

HMG-CN EXCLUSIVE:**CENTRAL BASIN WATER DIRECTOR ROYBAL SERVED WITH RECALL NOTICE****20-Registered Voters Sign Petition to Recall Embattled Water Director**

By Brian Hews



James Roybal
Recall Petition. The NOI was signed by 20 voters residing in municipalities within Roybal's District 1 and was served on

Hews Media Group-Community News has exclusively learned that Central Basin Municipal Water District (CB) Director James Roybal was served yesterday with a Notice Of Intention (NOI) to Circulate Recall Petition. The NOI was signed by 20 voters residing in municipalities within Roybal's District 1 and was served on

Roybal at a morning committee meeting at CB's headquarters in Commerce.

NOI's must state reasons why an elected official should be recalled. Some of the reasons given on the Roybal NOI highlighted, "his incompetence that caused irreparable harm and financial damage to CB."

The NOI also slammed Roybal for his assignment to LAUSD Teacher Jail, and Roybal receiving compensation from the LAUSD and CB at the same time, a violation of LAUSD policy.

Both violations were first reported by HMG-CN.

"While working at L.A. Unified School District, Roybal was assigned to teacher

jail, a facility used to separate teachers from school children. While assigned to teacher jail, Roybal concealed his teacher jail assignment, and was dishonestly paid by both CB and LAUSD, leading to an investigation by the LAUSD and his eventual forced retirement.

The NOI went on, "Roybal leaked a confidential settlement document to the media, resulting in a lawsuit and a \$50,000 payment to the plaintiff." Roybal also, "blatantly ignored CB's insurance carrier who threatened to cancel insurance for board dysfunction, with his inaction resulting in cancellation of CB's insurance in mid-2014."

Lastly the NOI stated that Roybal, "Ig-

nored lawyer's advice by voting to waive attorney-client privilege in Qui Tam whistleblower lawsuit filed by CB Director Leticia Vasquez. The suit cost CB over \$200,000 in legal fees, and potentially hundreds of thousands more in additional fees." It also outlined Roybal's decision "to fire former General Manager Tony Perez for cause, once again against CB attorney's advice, resulting in a \$700K payment to the GM, and CB losing its insurance for a second time in 2015."

The proponents signing the petition include voters from nearly all the cities in Roybal's district, including two from Montebello, three from Bell Gardens,

See **ROYBAL** page 16**Cerritos to Modify City Wide Pride Program**

By Tammye McDuff

The Cerritos City Council approved changing the format of the popular City Wide Pride Program at last Thursday's regular meeting, with one major recommendation eliminating judging areas and allowing anyone to nominate a home within city boundaries.

The CWPP has been in existence for 25 years and was created to showcase exceptional properties within the City of Cerritos. The program begins each January with the mailing of brochures and nomination forms to over 15,000 homes in Cerritos.

The judging areas are divided into

See **CITY WIDE PRIDE** page 16**True Lasting Connections Hosts 4th Annual Healthy Downey 5K**

TLC participants do stretching and warm ups before the race. The 2016 5K event broke its past attendance records to support the DUSD TLC Family Resource Center with more than 650 signed participants and more than 1000 supporters. This year's 5k run raised over \$30,000 for True Lasting Connections.

Woman Murdered Outside La Mirada In-N-Out on Firestone

By Brian Hews

The shooting death of a Buena Park woman outside of an In-N-Out restaurant last Friday morning in La Mirada has now been classified as death by blunt force trauma.

The cause was confirmed after an autopsy earlier this week.

The Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner - Corner also identified the woman is 48-year-old Josefina Alcocer.

Last Friday, the sheriffs responded

See **MURDER** page 16

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Norwalk to Kick-Off Military Memorial Art Project

City Hall parking lot to undergo transformation into an interactive art walk leading up to new entrance to facility.

On Friday, March 4, City Council, the Art in Public Places Committee and Public Services will mark the opening of a project that will replace the current Freedom Square blue-tiled memorial planter with an interactive mall consisting of eleven foot tall granite monoliths representing each of the five branches of the United States Armed Forces. The monoliths will

be faced with black granite etched on both sides with images and text narrating the service, stories and sacrifice of men and women serving in the Army, Marines, Navy and Air Force. The mall will also include flagpoles, lighting, landscaping and seating areas. The current ramp leading up to City Hall will be replaced with stairs and a re-located ADA ramp, along with additional planter areas.

“This project, funded in part by developer fees and Community Development Block Grant monies, not only creates a nice walkway that visitors can take the time to enjoy and learn from,” says Theresa Devoy, City Clerk and liaison to the Art in Public Places Committee, “it also stands as a lasting tribute to those who gave their lives to protect our freedoms.”

The kick off ceremony takes place at 4:00 p.m. at the City Hall parking lot, and is open to the public.



Rendering showing the Freedom Square blue-tiled memorial planter that will have an interactive mall consisting of eleven foot tall granite monoliths representing each of the five branches of the United States Armed Forces.

Commerce City Council Calls for I-5 Funding

By Tammye McDuff

The Commerce City Council had much to discuss on their first Council meeting for the month of March. Two items however were discussed at length.

One of the hottest matters was the meeting between Supervisor Hilda Solis, Mayor Lilia R. Leon, and City Administrator Jorge Rifá discussing the urgent need to fund the environmental review of the next phase I-5 freeway. Although the project was initially conceived from the I-5/I-710 interchange to the Orange County line, due to the cost at \$1.6 billion, it was in the region’s best interest to divide the project into two phases. In a letter to Solis, Leon

stated,” It is important to maintain continuity and minimize traffic bottlenecks between the two project phases and beginning the environmental review as soon as possible,” Leon also adds, “the need for a Metro appropriation to fund the environmental review in 2016 is imperative since it is likely that the project will have a 15 to 20 year timetable.”

Staff reports there is no funding at this time to start the second phase of the project, which includes a seven mile segment between Commerce and Downey. The I-5 Consortium is seeking funding at an estimated \$20 million to begin the environmental review of the second phase. Representatives of the I-5 Consortium, including Mayor Leon, have met with Supervisors Solis and Knabe as well as Metro executives to support the funding now. As is evident, the first phase has taken a decade to plan and a decade to construct. The funding of the EIR is critical this year as the

first phase of the project nears completion in 2018 avoid the ‘disassociation’ from the first phase to the second phase which would make the second phase a separate project entirely.

The motion to support the letter requesting that Metro fund the EIR was unanimously agreed upon.

The second issue to be discussed was Exide Technologies Inc. recycling plant located at 2700 South Indiana Avenue in the City of Vernon, which specialized in the melting and processing of battery cores.

The Department of Toxic Substances [DTSC] suspended Exide’s operations in Vernon and revoked operation permits after receiving reports of airborne emissions from Exide’s operations and corrupted underground pipes. DTSC concluded that Exide was releasing hazardous waste into the soil, including the soil of surrounding communities. In April 2015, Exide informed DTSC of their intent to permanently close down the Vernon Plant.

In a staff report dated February 17, 2016, it was stated Governor Brown proposed a \$176.6 million spending plan to fund expedited testing and cleanup of residential properties, schools, daycare centers and parks within a 1.7 mile radius of the former Exide Technologies facility.

Exide will begin a community outreach campaign encouraging residents to sign access agreements so that the soil sampling phase may begin. Notices have been posted to FaceBook and Twitter, with other ideas to include door hanger’s notices, and DTSC attendance at Neighborhood Watch meetings, door-to-door campaign, use of social media, etc.

City staff will continue working with Mayor Pro Tem Del Rio and Councilmember Rebollo, the city’s Exide Advisory Group representatives, on the community outreach campaign. The next Exide Advisory Technical Working Session is scheduled for April 28th.

CITY OF NORWALK'S “ARTASTIC” COMMUNITY EVENT

Staff Report

The City of Norwalk Recreation and Park Services Department invites the community to enjoy a fun art-filled evening at this award-winning ARTastic event on Friday, March 18, 2016 from 6:00-9:00 p. m. at the Cultural Arts Center, 13200 Clarkdale Avenue. This event will offer an array of art experiences not to be missed!

“ARTastic” will feature free art activities, multiple art exhibits, entertainment, a Ferris wheel, a book fair, a Community Art Competition, a street fair with food trucks, an Art Walk, Open Mic, and a Chalk Art Competition. Everyone is invited to attend “ARTastic” and experience creativity in this vibrant arts environment! Norwalk is also calling on artists to participate in the Community Art Competition, the Art Walk, and in the Chalk Art Contest.

For more information regarding “ARTastic,” or to participate in the Community Art Competition or Art Walk, please call (562) 929-5521. For more information regarding the Chalk Art Contest, please call (562) 929-5518.

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Aesop’s Fables-Read Across America

By Tammye McDuff

National Read Across America Day and as it turns out, the birthday of the beloved Dr. Seuss, was celebrated in libraries all across the country March 2, 2016.

Clifton M. Brakensiek Library began their weeklong celebration of Read Across America with a musical performance of Aesop’s Fables of "The Turtle and the Hare," "The Boy Who Cried Wolf," and "The Fox and the Crow." This theatrical showcase of Aesop's Fables by Enrichment Works inspires children, by teaching them the timeless morals of Aesop.

Aesop’s Fables is a two-character musical by Cy Young. The performance introduces the world of Aesop’s Fables and their famous morals. Aesop, played by Jamie Hobert, is a disgruntled carpenter who is unhappy in his profession. He has a workshop companion, Miss Mouse, played by Danielle Vernengo, who encourages him to pursue his true calling by asking him to act out his tales. The two acted out three of Aesop’s most famous tales. In the end Aesop, with a little help from Miss Mouse, finally realizes that storytelling is what he does best. He changes the sign on his shop from Aesop’s Tables to Aesop’s Fables and realizes that we are all masters



In “The Fox and the Crow” the vain Crow [Danielle Vernango] falls prey to the admiration of the sly fox [Jamie Hobert]. Photo by Tammye McDuff.

of our own fate. The performance was fun, entertaining, witty and encouraged active participation from the kids.

In May 1997, a small reading task force at National Education Association [NEA] came up with a big idea. "Let's create a day to celebrate reading," the group decided. "We hold pep rallies to get kids excited about football. We assemble to remember that Character Counts. Why don't we do something to get kids excited about reading? We'll call it 'NEA's Read Across America' and we'll celebrate it on Dr. Seuss's birthday." And so was born on March 2, 1998, the largest celebration of reading this country has ever seen.

Motivating children to read is an important factor in student achievement and creating lifelong successful readers. Research has shown that children who are motivated and spend more time reading do better in school.

Enrichment Works series was made possible through funding from Fourth District Arts Education Partnership and Supervisor Don Knabe.

President Obama stated in his proclamation supporting Read Across America, “Today, and every day, let us celebrate the power of reading by promoting literacy and supporting new opportunities for students to plunge into the pages of a book

program will be held in the La Mirada Resource Center (13710 La Mirada Blvd.) in Meeting Room #1. For more information about this program, please call or visit: La Mirada Express Library, La Mirada Resource Center: Lower Level 31710 La Mirada Blvd., La Mirada, CA 90638, 562-943-0277.

La Mirada Promotes Good Governance

Members of the La Mirada City Council, Commissioners, and designated staff recently took part in a training session on ethics and governance. State law requires designated City officials to complete the two-hour training once every two years. This year's training was conducted by City Attorney Jim Markman on February 29 at the La Mirada Resource Center.

The training addressed general ethics principles and laws related to government service. Topics included Open Meeting Laws, Conflicts of Interest, Transparency, and the Public Records Act.

"The City of La Mirada remains committed to ethical leadership and dedicated service," says City Manager Jeff Boynton. "This training is part of a larger effort to continue providing open and responsive governance to the residents and businesses of La Mirada."

Assembly Bill 1234 went into effect in 2006, and the City of La Mirada has been conducting this training every two

years, as required by the State law. The City has also established a Code of Ethical Conduct and other policy documents that promote good governance. Additionally, in 2013 the City received an A+ rating award for Website Transparency by the Sunshine Review non-profit organization.

Enrichment Works Storytelling Concert at La Mirada Library

La Mirada Library is pleased to announce that Enrichment Works will present “The Whole World’s Talkin’” at the La Mirada Resource Center on Saturday, March 5th at 2:00 p.m. This program is made possible from funding provided by Fourth District Arts Education Partnership Program.

Bring the whole family for folktales from Korea, Ghana, and India! A storyteller from Enrichment Works will bring a magical compass to transport us all over the world, revealing folktales from various countries and cultures.

Please Note: The La Mirada Library is closed for refurbishment and this

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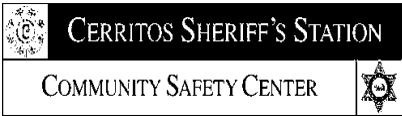
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Allstate Floral Makes a Commitment to the Environment

By Tammye McDuff

Cerritos-based Allstate Floral recently completed a massive installation of solar panels for their headquarters, partnering with Mitsubishi Electric and SunGreen Systems, celebrating with a ribbon cutting and formal presentation this past week.

For over 35 years, Allstate Floral has been inspiring stunning silk and artificial flowers, greenery, and home trimmings into beautiful presentations for residential and commercial properties. As one of the industry’s zenith importers, with a selec-

tion of over 30,000 products, they offer the largest designer inspired everyday floral and greenery. Their show rooms are dazzling collection of seasonal and holiday décor and furniture.

Director of Marketing and Merchandising Tom Young commented, “We installed 768 solar panels which are expected to provide 93 percent of the company’s current electrical load,” Young also noted,” This will offset 146.64 tons of carbon dioxide each year, which is equivalent to planting 60 acres of trees every year.”

Mitsubishi made their first presentation to Allstate Floral in March of 2015. “I really felt that they were going to move forward with progressive ideas,” said Ken Johnson, Business Development Manager for Mitsubishi Electric. Their philosophy for manufacturing photovoltaic products comes from three solid basic principles: advanced technologies, the highest qual-



Members of Allstate Floral, Mitsubishi Electric, SunGreen Systems, and Cerritos City Council gather for a group photo in front of California Headquarters.

ity, and long-term reliability. All photovoltaic product development and manufacturing operations are facilitated from Japan.

Founded in February 2009, SunGreen is a solar developer focused on integrating solar technology, architectural design, and real estate development skills to de-

liver customized optimal solar solutions. The company prides themselves on being cost-effective, aesthetically pleasing and environmentally friendly. Focusing on building a business that leverages the best of photovoltaic technology, they address one of the greatest challenges to global warming.

BUSD Elementary P.E. Program Teaches Life Skills

Staff Report

BELLFLOWER – As Physical Education teacher Maria Dolliver winds her way through flocks of fourth-graders, it's hard to say who is having more fun. Laughter

erupts, which focuses on ensuring students gain skills in open, non-competitive environments. The shift has been made possible through the state's new funding system, which gives districts more authority over what and how they teach.



P.E. teacher Maria Dolliver reviews skills with Woodruff Elementary School fourth-graders. Dolliver is one of five new P.E. teachers and 10 teacher assistants hired to run the District's expanded elementary P.E. program.

bubbles from the groups as students develop dribbling and passing skills or test their knowledge in small games.

Everywhere they are, Dolliver is – dribbling a basketball up the lane to demonstrate technique, partnering on passes and calling out encouragement against the backdrop of a bouncy beat blasting from her portable P.A. system.

Welcome to elementary Physical Education in Bellflower Unified School District – 21st century style.

All 10 Bellflower elementary schools are in their second year of an expanded program in which students receive 210 minutes of P.E. instruction every 10 days – exceeding state requirements. The program serves two goals: It provides students with a balance of exercise, nutrition knowledge and life skills while creating time for classroom teacher collaboration.

Dolliver is one of five elementary P.E. instructors and 10 teacher assistants hired to coordinate the program through Bellflower's Local Control and Accountability Plan.

"I'm just kid at heart. It's just my character," Dolliver says. "Life should be fun, especially at their age. I work through the mindset of teaching by example. And I believe that if kids see their teachers having a good time, they are more apt to find learning to be fun, too."

Dolliver's approach blends with Bellflower Unified's application of the nationally recognized SPARK instructional tech-

Dolliver and her two assistants split students into three groups, following a SPARK guideline that emphasizes small-group instruction and ensuring students make the most of their playground time. The program includes traditional sports, such as the recent basketball drill, and non-traditional activities.

Dolliver brings first-hand knowledge of many of the activities to the table: a former gymnast, her sporting resume ranges from dancing to diving, boxing to triathlon, kayaking to yoga.

"The bottom line is I want them to feel good about moving their bodies," said Dolliver, who holds a Bachelor of Science in kinesiology from Biola University.

In comparison, many school districts require classroom teachers to squeeze in P.E. instruction around classroom lessons.

That's where Bellflower's program achieves its second major benefit.

Not only are teachers free from P.E. instruction duties, but the program creates twice-weekly, mid-day planning opportunities when instructors from each grade can collaborate on lesson plans and review student data together, strengthening and coordinating their approaches.

Dr. Jacobs said the switch has been especially helpful as teachers integrate the new California Standards and new digital tools into their instruction models.


"The result," said Jacobs, "is energized students and teachers ready to tackle new challenges together."

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The Watch D.O.G.S. of Nixon Elementary School

By Tammye McDuff

Nixon Elementary School has implemented the Dads of Great Students otherwise known as the WatchDOGS program, aimed at engaging fathers, inspiring children, reducing bullying and enhancing the educational environment at Nixon.

The program is a "father involved" initiative from the National Center for Fathering that helps to organize dads and father figures to provide positive male role models for students as well as augmenting school security.

Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu introduced WatchDogs as part of the Spotlight On Teaching and Learning Accountability Program within the District. Nixon Elementary Principal, Melinda Ortiz, father of a first grader and Lakewood Sheriff's Deputy Jeremy Draper, and Ryan Romero made a moving presentation called 'Heroes in the Hallways'.

The program, involving grades K-12, invites fathers, grandfathers, uncles, or other father figures to volunteer at least one day all day at their child's/student's school during the school year.

Volunteers sign up through a launch event such as a Dads and Kids Pizza Night or Donuts with Dad, or by calling their child's school any time throughout the school year. The program is overseen by a "Top Dog" volunteer who partners with the school administrator to coordinate scheduling and identify opportunities for WatchDOGS to provide assistance at the school.

WatchDOG dads and volunteers perform a variety of tasks during their day including monitoring the school entrance, assisting with unloading and loading of buses and cars, monitoring the lunch room, or helping in the classroom with a teacher's guidance by working with small groups of students on homework, flashcards, or spelling.

They actively engaged with not only their own students, but other students as well.

Nixon Principal Ortiz relayed one of the most heartfelt instances, "On the day that LAUSD received an email threat, and I really had no idea what to tell parents and students so that they felt safe. It was very early and I had not contacted any staff. As I drove up to the school and into the parking lot, there were four of our WatchDOG Dads, ready to assist and protect us, anyway that they could." Ortiz said she heaved a sigh of relief knowing that they were ready to serve the school.

Romero said one of his favorite experiences was when a kindergartener drew him as the subject of her art class, 'because he made her feel safe'. WatchDOG Dad Doug Lovgren commented that it was a great program, "We come to be a dad on campus, tie shoes, or have lunch with the kids. This is your opportunity to really be the big man on campus."

Romero elicited loud laughs when he said, "Sign up or your wife will do it for you!"

As a program of the National Center for Fathering, more than 5,148 registered schools in 47 states participate in the WATCH D.O.G.S. program.

The program is also popular in China, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico and Barbados.



Nixon Elementary WatchDOGS receive recognition from the ABC USD School Board. The program is a "father involved" initiative from the National Center for Fathering that helps to organize dads and father figures to provide positive male role models for students. Photo by Tammye McDuff.

LA MIRADA BUSINESS LICENSES NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

The City of La Mirada's online system for business licenses was recently upgraded. Businesses can now apply for new business licenses, close existing licenses, and upload the zoning application and home occupancy regulations through the City's website. Upon City staff's review and approval, payments can be made online through a secure payment portal.

The previous online system was limited to

processing business license renewals. New applications and business closures had to be done in-person or by mail. The new system also features a public access database where interested individuals can search for active businesses online.

Visit the Business License page of the City website and begin using the new system. For more information, contact the Business License Desk at (562) 943-0131 or visit www.cityoflamirada.org

SPRING YOUTH SPORTS LEAGUES IN LA MIRADA

Register now for youth sports leagues offered by the City of La Mirada. Recreational youth sports offered for the spring season include Youth Volleytennis, Youth Volleyball, and Friday Night Football. Children ages 5 to 17 are invited to participate.

La Mirada's Youth Volleytennis League is a fun combination of volleyball and tennis. This is the perfect opportunity for children ages 7 to 8 who want to learn how to play volleyball. The net is lower and the ball may bounce making it easier for those who are still learning the game. Youth Volleytennis League games are played at the La Mirada Community Gymnasium on Sunday afternoons and the league cost is \$65.

The City's Youth Volleyball League is for recreational play and coaches emphasize passing, setting, serving, and teamwork. The league cost is \$65 and games are played on Saturday and Sunday afternoons at the La Mirada Community Gymnasium. Practices for Volleytennis and Volleyball begin the week of March 14.

The popular Friday Night Football League is returning for the spring season. Friday Night Football promotes the flag football style of play with less contact and limited blocking. The quick strike, high scoring offensive philosophy helps develop players' skills and allows for a fun and safe environment. All games are played Friday evenings under the lights at La Mirada High School. Practices begin the week of March 21 and the league cost is \$70. For more information or to sign up, visit www.cityoflamirada.org or call (562) 943-7277.

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2016 SOFTBALL PREVIEWS

GAHR LOADED AGAIN TO HAVE ANOTHER BANNER SEASON, SUBURBAN LEAGUE TO BE MORE COMPETITIVE

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on Twitter


The Cerritos High and Gahr High softball teams were primed to meet in the California Interscholastic Federation-Southern Section Division III semifinals last season with the winner moving on to the finals. That didn’t happen. But with the 2016 season already underway, both teams look to go deep in the playoffs once again. John Glenn High and Norwalk High figure to be more of a factor in the Suburban League while Valley Christian High and Whitney High will field young squads.



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RETURNING PLAYERS IN ITALICS

ARTESIA PIONEERS

8-14 overall last season, 1-11 in the Suburban League, seventh place
Head coach: Dayna Feenstra (third season, 13-27)
Team’s record previous five seasons: 36-77
Last appearance in the playoffs: 1992
Key losses: Crystal Briseno, Destiny Briseno, Briana Perez
Projected lineup:
P-*Destinee Alvarez (SR)*/Brenda Duran (FR)/*Michaela Benzor-Smith (JR)*
C-Beautiena Mataele (FR)/*Alyssa Medina (JR)*
1B-Duran/Ayanna Jimenez (SO)
2B-Natalie Luna (FR)
3B-*Alvarez/Jessica Hernandez (SO)/Darlene Hurtado (SO)*
SS-Alyssa Rios (JR)
OF-*Benzor-Smith/Mataele*
OF-*Alijah Vega (SR)*
OF-*Isabel Matamores (SR)*

In addition to Artesia High having a 23-year playoff drought, the Pioneers haven’t had much success in the Suburban League. Since 1998, Artesia has won 14 league games. On paper, it may look good that the program gets out to a respectable start each season. But head coach Dayna Feenstra wants more than that.

“I think it was definitely a matter of competition,” Feenstra said of her team’s league woes. “In the preseason, we didn’t face teams that were at the ability talent-wise of the teams we faced in league, especially pitching. So our team struggled with hitting.”

The lack of a consistent batting lineup each game plagued the Pioneers last season as through at least the first 15 games last season, Feenstra used a different starting nine in each of those games. Senior Destinee Alvarez will be called upon to pitch the vast majority of the games. She had a decision in nine of the 22 games. Junior Michaela Benzor-Smith pitched early on last season.

“Last year we just had Destinee Alvarez; she did most of our pitching,” Feenstra said. “But we have Michaela [Benzor-Smith] and she’s been pitching for two and a half years. So she’s very new. It’s kind of going to be the same this year. [Destinee] is our only pitcher we have.”

Offensively, Artesia scored 82 runs outside of league competition but was limited to 11 runs in 11 league games played. Senior centerfielder Alijah Vega will be one of the top hitters this season, as will junior catcher Alyssa

Medina and junior shortstop Alyssa Rios. Look for freshman first baseman and backup pitcher Brenda Duran to make an immediate impact with the bat. She is projected to replace the bat of Briana Perez, who graduated last year.

“I’m excited for Ali this year,” Feenstra said. “Unfortunately I think part of our problem too during [last] season was that she was hurt; she had a bad back. This year we’ve been taking care of her back, making sure she’s ready. I think she’s going to have a breakout year this year.”

Feenstra says her team should be competitive this year and she would be disappointed if the Pioneers only had one win in league or less.

“I think every year we have to improve and that’s going to be the goal out here, she said. “We still have a lot of young and inexperienced girls. So we’re working with that.”

CERRITOS LADY DONS

20-8 overall last season, 12-0 in the Suburban League, league champions, lost to Grand Terrace High 3-2 in Division III quarterfinals
Head coach: Joseph Webber (first season)
Team’s record previous five seasons: 88-37
Last time missed the playoffs: 2008
Key losses: Heather Cameron, Megan Darling, Jennifer Iseri, Madison Lee, Amanda Lejano, Leeann Tran
Projected lineup:
P-*Jennifer Morinishi (SO)/Emily Morton (SO)*
C-*Celeste Borza (JR)/Alyanna Hernandez (SO)*/Elise Gibbs (FR)
1B-*Morton/Kiarra Pope (SO)*
2B-*Evelynn Hernandez (JR)/Niki Ibarra (FR)*
3B-*Destiny Lucero (JR)*
SS-*Lailoni Mayfield (JR)*
OF-Gibbs/Kristina Mendez (SO)
OF-Alyssa Flores (SR)
OF-*Katelynn Hernandez (JR)/Camryn McInerney (JR)*

Cerritos won its second straight Suburban League crown behind a well experienced, senior-stacked squad. Now, the Lady Dons will have to see if they can make it three in a row with a new head coach and a pair of sophomore pitchers. Cerritos welcomes in Joseph Webber, who once coached at Whitney in the late 1990s. He inherits a program that has produced back to back 20-win seasons for the first time since 1999-2000 and is coming off its deepest run in the playoffs since 2004.

“Obviously right, no pressure,”

Webber joked of his new job. “When I found out about [the opening], I did not believe it. I found out the girls were sitting out here without a coach and weren’t allowed to do anything.”

Webber says his most urgent need upon getting hired was getting the best staff he could get. . Denise Betonio, a Cerritos 2006 grad, and Don Taguchi, among others will be part of his staff. Webber plans to keep same goals that former head coach Mike Freeman had last year in terms of emphasizing hitting, which is having a great hitting team to assist young pitchers.

Offensively, the Lady Dons return five solid players with sophomore first baseman Kiarra Pope having the biggest bat. She was at a .349 clip entering the final week of the regular season with 16 doubles. Junior catcher Celeste Borza is a natural leader, according to Webber, but injured her wrist a few months ago and will be out several weeks. When she comes back to the lineup, she figures to be one of the top catchers in the Suburban League. Junior third baseman Destiny Lucero is slated to bat third and is part of, as Webber calls it, ‘an all-star infield’.

“I’m actually very happy that there was a year gap between the seniors and the sophomores last year because those sophomores got such a valuable lesson of going to the quarterfinals against a powerhouse in Grand Terrace,” Webber said. “My sophomores were dynamic softball players in waiting. I could not be happier with the way this lines up.”

Cerritos will once again be well prepared by the time league play begins on Mar. 22 against Artesia. The Lady Dons have doubleheaders against El Modena High and St. Joseph High, face Northview High and Gahr in single games and are in a pair of tournaments. The league title may come down to the final week of the regular season when Cerritos faces Norwalk.

“What I’m trying to tell the girls is, is that we’re trying to make our preseason as tough as possible because if anything, the league just says, ‘oh, new coach at Cerritos, it’s our best shot to get them’,” Webber said. “That’s why I appreciate the maturity and the professionalism of our girls and their willingness to prepare for this season.”

GAHR GLADIATORS

24-8 overall last season, 8-1 in the San Gabriel Valley League, co-league champions, lost to Grand Terrace 4-3 in Division III semifinals
Head coach: Shawn Quarles (fourth season, 52-33)

Team’s record previous five seasons: 68-66
Last time missed the playoffs: 2013
Key losses: Brianna Besenty, Naomi Dickerson (JR), Deidra Genera, Celeste Gonzalez, Deja Portillo, Sabrina Quarles, Destiny Vasquez
Projected lineup:
P-Hannah Kumiyama (FR)/*Dani Martinez (SO)/Kennedy Miller (JR)*
C-*Madison Huskey (SO)/Alyssa Kumiyama (JR)*
1B-*Malia Quarles (JR)*
2B-Giselle Tapia (FR)
3B-Paloma Usquiano (FR)/*Jade Wittman (SO)*
SS-*Dejanae Davis (SO)*
OF-Jazmine Hill (FR)/*Alyssa Rodriguez (SR)*
OF-*Alyssa Cuffia (SR)*

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CONTINUED on next page

National Go Red for Women Day

The staff at Los Alamitos Medical Center wore red to celebrate National Go Red for Women day. Staff wore red clothing – and little red dress pins to show their support in the fight against heart disease. The hospital helped sponsor the Go Red for Women luncheon and has a team for the March 5th OC Heart Walk at Anaheim Stadium. The hospital has a new cath lab for cardiac interventions and a new bi-plane cath lab for neuro-interventions. If you would like information on LAMC's heart or stroke programs, call 562.799.3573.



OF-Huskey

Like Cerritos, Gahr also had one of the best balanced squads around with the diversity of seniors, juniors, sophomores and freshmen. The Lady Gladiators won back to back league championships for the first time since 2007-2008 and were a play or two away from moving on to the Division III championship game. This season, head coach Shawn Quarles will again have a nice balance and as he says, the team hasn't missed a beat except maybe in maturity.

"I thought we had a lot of good talent last year, a lot of good hitting and a lot of seniors," Quarles said. "It was a seasoned group. I was real proud of what we did."

The pitching is a tad bit younger than that of last season with sophomore Dani Martinez the only hurler with varsity experience. She went 3-3 last season with a 1.49 earned run average and picked up four saves. But Gahr will excel once again in its offense. The team batted .388 last season and will be led again by junior catcher Alyssa Kumiyama (.407, 30 runs batted in, four home runs) and junior first baseman Malia Quarles (.434, 24 RBI, three home runs). Malia Quarles moves from third base, her home for the past two seasons at Gahr.

"I just think she continues to grow as a softball player," Shawn Quarles said of Kumiyama. "I think the natural maturity is definitely taking place. She has a very supporting family that makes sure she's developing in all areas. I think with time, we're just going to see more of a beast out of that girl. The sky's the limit for her."

The Lady Glads will have speed at the top of the lineup with sophomore shortstop Dejanae Davis, who stole 22 bases as a freshman and led the team with 39 runs, and will have a rock solid outfield with senior Alyssa Cuffia being the anchor once again with her strong arm, and bat (.405, 29 runs, 29 RBI). Senior left fielder Alyssa Rodriguez, sophomore right fielder Madison Huskey, sophomore third baseman Jade Wittman and sophomore utility player Jessi Alvarado also return.

"We don't have any holes on this team," Shawn Quarles said. "We have backups who will come in and we don't lose anything. We're real confident with our depth and as long as we can show up and hit when it's critical to hit, I think we'll be okay."

Gahr's strength will be defined by the influx of freshman that will be on the team. Third baseman Paloma Usquiano, who has verballed to the University of Arkansas and second baseman Giselle Tapia (Duke University) expect to get a lot of starts. Hannah Kumiyama, who will eventually join her older sister at the University of South Carolina, will back up Martinez in the circle, as will junior Kennedy Miller. Freshman Jazmine Hill will also add some speed to the outfield.

"We were fortunate enough to have a big, strong freshmen class last year," Shawn Quarles said. "And then we, again this year, brought in more freshmen who

are very good too. A few of them are already verballed and a couple are right on the cusp of getting verballed."

Gahr will once again battle Warren High for the San Gabriel Valley League title and will again have as solid of a non league schedule as one will find. The Lady Glads are in the Cypress Tournament and the prestigious Tournament of Champions in Bullhead City, AZ again and will face Cerritos, Los Alamitos High, North Torrance High and Tesoro High, among others.

"They always field a really good team," Shawn Quarles said of Warren. "In my opinion, it's an honor to be co-champions with them. I think it's going to have to be a little luck too because it's very hard to win over there. I think it's a toss-up anytime. If we can be champions on our own, obviously that would be nice for a change. But to be co-champions with that program over there is not a bad thing."

JOHN GLENN LADY EAGLES

10-14 overall last season, 6-6 in the Suburban League, fifth place
Head coach: David Cruz (first season)
Team's record previous five seasons: 42-71

Last appearance in the playoffs: 1990
Key losses: Genesis Gonzalez, Jackie Mojica
Projected lineup:
P-Ashley Armas (JR)/Destiny Enriquez (SR)/Alize Lopez (JR)
C-Devany Esparza (JR)/Alyssa Fajardo (SR)
1B-Maria Enriquez (JR)/Lopez
2B-Dalia Morones (FR)
3B-Armas/Daisy Vargas (JR)
SS-Erika Espinoza (SR)
OF-Destiny Rangel (JR)/Vargas
OF-Fajardo
OF-Christina Shryock (SO)

Last season's assistant coach, David Cruz, takes over the head coaching reigns and hopes to put the Lady Eagles in the playoffs for the first time since 1990. For the fourth straight season, John Glenn finished in fifth place and was on the brink of going to playoffs. But a 4-3 loss to last place Artesia late in the season ruined those plans. Still, Glenn finally knows what it takes to beat the playoff teams. It split with La Mirada High, Mayfair High and Norwalk and had a 6-4 lead on Cerritos after three innings on the road before losing.

"The loss to Artesia was devastating," Cruz said. "It bumped us from second to fifth and took us out of the playoffs. But there were losses like that all season long. But it's still in the mind frame of the kids that we have to alter. They still don't believe that they should be on top and they don't know how to perform day in and day out. That's something I'm still trying to teach them."

The Lady Eagles have an experienced pitching staff led by senior Destiny Enriquez, who will be attending Bethune-Cookman University in the fall. Juniors Ashley Armas and Alize Lopez

are solid backups. Senior shortstop Erika Espinoza is the team's top returning hitter (.462 last season) and anchors the infield, which also includes veterans in junior first baseman Maria Enriquez and Armas and junior Daisy Vargas at third base. Freshman second baseman Dalia Morones is Glenn's top newcomer.

Cruz says that he's putting a lot of pressure on his ace pitcher, who is the face of the team and adds that she's not going to be a successful college athlete unless she's experienced high school playoffs.

"We've been practicing for the playoffs every day since the season ended last year," Cruz said. "We would like to do more than playoffs. We would like to contend for league. It was discouraging this winter when the athletic directors took down all of the championship banners from the gym and didn't put softball back up because they didn't have a [championship] year. That's our driving force for this year, to get a number on the banner."

NORWALK LADY LANCERS

13-9 overall last season, 7-5 in the Suburban League, tied for second place, lost to Notre Dame/Sherman Oaks
High 1-0 in the Division III first round playoffs

Head coach: Paulette Gasporra (ninth season over two stints, 110-88)
Team's record previous five seasons: 55-68
Last time missed the playoffs: 2010
Key losses: Jazmin Guzman, Paola Martinez
Projected lineup:
P-Erica Banuelos (SO)/Samantha Navarrette (JR)/Serena Nicolas (SR)/Breanna Vasquez (SO)
C-Briana Lopez (SR)/Samantha Ontiveros (SR)
1B-Lopez/Ashley Ponce (JR)
2B-Samantha Campos (FR)/Mercedes Colon (SR)/Navarrette/Mercedes Orozco (JR)
3B-Navarrette/Sarah Segura (SR)

SS-Kathleen Perez (SR)
OF-Andrea Villalta (SR)/Valerie Zavala (SO)
OF-Alejandra De La O (JR)/Nicolas
OF-Analiza Barragan (JR)/Campos/De La O

Paulette Gasporra's return to the softball field as Norwalk's head coach was a successful one despite the first round loss in the playoffs. The Lady Lancers tied for second place in a very competitive Suburban League and the team showed why it will be a major force in the next several years because of an up and coming star pitcher in sophomore Breanna Vasquez.

"Coming back after a five-year hiatus, it was nice to come back to a second place [finish]," Gasporra said. "Obviously we would have loved to have taken first. But the girls worked hard and we had a good season."

Gasporra says building upon last year will make this year a good season and that the team has worked on leadership for this year and will rally around whoever is in the circle. Although the Lady Lancers have three solid pitchers plus a newcomer in sophomore Erica Banuelos, the heart and soul comes from Vasquez, who went 12-6 and had an earned run average of 0.78 with 195 strikeouts in the regular season.

"She's a phenomenal player, whether she's a freshman or whatever grade she's in," Gasporra said. "She's a phenomenal leader and I think just coming into a program [last season] and having a good battery of players just made it a lot easier to come back and coach."

Despite losing its best hitter to graduation, Norwalk returns an experienced player in every position and it starts with senior shortstop Kathleen Perez (.348), who moves over from third base. Gasporra said Perez will play in her new position 90 percent of the time and is very versatile. Senior catcher Briana Lopez batted .360 last season and drove in 15 while junior first baseman and pitcher Samantha Navarrette hit .370

See **PREVIEW** page 14

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CITY OF CERRITOS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
NOTICE TO BIDDERS OF THE
REROOF AT 12880 MOORE STREET
PROJECT NO. 12721, BID NO. 1240-16

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Cerritos, County of Los Angeles, State of California, hereby invites sealed bids for the following project:

Project Identification:

REROOF AT 12880 MOORE STREET, PROJECT NO. 12721
BID NO. 1240-16

Project Description:

The work or improvement to be performed generally consists of providing all labor, material, tools and equipment necessary to reroof the City facility located at 12880 Moore Street, Cerritos, California.

Mandatory, Pre-Bid Conference:

Thursday, March 10, 2016 10:00 a.m.
12880 Moore Street, Cerritos, California

Bids must be received on or before:

Wednesday, March 16, 2016, 11:00 a.m.

Bids will be opened on:

Wednesday, March 16, 2016, 11:00 a.m.

Place of bid receipt:

Office of the City Clerk, City Hall
18125 Bloomfield Avenue, First Floor
Cerritos, California 90703
Bids must be marked: **“REROOF AT 12880 MOORE STREET, PROJECT NO. 12721, BID NO. 1240-16”**

All bids shall be made on the form furnished by the City and shall be opened and publicly read aloud at the above-stated time in the Office of the City Clerk of the City of Cerritos, City Hall.

Obtaining Contract Documents:

A set of Contract Documents, including the plans and specifications, may be purchased at the Engineering Division of the City of Cerritos for \$10.00 (\$15.00 if mailing is requested). There will be no refund for return of the Contract Documents. Return of such documents is not required.

Each bid shall be accompanied by bid security referred to in the Contract Documents and by a list of proposed subcontractors. Evidence of insurance, a performance bond, and a labor and materials bond as specified in the Contract Documents will be required prior to execution of the contract. In accordance with Public Contract Code section 22300, the bidder who is awarded the contract may substitute securities for retention moneys withheld by a public agency to ensure performance under the contract. The procedure and requirements for substituting said securities is set forth in Public Contract Code section 22300, which is incorporated by this reference as set forth herein.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or portions thereof, or to waive any informality or irregularity in a bid to the extent allowed by law.

No bid will be accepted from a contractor who has not been licensed in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 9, Division III of the California Business and Professions Code. The contractor must possess a license of the following classification at the time the contract is awarded (and must maintain this license classification through completion of the project): **“C39.”** The bidder's attention is also directed to Section 7028.15 of the Business and Professions Code for further reference. Only a contractor registered with the California Department of Industrial Relations (“DIR”) to bid on public works contracts in California shall be permitted to submit a bid. Furthermore, only subcontractors registered with the DIR to bid on public works contracts in California shall be permitted to perform work or labor or render service under subcontract to the subject contractor.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 1770, et seq., of the California Labor Code, the DIR has determined the general prevailing rate of wages and employer payments for health and welfare, vacations, pensions and similar purposes applicable to the work to be done. These rates shall be the minimum rates for this project. Copies of the prevailing wage rates are on file at City Hall, located at 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, California, 90703, and shall be available to any interested party upon request. In addition, rates may be obtained by visiting <http://www.dir.ca.gov/OPRL/pwd/>, calling the DIR, Division of Labor Statistics and Research’s Prevailing Wage Unit at (415) 703-4774, faxing the Prevailing Wage Unit at (415) 703-4771, or writing to: DIR, Division of Labor Statistics and Research, Prevailing Wage Unit, P.O. Box 420603, San Francisco, CA, 94142. The contractor to whom the contract is awarded, and the subcontractors under him, must pay not less than these rates for this area to all workers employed in the execution of the contract.

By order of the City of Cerritos.

Dated/posted/published: March 4, 2016

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 3/4/16

CITY OF CERRITOS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
NOTICE TO BIDDERS OF THE
DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM
AT THE CERRITOS/ASTOR MUSEUM
PROJECT NO. 12722, BID NO. 1241-16

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Cerritos, County of Los Angeles, State of California, hereby invites sealed bids for the following project:

Project Identification:

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM AT THE CERRITOS/ASTOR MUSEUM
PROJECT NO. 12722, BID NO. 1241-16

Project Description:

The work or improvement to be performed generally consists of furnishing all engineering, fabrication, procurement, installation, labor, materials, tools and equipment necessary for the commission of a fully functional photovoltaic system to be installed at 12616 183rd Street, Cerritos, California.

Mandatory, Pre-Bid Conference:

Friday, March 18, 2016, 10:00 a.m.
12616 183rd Street, Cerritos, California

Bids must be received on or before:

Wednesday, March 30, 2016, 11:00 a.m.

Bids will be opened on:

Wednesday, March 30, 2016, 11:00 a.m.

Place of bid receipt:

Office of the City Clerk, City Hall
18125 Bloomfield Avenue, First Floor
Cerritos, California 90703
Bids must be marked: **“DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM AT THE CERRITOS/ASTOR MUSEUM, PROJECT NO. 12722, BID NO. 1241-16”**

All bids shall be made on the form furnished by the City and shall be opened and publicly read aloud at the above-stated time in the Office of the City Clerk of the City of Cerritos, City Hall.

Obtaining Contract Documents:

A set of Contract Documents, including the plans and specifications, may be purchased at the Engineering Division of the City of Cerritos for \$10.00 (\$15.00 if mailing is requested). There will be no refund for return of the Contract Documents. Return of such documents is not required.

Each bid shall be accompanied by bid security referred to in the Contract Documents and by a list of proposed subcontractors. Evidence of insurance, a performance bond, and a labor and materials bond as specified in the Contract Documents will be required prior to execution of the contract. In accordance with Public Contract Code section 22300, the bidder who is awarded the contract may substitute securities for retention moneys withheld by a public agency to ensure performance under the contract. The procedure and requirements for substituting said securities is set forth in Public Contract Code section 22300, which is incorporated by this reference as set forth herein.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or portions thereof, or to waive any informality or irregularity in a bid to the extent allowed by law.

No bid will be accepted from a contractor who has not been licensed in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 9, Division III of the California Business and Professions Code. The contractor must possess a license of the following classification at the time the contract is awarded (and must maintain this license classification through completion of the project):**“C46.”** The bidder's attention is also directed to Section 7028.15 of the Business and Professions Code for further reference. Only a contractor registered with the California Department of Industrial Relations (“DIR”) to bid on public works contracts in California shall be permitted to submit a bid. Furthermore, only subcontractors registered with the DIR to bid on public works contracts in California shall be permitted to perform work or labor or render service under subcontract to the subject contractor.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 1770, et seq., of the California Labor Code, the DIR has determined the general prevailing rate of wages and employer payments for health and welfare, vacations, pensions and similar purposes applicable to the work to be done. These rates shall be the minimum rates for this project. Copies of the prevailing wage rates are on file at City Hall, located at 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, California, 90703, and shall be available to any interested party upon request. In addition, rates may be obtained by visiting <http://www.dir.ca.gov/OPRL/pwd/>, calling the DIR, Division of Labor Statistics and Research’s Prevailing Wage Unit at (415) 703-4774, faxing the Prevailing Wage Unit at (415) 703-4771, or writing to: DIR, Division of Labor Statistics and Research, Prevailing Wage Unit, P.O. Box 420603, San Francisco, CA, 94142. The contractor to whom the contract is awarded, and the subcontractors under him, must pay not less than these rates for this area to all workers employed in the execution of the contract.

By order of the City of Cerritos.

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PREVIEW
Continued from page 11

last season. Norwalk is also a very good defensive team as its 20 errors will attest to.

Norwalk hasn’t won the league since 2009, Gasporra’s sixth season in her first stint, and last season’s league finish was the school’s best since that league championship season. But Norwalk also hasn’t gotten out of the first round since 2007.

“The Suburban League is a very competitive league to be in,” Gasporra said. “And all of the teams, after my five years off, have come a long way. The game has sped up just a little bit. I think being in the Suburban League gives these girls a chance at good competitive

softball. “Every year you go in looking to win league,” she continued. “But I don’t underestimate anybody in this league. Every coach goes into the season wanting to win league and working to win league. Obviously I want to build upon what we did last season.”

VALLEY CHRISTIAN LADY CRUSADERS

13-14 overall last season, 5-3 in the Olympic League, tied for second place, lost to Segerstrom High 10-0 in the Division IV first round playoffs
Head coach: Nichole McGahey (first season)
Team’s record previous five seasons: 66-65-1
Last time missed the playoffs: 2008
Key losses: Hannah Buckley (SO), Kaitlyn Carr, Chloe Malau’ulu (SO),

Emily Morrow, Tia Naulls, Nicole Parker, Madison Wright
Projected lineup:
P-Anna Collier (SR)/Katie Morewood (FR)
C-Kyla Nunez-O’Leary (FR)/Jai’lynn Parham (SO)
1B-Briana Lerma (JR)
2B-Kylie Carr (JR)/Morgan McGahey (FR)
3B-Carr/Morewood
SS-Chanel Varney (SR)
OF-McGahey
OF-Mariah Easley (SO)
OF-Jessica Maxwell (JR)

After five seasons under the tutelage of Jim Snyder, who led Valley Christian to a pair of Olympic League championships and a pair of second place finishes, the Lady Crusaders welcome Nicole McGahey as the new head coach. McGahey coached the V.C. junior varsity squad from 1995-2000 but this is her first head coaching job anywhere.

“Being hired as the varsity coach this year, I had a daughter coming up and was interested in just creating a program with kids coming up and creating a relationship with them,” McGahey said.

McGahey, who also coached softball at V.C.’s middle school, inherits a team that has just four returning players and a program that has been bounced out in the first round three straight seasons. The school will not have a junior varsity team this season, so the varsity squad will have four freshmen and two sophomores.

Senior Anna Collier, who was the first one to welcome in McGahey, will again be the ace in the circle, as she has been for the past three seasons. Collier had a decision in every game last season and had an earned run average of 3.48 in the regular season. The new coach praises Collier for having a great

personality, a great heart and her love for the game.

The Lady Crusaders return the team’s leading hitter of 2015 in junior first baseman Briana Lerma (.459, 34 hits, 17 RBI). Junior Kylie Carr moves from behind the plate to her new position at second base while senior Chanel Varney (.419, 31 hits, 18 RBI, nine doubles) also changes positions, from third base to shortstop.

The other newcomers to the team are seniors EmilyAnn Ward and Rachel Szucs, sophomore Kaylah Hoxie and freshman Alex Burgess-Allen. Nichole McGahey believes that despite the high number of freshmen and sophomores, her 2016 team can make the playoffs

“The girls made it a really easy transition as well as the school,” she said. “Obviously there’s always growth needing to happen and we’re still working on that, gelling together and understanding my expectations and me understanding where they’re coming from.”

WHITNEY LADY WILDCATS

8-12 overall last season, 2-6 in the Academy League, fourth place
Head coach: Luis Lavayen (11th season, 75-81)

Team’s record previous five seasons: 46-38
Last playoff appearance: 2012
Key loss: Nicole Waldecker
Projected lineup:
P-Taylor Genera (FR)
C-Jenna Llamas (SR)
1B-Ashley Iseri (JR)
2B-Ashley Perez (SO)/Valerie Villegas (FR)
3B-Melissa Babiera (SR)
SS-Karen Kaur (JR)
OF-Megan Babiera (SO)/Mary Kim (SO)

See PREVIEW on next page

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PREVIEW

Continued from page 14

OF-Hailey Acosta (FR)/Janessa Alderete (SO)
OF-Heather Choe (SO)/Jocelyn Chou (JR)

Whitney’s problem last season was a lack of experience, especially in the outfield. The Lady Wildcats had only one senior, and seven freshmen, including the entire outfield. The team had just three true hitters, two of whom batted well over .500, and the end result was a third straight season of missing the playoffs.

This season, Whitney has everyone coming back except for its graduated pitcher, Nicole Waldecker. Head coach Luis Lavayen hopes that the experienced players will help the still young outfield and the new players in hopes of getting back to the postseason.

“We had Nicole who was trying to take the whole show with her,” Lavayen said. “But it’s hard. We have the same returners and they’ve improved a little bit. But we still have the same issues. I didn’t put pressure on them. But you kind of hope that if they can keep it in the infield, we’re okay. But then again, there was no hitting.”

Lavayen is hoping the team will be better defensively and is looking more confident this season. The biggest addition, which will also help Whitney for the next four seasons, will be freshman pitcher Taylor Genera, the younger sister of former Gahr ace Deidra Genera. Taylor Genera, like Waldecker, plans to pitch almost every inning this season as junior Karen Kaur, the everyday shortstop, will be used as an emergency backup.

“I love her attitude,” Lavayen said of Genera. “She’s easy to talk to and she’s easy to follow orders. Whatever we ask of her, she’ll do. That’s the main thing.”

Kaur, who was the fifth leading hitter last season, will also be the emergency backup catcher for senior Jenna Llamas, a .583 hitter in 2015 with 10 extra base hits. Another veteran who will handle the first base duties again is junior Ashley Iseri, the team’s leading hitter last season. Iseri batted .689 with 31 hits, 32 RBI and 10 extra base hits. Senior third baseman Melissa Babiera complements Kaur on the left side of the infield and nearly hit .300 last season.

Half a dozen players, at least, will vie for the three outfield spots as five different outfielders combined for 17 hits last season. Sophomores Katerin Joachin and Ylia Madayag will serve as bench players.

The team will have seven sophomores and three freshmen but Lavayen believes his team has a 95 percent chance that the team will make the playoffs this year.

FORMER GAHR ACE
PITCHER HAVING EARLY
SUCCESS IN COLLEGE

By Loren Kopff
@ LorenKopff on Twitter

CATHEDRAL CITY-It hasn’t taken that long for Deidra Genera to get her feet wet in the college softball scene. The 2015 Gahr High graduate and former ace of the Lady Gladiators pitching staff is immediately making a huge impact for Bethune-Cookman University and through the first games 16 games of the season, has recorded all of the Wildcats’ three victories.

In fact, those three victories came in a two-day span during the National Collegiate Softball Invitational in Clermont, FL including the first two games of the season, a 13-5 win over Morgan State University and an 8-0 win against Liberty University on Feb. 12. Her win against Morgan State came in relief as she worked two and two-thirds innings, allowing three hits and striking out a pair of batters.

“It’s really fun meeting new people, although all of the teammates are really nice to get along with,” Genera said. “It’s been a little hard at first to get used to [college life]. But I’m pretty used to it now.”

“We knew that we would need some depth in our pitching this year and she was just a kid that had such a great demeanor and is a great defensive pitcher,” said Bethune-Cookman head coach Laura Watten. “She has just a great composure on the mound and it’s just so crucial at this level to be able to keep your composure because you’re facing some great hitters. You have to be able to convince your defense to play behind you. She’s just is very in control and communicates well with her defense and is a great team player and a great team pitcher.”

VALLEY CHRISTIAN

Continued from page 7

goal with the first coming just three minutes in when a header from senior defender Blake Christensen following a corner kick off the foot of senior forward Klay Solomon barely sailed above the crossbar. The Crusaders kept putting the pressure on and was the first to get on the board when a throw-in from Solomon went to junior forward Clay D’Amico where he tallied his 10th goal of the season and third in as many games in the 26th minute. It was the first goal allowed by Desert Mirage since Feb. 5.

While V.C. was nursing the early lead, the star of the first half was Marson, who was constantly coming up with one



Deidra Genera (right) with Brianna Besenty.

After Bethune-Cookman lost to Chattanooga on Feb. 13, Genera pitched in her third game later that day and went the distance for the second time as the Wildcats edged the University of Akron 3-2. In fact, her performances in those three games of the four-game tournament allowed her to be the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Pitcher of the Week. During that weekend, Genera worked 20 innings and struck out 18, seven of which were looking.

“Personally, I was very excited,” Genera said. “I didn’t know if I was going to start. But the fact that I did and I do so well, I was proud of myself.”

“That’s always good and it’s a good accolade and I was really proud of her,” Watten said. “She pitched 20 innings in that first week and that’s a lot for a freshman to throw the first weekend out. It says a lot; it says a lot about our potential and what we can and will be. The whole reason we’re out here is to really face a lot of mental toughness. That goes from playing against the best teams to getting beat up by the best teams to bouncing back to learning how to fight.”

Bethune-Cookman recently competed in the 13th annual Mary Nutter Collegiate Classic, the only trip the Wildcats will make in the regular season west of the Mississippi River, and although the team lost all 11 games played, Genera has faced some of the tougher teams in the nation. Genera started against University of the Pacific and

then-fourth ranked Louisiana State University on Feb. 19, University of California, Santa Barbara on Feb. 21 and San Jose State University and Brigham Young University on Feb. 25. After 16 games, Genera leads the team with a 4.30 earned run average, seven starts, three complete games, 44 innings pitched and was tied with last season’s MEAC Pitcher of the Year, Sabrina Anguiano, with 27 strikeouts.

“I didn’t know how the competition was going to be,” Genera said. “But the fact that I did good, I was very happy.”

Genera, who was a Los Cerritos Community News first team pitcher as a junior and senior, left Gahr with 23 wins, including going 8-1 last season with a 2.30 ERA. Her 235 innings pitched, 227 strikeouts and 23 wins are second most in school history since 2000.

“Working with her a lot in the fall and then into the spring, I knew she would be a great asset,” Watten said. “I knew she would be somebody that we would really be building around to be able to have as one of our key pitchers out there. She sets a great tone out there.”

The Wildcats went 22-29 last season but 11-3 in the MEAC and has won eight conference championships since 1993, the last coming in 2012. Bethune-Cookman will play five games in the Hatter Classic this weekend in DeLand, FL and will open up MEAC play on Mar. 25 against Savannah State University.

huge save after another. If it wasn’t a diving save, he would punch out a potential goal. Marson made six saves off of eight first half shots and another two saves in the second half. In 22 games this season, Marson allowed 22 goals and posted seven shutouts

“He’s been huge for us all year long,” Anderson said. “I watched him play last year and I was excited coming in to have him as our keeper. The work that he puts in really sets the tone for everyone else.”

But with V.C.’s offense going nowhere in the second half, the Rams got some momentum. In the 58th minute, Alejandro Pimentel was taken down in the penalty box on a questionable call and Fred Zaragoza converted the penalty kick for his team-leading 25th goal. The Crusaders were

then hoping to at least extend the game into overtime, which was the case in their second round game against San Marino High two days prior.

The co-champions of the Olympic League, which was the fourth straight season the program has won the league, graduates half of its team. But the 10 underclassmen combined to score 13 of the team’s 37 goals this season and near future looks very good for a fifth straight league title.

“We are losing a lot of seniors,” Anderson said. “We do have a lot of underclassmen all ready to go. J.V. went undefeated in league this year, so there’s a lot of promising talent on J.V. We’re ready for next year and we’re going to be just as strong, if not stronger.”

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE City Council of the City of Artesia will hold a public hearing in the City Council Chambers of the Artesia City Hall, 18747 Clarkdale Avenue, and Artesia at 7:00 p.m. on, Monday, March 14, 2016 to consider the following item:

Case No. 2004-27 and 2005-34
Development Agreement 19031-19041 Norwalk Blvd.
A request for approval of an application for a Development Agreement for a proposed 16-unit single-family residential project located at 19031-19041 Norwalk Boulevard in the Medium Density Residential (M-D-R) Zone, and recommending adoption of an addendum to a Mitigated Negative Declaration.

If you challenge this action 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 City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing.

All interested persons are invited to attend this hearing and express opinion on the matter listed above.

For additional information, please contact the City Clerk's office at Artesia City Hall, 18747 Clarkdale Avenue, Artesia (562) 865-6262.

Publish: March 4, 2016

Gloria Considine, City Clerk

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE

(UCC Sec. 6105)

Escrow No. 12249D

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a bulk sale is about to be made. The name(s), business address(es) of the seller(s) are: W.K.S. RESTAURANT CORPORATION, A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION, 5151 STATE UNIVERSITY DR, LOS ANGELES, CA 90032

Whose chief executive office is: P.O. BOX 39, LAKEWOOD, CA 90714

Doing Business as: EL POLLO LOCO (Type – FAST FOOD CHICKEN RESTAURANT)

All other business name(s) and address(es) used by the seller(s) within the past three years, as stated by the seller(s), is/are:

The name(s) and address of the buyer(s) is/are: MLXX LLC, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, 209 S. 3RD AVE #A, ARCADIA, CA 91006

The assets being sold are generally described as: ALL STOCK IN TRADE, FURNITURE, FIXTURES, EQUIPMENT AND GOODWILL and are located at: 5151 STATE UNIVERSITY DR, LOS ANGELES, CA 90032

The bulk sale is intended to be consummated at the office of: CAPITOL CITY ESCROW INC, 3838 WATT AVE, STE F-610, SACRAMENTO, CA 95821 and the anticipated sale date is MARCH 23, 2016

The bulk sale is subject to California Uniform Commercial Code Section 6106.2.

[If the sale is subject to Sec. 6106.2, the following information must be provided.] The name and address of the person with whom claims may be filed is: CAPITOL CITY ESCROW INC, 3838 WATT AVE, STE F-610, SACRAMENTO, CA 95821 and the last day for filing claims by any creditor shall be MARCH 22, 2016, which is the business day before the sale date specified above.

Dated: FEBRUARY 9, 2016

MLXX LLC, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, Buyer(s)

LA1637460 LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS 3/4/16



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YOU

Advancing Colorectal CancerCare



Kirsten Warren, 52
Rectal Cancer Survivor
Community Gardener

The Colorectal Cancer Program at the MemorialCare Todd Cancer Institute offers a collaborative and caring approach to the diagnosis and treatment of patients with colorectal cancer, including access to minimally invasive and robotic-assisted surgery techniques, resulting in less pain and a faster recovery.



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COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENINGS BEGIN AT 50

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- Colonoscopy every 10 years
- Sigmoidoscopy every 5 years
- Stool based testing

Talk to your doctor about what screening is right for you.

ROYBAL

Continued from page 1

eight from Downey, and seven from Roybal's home city of Pico Rivera.

Roberta Ruiz of Downey, one of the proponents signing the petition, commented, "Roybal's tenure has been dominated by acts of incompetence, dishonesty and cronyism. His "double-dipping" while in teacher jail should immediately disqualify him from elected office. How can we allow an official that can't even be trusted to be in the same classroom as our children, to make decisions on a vital resource such as water? It's time for a change at Central Basin, and it can't happen soon enough."

The embattled water agency has been under intense media and legislative scrutiny over the past three years, ever since Roybal (and Vasquez) first took office in January 2013.

During Roybal's time in office, HMG-CN exclusively reported on a number of controversial decisions and actions taken by Roybal and his voting partners, Bob Apodaca and Leticia Vasquez.

Many residents have emailed HMG-CN and left comments on its website asking why the F.B.I. and the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office have not taken action based on the published articles.

Some of the articles include HMG-CN first reporting that Roybal and Board ally Leticia Vasquez had their campaigns funded in large part by convicted felon Rick Mayer.

Other stories included Roybal's leaking of a confidential settlement agreement with former General Manager Chuck Fuentes to the Whittier Daily News, resulting in a lawsuit and total payments to Fuentes of over \$70,000; the approval of the payment of \$670,000 to settle a sexual harass-

ment and battery lawsuit against Director Bob Apodaca, and joining Apodaca and Vasquez in voting to waive attorney-client privilege to allow the costly qui tam lawsuit to continue.

HMG-CN confirmed over 9 months ago with two attorneys that Vasquez is a "party plaintiff" in the Qui Tam lawsuit.

That action took place over protests by CB's General Counsel that the vote was illegal because of Vasquez's conflict of interest.

Calls to Director Roybal for comment were not returned at the time of this posting.

CITY WIDE PRIDE

Continued from page 1

seven areas, with four to five judges per area. Each area has ten winners and two grand prize winners. Historically, the City received approximately 125 nominations.

In previous years the City budgeted \$32,000 for the annual program, which culminated in a banquet at the Cerritos Sheraton. A few years ago, the budget was reduced and the banquet eliminated, the decision was based upon the economic environment at the time.

Participation by residents has since declined said Michael Yach, who presented to Council modifications to the program.

Yach stated that between 80 – 100 hours of staff time is used to facilitate the program. In 2015, staff was required to augment judging and submit their own nominations, as the City only received 77 entries.

Given the decline, the Property Preservation Commission requested a re-evaluation of the CWPP. In September of 2015 a special meeting was held by the

PPC to discuss revising the program.

Proposed changes would eliminate the seven judging areas and open up the program citywide, allowing anyone to nominate a home, thus encouraging more participation.

The program would create a "community of judges."

Secondly, home addresses could be submitted by email, utilizing the link on the City's website, by telephone or the City's 'Go Request' app for smart phone users. A required form would need to be completed with digital photos.

Photos must be taken from the public sidewalk or street and not the subject property. Residents will also be allowed to self nominate.

Staff would then review each property and verify there are no code enforcement violations. Nominated residents would be contacted to acquire permission to use photos on the City's website.

The program would now have five to ten homes recognized monthly instead of annually. These properties would be "introduced" each month to the Property Preservation Commission via a Power-Point presentation and then posted to the City's website. Recognition would be limited to once a year per each submitted property. Homeowners would receive a letter of recognition from City Council for their beautification efforts.

Yach outlined the benefits of the modifications would enhance a program that has been declining in recent years and promote more homes in the process. The modified program would reduce costs and allow more participation.

Council unanimously approved the changes.

MURDER

Continued from page 1

to the 14300 block of Firestone Blvd. to investigate the apparent shooting death of the women around 5 o'clock am.

The woman, wearing an In-N-Out uniform, was thought to be wounded in the upper torso and shot in the parking lot adjacent to the restaurant, according to a LASD statement.

It wasn't clear what the motive was said Lieutenant Steve Jauch of the Los Angeles Sheriffs Department. Investigators were looking through video from In-N-Out and nearby businesses.

Alcocer had been employed by In-N-Out since 1996 and was one of the La Mirada restaurant's original employees.

"The entire in and out family grieves today over this senseless tragedy as we send our thoughts and prayers to the Alcocer family," In-N-Out burger owner and president Lysi Snyder said. "We are devastated and we will miss her, so many things going on in the world today we will remain strong and stand in love for Josefina. God bless and comfort all who are mourning a loved one at this time."

The family has set up a GoFundMe account at www.gofundme.com/ver-je5vq.

Local coupons, Great deals



See pages 2 and 3