HMG-CN Staff Report

In a wide-ranging ruling, Superior Court Judge Rafael Ongkeko has ruled in favor of Hews Media Group-Community News and Publisher Brian Hews in a bogus and costly defamation case filed by Central Basin (CB) Director Leticia Vazquez.

In response to the complaint, Hews filed what was known as an Anti-SLAPP motion and won. SLAPP is an acronym for Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation.

The phony defamation case was centered on the article “SOURCES: Central Basin Director Leticia Vazquez and Montebello Councilwoman Vanessa Delgado Attempted to Extort Money From Cook Hills Officials” published by Hews in June 2016. Vazquez will now be liable for all of Hews’ legal fees, which currently exceed $55,000.

During the litigation, Hews was blasted by his detractors, including Melinda Kinsey and the Vazquez camp for “pulling the story out of thin air.” Vazquez argued the case by submitting declarations from people tangentially related to the story, doing everything she could to claim that Hews made the story up.

The court found the declarations to be worthless and of no evidentiary value.

Judge Ongkeko said, “Hews did not concoct the article out of thin air or base it on unverified anonymous sources.”

Hews’ attorney Scott Talkov of Reid and Hellyer based out of Riverside said, “Ms. Vazquez had no information to meet her burden of proof by clear and convincing evidence that my client had any information to doubt the truth of the allegations in the article. This case never should have been filed.”

Vazquez’ attorney Nana Gyami, who was suspended from the California State Bar since 1994, did not concoct the article out of thin air or base it on unverified anonymous sources.

Hews’ attorney Ron Wilson of Reid and Hellyer of Riverside said, “Ms. Vazquez’ lawsuit was filed in July of this year.

“The lawsuit was the culmination of many disreputable people banding together, including Melinda Kimsey and an anonymous source.”

INVESTIGATION CONTINUES INTO LA MIRADA COUNCIL ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

By Brian Hews

The Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) has confirmed that the campaign finance investigation started after the La Mirada City Council election in March 2017 continues to be active and ongoing. The investigation was a result of a series of articles exclusively published by News Media Group-Community News.

In an email, FPPC spokesperson Jay Wierenga told HMG-CN, “I was forwarded an email from Enforcement regarding your inquiry. I do not know the case is open.” The investigation centers around losing District 1 candidate Tony Aiello, current councilman Andrew Serega, and an independent expenditure committee run by resident Ione Imbre called Residents for a better La Mirada, (RHLM). The FPPC is looking into whether the independent expenditure committee complied with relevant laws.

The seven-story project consists of a restaurant, hotel, and commercial and high-end residential units.

“I’ve seen a long time for us to finally be here today,” said Artesia Live Marketing Director Betsy Lee, “but after four years of working very hard to bring all of the partners together, it’s finally going to happen.”

Artesia Mayor Ali Taj thanked everyone for attending and witnessing “only the beginning of needed change coming to Artesia City.”

The first paragraph of the letter indicated that the SEC had initiated an earlier investigation saying, “we believe that MUSD may possess documents and data that are relevant to the ongoing inquiry being conducted by the staff of the

HMG INVESTIGATION: NEWS MEDIA OBTAINS SEC LETTER AIMED AT MUSD BOND PROGRAM

By Brian Hews

Hews Media Group-Community News, through the Freedom of Information Act, has obtained the Preservation Letter sent to Montebello Unified School District from the United States Security and Exchange Commission. The letter and impending investigation is a direct result of an HMG-CN four part investigation that started in 2016 and ended in 2017 with the SEC letter.

The onerous SEC letter casts a wide net over the entire MUSD asking for documents to be preserved since Jan. 1, 2010. The letter was sent to interim Superintendent of School Anthony Martinez from the SEC’s San Francisco Regional Office, dated November 20, 2017, and signed by special counsel Jason Lee.

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GERARD GOEDHART INSTALLED AS LA PALMA MAYOR

By Brian Hews

The La Palma City Council, at its regular meeting held on December 5, 2017, selected Gerard Goedhart as the Mayor for 2018 and Marshall Goodman as the Mayor Pro Tem.

Mayor Goedhart told HMG-CN, “I am excited about this upcoming year, and about the future of La Palma. As a City we have made tremendous progress over the past five years; however we still have challenges. I know that as a City Council we will meet these challenges.”

Mayor Goedhart is a retired Public Administrator, with over 34 years of local government experience.

He served on the Signal Hill City Council from 1982-1998 and served three terms as mayor.

He was elected to the La Palma City Council in November 2012 and was re-elected in 2016. He previously served as Mayor in 2016.

Goodman was elected to the La Palma City Council in November 2012 and this is his first term serving as Mayor Pro Tem.

The Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem will be hosting Office Hours Wednesday’s from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at City Hall (7822 Walker Street) beginning on Wednesday, December 13. Mayor Goedhart had conducted office hours in the past as a way to serve the residents. Any resident, business owner, or concerned citizen can come to City Hall, unannounced, to meet with the Mayor to discuss any matter of importance to them.

Gerard Goedhart was installed as Mayor for 2018 and Marshall Goodman as the Mayor Pro Tem. Mayor Goedhart is a retired Public Administrator, with over 34 years of local government experience. Courtesy city of La Palma.

LOCAL CONGRESSWOMAN SHARES DISMAL TAX NEWS WITH CONSTITUENTS

By Larry Caballero

When constituents of newly elected Congresswoman Nanette Barragan met her at an End of the Year Legislative Briefing Luncheon at Michael’s Tuscani Italian Restaurant in San Pedro Dec. 9, they were hoping to hear some good news coming out of Washington. They didn’t get it.

“The GOP tax plan as proposed is going to hurt a lot of people,” said Barragan.

“I have to tell you that they can call it a tax cut, but it’s really a tax increase.”

Barragan said that seniors and those with serious health conditions, who require expensive prescription drugs, will be especially hit.

“Tax cuts should go to the lower and middle class—not the top one percent. Small businesses have also come out in droves to oppose the bill because they know it will hurt them, too.”

Barragan is also concerned about the possibility that the bill could take away the individual mandate to pay for health insurance. Without the young and healthy defraying some of the costs, health care premiums will increase.

“The Republicans know what they are doing. They want the Affordable Care Act to implode rather than trying to fix what is wrong with it.”

A government shutdown is still a possibility, since both parties need to agree on several issues including what to do with the Dreamers, the children who immigrated with their parents to the United States.

Barragan and her fellow Democrats are willing to lock in a clean Dream bill into the year-end funding bill. “We’re trying to negotiate a deal with our friends across the aisle,” said Barragan, “but the problem is what will it cost us. What will we have to give into before they support it?”

She thinks they want Democrats to agree to more funding for border security, or a wall or interior enforcement. “It’s always the same question. Do we spend more money on the military or for domestic programs?”

Barragan prefers spending more on social security, the homeless, Medicare and Medicaid benefits than more weapons. Yet as a member on the Homeland Security Committee, she knows that another war may be right around the corner. “I worry all the time about a third world war.”

Barragan said that many of her colleagues are concerned about the possibility of a nuclear war caused by Trump’s irresponsible and dangerous tweets.

“I want leadership in Washington that takes diplomacy seriously.” Barragan was one of fifty-eight Representatives who recently voted to consider impeachment proceedings against Trump despite the position that Democratic Leadership took on the issue.

She also is passionate about the environment and the air we breathe. When I campaigned for Congress, I pledged to improve air quality, and now I’m working to save it altogether.”

On the first day Trump was in office, his administration wanted to cut out the ethics office and later the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) by thirty-three percent.

One constituent wanted to know why Democrats don’t have a better message that resonates with voters since they are right on most issues. Barragan agreed that they need to work on that, but she also blames the news media.

“They give a lot of voice to elected officials like Trump who lies a lot.”

Yet she is hopeful that the public will continue to be energized and cry out when they think the government is doing something that is harmful.

“I work hard for you every day I am in Washington,” said Barragan, “and I know if we stay united, we can be successful in the end.”

Barragan’s District includes the cities of San Pedro, Carson, Compton and South Gate.

Congresswoman Nanette Barragan addresses constituents Dec. 9 in San Pedro at her annual legislative briefing.
By Larry Caballero

On Politics

It was a standing room only crowd to say goodbye and to honor outgoing Artesia Mayor Ali Taj at the Reorganization Ceremony Dec. 11 at the Albert Little Community Center.

Numerous public officials and community groups presented Taj with Certificates of Appreciation and plaques, including Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn, who told the audience that Taj had made history by becoming the first Pakistani-American mayor in the western United States.

“This only shows that Artesia is truly a city that welcomes and praises diversity. I have enjoyed partnering with Ali this last year as it was also my first year as Supervisor.”

Hahn said Ali has been a great advocate for Artesia, and she was amazed at how visible he has been throughout the county. “Everywhere I go I see Ali representing this beautiful city.”

Mayor Pro-Tem Sally Flowers agreed with Hahn. “He is everywhere, and I thank you for highlighting so well our city.”

Councilmember Victor Manalo said that he could feel “a lot of love given to you tonight, and I am proud to have served under your leadership this year.”

Taj said it was a great honor “serving as your mayor, and I am proud of the financial stability we were able to bring to Artesia.”

During the Reorganization portion of the meeting, Flowers was elected as Mayor for the fifth time, and Councilmember Tony Lima was elected as Mayor Pro-Tem.

Flowers plans to work on several projects this year including disaster preparedness, expanding the open spaces in the city, and smart development growth.

“We want the city to grow,” said Flowers, but we need to be smart about it.”She mentioned challenges that affect every city, including Artesia that is only 1.62 miles. “Yet if we all work together we can achieve anything. People have the power to make a difference.”

Artesia Mayor Pro-Tem Sally Flowers is happy to accept the nomination of Mayor for the fifth time at the Dec. 11 Reorganization Ceremony.
BELLFLOWER WILL LIVE STREAM COUNCIL MEETINGS

By Tammye McDuff

Recently the Bellflower City Coun-
cil directed staff to investigate stream-
ing City Council meetings on the City’s
website. Currently, the City contracts
with Tripepi Smith & Associates to re-
cord Council meetings with the videos
captured on DVD media and broadcast
through the Charter-Spectrum cable com-
pany transmission station to channel 36.
Recordings can be compressed for
YouTube and sent to the Public Affairs
Specialist in order to play on the City’s
YouTube channel. This programming
will be available for public viewing the
day after each council meeting.

In conjunction with this direction, the
City must upgrade, purchase and install
video broadcasting equipment for City
Hall and Council Chambers. At the De-
cember 11th Council meeting, a staff re-
port was presented to Council suggesting
a
contract be awarded to Vidiflo to carry
out this request.

Vidiflo submitted the most reason-
ably responsive based bid in the amount
of $35,504.

The project consists of the purchase
and installation of equipment needed to
record City Council meetings on a media
server. Charter-Spectrum will provide the
video broadcasting encoder and a dedi-
cated fiber optic connection for the City’s
public access channel. The video content
will be connected to the broadcasting en-
coder to enable a direct broadcast from
City Hall.

MESSAGE FROM THE ABC SUPERINTENDENT

Pictured (l-r) front row Dr. Olga Rios, Clerk; Soo Yoo, President; Leticia Mendoza, Vice-President; Dr.
Mary Sieu, Superintendent; Sophia Tse; Maynard Law, Ernie Nishii and Chris Apodaca.

As we approach the ending of the 2017
year, it is the perfect time to pause and re-
fect on who we are and to reaffirm our ap-
preciation for one another. On November
3, 2017, I was honored to receive the State
ACSA Superintendent of the Year Award
at the President’s Award Dinner held at
the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose. My son,
daughter-in-law, sister, brother-in-law and
District staff attended to celebrate with
me this distinguished recognition. It was
heartwarming to share this moment with
my family members and District staff since
they have all been instrumental in my jour-
ney in ABCUSD.

On Nov. 30, 2017, the California
School Boards Association honored Bragg
ES with a 2017 Golden Bell Awards at
the Marriott Marquis Hotel in San Diego.
Bragg ES won the Golden Bell Award for
their “Building Bridges Program” that has
been in place for over five years. Bragg ES
Principal Annette Janeway and her team
joined our five Board Members in celebrat-
ing this prestigious Award.

Two newly elected Board Members,
Dr. Olga Rios (Trustee Area 6), Ernie
Nishii (Trustee Area 3) and reelected Soo
Yoo (Trustee Area 2) were installed at the
Dec. 5th Board of Education Meeting.
We all look forward to working with the
new Board Members as part of our Dis-
 trict’s Governance Team. We thank retir-
ing Board Member Olympia Chen for her
twenty years of service as well as Lynda
Johnson for her six years of service on the
Board of Education.

As we approach a new year together,
let’s redouble our support for one another
and look forward with enthusiasm and op-
timism. Everyone’s time and participation
in our schools help us continuously im-
prove. As John Maxwell said, “Giving is
the highest level of living.”

I look forward to seeing you at the
many events in our schools and commu-
nity. I wish everyone a wonderful holiday
season!

LONG-TERM CLOSURE OF N. I-405 CONNECTOR TO W. I-105

The California Department of Trans-
portation (Caltrans) will close the north-
bound I-405 (San Diego Freeway) connec-
tor to westbound I-105 (Century / Glenn
Anderson Freeway) beginning at 11 p.m.
on January 2, 2018 for reconstruction. This
long-term closure will remain in effect
through the end of April 2018.

At 5 a.m. on Wednesday, January 3, the
northbound I-405 connector to eastbound
I-105 will re-open to traffic after a 14-week
closure for reconstruction.

The long-term closure of the north-
bound I-405 connector to westbound I-105
is necessary to provide a safe work zone
for construction crews and motorists.
The single-lane connector ramp will be demol-
ished and reconstructed. The project in-
volves reconstructing distressed roadway
and the embankment along the connector,
evacuating pavement, installing a new
drainage system, and repairing the road-
way with concrete slabs to enhance safety
and create a smoother drive for motorists.
By Tammye McDuff

Kevin Kendall has been serving the community of Downey for over 30 years as a Downey Police Officer, teacher and active community member. Kendall was presented with a plaque commemorating his official retirement for the Downey Police Department by Chief Carl Charles.

Kendall has been and continues to be very active in the Downey Elks club, Rose Float Association and the Downey Police Fire Foundation. Always willing to volunteer and go the extra mile, one of Kendall’s best attributes as a Police Officer is that he is easy to talk too. “Humble and a true leader, the City of Downey is better because of all you have done Kevin,” said councilman and former Mayor Alex Saab, “We are appreciative of you and your service to our community.”

Kendall grew up in Downey and graduated from Downey High School, where his interest in a law enforcement career began as a Police Aide at the Downey Police Department. He successfully completed the police academy in 1988.

Kendall was one of the original officers assigned to the School Resource Officer Program which began in 1998. He has also involved in the “Every 15-Minutes Program” at Downey High School, which educates students on the dangers of drunk driving.

In August of 2000, Kendall was assigned to the Special Enforcement Team where he conducted background investigations, issued police permits, conducted undercover stings with members of the Alcohol Beverage Control, coordinated the Citizen’s Academy, and assisted with Police Department recruitment.

In 1999, Kendall was selected by the Chamber of Commerce as the Field Operations Employee of the Year. In 2004, Kevin was presented the “Community Leadership Award” by the Masons of California. Also in 2004, Kevin received his teaching credentials from the Downey Unified School District to teach a Law Enforcement class for the Los Angeles County Regional Occupational Program (R.O.P.). Besides being a member of the Field Training Program and a School Resource Officer, Kevin was also a member of the department’s “Range Staff” helping to train officers and keep them proficient with their firearms.

On May 25, 2015, Corporal Kendall, along with Corporal Weinrich and Officer Mike Hernandez received the California Highway Patrol 10851 award. This award was for his efforts in the recovery of multiple stolen vehicles within a 12 month period.

“Kevin is a true example of a Downey Police Officer,” stated Chief Carl Charles, “Besides being an outstanding “street cop” he also understood the importance of community relations. He treats people with respect and continuously goes out of his way to help those in need.”

Throughout his 32-year career, Kevin donated countless hours to charity work, including participating in the department’s annual Thanksgiving “turkey drive” and the Christmas “toy drive” to help families in need.
WASHINGTON — With a new year just around the corner, the U.S. Postal Service is raising the curtain to provide a sneak peek at a portion of its 2018 stamp program.

Icons such as Lena Horne, John Lennon and Sally Ride and will be immortalized on Forever stamps next year. Stunning photographs of America’s dramatic landscapes will commemorate the song “America the Beautiful.”

Other diverse and educational stamps on deck for 2018 will shine light on bioluminescent creatures that glow in the dark; showcase the art of magic through five classic magic tricks; celebrate mythological fire-eating dragons; and offer “tasty” frozen treats for those with a sweet tooth.

Detailed information and issuance dates on these stamps and others will be revealed later. All stamp designs are preliminary and are subject to change until issuance dates.

**Love Flourishes** (Love series)

Love Flourishes is the latest stamp in the Love series. The stamp art features a fanciful garden of colorful flowers surrounding the word “Love.”

**Year of the Dog**


**Lena Horne**

Lena Horne (Black Heritage series)

The 41st issuance in the Black Heritage series honors the achievements of legendary performer and civil rights activist Lena Horne (1917–2010). Remembered as one of America’s great interpreters of popular songs, Horne also was a trailblazer in Hollywood for women of color. She used her personal elegance, charisma and fame to become an important spokesperson for civil rights.

**U.S. Flag**

For more than half a century, U.S. stamps have depicted the American flag in vivid red, white and blue. This eye-catching new issuance continues that tradition with a striking graphic design of a flag with two crisp folds.

**Bioluminescent Life**

This issuance celebrates the phenomenon of bioluminescence — the ability of some species to glow — with a pane of 20 stamps featuring 10 life-forms that create their own light.

**Illinois Statehood**

This stamp celebrates the 200th anniversary of Illinois statehood. Known as the Prairie State, Illinois became the 21st state of the union on Dec. 3, 1818.

**Mister Rogers**

Fred Rogers (1928–2003) was known as a beloved television neighbor to generations of children. His groundbreaking public television series Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood inspired and educated young viewers with warmth, sensitivity and honesty.

**STEM Education**

These Forever stamps celebrate the role of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education in keeping our nation a global leader in innovation. Designed to pique the curiosity of the viewer, each of these four stamps features a collage of faces, symbols, drawings and numbers that represent the complexity and interconnectedness of the STEM disciplines.

**Peace Rose**

Peace Rose celebrates one of the most popular roses of all time. The peace rose revolutionized hybrid tea roses with its unique coloring, hardiness, and disease resistance.

**Sally Ride**

America’s first woman in space, Sally Ride (1951–2012), inspired the nation as a pioneering astronaut, brilliant physicist and dedicated educator.

**Flag Act of 1818**

With this stamp, the Postal Service marks the 200th anniversary of the Flag Act of 1818, which gave us the basic design of the current American flag: 13 stripes symbolizing the original 13 colonies and one star for each state in the union.

**Frozen Treats**

Frozen Treats features frosty, colorful icy pops on a stick. The tasty, sweet confections come in a variety of shapes and flavors.

**O Beautiful**

With the release of O Beautiful, the Postal Service commemorates the beauty and majesty of the United States through images that correspond with one of the nation’s most beloved songs, “America the Beautiful.”
By Larry Caballero

When the California Labor Federation (CLF) sent out an email blast to its supporters with the heading: “Take Action: Stop the GOP Tax Scam on working people,” more than fifty protestors showed up Dec. 12 at the office of Representative Ed Royce in Brea to express their indignation and to encourage him to vote NO. The remainder of the email read, “All hands on deck! We have to defeat the bill that would harm millions of working people so the rich can get even bigger tax breaks.”

California Alliance for Retired Americans Southern California Organizer Susan Meyer said, “Most seniors are not aware that the proposed tax plan will cut so deeply into Medicare and Social Security. These are not entitlements. We pay for these benefits all of our working lives.”

Congressional candidate Gil Cisneros agreed. “I support the unions that are represented here today, and I want a better deal for working class and middle class families.”

Indivisible CA39 Representative Harry Langenbacher said, “We should repeal and replace Ed Royce, not the Affordable Care Act.”

United Domestic Workers Representative Laura Reyes shouted, “We are tired of trickle down economics! We won’t be fooled this time!”

As Republicans have lately been calling Democrats “snowflakes,” a derogatory way to suggest that people who take offense to anything from political policy changes to offensive comments, are as weak and vulnerable as a speck of snow, protestor Royce Rodeman had a response: “Ed Royce, they can call us snowflakes, but we’re going to be the snowball that hits you in the face in next year’s election.”

As the protestors began marching, long-time Fullerton resident Anita Venegas challenged Royce: “Come on down, Ed Royce, you coward, and speak to us!”

If passed under current budget rules, it is estimated that the GOP tax bill could result in immediate cuts of more than $100 billion in health and human services, including $25 billion per year to Medicare. This quarter-trillion dollar cut could impact the care of seniors and people with disabilities as well as their families that all depend on this crucial program.

There are several emergency events planned around California this week to fight back against this bill. The CLF is made up of more than 1,200 unions, representing 2.1 million union members in manufacturing, retail, construction, hospitality, public sector, health care, entertainment and other industries. Its website states that it is dedicated “to promoting and defending the interests of working people and their families for the betterment of California’s communities. From legislative campaigns to grassroots organizing, its affiliates are actively engaged in every aspect of California’s economy and government.”

PROTESTORS VOICE THEIR OPINION, SLAM REP. ED ROYCE FOR SUPPORTING TAX BILL

Protestors showed up Dec. 12 at the office of Congressman Ed Royce in Brea to demand that he vote NO on the GOP tax proposal that could hurt millions of Americans.
World War I: Turning the Tide

With this stamp, the Postal Service pays tribute to the sacrifice of American soldiers and millions of supporters on the home front who experienced World War I. Entering World War I (1914–1918) in its later stages, the United States helped turn the tide of war in favor of the Allies.

Dramas

The Postal Service celebrates dramas, the high-flying, fire-breathing mythological creatures that have roamed our imaginations for millennia.

Birds in Winter

Birds in Winter celebrates four of winter’s winged beauties: the black-capped chickadee (Poecile atricapillus), the northern cardinal (Cardinalis cardinalis), the blue jay (Cyanocitta cristata), and the red-bellied woodpecker (Melanerpes carolinus).

John Lennon (Music Icons series)

The newest stamp in the Music Icons series honors singer and songwriter John Lennon (1940–1980), a rock ‘n’ roll hero successful both as a founding member of the Beatles and as a solo artist.

The Art of Magic

The Postal Service celebrates the art of magic with this pane of 20 stamps featuring digital illustrations of five classic tricks magicians use to amaze and delight audiences: a rabbit in a hat (production), a fortune teller using a crystal ball (prediction), a woman floating in the air (levitation), an empty bird cage (vanishing), and a bird emerging from a flower (transformation).

Sleeping Bear Dunes

With this Priority Mail Express stamp, the Postal Service celebrates the Sleeping Bear Dunes, a national park in Michigan that takes its name from a Native American legend.

Meyer Lemons

Meyer Lemons is a 2-cent definitive stamp. The stamp art features a whole Meyer lemon next to two wedges of the cut fruit.
Dear friends and supporters,

I would like to take this time to humbly thank each and every one of you for your trust and support throughout the past fours years as I served on ABCUSD Board. It has been one of my greatest honors to serve as your Boardmember. I enjoyed the work, visiting schools, engaging with awesome educators, and problem solving. There were many difficult decisions to make along the way which were quite stressful; however, I have come to really appreciate my calling as a School Board Member.

Furthermore, I am humbled and grateful again for the opportunity to serve another term. As I represent Trustee Area 2, I pledge to continue to work with my utmost diligence and passion to help and make the schools in ABC School District grow stronger and better. I will strive to ensure that every student’s education at ABC matters.

I urge my supporters to keep active and involved, to continue to engage with the community of the ABCUSD and all our elected officials, and to help make the schools in the ABCUSD the best both in California and in the Nation.

We need to ensure that our schools will always place great value on each individual child that walks through the doors of our schools.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you again for all your support. And as always, if there is ever any way I can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call me. My door and my heart will always be open to you.

Soo Yoo
ABC School Board President
Trustee Area 2

Nearly 450 gifts and 24 gift cards were donated by City of Cerritos and Cerritos Sheriff’s Station employees to help families this holiday season. Employees brought new, unwrapped toys or gift cards to the City’s employee holiday luncheon. City employees, both current and retired, are pictured with Councilmember Jim Edwards (front row, second from the right).

Cerritos residents and community members also recently made contributions to local holiday charity programs, contributing more than 300 toys and games for the Toys for Tots (United States Marine Corps) program. Cerritos residents also donated more than 70 gifts for underprivileged children through the Angel Giving Tree project.

Nearly 500 employees from Revolve Clothing located in Cerritos and Buena Park “adopted” 20 families in the area and contributed toys and canned food to make their holiday brighter. RAZOR USA located in Cerritos contributed more than 30 scooters to underserved youth in Artesia/Cerritos.

“The wonderful generosity of Cerritos residents and businesses makes our City a special place to live and work,” said Mayor Hu.
By Loren Kopff @LorenKopff on Twitter

The John Glenn High girls basketball team was destined to blowout its cross-town rival Norwalk High in the consolation championship of their co-hosted tournament on Monday before facing the Lady Lancers at home on Wednesday. The wins are the most since the 2014-2015 season. "Our girls play hard and with the coaching change, I believe it brought some excitement back in the program," Guerrero said. "Since we have doubled our wins from last season then this year, I believe that’s helping the girls believe in the coaches and adding to the excitement.

NORWALK RALLIES IN SECOND HALF TO STEAL CONSOLATION CHAMPIONSHIP AWAY FROM CITY RIVAL

By Loren Kopff @LorenKopff on Twitter

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“With 20 games in front of us, that gives us so much room for opportunity,” he continued. “I believe our girls are inspired right now; they want to win. They are tired of losing and sick of the stigma that our program carries, and we are doing everything we can to change it.”

Aldana scored a game-high 20 points, with three three-pointers, and had six steals while Torres added 18 points and was six of nine from the line while Goodloe chipped in with eight points and six rebounds.

“I think she’s fining her role,” Baclaan said of Aldana. “She’s understanding it, she’s knowing her range. As long as she keeps playing to her strength’s, she’ll be alright. But her shot has definitely helped us.

“Bianka has definitely come into her own,” Baclaan added. “I think she’s now understanding more patience. Defensively, she’s become more solid and more solid.”

Norwalk, which fell to Pioneer High 61-55 before posting wins against Paramount High (37-33) and Fountain Valley 61-55 before posting wins against Para-

“Come within the next couple of weeks, things could change,” Baclaan said of the two league meetings with Glenn. “I always see that as the season goes on, everybody gets better in some way. I hope that after having these last three tight games, just realizing that if you just keep pushing through and chipping away little by little, something could happen.”

By Loren Kopff @LorenKopff on Twitter

After finishing in seventh place in the Brea Olinda Tournament to begin the season, the Gahr High girls basketball team made a huge jump in one week, playing for the championship of the 2017 John Glenn-Norwalk Varsity Classic. However, poor shooting and the lack of rebounding on the offensive end plagued the Lady Gladiators for much the game as they fell to Bell Gardens High 48-35 last Saturday night at Norwalk High.

“We couldn’t get any rhythm,” said Gahr head coach Rob Godwin. “We missed tons of shots today. That’s just what it was. We had our opportunities to put up shots. But we just missed them. Our motto is defense, and we let them score 48. If we hold them under 40, it will be a different game.”

The only lead Gahr had was the game’s opening basket by senior Angeline Jacobo with 55 seconds in. After that, the Lancers went on an 8-0 run and led by as many as 11 points late in the quarter. Gahr shot five of 11 from the field in the first eight minutes, but just nine of 35 the rest of the way. Gahr was also missing the services of senior Nori Smith, who was elbowed in the jaw during the Brea Olinda Tournament. She was supposed to be cleared to play this past Tuesday.

Without her, the Lady Gladiators suffered in the rebounding department, getting 24 for the game but only three under their own basket and not until the second half.

“I think we were fighting with our bigs down there, but our guards need to crash the boards a little bit more,” Godwin said. “So, it’s just work because I think they stayed out there on the perimeter too much watching instead of crashing in for rebounds.”

Gahr tried to make it a game several times but was simply too deep in a hole from the first quarter. Senior Dezirae Smith’s only first half basket made it 26-18 with 4:41 left in the half.

A three-pointer from sophomore Clarissa Heredia with 59 seconds left in the third quarter made it 36-28 and another Smith basket almost two minutes into the final stanza cut Gahr’s deficit to eight again. It wouldn’t dip below eight points the remainder of the game.

Heredia led the Lady Gladiators with 11 points and 11 rebounds while senior Naomi Ellis, who had been playing strong coming into the contest, was limited to five points, all in the first quarter.

“I can say this was a tough game for her,” Godwin said. “She was productive more last week. But coming into this week, she was getting over the flu. So, we’re trying to get her up to par, but you know how that is when kids are sick.”

Gahr began the tournament with a 49-26 win over Bassett High on Dec. 6 before getting past Whittier High 52-47 the next night. The de facto championship game might have been last Friday when Gahr hooked up with Whitney High and rallied for a 51-47 victory.

Gahr trailed by six points midway through the third period but didn’t seal the win until Ellis scored off a pass from Heredia with 17 seconds left to make it 49-45.

“The last two or three games we played, including Whitney, were tough games,” Godwin said. “Coming into [the Bell Gardens] game, I think it might have tired us out a little bit, playing back to back tough games. But I don’t believe we came with our best effort tonight.”

The Lady Wildcats held a 12-9 advantage late in the first quarter before Gahr scored nine straight points to end the stanza, then took a 23-13 lead following Ellis’ three-pointer with 5:34 left in the half. But Gahr would score just two points the remainder of the half while the defense was watching junior Christine Hamakawa nail three perimeter shots in the second quarter and five for the half.

Despite Whitney leading 35-29 midway through the third quarter, Hamakawa was being silenced by Gahr’s defense, which was a turning point in the contest. She was held without a shot in the second half and the Lady Wildcats got three baskets from three different players in the quarter.

“Well, we box-and-one’d her,” Godwin said of Hamakawa. “We probably had three different girls that we put on her all through the rest of the second half. We figured if we could stop her, then that basically was how far the team was going to go. We wanted to make everybody else contribute.

“We ran our man offense and stayed the same in the first half, scoring about 25 points in each half,” said Whitney head coach Jeff Day. A steal and basket from Jacobe put Gahr up 43-41 but the game-winner came with 2:12 left to play when Heredia drained a three-pointer. Smith led Gahr with 16 points while Ellis added
13 more, plus 11 rebounds. Heredia also grabbed nine boards as the Lady Gladia-
tors were 4-4 heading into their Dec. 14
contest at El Dorado High.
“I believe this is probably the best
year as far as competition that we’ve
had in the last two years,” Godwin said.
“We’re playing more tougher teams that
I think are going to help us down the line
for league.”

As for Whitney, junior Justine Wu and
freshman Julianna Lee each scored 10
points against Gahr, but was outrebound-
ed 38-22. Whitney had previously
defeated Lifeline Charter High 57-16 and
Santa Fe High 42-26 prior to the Gahr
game, then claimed third place in the
tournament with a 46-32 win over Mary
Star of the Sea last Saturday night.
“I look at games and performance, not
place in an event,” Day said. “From the
Santa Fe game onward, we executed
our half-court offense and controlled
the tempo for the most part in all games
which gave us an opportunity to be suc-
cessful in this tournament.”

Against Mary Star of the Sea, the Lady
Wildcats put the game away with eight
straight points to end the first half and
hold a 30-21 advantage. Wu had a pair
of three-pointers in the second quarter
and led Whitney with 13 points. She also
had three steals, as did Hamakawa while
junior Kiana Sanchez and freshman Kim
Hosada each had four thieals.
“Christine is our captain and leader on
the court,” Day said. “Justine is our one
constant that must be aggressive and
involved for a successful and balanced
offense. In this event, they both were
that.”
The win over Mary Star of the Sea left
the Lady Wildcats at 5-4 at the time,
which is about where Day thought his
team would be after nine games.
“Our defense has controlled tempo as
well,” Day said. “The main concern is
no inside strength, no toughness, no
rebounding and playing physical by any
of us. This will be necessary onward,
especially against the better teams in our
league.”

Whitney began play in the 41st an-
nual Valley Christian Tournament and
defeated Westminster High 59-46 this
past Monday and before falling to Long
Beach Wilson High 48-41 this past
Wednesday as Hamakawa scored a
season-high 18 points. Whitney will wrap
up the tournament on Saturday, then have
the rest of the month off.

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on Twitter

Valley Christian High girls head
soccer coach Kim Looney hasn’t beaten
backyard neighbor Mayfair High in such
a long time that she would have been
happy with a tie when the two teams
met this past Tuesday night at Crusader
Field. Since she took over during the
2001-2002 season, Looney has defeated
Mayfair at home under Loo-
ney’s watch and that steak will continue.

Coming back on Dec. 7, 2010, a 5-0 win
against Mary Star of the Sea,
which gave us an opportunity to be suc-
cessful in this tournament.”

The Lady Crusaders, who fell to
5-2, have been rock solid this season
especially against the better teams in our
league.”

“We were getting tired and they
were not,” Looney said. “And they took
advantage of that and as much as we
were working as hard as we could, we
just couldn’t keep up with it. They had us
fitness-wise the last 10 minutes.”

The Lady Crusaders, who fell to
5-2, have been rock solid this season
despite not playing tough competition
up until the Mayfair contest. Still, V.C. has
outscored its foes 21-4 and a lot of the
talk has been about sophomore midfielder
Megan Bouma, who leads the team with
eight goals, the brand new midfield or the
stingy defense.

[Senior] Carli [Domino] is the heart
and soul of our defense,” Looney said.
“As much as she doesn’t talk, she leads
with her play. We added Sophia Schrock,
who is a freshman this year [and] has
added a lot of speed and a nice left foot.
[Senior] Marysa [Garner] has been
consistent for me for four years. [Junior]

SEE NEWS AND NOTES NEXT PAGE
Montebello

United States Securities and Exchange Commission.

Montebello

The language also indicated an underlying concern by the SEC that documents were destroyed or will be destroyed.

The letter stressed to Martinez that he may need to perform work for MUSD related to any candidate and cannot be

Artesia

Artesia. We are fortunate to have investors willing to spend their money in Arte-

Artesia

The Artesia City Council will discuss the project at its next meeting.

Both projects have a contemporary design, surface parking, subterranean parking, and rooftop gardens, and will bring an estimated 1200 new jobs from the construc-

FPPC

The Artesia Planning Commission did not approve the second project because it would have impacted a residential property on the southeast side of Artesia Live II.

The project selected for discussion has received approval for land acquisition.

Vasquez

The selection of any entity or contractor to perform work for MUSD related to the district municipal securities program; or

5. Any contemplated or actual securities issued by MUSD; or

6. The delinquency of any bond, or the negligence of any bond counsel, any disclosure counsel, and/or any of the foregoing and these personnel;

In other security actions, four other area schools are also in the Best in the West Winter Classic. Artesia High (1-4-1) will host Hoover High, and other Bell

9. Any Citizens Oversight Committee for any securities issued a MUSD.

Lee finished, “we recognize that this may be a burden on you, it is absolutely necessary that you fully comply with the obligations to reasonably retain and retain such evidence.”

“We hereby provide notice that such evidence should be reasonably preserved and retained until further notice. Failure to do so could give rise to civil and crimi-

The SEC considered potentially relevant documents and data possessed at MUSD’s bond, bond procurement and bid process asking for:

1. MUSD finances, accounting, budget, internal financial reports, general ledger, financial statements, financial solvency, and other fund reserves; and

2. MUSD’s municipal securities programs;

COOK HILLS MEETING

After the article was published, the Cook Hills project was pulled without any explanation and never voted on again.

In the ruling and referring to the lack of response by everyone involved Judge Ongkeko stated, “silence on the other side is reasonable” to rely upon as an admission that the allegations are true, providing an example if “someone says no comment.”

Ongkeko admonished Vasquez saying, “Vasquez has not shown that Hews’ investigations were inadequate so as to rise to the degree of actual malice, Vasquez did not establish clear and convincing evidence of actual malice on Hews’ part.”

This is a victory for HMG-CN, with the court finding the investigation thorough and accurately reported in print and on the air.

“Vasquez and Wilson were very angry how my sources were,” said Hews, “in fact the court was impressed that my sources came out on the record by name confirming the information they provided, they stood behind their story.”

Ongkeko stated he did not believe the two investigations were unrelated.

“No one attorney I talked to said she was going to prevail,” said Hews, “but Vasquez did not care. Her husband Ron Wilson is a Stanford graduate, when they offered, he was helping with the case, so she was not paying legal fees…now she has to pay mine.”

Vasquez responded in no result, instead Delgado claimed her email was old and that Hews should have tried to contact her through her Montebello city council email listed on the city’s website. At the time, council emails were not on the site.

people who dislike me for my investigative reporting, who want to financially harm my organization, it was an attack on free press by elected officials sworn to defend the constitution,” said Hews.

One example was current La Mirada Councilwoman Andrea Vasquez, whom Hews exposed for campaign finance violations, and who is currently under an FPPC investigation because of Hews’ exposure.

Sarega is who Vasquez chose to serve the lawsuit. Sarega waited outside of Hews’ offices in Cerritos to give Hews the subpoena.

Sarega and many others, including former HMG-CN employees Jerry Bernstien and Randy Economy, were part of a plan to “take Hews down.”

“I will be exposing these people in a later series of articles,” said Hews, “these people were cold-blooded and calculating in their actions.”

COOK HILLS MEETING

Hews’ article described a 2016 meeting between Vasquez and Cook Hills Development, who had a pend-

The project was scheduled for a CB Board vote within days of the meeting, which was “arranged” by Montebello Councilwoman Vanessa Delgado.

Delgado had worked for Primort, a developer in Los Angeles for years.

Many questioned the meeting: Montebello is not in Vasquez’ electoral district, Vasquez does not sell water, is not an engineer, or carries an engineer-

degree.

Judge Ongkeko also questioned why Vasquez was at the meeting.

Sources told Hews that Vasquez de-

manded campaign donations from Cook Hills for her yes vote on the CB contract.

Those same sources told HMG-CN that CB General Manager Kevin Hunt and CB Chief Engineer Lonnie Curtis received phone calls immediately after the meeting from cooks officials who were “irate that a CB Director would try such a thing.”

Standing contacted by HMG-CN, Hunt simply stated, “You will have to wait until Monday’s meeting,” Monday was the day of the vote.

Hews also called Cook Hills inquiring about the meeting and talked with an administrative assistant for over four minutes before being told, “they will call you back.”

Cook Hills never called Hews back. Attempts to reach Delgado and Montebello on Monday and Garay High and Gane-

sha High on Wednesday and Thursday respectively.

Glenn (6-4) visited Paramount High on Dec. 14 and will host Mayfair on Monday and Norwalk on Wednesday while Valley Christian is off to a 7-1 start following a loss on Friday to Bishop Amat High in the Bellflower Tournament. The Crusaders will host Marshall Funda-

mental on Thursday.

Girls Basketball

All Suburban League teams will pre-

cede their boys’ games on Monday and Wednesday. In addition, Artesia (6-1) will wrap up its own tournament on Saturday, Cerritos (6-2) will visit North Torrance High on Saturday night and Valley Chris-

tian (3-4) will finish its own tournament tonight before hosting South Hills High on Thursday.
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NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE (Division 6 of the Commercial Code) Escrow No. 3555-MW  

(1) Notice is hereby given to creditors of the within named Seller(s) that a bulk sale is about to be made on personal property hereinafter described.  

(2) The name and business addresses of the seller are: JART RESTAURANT CORPORATION, 1308 S. BROADWAY, BUENA PARK, CA 90621  

(3) The location in California of the chief executive officer of the Seller is: 24845 AVENIDA DESEO, MISSION VIEJO, CA 92691  

(4) The name and business address of the Buyer(s) are: LAB SOLUTIONS INC. (A CA CORP) 1057 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY #254, PLACENTIA, CA 92870  

(5) The location and general description of the assets to be sold are: FURNITURE, FIXTURES AND EQUIPMENT  

(6) The name by which the sale is to be conducted is: LAB SOLUTIONS INC. (A CA CORP)  

(7) The anticipated date of the bulk sale is JANUARY 4, 2018 at the office of: ADVANTAGE ONE ESCROW COMPANY, 1300 W. 11TH STREET, INTOUROBEONG BEACH, CA 90745, Escrow No. 3555-MW  

(8) Claims may be filed with: ADVANTAGE ONE ESCROW, 7777 CENTER AVE 8350 HUNTING- TONE BLVD., HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA 37474, Escrow Officer: MARYLIN WOODSTOWN  

(9) The last day for filing claims is: JANUARY 3, 2018  

(10) This Bulk Sale is Subject to California Uniform Commerce Code Section 6106.2.  

(11) As listed by the Seller, all other business names and addresses used by the Seller within three years of the date of the filing of this Notice are: NONE  

Dated: December 7, 2017  

SELLER: JART RESTAURANT CORPORATION, Inc. A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION  

LAB SOLUTIONS INC. (A CA CORP)
LAI193452 LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS 12/15/17
WRD wishes you a Wonderful Holiday Season!

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Established in 1959, WRD manages two of the most utilized urban groundwater basins in the nation. Groundwater from these basins provides 50% of the total water supply for four million people within WRD’s service area, which includes 43 cities within 420 square miles. Through WRD’s Water Independence Now (WIN) Program, the two basins will become locally sustainable and will be completely independent of imported water by 2018.