payment authorized by California Civil Code 2924h(b), (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States). DATE OF SALE: 02/09/2016 TIME OF SALE: 10:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: BEHIND THE FOUNTAIN LOCATED IN CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, 400 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, POMONA CA. STREET AD-DRESS and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 12601 SPARWOOD LANE, LA MIRADA, CALIFORNIA 90638 APN#: 8038-032-010 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is \$472,303.98. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER. The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 916-939-0772 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit his Internet Web site wayen antionvidences for recombining regarding to require the file number assigned. and, a application, the restriction due to the seaso of this pipetry, you have all of 1975-972 for innotation regarding the states estate or visit this Internet Web site www.nationwideposting.com for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case 00000005331665. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. FOR TRUSTEE SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: NATIONWIDE POSTING & PUBLICATION A DIVISION OF FIRST AMERICAN TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY 1180 IRON POINT ROAD, SUITE 100 FOLSOM, CA 95630 916-939-0772 www. nationwideposting.com BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TREDER & WEISS, LLP IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TREDER WEISS, LLP as Trustee Dated: 12/29/2015 NPP0268772 To: LA MIRADA LAMPLIGHTER 01/15/2016, 01/22/2016, 01/29/2016

#### **HAWAIIAN GARDENS**

Continued from page 1

April-November by 16.9%.

Hawaiian Gardens is part of the Artesia Water System, which also includes the cities of Artesia, Lakewood and portions of Long Beach.

There are four stages of mandatory conservation and rationing; Hawaiian Gardens is in stage one but might be forced to go to stage two.

In stage 1, outdoor irrigation has been limited to two days per week. Addresses ending in even numbers are able to water on Sunday and Wednesday. Addresses ending in odd numbers are able to water on Tuesday and Saturday. All irrigation must occur before 8:00 am or after 7:00



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**Los Cerritos** Community Newspaper

If the current goal cannot be reached, irrigation will decrease to once a week only with mandatory water waste prohibitions strictly enforced.

Violations have been reported on individual properties with excess runoff, vehicles being washed without a shutoff nozzle, water being used to clean off driveways and sidewalks as well as being used in non recirculating fountains and water features.

GSW has offered various ways to help cutback in consumption. They are requesting that showers be cut from five minutes to four minutes, place a bucket in the shower to capture runoff and use for plants and minimize bath times for children. Install low flow showerheads and aerators and repair drips / leaks. If possible install a water efficient toilet.

Hawaiian Gardens offers numerous rebates for residential, HOA and commercial properties beginning at \$4.00 for efficient nozzles and going up to \$300 for smart timer irrigation.

Contact Hawaiian Gardens City Hall at 562-420-2641 or Golden State Water at gsw.com for more information.

#### **Mayor Saab is Seeking Distinguished Citizens**

By Tammye McDuff

Mayor Alex Saab is recognizing individuals and businesses who have demonstrated outstanding and selfless service to the residents of Downey.

"Every person and business adds to the tapestry of our community," says Saab, "There are certain individuals and businesses whose contributions improve the quality of life for Downey, residents that are particularly noteworthy."

The Mayor's Distinguished Service Award recognizes those individuals and businesses which through their actions demonstrate extraordinary leadership and exceptional service in an effort to make the community and world a better place.

Saab believes the more you get involved, the stronger the fabric of a community becomes and the greater the impact that can be made in Downey and in the lives of others, he quotes the notable Helen Keller, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."

Nominations are open to any Downey residents, people who work in Downey or those who have their business located within the City. Nominees will be select based upon the letters of recommendation from the public, the service to others, recognition of stewardship and the benefits offered to the citizens or the City.

The Mayor will recognize individuals and businesses monthly at the regular City Council meetings. Each person or business chosen will receive a certificate of appreciation which recognizes their outstanding and unselfish achievements.

Nominees should be designated for their exceptional service to the Downey community through outstanding volunteerism, an act of heroism, mentorship, or other display of strong community partnership which has impacted the quality of life for Downey residents in a positive

For questions, contact the Council Office at 562-904-7274 or visit the City website for a nomination form and submit to: Alex Saab at asaab@downeyca.org or Monica Laborin at council@downeyca. org or to City of Downey, City Council Office, 11111 Brookshire Ave, Downey,

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF MICHAEL MARKIZA CASE NO. BP169781

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of MICHAEL MARKIZA

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Shelley Markiza in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Shelley Markiza 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

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 actions.) 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 on February 4, 2016 at 8:30 A.M. in Dept. 79 located at: 111 N. HILL STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA

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 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 formal 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.

SIDNEY MENDLOVITZ, ESQ. SB# 038631

Attorney for Petitioner

Mendlovitz & Sanchez 4010 Watson Plaza Drive, Suite 100

Lakewood, CA 90712

Published in: Los Cerritos Community News

Pub Dates: January 15, 22, 29, 2016

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Cerritos City Council will conduct a public hearing at a regular meeting on January 28, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. on the following matter:

> Review and consideration to waive full reading of and introduce AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CERRITOS AMENDING CHAPTER 9.100 AND SECTION 22.40.300 OF THE CERRITOS MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO THE CULTIVATION AND DELIVERY OF MARIJUANA AND MEDICAL MARIJUANA, HEREIN REFERENCED AS DEVELOPMENT CODE AMENDMENT 2016-1.3

City Attorney Summary:

In late 2015, the State Legislature enacted the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act, which, among others, will establish a dual state and local licensing structure for medical marijuana uses and regulate the cultivation of medical marijuana. In response, the City has initiated Development Code Amendment 2016-1 that would prohibit all cultivation and commercial delivery of medical marijuana in every zone of the City. Development Code Amendment 2016-1 would substantially reduce potential effects of medical marijuana cultivation and deli increases in criminal activity and environmental damage.

On January 6, 2016, the Planning Commission reviewed Development Code Amendment 2016-1 and recommended by a 4-1 vote that the City Council approve Development Code Amendment 2016-1, as proposed.

\*Pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), this project is categorically exempt from CEQA Review.

This public hearing will be conducted in the Council Chambers of the Cerritos City Hall, Cerritos Civic Center, Bloomfield Avenue and 183rd Street in Cerritos, California 90703. The meeting will also air live on Cerritos TV3 and will be streamed over the City of Cerritos website at www.cerritos.us. A copy of the related staff report will be available for download from the website by 6:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to the public hearing.

If you challenge the above mentioned item and related actions in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Cerritos City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Any person interested in this matter may contact the Department of Community Development at (562) 916-1201 for additional information and/or appear at the hearing in person or by

Dated: January 15, 2016

/s/Vida Barone Vida Barone, City Clerk

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 1/15/16

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE T.S. No.: 15-1476 A.P.N.: 8025-020-003 NOTE: THERE IS A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT ATTACHED PURSULANT TO CIVIL CODE Section 2023. 3(a). THE SUMMARY OF INFORMATION REFERRED TO ABOVE IS NOT ATTACHED TO THE RECORDED to COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT BUT ONLY TO THE COPIES PROVIDED TO THE TRUSTOR. YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 4/24/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROVIDE TO THE TRUSTOR. YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 4/24/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROVIDE TO THE TRUSTOR. YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for eash, eashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal redful union, or a check drawn by a state or federal redful union, or a check drawn by a state or federal redful union, or a check drawn by a state or federal redful union, or a check drawn by a state or federal redful union, or a check drawn by a state or federal redful union, or a check drawn by a state or federal redful union, or a check drawn by a state or federal redful union, and how held by the trustee in the hereinafter described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and teargress thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount and the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount of the Appointed Trustee (and the support of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California, Described as follows: AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED ON SAID DEED OF TRUST Date of Sale; 28/2016 at 11:00 AM Place of Sale; 28/2016 and sale and the support of the

T.S. No. 15-38572 APN: 8042-026-006

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 5/18/2005. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY. IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER

A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: ALFONSO MALDONADO, A SINGLE MAN

Duly Appointed Trustee: LAW OFFICES OF LES ZIEVE Deed of Trust recorded 5/26/2005 as Instrument No. 05-1232273 in book --, page -- of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California, Date of Sale:2/8/2016 at 11:00 AM

Place of Sale: By the fountain located at 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona, CA 91766 Estimated amount of unnaid balance and other charges: \$237,478,45

Note: Because the Beneficiary reserves the right to bid less than the total debt owed, it is possible that at the time of the sale the opening bid may

14463 MANSA DRIVE

Street Address or other common designation of real property:

Described as follow AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED ON SAID DEED OF TRUST

The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale.

NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property.

NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (714) 848-9272 or visit this Internet Web site www.elitepostandpub.com, using the file number assigned to this case 15-38572. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale.

Published in La Mirada Lamplighter 1/15, 1/22, 1/29/16

Law Offices of Les Zieve, as Trustee 30 Corporate Park, Suite 450 Irvine CA 92606

Dated: 1/6/2016

For Non-Automated Sale Information, call: (714) 848-7920 For Sale Information: (714) 848-9272 www.elitepostandpub.com

Rick Mroczek, Trustee Sale Officer

#### CITY OF LA MIRADA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the proposed Fiscal Year 2016-17 Community Development Block Grant projects are available for public inspection during regular office hours at La Mirada City Hall, 13700 La Mirada Boulevard, La Mirada, California. The La Mirada City Council will consider approval of the projects on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at 6:30 p.m., in the City Hall Council Chambers, La Mirada City Hall, 13700 La Mirada Boulevard, La Mirada, California. Anyone having concerns or questions or wishing to review or comment on the proposed projects is welcome to contact the City Clerk at (562) 943-0131 or visit La Mirada City Hall. All persons wishing to comment, object, or otherwise be heard at the public hearing will be given an opportunity to appear and be heard at the time. date and place of the public hearing.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in a City meeting or other services offered by this City, please contact the City Clerk's office at (562) 943-0131. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting or time when services are needed will assist City staff in assuring that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility to the meeting or service.

Anne Haraksin, City Clerk

Published at La Mirada Lamplighter 1/15/16

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 678 OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA MIRADA APPROVING AN ASSIGNMENT OF FRANCHISE FROM PARAMOUNT PETROLEUM CORPORATION TO CARDINAL PIPELINE, L.P., AND GRANTING A TEN (10) YEAR EXTENSION OF AN EXISTING PIPELINE FRANCHISE, TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN EXISTING PIPELINES FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF HYDROCARBON SUBSTANCES IN THE CITY OF LA MIRADA.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on January 26, 2015, at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the Council Chambers, 13700 La Mirada Boulevard, La Mirada, the City Council of the City of La Mirada will consider adopting its Ordinance No. 678 entitled "An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of La Mirada Granting a Franchise to Cardinal Pipeline, L.P., a California Limited Partnership to Operate, Maintain, Inspect, Repair, Remove, Replace, and Abandon an Existing Crude Petroleum Pipeline and Appurtenant Facilities in Certain Public Streets in the City of La Mirada."

#### Summary of Ordinance No. 678

Ordinance No. 678 of the City Council of the City of La Mirada serves to approve a ten-year extension of the franchise previously granted to Paramount Petroleum Corporation and approve the assignment of said franchise to Cardinal Pipeline, L.P. ("Cardinal"), to operate and maintain pipelines and appurtenances, for transmitting hydrocarbon substances under certain public streets, ways, alleys and places within the City of La Mirada. During the term of said franchise, Cardinal, its successors and assigns, will pay an annual fee as computed pursuant to California Public Utilities Code § 6231.5, as the same may be amended from time to time, times the number of feet of all pipe laid pursuant to the franchise, or subject thereto. In the event that such payment is not made, the franchise will be forfeited

The Ordinance also establishes insurance, indemnity, bonding and pipeline safety requirements to protect against and provide for cleanup of environmental contamination. The Ordinance includes provisions requiring payment to the City of costs incurred should Cardinal fail to repair damage to public property, or take certain other remedial action thereby necessitating action by the City to correct risks to the public health and safety. Provisions are included requiring relocation of pipelines if necessary to accommodate a change in City infrastructure for public purposes.

A certified copy of the entirety of the text of Ordinance No. 678 is available in the office of the City Clerk, City of La Mirada, 13700 La Mirada Boulevard, La Mirada, California, and is available for public inspection at that location.

Anne Haraksin, La Mirada City Clerk

Published at La Mirada Lamplighter 1/15/16

#### CITY OF LA MIRADA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of public hearings to be held by the City Council of the City of La Mirada on Tuesday, January 26, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers located at 13700 La Mirada Boulevard, La Mirada, California to consider the following:

INTERIM ORDINANCE: AN INTERIM ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LA MIRADA EXTENDING INTERIM ORDINANCE NO. 673-U, PROHIBITING THE COMMENCEMENT OF OPERATION OF ANY NEW MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENT, INCLUDING ISSUANCE OF BUSINESS LICENSES, BUILDING PERMITS AND OTHER LAND USE ENTITLEMENTS TO CONSTRUCT AND/OR OPERATE ANY NEW MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENT.

ORDINANCE: AN ORDINANCE REVISING REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO MASSAGE SERVICES AND BUSINESSES AND AMENDING CHAPTER 4.10 OF TITLE 4 OF THE LA MIRADA MUNICIPAL CODE.

ORDINANCE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS OF TITLE 21 OF THE LA MIRA-DA MUNICIPAL CODE PERTAINING TO THE ZONING DISTRICTS IN WHICH MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS MAY LOCATE AND THE PERMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS.

RESOLUTION: A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A FEE FOR MASSAGE ESTABLISH-

At the hearings, the City Council will consider the requests, staff's reports, recommendations and all other testimony and public input prior to making final decisions. All documents being considered are available for review at the City's Community Development Department and Code Enforcement Division offices located at City Hall, 13700 La Mirada Boulevard, La Mirada, California. Should you have any questions, you may contact the Community Development Department and Code Enforcement

If you wish to be heard concerning any of the items noted, you may appear in person at the public hearing for that item or you may submit your comments in writing to the City prior to or at the public hearing for the item. Written comments should be addressed to the City Clerk, City of La Mirada P.O. Box 828, La Mirada, California 90637-0828.

Please notify the City Clerk at (562) 943-0131 ext. 2302, at least four days prior to the public hearing should you require a disability related accommodation (e.g. sign language interpreter).

IF YOU CHALLENGE ANY OF THE FOREGOING ACTIONS IN COURT, YOU MAY BE LIM-ITED TO RAISING ONLY THOSE ISSUES YOU OR SOMEONE ELSE RAISED AT THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL ACTION DESCRIBED IN THIS NOTICE, OR IN WRITTEN CORRESPON DENCE DELIVERED TO THE CITY COUNCIL AT OR PRIOR TO THE PUBLIC HEARING.

#### CITY OF LA MIRADA

Anne Haraksin City Clerk

Published at La Mirada Lamplighter 1/15/16

#### NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Artesia is considering a recommendation that the project herein identified will have no significant environmental impact in compliance with Section 15070 of State CEQA guidelines. A copy of the MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION and the INITIAL STUDY which supports the proposed findings are on file at the City of Artesia.

#### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The project consists of the adoption and implementation of the Artesia LIVE Specific Plan and related amendments to the Zoning Code, General Plan Land Use Map and Zoning Map. Additional entitlement requests include approval of a Conditional Use Permit, Tentative Tract Map 73667, and Design Review

The Artesia LIVE Specific Plan is a site-specific, City-initiated Specific Plan, which authorizes the development of an existing vacant project site at 17610 -17618 Pioneer Boulevard with a seven (7)-story mixed-use building containing the following land uses: 111 hotel rooms, 54 residential condominiums, 1,330 square of retail, and 9,590 square feet of restaurant land uses and a subterranean parking structure with 183 parking spaces (Artesia LIVE Specific Plan).

The Artesia LIVE Specific Plan provides guidance for implementing development within the project limits. The Specific Plan provides required development standards and allowable uses for properties within the Specific Plan area. The specific plan also includes design guidelines and an implementation action plan that identifies near and long term actions necessary to achieve the Plan's goals and objectives. The specific plan furthers the objectives of the general plan by implementing a proposed development project that incorporates project densities, uses, and features consistent with general plan goals for mixeduse developments within this area of Artesia.

#### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

17610-17618 Pioneer Boulevard, Artesia, CA. An approximate .84-acre parcel located at the southeast corner of Pioneer Boulevard and 176th Street, Artesia,

#### INFORMATION AVAILABLE:

Copies of the MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION and other project information are available for your review at the Planning Department, 18747 Clarkdale Avenue, Artesia (City Hall).

#### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

Mitigated Negative Declaration.

#### CITIZEN **INVOLVEMENT:**

Do you have any comments? Questions? Concerns? You are invited to attend a meeting to be held by the City of Artesia Planning Commission on February 16, 2016 and noticed in the City Council Chambers located at 18747 Clarkdale Avenue, Artesia.

NOTE:

Written comments on the draft **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be received by the City from January 15, 2016 to February 16, 2016.

If, in the future, you wish to challenge the MITIGATED NEGATIVE **DECLARATION** in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues which you or someone else raised at or before the public hearing.

CITY CONTACT:

Okina Dor, Planning/Community Development Director (562) 865-6262 ext.

CASE NUMBER:

Case No. 2015-08

NOTICE DATE:

January 15, 2016 Community Development Director

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 1/15/16

#### NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE

Please take notice that on January 12, 2016, the City Council of the City of La Mirada adopted the following Ordinance:

> ORDINANCE NO. 679-U OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA MIRADA EXTENDING INTERIM ORDINANCE NO. 677-U, PROHIBITING ALL COMMERCIAL MEDICAL MARIJUANA USES IN THE CITY, INCLUDING DELIVERIES; PROHIBITING ALL MEDICAL MARIJUANA CULTIVATION, INCLUDING CULTIVATION FOR MEDICAL USE BY A QUALIFIED PATIENT OR PRIMARY CAREGIVER; AND DECLARING THE URGENCY THEREOF

> > Summary of Ordinance No. 679-U

Interim Ordinance No. 679-U extends Ordinance No. 677-U and prohibits all of the various activities that will be subject to State licensing including, but not limited to, cultivation, manufacturing and storage of medical marijuana within all zones of the City, until a permanent prohibition can be adopted.

The names of those Councilmembers voting for or against Ordinance No. 679-U are as follows:

Councilmembers Eng, Mowles, Sarega, Mayor Pro Tem De Ruse, Mayor Deal NOES: None

ABSTAIN:None

Certified copies of the entirety of the text of the Ordinance is available in the office of the City Clerk, City of La Mirada, 13700 La Mirada Boulevard, La Mirada, California, and is available for public inspection at that location.

Anne Haraksin, La Mirada City Clerk

Published at La Mirada Lamplighter 1/15/16

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#### **NORWALK**

Continued from page 11

going to be a battle with these guys every time and especially when we go back to their place, I know they're going to shoot better. So we have to shoot a little better too."

Leonard would try to get a spark going with a three-pointer with just under six minutes left in the game, making it 37-28. Shortly after that, he scored again after a steal and assist from Yoon. Then with 68 seconds remaining, a trifecta from Cerritos senior Trenton Abundo made it 41-34 and Leonard, who was fouled on a three-point attempt, cashed in on all three free throws with 50 seconds left to make it a four-point game.

Valdenor came off the bench to lead Norwalk with 13 points, including six of six from the charity stripe in the fourth quarter while senior David Suarez was crashing the boards to the tune of 11 rebounds.

"David was rebounding like a mad man and Keno came [through] in the clutch," Webster said. "Those were huge free throws. We'll take it."

Prior to the game, it was a one-sided affair as Cerritos, the favorites to repeat as league champs, never trailed in a 64-31 win over the struggling and young Lady Lancers. Cerritos, which outscored Norwalk 17-2 in the opening stanza, went on a 15-0 run that lasted over seven minutes from nearly midway through the first quarter to the opening minutes of the second quarter.

The Lady Dons shot 45 percent from the field and were led by its top two scorers all season long-junior Ifeoma Okoli (21 points, seven rebounds, three bocks) and senior Tatiana Fominyam (14 points, seven rebounds, seven steals). Sophomore Tracy Nakamura came off the bench to add seven points.

For the Lady Lancers (5-14, 1-3), whose losing streak went to nine games, junior Crystal Lambey had a team-high 11 points and nine rebounds while seniors Danielle Tate and Mele Valele each had six points and five rebounds.

Both Norwalk teams had easy victories over John Glenn High this past Wednesday while the Cerritos squads breezed past Artesia High this past Wednesday. The Lady Dons (10-7, 4-0) posted a 64-16 win as junior Teresa Torres had a career-high 13 points while Okoli added 11 points, eight rebounds, two assists and two blocks. The boys team then prevailed in a 74-55 decision as Leonard scored 20 points and Yoon another 16 points, including five three-pointers.

Both Cerritos basketball teams will host La Mirada High today with the girls also facing Arroyo Valley High on Monday while both Norwalk squads will visit Mayfair High on Wednesday.

#### **NEWS AND NOTES**

Continued from page 11

Marquez said. "We really needed to get back on our feet after our loss to Bell-flower. We made an adjustment a little bit there and started picking it up. Obviously after the first 25 minutes we started taking a little more control of the game."

Both teams played more defense in the second half and combined for only three shots. While the Lady Dons dropped to 8-3-2 overall and 2-2 in league play, Artesia improved to 9-3-1 overall, 2-1 in the circuit. It was Artesia's seventh shutout thus far. Coupled with league-leading Bellflower High's 2-2 tie with La Mirada High this past Wednesday, the Pioneers are four points out of first place and are currently in second place while Cerritos dropped to fifth place. Last season, Artesia won 11 games.

"I think the league is going to be very interesting this year," Marquez chuckled. "We go and we beat Mayfair, then we get beat by Bellflower. The league is going to be very competitive; very even. There are some surprises."

Artesia will host John Glenn High today and league nemesis La Mirada High on Wednesday while Cerritos hosts La Mirada today.

In other girls soccer action, Gahr High lost to Lynwood High 6-0 this past Wednesday in the San Gabriel Valley League opener for both teams. The Gladiators, who went 4-6-1 last month, visited Warren High on Jan. 14 and will host Paramount High on Tuesday before travelling to Downey High on Thursday.

Glenn, which was shutout by Cerritos (4-0) and Mayfair (11-0) before its meeting with Norwalk this past Wednesday, will host Bellflower on Wednesday. The Lady Eagles were 4-6 entering the Norwalk game. Norwalk (1-7-2, 0-3), which fell to Cerritos 6-1 this past Monday, will travel to Mayfair on Wednesday.

Valley Christian High tied Whittier Christian High 1-1 last Friday in the Olympic League opener. Sophomore Julie Sainz scored the lone goal as the Lady Crusaders (5-7-2, 0-0-1) hosted Heritage Christian High on Jan. 14 and will visit Village Christian High on Tuesday.

#### **DOWNEY**

Continued from page 1

the State.

The new law establishes a regulatory and licensing structure stating if cities do not pass an ordinance before the March deadline, they may not ban or regulate cultivation. The Department of Consumer Affairs will regulate health, safety and testing standards. This law also requires jurisdictions wishing to ban deliveries or mobile dispensaries, must 'explicitly state so'

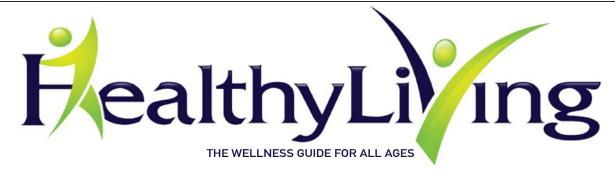
The Downey Planning Commission conducted a public hearing December 2015 with the Downey Police Department providing a verbal report on recent crimes against medical marijuana businesses in the area. The report included a robbery of a delivery service and several armed robberies of dispensaries. After hearing the several cases of patients the Planning Committee discussed the potential benefits of allowing medical marijuana, noting the additional tax revenue for the City.

Several residents presented their personal need for its use. Mayor Pro Tem Fernando Vasquez noted, "I have received several pieces of correspondence relating to this item. Some residents understand

the advantage of its use, my grandmother actually uses it. There is a current conflict between State and Federal agencies on regulations. I do not think that it is the time and place for our city to allow the cultivation or dispense of medical marijuana. I think it is a risk to big to take right now." Councilman Alex Brossmer "I don't want it sold in my city."

Mayor Alex Saab stated, "I agree with the comments made by Brossmer and Vasquez. I can't support this for several reasons. I know it was stated by one of our speakers that this would prohibit the use of cannabis. The State has already approved this, and we are not here to debate that issue. We are here to decide whether or not to allow the sale of cannabis in our City. We are not here to judge; until we are able to regulate it like any other prescription drug through a pharmacy I won't feel comfortable with the sale of it." Saab continued, "we have seen in the news many times that dispensaries tend to attract more violent crime, and becomes an extra weight on our police department."

The motion to prohibit the sale and / or cultivation of cannabis was approved unanimously.



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#### **CENTRAL BASIN**

Continued from page 1

#### **Dispute Negotiations**

The dispute negotiations with Harris started in late 2014 when the WRD Board hired Los Angeles based Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton (Sheppard) as "independent counsel" to investigate the alleged overbilling by Harris.

No one at WRD questioned the fact that Sheppard was also involved with WRD on other water-related legal matters and that a true independent counsel was not hired.

But the apparent conflict of interest, even though questionable, would not be a factor in the investigation.

HMG-CN has exclusively obtained a document submitted by attorney Adam Kargman in April 2014 outlining the Harris overbilling in great detail.

Most of the overbilling was related to the Cerritos v. WRD lawsuit, case number BS128136. The document was addressed to WRD Directors, General Manager Robb Whitaker, and WRD Chief Financial Officer Scot Ota.

Kargman did not mince words. The second paragraph of the letter stated, "I wish to advise you that on April 24, 2014, I first began to suspect – and later confirmed the next day, April 25 – that Harris & Associates has been engaged in improper and excessive billing of WRD for its legal services."

Kargman said that in April 2014, John W. Harris asked him to review billings of the firm's invoices to WRD and "it was then that I noticed discrepancies in his (Kargman's) time entries and also excessive time entries for Mr. Harris."

As proof, Kargman stated, "I have retained all of my time entries since January 2014 and then compared my actual time entries to the time listed on the invoices sent in by Harris & Associates to WRD, there are numerous discrepancies."

Based on his review of time attributed solely to his work in January 2014, Kargman identified at least 51 fabricated entries and approximately 51.9 hours of padded time.

"At \$275 per hour Harris improperly billed WRD for at least \$14,000 worth of time attributed to me for the month of January 2014."

#### **Harris Padding His Own Time**

Kargman then indicated that he also believed that invoices to WRD included time entries that Harris did not actually perform.

At the time, Harris was paid \$300 per

"I drafted the majority of the documents. I would send my work to Mr. Harris for approval and he typically only gave minor comments. Often his response was simply 'Approved.' Nonetheless the invoices indicated that Mr. Harris, who is frequently out of the office, billed as much or more time on the exact same tasks as I had performed in full."

Kargman cited two instances indicating "these are just a few of the many examples of improper billing I have uncovered."

On one invoice, Harris claimed he

spent seven hours reviewing a document sent to him by Kargman.

Kargman said, "I sent the document to him at 10:41 a.m., Mr. Harris sent it back to me at 2:33 p.m. a time span of only four hours, yet Harris billed WRD seven hours."

Another invoice indicated Harris spent four hours reviewing a document sent to him by Kargman.

"I sent Harris the document at 5:17 and received the document back six minutes later at 5:23, yet Harris billed four hours."

At the CB Special Meeting on Jan. 15, CB GM Kevin Hunt indicated that the law firms will be interviewed, "and we will certainly bring what you found up in the interview process."

Nossaman attorney Smith II indicated that the revelation "will be brought to everyone's attention at the meeting."

HMG-CN left a message at Harris' office; Mr. Harris had not returned the call by press time.

