



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INVESTIGATING ACBUSD BOARD

ABC attorney said all procedures were followed, sources are telling HMG-CN that Board Member Lynda Johnson is responsible.

By Brian Hews

Hews Media Group-Community News has learned that the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, Public Integrity Division (DA) has launched an investigation into possible Brown Act violations by the ABC School Board.

The investigation does not include VP Chris Apodaca or Board Member Leticia Mendoza, as the alleged violations occurred before they were elected.

HMG-CN has been told by reliable sources that the DA is investigating all other Board Members with the exception of Board Member Lynda Johnson.

Johnson works as a paralegal for the DA in Compton.

The investigation is centered on a closed session meeting involving the contract negotiations of current ABCUSD Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu.

Sources have told HMG-CN that the DA is looking at information that came out of the closed session meeting along with the contract given to Dr. Sieu.

The contract reportedly gave

See **INVESTIGATION** page 12

Goodwill's CNA Program Trains High School Graduates to Launch Healthcare Careers



Graduates of Goodwill's program at the graduation ceremony. Earlier this month, the students took the State of California CNA examination to become eligible to graduate from the training program. Days before the graduation ceremony, all 13 students learned that they passed the statewide examination. Photo courtesy Goodwill.

La Mirada 'Seniornet'

The Product of Leon Kowitz

By Daniela Kanz

Whittier Presbyterian Hospital's volunteer Leon Kowitz has been a hospital volunteer since 1993 and has logged more than 16,000 hours. He told me the story of how La Mirada SeniorNet came to be. The hospital (now PIH Health) wanted to figure out how to get a learning center started. Nancy White (now retired) was in charge of Volunteer Services at the time and was responsible for forming the learning center. The hospital realized the

necessity for seniors to have a place to learn computers, so they wanted to start a computer-learning center for the older folks.

Around November 2000, the hospital and the City of La Mirada came up with the idea that they could set up a joint learning center and asked Leon if he would visit with the people from National SeniorNet when they came for an informational meeting. The Activity Center was still under construction. The

See **KOWITZ** page 13

Cerritos Will Continue Studying Budget Cuts

By Brian Hews

It did not take long for disgruntled residents to voice their opinion at this past Thursday's Cerritos City Council meeting.

Budget Manager Ryan Cary presented the proposed cuts in a presentation that took over 30 minutes, then the public comments - at times acrimonious - began.

Most voiced concern about closing the Library on weekends, and also the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts and how much money that is costing the City.

One resident commented that Cerritos has 1 employee for every 79 residents, wanting to further cut an already depleted City employee base.

A look at Transparent California (TC) confirmed that statement; Cerritos had 625 employees at the end of 2015.

With 49,000 residents that equates to

See **BUDGET** page 12

Bellflower Partners With Habitat for Humanity

By Tammye McDuff

Partnership Housing, Habitat for Humanity along with City Council broke ground to build six new homes in the city of Bellflower this past Tuesday Aug. 30 at 8809 Ramona St. near the corner of Lakewood and Artesia Blvd.

The idea is to bring affordable housing

See **BELLFLOWER** page 2

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BELLFLOWER
Continued from page 1

and create a community allowing home ownership to those who might otherwise not be able to afford it. The project is the first Partnership Housing and Habitat LA’s first development in Bellflower.

With Habitat LA’s offices and one of its ReStores located nearby, the partnership received a generous construction grant and loan to facilitate the new homes. “We are excited to begin these new homes in the City of Bellflower, which will provide homeownership opportunities for local families,” says Erin Rank, Executive Director of Partnership Housing and President/CEO of Habitat LA, “ we are proud of our new Housing Center and ReStore in Bellflower and this is a wonderful expansion of our great partnership with the city.”

Bellflower Mayor Dan Koops added, “The City is thankful for the opportunity to collaborate with Habitat for Humanity, Greater Los Angeles and Partnership Housing to develop new homeownership opportunities. The city is always seeking opportunities to revitalize our neighborhoods, and we are proud to be a part of this project.”

This development features six new homes with three bedrooms and two bathrooms. Each unit will also be built sustainably and efficiently with drought tolerant landscaping, energy efficient heating systems, insulation made from recycled content, low-flow plumbing fixtures and solar ready systems.

Habitat LA is in the process of selecting homebuyers for these homes. Once selected, they will receive financial education, help build the homes and pay



Bellflower and Habitat for Humanity officials break ground on the new project going up at the corner of Lakewood and Artesia. Photo by Tammye McDuff.

an affordable mortgage that will help Partnership Housing and Habitat LA build more homes.

This project is part of Habitat LA’s Building a Greater Los Angeles campaign. Their goal is to endow \$100 million by 2020 into revitalizing neighborhoods and increasing access to affordable homeownership. This investment will benefit the local economy by building strong and stable homes for families, individuals, volunteers, municipalities and donors, which will in turn strengthen local communities throughout the greater Los Angeles area.

Partnership Housing Inc. is a non-profit housing development company that seeks to eliminate poverty housing by working with economically disadvantaged people, helping them create a better environment in which to live and work, the primary goal being to provide decent, affordable housing to individuals and families. Partnership Housing serves hardworking families who are typically renters.

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles (Habitat LA) brings people together to build homes, communities and hope. As the top nonprofit homebuilder in the greater Los Angeles area with five consecutive Charity Navigator 4-Star ratings, Habitat LA has partnered with volunteers, donors and Habitat homeowners to build, renovate and repair more than 1,000 homes locally and worldwide since 1990.

The lives of thousands of individuals have been transformed as a result of having a decent and affordable place to call home. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes and pay an affordable mortgage.

By supporting Habitat LA through volunteerism, donations and supporting affordable housing, everyone can help families achieve the stability and self-reliance they need to build a better future.

LA PALMA TOWN HALL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 12

Staff Report

The public is invited to attend a City of La Palma Town Hall meeting on Monday, September 12, at 7:00 p. m. in the Royal Palm Room of the La Palma Community Center located at 7821 Walker Street, La Palma.

The Town Hall meeting is being held to provide information to the community regarding the City’s fiscal condition and the steps the City Council has taken over the past several years to address the fiscal crisis.

City Manager Laurie Murray said, “La Palma is at a critical juncture in its history. Over the past few years, we have experienced a 24% decrease in revenues while at the same time facing increased costs for pensions and insurance.

Although we have done much over the past several budget cycles, including reducing the workforce, lowering compensation, and making cuts to programs and expenditures—it simply is not enough for the City to achieve and sustain long term fiscal health.

I encourage residents to attend the September 12 meeting; as the City values their input.”

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CERRITOS AIR DISASTER MARKED BY MEMORIAL CEREMONY AT SCULPTURE GARDEN

By Tammye McDuff

At 11:56am, this past Wednesday, bells chimed out three times in remembrance of the Cerritos Air Disaster.

On August 31, 1986 a Piper Cherokee Archer II plane collided with Aeromexico DC-9 midair above Cerritos, resulting in a tragedy that claimed 82 lives, destroyed eleven homes and severely damaged seven other structures. Those who perished included 15 on the ground, 64 on the Aeromexico flight and three on the smaller aircraft. The tragedy became known as the Cerritos Air Disaster and prompted the implementation of safer procedures for airport approaches and departures.

Supervisor Don Knabe was Mayor of Cerritos at the time, “You know when you become Mayor, you are handed a little booklet on disaster preparedness, but nowhere does it tell you what to do when a DC-9 crashes in your city. It’s hard to believe, but today marks the 30th anniversary of the Cerritos Air Crash.” Knabe states, “On a cloudless afternoon in 1986, a beautiful day like today, a small airplane collided with an Aeromexico DC-9 in the skies above Cerritos. Death and destruction rained down on our city, devastating this community.”

Knabe visited the crash site a few days ago, “It was my first visit to the neighborhood at Carmenita Road and 183rd street in many years.” Some of the neighbors who survived the air crash on the ground still lived there. Others decided the memories were too painful to stay. “As I turned the corner onto Holmes Avenue, my heart skipped a beat, and it was suddenly hard to breathe as a rush of raw emotions came roaring back. I could smell the burning jet fuel again. I could see the rubble and remains of exploded houses again. I could feel the immense loss of our friends and neighbors and the feeling of hopelessness again.”

Many special speakers were present today including Adriana Ocejo, Director of Culture, from the Township of Loreto, Mexico and Luis Valdez, son of Aeromexico pilot Captain Arturo Valdez.

There was some good that came from that day. Air traffic monitoring changed forever with new transponders that allow aircraft of all sizes to talk to each other, ensuring a similar air disaster would not happen again. Mental health teams now rapidly deploy to disaster areas to begin immediate crisis counseling for victims, and first responders who may suffer post-traumatic stress from their experiences. Responsibility for the collision was shared by the pilot of the smaller plane and the Federal Aviation Administration.

The FAA has since enforced a series of

key changes, requiring jetliners to install automatic crash-avoidance systems; mandating the use of transponders operating within certain areas; and consolidating approach spaces for more organized airspace management.

Cerritos came together that day in unity. The community and City of Cerritos established a fund for victims’ families. Shelters were set up for people who lost their homes, residents opened up their homes and made sure everyone had a place to go where they could sleep, eat and mourn. “I’ll never forget that overwhelming sense of community,” states Knabe.

Cerritos City Councilmembers who led the community during this painful time of



A mom with her young daughter at the memorial ceremony. Photo Tammye McDuff

healing included Mayor Don Knabe, Mayor Pro Tem Daniel Wong, Councilmember Ann Joynt, Councilmember Diana Needham and Councilmember Barry Rabbit.

There has not been another midair crash between a major commercial air carrier and a general-aviation aircraft, since the Cerritos Air Disaster. The number of midair crashes in U.S. airspace has reduced to single digit instances according to Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association.

The Aeromexico plane, flight 498 originated from Loreto, Mexico. Among the 64 people on the flight were 15 people from Mexico. Out of this tragedy a friendship and Sister City relationship was born between the Cerritos and Loreto communities and continue to thrive today.

The Cerritos Air Disaster 30th Anniversary Remembrance is held in memory of those who perished in the disaster and to provide comfort to those who lost loved ones in the tragedy.



Residents gather at the Cerritos Sculpture Garden before the ceremony. Photo by Tammye McDuff.

Go Metro on Game Day to see the LA Rams, USC Trojans and UCLA Bruins play.



Metro Briefs

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Mobile Customer Center

Metro recently launched a mobile customer center that will provide services to seniors in underserved areas throughout LA County. Services will include intake of reduced fare applications and selling fare for TAP cards. To learn more about this program, visit metro.net/mobilecustomercenter.



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HAWAIIAN GARDENS COUNCIL HONORS LITTLE LEAGUE CHAMPS



Members of the Hawaiian Gardens City Council and Supervisor Don Knabe with the 2016 winners of the Little League Tournament of Champions. Photo courtesy City of Hawaiian Gardens.

PIONEER MEDICAL GROUP SELECTED FOR CITY'S BUSINESS RECOGNITION PROGRAM



Pioneer Medical Group was selected for city's Business Recognition Program. Front row (l-r) Pinal Doshi, M.D., Internal Medicine (to Mayor pro tem Solanki's left), Cheryl Hirtler, Marketing Manager, & Edward Tellez, M.D. and one of the original founding members. With them are of the Councilmember Mark Pulido, Mayor Pro Tem Naresh Solanki, Councilmembers Carol Chen and Jim Edwards and Mayor George Ray. Photo courtesy City of Cerritos.

ARTESIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY BBQ

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Front Line Warriors, otherwise known as Motorcycle Ministers, guided over 200 families through the lines at the Warrior Center on August 20th. Backpacks were filled with pens, pencils, notebooks,



Pastor Bobby with friends at Palm Park for Love N' Grub. Once a month the Warrior Center hosts free meals for the homeless [or anyone in need] at Caruthers Park and Palm Park in the city of Bellflower. Photo by Tammye McDuff.

colors, tape, calculators, rulers and everything that a child needs to start the new school year well prepared. After each family exited through the line of blue pop up tents, they were greeted with a smile, a prayer and a plate of food. All donations from Pastor Bobby and his congregation. Front Line Warriors began 14 years ago on skid row, "Because that was the area that we knew," says Amezcua, "I saw a need in communities, not just preaching to people, but actually doing something that would help in their everyday lives."

I was able to sit down and speak with Amezcua for awhile and his story brought me to tears. I won't spoil it for you, you really need to order his book "From the Mud to the Blood", it is one of those books that you can't put down until it's completely finished. After our two hour conversation, Pastor Bobby invited me to come to their monthly 'Love N' Grub' the following Saturday.

Once a month the Warrior Center hosts

free meals for the homeless [or anyone in need] at Caruthers Park and Palm Park in the city of Bellflower. Jason and Yolanda Johnson are part of the Warrior Center. This July marked the one year anniversary of the Johnsons' being off the street, in part through the help and guidance of Pastor Bobby. The couple wanted to give back to others in need. With the assistance of the Warrior Center, 'Love N' Grub' was born.

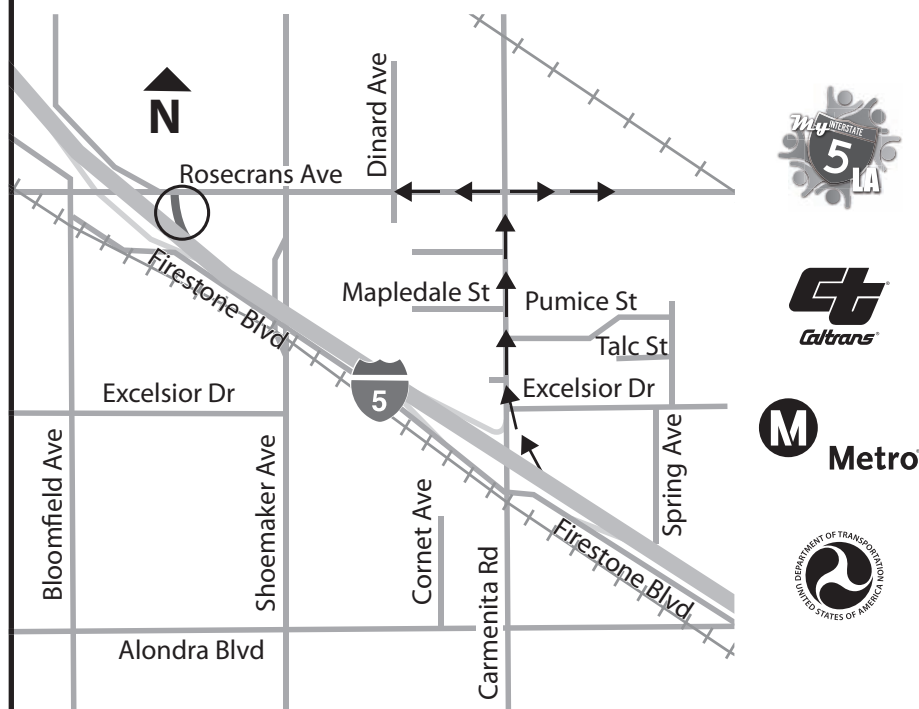
For the month of August, Love N' Grub has fed over 500 people. From twelve noon to 2:00 pm anyone can come out, have a burger or a hot dog, talk, get assistance or just get a hug. All the food is either purchased by the Johnsons or donated by the Warrior Center. This is one of those organizations we should all be supporting. The congregation truly gives from the heart, to those that others would just pass by.

To contact Pastor Bobby and the Warrior Center go to www.warriorcenterbellflower.com

I-5 / ROSECRANS OFF-RAMP CLOSURE

Beginning Friday night, September 9, 2016 at 9 p.m. crews will close the northbound I-5 Rosecrans Avenue off-ramp for approximately three to four months to reconstruct and realign the ramp in order to accommodate the newly widened freeway.

The closure area is circled on the map and the detour route is shown with arrows. Detour signs will be posted to direct motorists. The northbound Carmenita Road and Norwalk Avenue off-ramps will remain open.



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NORWALK-LA MIRADA USD'S TECHNOLOGY ROLLOUT

Staff Report

Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District is equipping its classrooms with iPads, Chromebooks, iMacs and wireless access points in the first phase of a five-year technology integration plan, the 2020 Learning Initiative.

Second-grade classrooms will have technology carts with 20 devices, each fourth-grader will have a personal mobile learning device for use in their classroom and sixth- and ninth-grade students will receive personal mobile learning devices that they can take home.

“Part of ensuring that our students are ready for college and careers means that we provide them the skills to navigate various forms of technology,” NLMUSD Board President Karen Morrison said. “We must provide our students with computer arts instruction that will allow them to compete in an increasingly

be programmed with District-approved software and applications.

“Our goal is to develop a comprehensive education where we provide our teachers and schools with the required technology and training, as well as access and equity for all students,” NLMUSD Coordinator of Instructional Technology Ernesto Centeno said. “By spreading the rollout over a five-year period, we can ensure a seamless transition from year to year.”

The District held two blended learning summits over the summer to prepare teachers on the full capability of the new technology.

Teachers and administrators attended hands-on workshops to learn how to integrate the new technology into their curriculum. Some of the workshops focused on specific software, including:

Google – interactive classroom platforms including Docs, Sheets, Slides and Forms



Norwalk-La Mirada Unified teachers and administrators learn about the District’s 2020 Learning Initiative during a Blended Learning Summit held Aug. 5 at Corvallis Middle School.

connected world.”

Each year up to 2020, additional grade levels will receive their respective technology upgrades. Transitional kindergarten to third-grade classrooms will be provided with technology carts stocked with 20 devices. All tablets and laptops will stay in the classrooms. Fourth- through 12th-grade students will receive personal mobile learning devices. Beginning in fourth grade, lesson plans will emphasize a one-to-one device environment focused on personalized learning based on each student’s specific needs.

The District will provide cyber-safety coaches to assist teachers and administrators in monitoring student use of computers to prevent cyber-bullying and unauthorized software from being downloaded. For cyber-safety reasons, all District-issued mobile devices will

Schoology – learning management system

Explain Everything – collaborative and interactive whiteboard

PicCollage – photo editor

ThingLink – interactive media platform

Apple Life – software suite that includes iMovie for film and GarageBand for audio recording

QR Codes – barcodes that can be scanned by a smartphone reader app

Notability – note-taking app for iPads

“Our students will receive the highest level of academic instruction with the most effective technological tools relevant to their education and careers,” Superintendent Dr. Hasmik Danielian said. “Our teachers and staff will receive continual training and workshops to successfully integrate the technology into their curriculum.”

Rep. Roybal-Allard Visits Columbia Memorial Space Center's Rocket Fever Event



Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (left) talks with Columbia Memorial Space Center President/Executive Director Ben Dickow (center) and Downey Mayor Alex Saab (right).

On Saturday, Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-40) visited the Columbia Memorial Space Center's Rocket Fever festival. As a strong supporter of STEM learning, Congresswoman Roybal-Allard visited the event to see participants learn about rockets, build rockets, and find out how to get rockets to fly. The festival

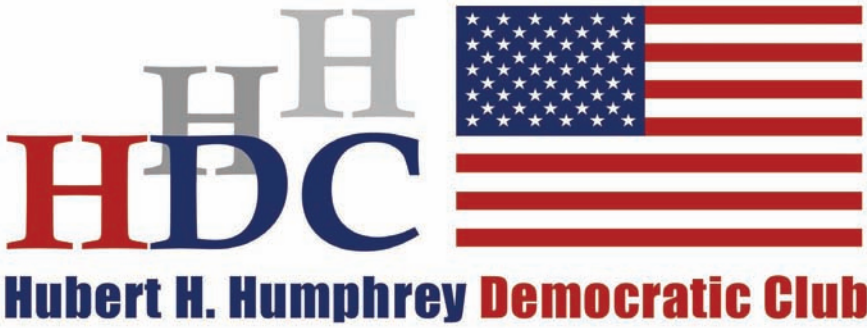
was sponsored by the City of Downey and the Financial Partners Credit Union. Roybal-Allard's Congressional District contains the cities of Bell, Bell Gardens, Commerce, Cudahy, Downey, Huntington Park, Maywood, Paramount, Vernon, and parts of Bellflower, East Los Angeles, Florence-Graham, South Los Angeles, and Walnut Park.

Potluck, Interest Groups, and Tech Trek Featured at AAUW September 15 Meeting

By Edna Ethington

The La Palma-Cerritos branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will be holding its first General Meeting of the 2016-2017 year on Thursday, September 15, 2016, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Skyline Room of the Cerritos Library, 18025 Bloomfield Avenue in Cerritos. Program Co-Vice -Presidents Nancy Kawamura and Mary Ann Quinn are planning for an exciting, interesting and productive year. At this first meeting, there will be a potluck dinner prepared AAUW members and guests are invited to come and learn about the AAUW. After dinner, there will be

a presentation by board member Tobi Balma and her roommate, Natalia, about their experiences with Tech Trek this summer. Interest group leaders will also be available to explain their activities and take sign-ups by those who want to join their interest groups. New participants are always welcome in the interest groups and new members are also welcome to join the AAUW. Membership in the AAUW is open to students who are working for their A.A. degrees and graduates who have received their A.A. degrees or higher degrees from an accredited college or university. For more information, President Paulette Smith at 714-897-7848.



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As of August 31, 2016, Dr. Phillip Zaret, DBA Michael’s Medical Group, will be closing his medical practice at 15090 Imperial Highway, La Mirada, Ca 90638, due to his passing. As of September 1, 2016, all medical records will be stored and are accessible by request at:

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WEEK ZERO FOOTBALL-

GAHR PUTS IT ALL TOGETHER AGAINST VALLEY CHRISTIAN IN BACKYARD ROMP

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on Twitter

The distance from Gahr High to Valley Christian High is a mere seventh tenths of a mile, good enough to be Artesia Blvd. neighbors. But in the 2016 season opener between the two schools, the Gladiators proved to be less than gracious visitors as they scored 34 unanswered points en route to a 41-14 win last Friday night at Crusader Field.

For Gahr senior running back Latrell Stearns, he called his team’s performance a statement victory, considering the Crusaders are the defending Olympic League champions following a 9-3 season. Stearns added that Gahr is getting better and that this is the best team he’s been on.

Gahr head coach Greg Marshall echoed the same sentiments as Stearns, adding that, “when you have a bunch of seniors that have stayed the path, those seniors set the tone. It was important to them that they stayed with the program and believed in the program.”

Gahr took the opening kickoff and drove 80 yards on nine plays with the biggest gain coming from Stearns, who rumbled 47 yards on the first play from scrimmage. Just over three and a half minutes later, senior quarterback Robert Frutos found sophomore wide receiver Micah Bernard for a six-yard score.

V.C. was staring at a three and out on its first possession. But senior kicker Clay D’Amico put together a 31-yard run on a fake punt. However, he would come

up short on a 40-yard field goal attempt nearly midway through the stanza. The Crusaders would eventually tie the game with 3:02 remaining in the quarter when junior wide receiver Bailey Torres hauled in a 41-yard pass from junior quarterback Isaac Joseph.

After that, it was all Gahr, both on offense and on defense. Four plays after the Crusaders tied the game, Frutos hooked up with senior wide receiver Alonzo Davis for a 61-yard score. The Gladiators wouldn’t find the end zone again until there were 62 seconds remaining in the half when Stearns went in from three yards out.

“Up front, I thought their offensive and defensive lines outplayed ours,” said V.C. head coach Woodie Grayson. “That was the difference in the game. To be honest, our opening drive was the result of a fake punt. We really didn’t move the ball. We didn’t give our guys a chance tonight. We just really didn’t play well up front.”

V.C.’s offense was in limbo, gaining 19 yards on the ground in the second quarter. Last season’s running back sensation, junior Gianni Hurd, was held to 13 yards on six carries in the half. And in the third quarter, a pair of turnovers on consecutive plays led to two touchdowns for the Gladiators, who by now had

opened up a 34-7 lead.

“You really can’t get a feel for how good they are and how good we were because every time we stopped them, we were right back out there,” Marshall said. “That’s a result of our defense.”

On the first play of V.C.’s second possession of the second half, Joseph was hit after a seven-yard gain and fumbled the pigskin where senior safety Isaiah Mays picked it up and scooted 25 yards for a touchdown. Then following a Bernard interception of junior quarterback Jaylon Tucker, who had replaced an injured Joseph, Gahr capped off an eight-play drive with a 26-yard scoring run from junior running back Chris Shakir-Ricks.

The Crusader’s offense continued to sputter as another fumble put the Gladiators at the V.C. 34-yard line. Three straight runs from Stearns, the last being a four-yard score, extended the lead to 41-7 with 4:09 left in the quarter.

Stearns would finish the game with 207 yards on 24 carries while Shakir-Ricks picked up another 85 yards on 15 carries. As a team, the Gladiators would run through V.C.’s defense to the tune of 311 yards.

“They told me to lead the team and that’s what I did,” Stearns said. “I saw

that they couldn’t tackle me, so I just kept pushing. I kept pushing the rest of the game.”

“It’s what we expect of him,” Marshall said. “We have to run the football; we have the running back. He’s going to carry us.”

Just as impressive as the running game was, Frutos had a banner game as well, completing his first eight passes and finishing with 137 while connecting 12 times out of 16 tries.

“He managed the game, made some good reads, got the ball out and took what they gave him,” Marshall said. “He didn’t force anything. But that’s what he needs to do for us.”

The Crusaders didn’t have a drive longer than 2:35 and despite D’Amico missing two field goals, plus the three turnovers, the hosts added their second touchdown when Hurd scored from a yard out with 3:25 left in the game. Entering the fourth quarter, Hurd had 25 yards on nine carries. But he got loose for a 75-yard jaunt and three plays later, made it 41-14. V.C. was limited to 146 yards on the ground while Joseph completed two of nine passes for 40 yards.

“We knew who we had to stop and we got fortunate...they got us on a couple of passes,” Marshall said. “Obviously we’re keying in on him and so they had to do something else. We said, ‘look, as long as he doesn’t beat us, I’m okay’.”

“They did a good job up front, penetrating the offensive line,” Grayson said. “We never really gave Gio any

See GAHR page 11



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NEW CHANGES ALREADY IN PLACE FOR HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL, OTHER SPORTS

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on Twitter

The 2016-2017 school year has already begun and the most glaring change in the athletic world comes on the football field as teams have now been placed into divisions based on the equal competitiveness. The California Interscholastic Federation-Southern Section has done away with the “named divisions”, i.e., PAC-5, Mid Valley, Southeast, Southwest, etc., and have simply placed teams in Division 1-13.

“The general concept was to move schools into divisions where schools could compete,” said CIF-SS Commissioner of Athletics Rob Wigod. “The previous system was always league-based and that wasn’t always the best indicator.”

Wigod, who is in his sixth year as commissioner, said he found a report he gave to the Executive Committee in Jan. 2010 where he tried to give them a report on where the CIF-SS could go with an idea of placing schools in divisions based on competitiveness. However, the key step began four years ago. Assistant Commissioner Glenn Martinez has been instrumental in collecting data from the previous two years, including results of the regular season and section playoffs, strength of schedule, playoff performances in the section playoffs to restructure the teams in the 13 divisions. Power rankings also play a key factor in this.

“We’re trying to focus on one issue; competitiveness,” Wigod said. “Are you good? Are you not good? But who should you play? You should play people that are competitive with you. It doesn’t mean you’re going to win every single game. But are you competitive with them? School enrollment is not an indicator of competitiveness. It never really has been.”

Changes will be made each year based on the previous two years of data once a season has been completed. For example, once this school year is done, then data from the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years will be evaluated and used to form the 13 football divisions for next year.

“This is, remember, the first one,” Wigod said. “It will get so much better to evaluate the strength of divisions. Obviously PAC-5 is best. The Southwest and maybe another one would [have been] considered Tier 2. Now you don’t have that anymore. You’re going to have one, two, three, four five; it’s going to be so clearly delineated.”

The same process will also be used in all of the other sports, not just football. No longer will teams have to follow their own leagues in order to advance to the playoffs. In Division 1, there are 18 schools fighting for 16 playoff spots. Norwalk High and Valley Christian High are now in Division 9, Gahr High in Division 10, Artesia High in Division 12 and Cerritos High and John Glenn High in Division 13. For girls volleyball, there will be 10 divisions instead of each of those being broken up into I-AA and I-A.

Although the boys and girls basketball playoffs have been based off of enrollment for the past several years, the plans for equal balance for football has actually been in makings for a few years as well. Wigod said that it was actually volleyball that came up with this

concept first, noting that the volleyball coach’s committee said they wanted the same system that basketball has.

It was about four years ago that the CIF-SS began to create the system of collecting the data, scores, etc. to put the wheels in motion. Wigod added that he didn’t want a situation where, since volleyball came up with the idea first, the playoffs for that sport would be changed, then another sport the next year, then a third sport the year after and so forth.

“How do we put all of those sports in the same kind of module basketball had, but without enrollment,” Wigod questioned a few years ago. “It takes some time to do that and I think we worked through a good process to get there. The section was looking for us to do this. I believe that. They wanted this and we had to get to a point where we could deliver it.”

Wigod said there has been a lot of positive feedback with this new system. He says there are a lot of people who are looking forward to seeing this play out.

For football purposes, Cerritos hasn’t been to the playoffs since 2001, Glenn 2002, Artesia 2008 and Gahr 2009. The new system gives those four schools a better chance of advancing to the postseason, provided they can win enough games, since they will all be going up against teams in other leagues in similar positions.

“La Mirada is getting to go where they should go,” Wigod said. “And then an Artesia or whoever; they have a chance to be competitive. How do you build a program? What if they won a playoff game? What if they won a second playoff game? We think that’s what the system is going to do for folks who have had trouble. You still have to make playoffs and that’s another thing. That’s a league issue.”

Another major change that the CIF-SS has already begun planning will actually take place beginning with the 2018-2019 school year when the fall, winter and spring seasons will begin much sooner. For example, in 2018, the first Week Zero football game will begin on Aug. 17 with the regular season ending on Oct. 26. All of the winter sports will begin on Nov. 12 while the track and field state championships will take place Memorial Day weekend.

The reason for the change is because the CIF State office moved some championship dates forward because the school calendars will be changing.

“The feeling was the CIF calendars have to get lined up here,” Wigod said. “The CIF calendars have been kind of the old ‘after Labor Day to the middle of June’, playing our baseball and softball championships in the first weekend of June. We have schools that have been out for two weeks. We have schools that have started Aug. 1 who don’t play a game for a full month.”

So far, dates have been set for those sports that have state or Southern Regional championships. The CIF-SS will still have to put together a calendar for sports such as baseball and softball, whose seasons end with the divisional championships. Wigod said that a proposal for a 2018-2019 calendar will be completed next month or Jan., 2017.

Wigod said that another change for this school year is on the technology side as the CIF-SS will have a mobile app on the website that will link all of the social media.

GAHR *Continued from page 10*

running lanes. As good as he is, he still requires those guys up front to do their jobs. Unfortunately, he just never had a chance.”

This is Gahr’s first on the field win in a season opener since 2012 when the Gladiators defeated Northwood High 31-20. The next year, Gahr was blanked by Lakewood High 36-0 in the opener, which later forfeited the victory. The Gladiators will host Millikan High tonight at Hanford Rants Stadium.

“We changed some things and we changed the defensive front,” Marshall said. “I think we found what this team can do the last couple of years. I think we were focused on what we needed to do tonight and we didn’t panic. I think last year in the first game...that was part of the problem.”

“Our defense did great,” Stearns said. “They pushed through everything. Once we got the offense going, we’re unstoppable.”

Junior linebacker Darian Green led V.C. with 11 tackles while junior defensive back Garret Williams added 10 tackles. The last time the Crusaders gave up more than 40 points and lost was on Nov. 22, 2013, a 47-15 setback to Oak Park High. V.C. will be on the road to face Bellflower High tonight at Ron Yary Stadium.

“We get a chance to look at the film and we have to find a way to be better up front,” Grayson said. “The guys that we have are far too good to play the way we did tonight. We’re going to have to challenge those young men and they’re going to have to accept that challenge and they’re going to have to man up and get it done next week.”

ENTERTAINMENT REVIEW GO-GO’S FAREWELL TOUR ENDS 38-YEAR RUN

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on Twitter

COSTA MESA-One of the most iconic all female rock bands in the late 1970s put an end to a fantastic 38-year career with one final concert tour which lasted just less than a month. The Southern California-based Go-Go’s performed at the Segerstrom Concert Hall this past Sunday night, just two nights before their final concert ever as part of their Farewell Tour.

And just two songs before the end of their performance, vocalist Bethany Cosentino of the group Best Coast said it best when she uttered “I don’t want this tour to end”. Best Coast, along with Kaya Stewart, opened up for the Go-Go’s on the Farewell Tour.

After 38 years, the four members of the Go-Go’s (former member Kathy Valentine was not part of the Farewell Tour) showed that they could still keep going and that they still had the beat, no pun intended. The Go-Go’s, with lead singer Belinda Carlisle, guitarist Jane Wiedlin, multi-instrumentalist Charlotte Caffey and drummer Gina Schock, all range in ages from 56-62. They performed 18 songs with 11 coming from their top four albums. A third of the songs they performed came from their 1981 album Beauty and the Beat, including ‘How Much More’ and ‘This Town’, as two of the first four songs of the concert.

The Go-Go’s, who became the first

Assemblyman Gatto’s Bill to Increase Drone Safety Flies to Governor’s Desk

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Assemblyman Mike Gatto’s (D-Los Angeles) Drone Registration/Omnibus Negligence-prevention Enactment (DRONE Act) of 2016, passed the State Assembly today by a 43-20 vote, and will now make its final approach to the Governor’s desk.

The bill’s passage comes at a time of crisis. Drones have continued to interfere with firefighting efforts, delaying water drops and causing fires to grow, including three separate incidents this week at the Rey Fire in Santa Barbara County. Earlier this year, a Lufthansa Airbus A380 reported a near-miss incident when a drone flew passed the aircraft at 5,000 feet as it approached LAX. And today, the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) announced that a whopping 600,000 drones will be operational in the US in 2016.

The Act: -Mandates that drones of a certain size equipped with GPS, feature automatic shut-off technology that would activate if approaching airports or designated fire zones. This technology already exists, and is critical to protecting commercial passenger flights. Requires drone insurance policies, starting in 2020, to ensure that if a drone hurts someone or damages property the victim can be compensated. This requirement is akin to the auto-insurance requirements under existing law. Requires all drone packaging to include the safety disclosures and FAA registration requirements.

female band to write their songs and play their own instruments, kicked off the concert with ‘Vacation’, only fitting since it has been nearly a month-long vacation for the ladies on their final tour. After they performed ‘This Town’, Carlisle performed one of her solo hits from 1986, ‘Mad About You’.

It was pretty evident that the nearly 3,000 people in attendance were into the concert and even had fond memories of growing up listening to the Go-Go’s, whether they were into punk or pop music. A group of 10 ladies who ate at a nearby restaurant all wore the long neon t-shirts from the 1980’s. Another individual dressed up with a towel wrapped around her head and night cream all over her face, just like the then-five member group had on the cover of their Beauty and the Beat album.

Midway through the concert, the Go-Go’s really got the crowd going, first with ‘Cool Places’, a song that Wiedlin performed with the group Sparks in 1983. After performing ‘Cool Places’, the Go-Go’s invited a few concertgoers to come up on stage and dance to ‘Cool Jerk’, the fourth of the six songs they performed from the Beauty and the Beat album.

The concert ended with three of the four more popular songs, beginning with ‘Our Lips Are Sealed’ and ‘We Got The Beat’, a song that is played in the very opening of the iconic 1982 movie ‘Fast Times at Ridgemont High’. The Go-Go’s then left the stage but quickly returned for a pair of encore songs, ‘Get Up and Go’ from the Vacation album and ‘Head Over Heels’ the only song they performed from the 1984 album Talk Show. After performing ‘Head ‘Over Heels’ for nearly five and a half minutes, it was time to say adieu to a group who sold over seven million albums.

INVESTIGATION
Continued from page 1

Dr. Sieu 25 years of health benefits when she leaves, which is part of the investigation.

Many other public entities offer this type of coverage including Cerritos.

The website Transparent California,

the DA’s office in Compton, “was not on the list,” according to the source.

It could indicate that Johnson, who was bypassed for her normal rotation to be president of the board after she did not support the school bond in 2014, filed the complaint with the DA.

HMG-CN has asked for the complaint letter but was told, “the matter is under investigation, the letter is not available.”

Some legal experts are raising some

BUDGET
Continued from page 1

1:79 ratio.

But over 45%, or 281, of those employees are under the federal poverty level for a family of four, making \$24,668 or less.

There was concern too about the 1% sales tax increase that would bring in much needed money to rebuild the City’s crumbling infrastructure and fund the Sheriff’s Station.

A 1% increase would equate to \$1 per one hundred dollars spent, or the cost of a half a cup of coffee at Starbucks, but most of the residents were against the tax saying, “people will go outside the City and shop.”

Economists call this “sales tax leakage,” where residents purchase taxable goods outside of the city they live in because of a lower sales tax rate.

But the latest retail purchasing patterns for Cerritos run contradictory to the residents’ statements about people leaving the City to shop elsewhere.

According to the City’s own profile, sales tax revenue has risen for the past four calendar years.

From 2012 to 2013 revenue rose \$574,000; from 2013 to 2014 revenue rose \$334,000, and from 2014 to 2015 revenue rose a healthy \$2.376 million.

The growth in sales tax revenue, the profile claims, can be attributed to “renovations and increased in construction activity at the Cerritos Auto Square, the Los Cerritos Center, Plaza 183, and other shopping centers throughout the city.”

And a study done by HMG-CN of cities that raised their sales tax confirms the lack of “sales tax leakage” after an

increase was passed.

The data came from the California State Board of Equalization.

HMG-CN looked at the cities of Palm Springs, Vallejo, San Leandro, Santa Monica, Concord, Santa Rosa, Tracy, Santa Maria, Albany, Commerce, Culver City, La Mirada, Sacramento, Salinas, Vacaville, Pico Rivera, and El Monte.

Only one city saw a drop in sales tax revenue after passage of an increase, and that was El Monte and only in the first year. After the first year the city realized a \$13.2 million increase.

All others showed a healthy increase, tiny Commerce saw an increase of \$9.2 million, Santa Monica \$9.8 million, and Sacramento saw a healthy \$15.9 million increase.

Still, the residents were not happy about a tax and asked for more employee cuts, scaling back other facilities besides the Library, such as the Senior Center and Swim complex.

They cited upcoming taxes proposed by Los Angeles county, which would drive Cerritos’s rate higher, if passed.

Others wanted to keep the Sheriff’s Station, which represented over 70% of the proposed total cuts. Resident Harold Cohen told the Council he came to the meeting to defend the Sheriff’s Station. “We cannot close the station down, the City has to continue keep the residents safe.”

2014 District Superintendent Salaries and Cost per Employee

District	# Employees	Benefits	Total	Cost/Employee
ABC	3,876	\$26,000	\$262,000	67.59
Downey	2,847	\$38,000	\$267,000	93.78
Compton	3,446	\$27,000	\$268,000	77.77
Nor./La Mda.	3,874	\$41,000	\$260,000	67.59

Graph showing school districts, number of employees per district, benefits paid to each superintendent, total salary and cost per employee. ABC's Dr. Sieu is on the lower end of the scale. More important her benefits were the lowest among the group.

which lists all public employee salaries, indicates that Dr. Sieu’s pay package salary is not out of line with other similar-sized school district superintendent’s pay packages and is actually one of the lowest in the area.

HMG-CN has been told that Board Member Maynard Law has already been interviewed, with Soo Yoo, President Olympia Chen, Clerk Sophia Tse up next.

Surprisingly Board Member Lynda Johnson, who works as a paralegal for

serious conflict of interest questions given that Johnson works for the DA in Compton.

Questions surround involvement of how much influence Johnson could have on the investigation, how much influence she has in with the investigators, and how much access she has to paperwork related to the case.

HMG-CN tried to contact Johnson but she has not responded at time of publication.



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KOWITZ

Continued from page 1

City of La Mirada agreed to provide the facility and PIH agreed to provide financial assistance. Early in 2001, Leon with others from La Mirada and Whittier met with the National SeniorNet representatives who were looking for a volunteer to run the center and asked Leon to be the coordinator. He seemed to have the most qualifications to be the coordinator. After discussing with his wife, Leon agreed to do it.

By June 2001, the facility was ready. Volunteers from PIH and local residents came to set up the classroom for anyone over 55 to take computer instruction. The rapid development of the classroom and coursework ensued. Leon commented how really good people took on the task and some of the original volunteers are still with the group (Dick Dickinson). Unfortunately, some of the original volunteers are now deceased. The initial meeting of workers determined the basic beginning curriculum by working through the manuals obtained from National SeniorNet. The manuals provided the instruction to the volunteers on how to conduct the classes. The hospital funded the purchase of eight Windows IBM computers from National SeniorNet. A little room upstairs in the Activity Center served as the first classroom. The volunteers conducted a dry run and by the end of the year, volunteers and senior students came to the first class.

Software and record keeping became another hurdle to achieve, but slowly the operation became smoother. It was a little like ‘the blind leading the blind. ’

Both the City of La Mirada and

PIH advertised the Activity Center and the Computer Class. The first official computer class consisted of seven students, since the teacher needed the eighth computer for instruction. Little by little, they got better at delivering the content to the students. There were 120 people waiting to take classes and they could only accommodate seven. Good records were kept to ensure those on the wait list were contacted showing no preference as new class offerings occurred. It took about a year for a sense of comfort in their efforts. Training the volunteers to be teachers and coaches became the priority so that SeniorNet National would provide the next level of coursework. The reproduction of the manuals and reasonable pricing for the tuition charged to students became another accomplishment.

National SeniorNet provided assistance. Students and volunteers alike paid the National SeniorNet dues. Bill Sanders, who worked for a software company, was another instrumental initial helper. Mary List was one of the early administrators. She did not want to teach, but she was willing to keep records and things of that nature. As the students learned the computers, some became volunteers. Even the mayor, Lou Piltz, became one of the supportive volunteers. Vanessa Ivie was the coordinator of the Activity Center. She was learning as Leon was learning and was very helpful. She is now an executive at the hospital.

There were over 200 SeniorNet learning centers in California at the time with headquarters of National located in San Francisco. Management from various SeniorNet groups came for seminars to learn from the La Mirada Center.

Leon wrote a justification for



Whittier Presbyterian Hospital's volunteer Leon Kowitz has been a hospital volunteer since 1993 and has logged more than 16,000 hours.

the larger room now in use. It took approximately a year to acquire and install the computer tables, wiring, overhead projector, screen, three new high-speed printers, etc. The total cost was around \$70M to \$80M. The current facility has fourth generation computers thanks to PIH Health. The City of La Mirada contributed financially as well. There are currently 18 computers – 17 for students, one for the instructor. The capability of projecting the instructor’s computer screen onto the large screen for the students to view is a real asset.

As years passed, more and more classes evolved and students became instructors and coaches. The center has been in full operation offering selected computer courses since August of 2001 delivering training to over 3000 students by the beginning of 2015. The center has received awards from Los Angeles County and Leon and others attended Volunteer of the Year Dinners.

Leon stopped being active with the Learning Center in 2008 due to personal medical issues, although he remains on the volunteer list. The current coordinator is Bob Barreda who came to La Mirada SeniorNet in 2002. He and Linda Markstrom do a fine job in keeping Leon’s legacy on an even keel. There are currently 39 volunteers serving the La Mirada Learning Center with Marianne Cota as representative from the hospital.

Registration for the next session of classes is Friday morning, September 9th; from 9:30 to 11:30 at the La Mirada Activity Center, 13810 La Mirada Boulevard, La Mirada, California 90638 (second floor). For late registration, call 562-902-3177 and leave a message. A volunteer will return your call and arrange to register you if space is available

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