COMMUNITYNEWS



Serving Cerritos and ten other surrounding communities • December 18, 2020 • Vol 35, No. 16 • loscerritosnews.net

COVID Hits Cerritos Employees at City Hall , Other City Facilities

BY BRIAN HEWS

Hews Media Group-Cerritos News has confirmed with city officials that several Cerritos City Hall employees have either contracted or have been exposed to COVID-19.

A few employees have contacted HMG-CN and also confirmed the outbreak

Following COVID-19 guidelines, the city told the employees who contracted COVID and the employees who were exposed to immediately quarantine.

One of the employees forward an anonymous letter sent to City Manager Art Gallucci with a note stating, "Last week, at least 4 employees at City Hall tested positive for COVID-19. There

See **CERRITOS** page 15

Mayoral Transition in Bellflower

BY TAMMYE MCDUFF

Juan Garza stepped down as Mayor and member of the Bellflower City Council at their meeting Monday, December 14, 2020, and a historic swearing-in occurred.

"I am beyond proud of all we have accomplished during my four years on City Council and as a member of the Bellflower Planning Commission as well as Parks & Recreation Commission," stated Garza in a farewell release.

Despite the challenges of this year, development in the City continues to grow with an improved quality of life for its residents.

"Regionally being entrusted to serve and lead with amazing loyal, regional, state and national leaders for the betterment of LA County and California has been a humbling honor," added Garza.

"As I approach the end of my time on our City Council this evening, I consider myself blessed to have worked with so many dedicated individuals and to have earned their trust faith. Our future is bright Bellflower, It has been one of the highest honors to have served you and I look forward to what's next." Garza added that the City leadership is in great hands with the incoming new council member Victor Sanchez.

See **BELLFLOWER** page 12

Lakewood Sheriff's Surprise Birthday Drive Thru



PHOTO BY TAMMYE MCDUF

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Sebastian Sanchez with Lakewood Sheriff's, due to hardships, he never had a real birthday party, that changed when the sheriff's held a birthday for him. Deputies from (l-r), Ayud Manjra; Chris Avila; Marco Martinez; Ariel Torres; Ron Vande Vhete; John Bluntach; Gil Pacheco; Steven Jackson; Marlon Johnson; Juan Briseno.

BY TAMMYE MCDUFF

Sebastian Sanchez turned nine years old December 1, 2020. He, his mom Eva and his two sisters have been long time Bellflower residents. Sandra Espinoza, Ms. California Tourism and devoted Bellflower resident has befriended this family.

Due to family hardships, Sebastian has never had a real birthday party. "Life has been very challenging for everyone and sometimes we get overwhelmed with what is going on," stated Espinoza, "there's always something that we can do to brighten a person's life like I did for Sebastian, this boy never had a birthday celebration in his nine years of life, I wanted to give him something to remember, to make this year a little brighter."

Espinoza held the family party at her home in Bellflower. When the Sanchez

See **LAKEWOOD** page 12

ABCUSD Teachers Win SONIC Fundraiser



TEACHERS from Cerritos and Artesia won money for their classrooms by posting projects and urging families to vote. File photo.

BY BRIAN HEWS

For the twelfth year in a row and during an especially urgent time of need, SONIC® Drive-In donated an all-time high of \$1.3 million to fund public school teacher requests across the country as part of its annual Limeades for Learning Fall Voting Campaign.

In partnership with nonprofit teacher crowdfunding platform, DonorsChoose and with the help of SONIC fans, a teacher from Artesia, and ten from Cerritos won funds to create an engaging learning environment.

See **TEACHERS** page 13

F.D.A. Panel Approves Moderna's Covid-19 Vaccine

BY BRIAN HEWS

The coronavirus vaccine made by Moderna moved closer to authorization on Thursday, a step that would expand the reach of the nation's vaccination campaign to rural areas and many more hospitals.

As the nation reeled from the spread of the disease, a panel of independent experts recommended, by a vote of 20 -0, that the Food and Drug Administration authorize the Moderna vaccine for emergency use.

A formal decision is expected on Friday, and would trigger the shipment of over 5.9 million doses around the country starting this weekend.

Moderna would be the second company allowed to begingiving shots to the public, giving millions more Americans

See MODERNA page 5

Amazon Will Open Facility in Cypress

Online behemoth will occupy the former 22.3 acre Mitsubishi facility.

BY BRIAN HEWS

The Cypress City Council recently voted 4-1 to allow Amazon to take over the old Mitsubishi plant in the city and use the building as a last-mile facility for the online behemoth.

The 22.3 acre site is located at Katella and Holder just east of Valley View and Katella

The Amazon facility was deemed a relatively new use facility in the city zoning codes and did not fit within any of its present zoning uses, but City Staff determined it was permissible because it complies with the Cypress Corporate Center Master Plan.

Traffic could be an issue in the morning as the facility will operate 24/7 and is expected to house 190 total delivery vans leaving the facility every twenty minutes between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

In addition, 18 semi-trucks will deliver packages from the Inland Empire to the facility between 5 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. Approximately 280 additional delivery vans will depart between 7 a.m. -8 a.m.

See **AMAZON** page 11



Helping Out
La Mirada Rotary gives
out gifts and food.
Page 2.



Serving FoodH.O.P.E. in the OC serves the needy **Page 5.**



Lots of Lights
La Palma awards best decorated homes.
Page 7.



Dip PerfectionCoffee and sweetness combine for Tiramisu. **Page 8.**



Off to Illinois
Whitney HS top diver will attend Northwestern.
Page 10.



Over 8,000 Letters
102 year-old Lakewood
resident writes to troops.
Page 15.

La Mirada Rotary Club Continues to Support the Community

BY TAMMYE MCDUFF

The Rotary Club of La Mirada maintains the spirit of Christmas by spending profits from their fireworks stand to help La Mirada residents steer through these difficult times.

Each year the La Mirada Rotary has held the Eileen Wade 'Clothes for Kids' shop-a-thon. However, as is the case with many service clubs, they were not able to take children shopping. However, at the last minute, and with the assistance of many volunteers, La Mirada Rotary was able to pull off a modified version of the event.

Held at Splash! Regional Aquatics Center, the Club was able to distribute \$100 gift certificates for Marshall's and presents were presented by Santa Claus to 45 children in a drive through line. A huge shout out goes to the City of La Mirada; La Mirada Public Safety; Arco/AMPM La Mirada (Valley View); C.A. Van Dam Family Foundation and La Mirada High School Interact Club.

On Thursday, December 17th, Rotarians gathered once again at Walmart the Neighborhood Market to help purchase complete holiday dinners for the Good Sam Pantry at Beatitudes of our Lord Church in La Mirada. Baskets of turkeys, yams and mashed potatoes, as well as sweet treats, were purchased for 45 families to be distributed this week.

"We distribute food from Good Sam Pantry to families twice a month" said Cathy Ferrin, volunteer, "the Rotary Club has been helping supply groceries



ROTARIANS (l-r) Mayor John Lewis, Raymond Fernandez and Russell Hall join Cathy and Jeff Ferrin at Walmart Neighborhood Market.

at all the holidays." Their holiday plans had to change a bit due to CoVID, so instead of the Angel Tree toy collection, they will be giving our gift cards to Walmart and Target.

"Our Good Samaritan Food Pantry team wants to thank everyone for their generous support throughout the years and especially during these past months of the pandemic," added Ferrin. If you are interested in helping please visit www.bolchurch.net/goodsamaritan-foodpantry for more information



SANTA AND HIS ELF handing out gifts donated by the Rotary Club. Funds to buy the gifts are generated from the fireworks stand.

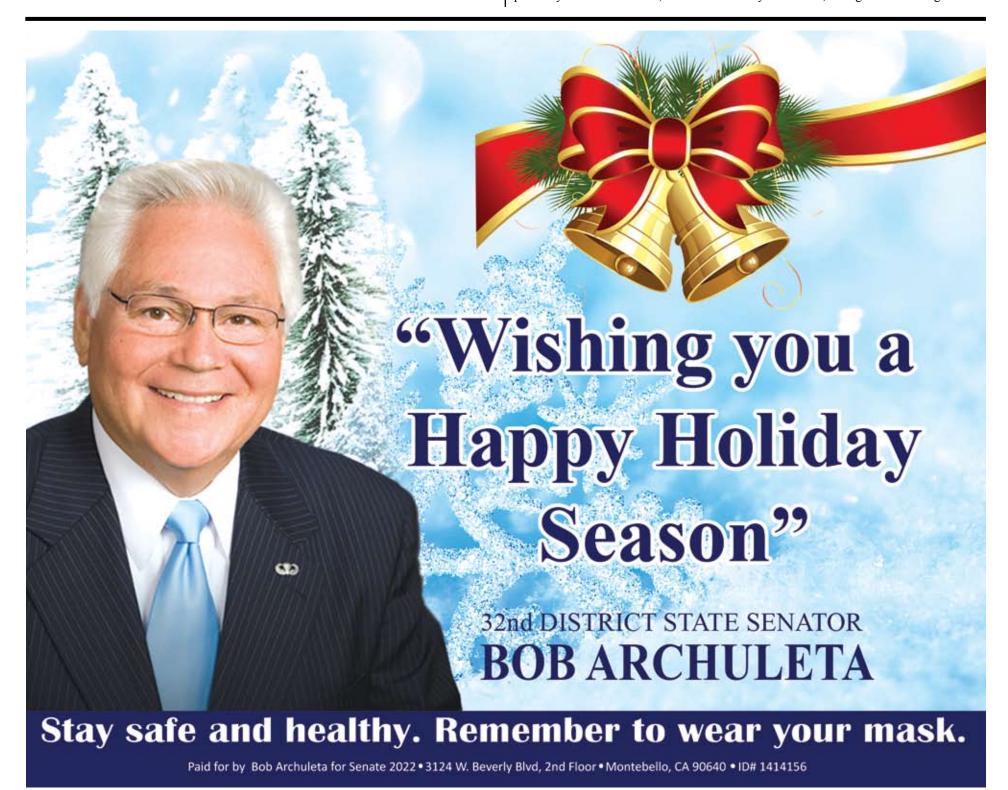
Huge Toy & Food Giveaway in Santa Fe Springs

Christmas Dinners will be handed out to the first 350 families at the drive-thru event.

Freedom Christian Center will distribute thousands of toys and hand out 350 Christmas dinners at its annual Santa's Rockin Christmas Toy Drive.

The drive-thru event will feature a Wonderland Experience, a photo booth opportunity with Santa Claus, and culminate with a free toy for each child.

Heart For The City, Freedom Christian Center's dinners will include a whole chicken, potatoes and vegetables. The toy drive will run from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. on Saturday, December 19 at Freedom Christian Center's Santa Fe Springs campus located at 13808 Imperial Hwy, Santa Fe Springs, CA, 90670. For more information, or if interested in donating to this year's event, visit go2freedom.org.



Walmart Closed Pico Rivera Store for COVID Cleaning

BY BRIAN HEWS

Walmart's temporarily closed its Pico Rivera Supercenter location at 8500 Washington Blvd last Wednesday at 2 p.m. as part of a company-initiated program to allow third party cleaning crews time to thoroughly clean and sanitize the building. The location will remain closed through Thursday December 17, providing our associates time to restock shelves and prep the store to reopen on Friday, December 18, at 7a.m.

Walmart's place within the community is considered essential, and we understand the role we play in providing customers with food, medicine and other needed items during this time. For more context as to what the company has been doing since the pandemic hit several months ago, I'm providing a link to our COVID-19 response site here. There, you can find details on several initiatives enacted to help keep our associates and customers safe.

The information above can be used for background purposes related to any piece you may write. Our official statement on the matter is:

Walmart wrote in a statement, "Ev-

erything we're doing is for the wellbeing of our associates and customers, and in consideration of guidance by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and health experts. When the store reopens Friday, we will continue conducting associate health screens and temperature checks, and all associates will be provided with facemasks and gloves.

"These protocols are in addition to the extensive measures we've put in place during the pandemic to help protect our associates and customers, including installing sneeze guards at registers, temperature checks and mandatory mask-wearing for associates, placing social distancing signage and enacting emergency leave policy for associates who are unable or uncomfortable coming to work. Additionally, through the help of our health ambassadors, we will continue requiring customers to wear protective facial coverings while inside the building.

"We will continue working closely with elected and local health officials, adjusting how we serve the community while also keeping the health and safety of our customers and associates in mind."

Great Plates Delivered Program Extended Until Jan. 7

Los Angeles County announced that the Great Plates Delivered program has been extended through Thursday, January

The program provides three free homedelivered meals a day from local restaurants to qualifying older adults and adults over 60 who are at high-risk of COVID-

Los Angeles County residents can enter their location into 211.org to find local services, such as nutrition, financial, health care, and housing assistance. Alos call 800-510-2020.

Polar Express Comes to Norwalk



NORWALK COUNCILMAN Rick Ramirez (right) at the Live Your Life Exotics [LYLE] event, over 1,000 toys were distributed to local children. Guest celebrities included Paul Rodriguez, Mikey Garcia and Leo Santacruz, with hundreds of toys donated by Jakk Pacific. Photos courtesy of LYLE.

BY TAMMYE MCDUFF

This past Sunday, December 14th Live Your Life Exotics [LYLE] teamed up with community partners to host the Polar Express Rally. Over 1,000 toys were distributed to local children.

Live Your Life Exotics [LYLE] joined with World Boxing Council [WBC] Cares and the City of Norwalk to bring 'The Polar Express' in the form of a car rally of exotic cars, with over 100 cars filled with gifts for local children, ending at the City of Norwalk City Hall.

Guest celebrities included Paul Rodriguez, Mikey Garcia and Leo Santacruz, with hundreds of toys donated by Jakk Pacific, event planner Brandy Lopez stated "I could not have hoped for a better event to kick off the holiday season".

"LYLE thrives on the idea of giving back when they can, and will continue to do so in 2021," said a Live Your Exotic Life representative,"2020 has been a year of uncertainty, where we all had to learn how to live differently. For the kids it has taken such a big toll in the way they live and play. The Polar Express Toy Giveaway was a sign of hope, a sign of happiness to come and a moment to forget that fear, we have all been living with."

The children were able to up close and personal with the Grinch, Olaf, Elsa from Frozen, LYLE luxury cars, the WBC Green and Gold belt, skateboard super star Paul Rodriquez and of course the big guy St. Nicholas.

Attendees were also able to check out over 100 sports cars and enjoy holiday decor and music.

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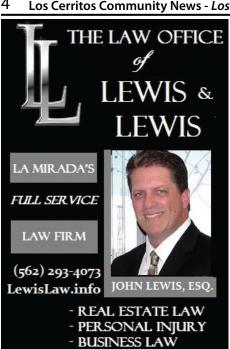


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Virtual Holiday STEM-ebration at Columbia **Memorial Center**

STAFF REPORT

The Downey Columbia Memorial Space Center is ready to ring in the holidays with a virtual celebration. It's time to put a science spin on the holiday season and STEM-ebrate. The virtual event will take place on Saturday, December 19th from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm. Fun holiday demonstrations and activities, facts about the holiday around the world and exciting guest speakers will gather to bring the joy of the season into your home.

Make your very own science ornament and submit a photo, then watch your ornament go up on the virtual holiday tree. An important part of this special event are all the fans of the Space Center. Not only does the Space Center want to bring some science to the holiday, but wants to engage with everyone who has visited and they need



APOLLO CAPSULE decorated with Christmas lights. Next to the capsule is Ben Dickow, Executive Director of the Columbia Space Center.

help decorating the virtual tree. Get creative and start to work on that ornament. All photos submitted will be entered to win special prizes. Visit www.columbiaspacescience.org for more information.

The Space Center will hold their annual lighting of the Apollo Capsule, which you can watch safely from your home. In addition, the Downey City Library will join the Space Center to provide a special reading of a holiday tale. Learn about the history of Christmas lights and trees from the special speak and Christmas historian, Kerri Dean.

If you feel like taking a drive to capture the sights of the holidays, the Apollo capsule in front of the Space Center will have holiday lights every evening from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm through Sunday January 3rd. If you feel inclined to take a photo in front of the capsule, the Center requests that you do so safely by practicing social distancing.

For more information about the Columbia Memorial Space Center visit their website. The Center is located at 12400 Columbia Way, in Downey.

Reduce Your Property Taxes by \$7,000 (\$70) With Little-Known Deduction

Exemption that can automatically reduce

BY JEFF PRANG L.A. COUNTY ASSESSOR

This month I want to take a moment of your time to visit about a property tax savings program my office offers that's just waiting to reduce your budget.

I'm speaking about the Homeowners'

your tax burden by \$7,000, if the home is your primary residence as of Jan. 1. That translates to an actual reduction of \$70 to a homeowners' tax bill. And all the homeowner has to do is fill out the application at assessor.lacounty.gov and they are good to go. The deadline is Feb. 15 to get the entire savings but if you miss the deadline, please file anyway and you

Homeowners need only apply once in order to receive these savings each year. The savings continue until a change (such as a sale) is recorded.

will get it prorated this year and the full

amount the following years.

However, nearly one in three homeowners in Los Angeles County do not take advantage of this tax savings program, leaving \$30 million unclaimed each year. Across the County, an additional 435,000 families can be saving on their tax bills.

For the following cities, these are the percentage of homeowners not taking advantage of the deduction:

Cerritos - 25.06% are not taking advantage the Homeowners' of Exemption.

Artesia - 33.74%; Bell Gardens -31.69%; Bellflower – 40.16%; Cerritos – Gardens – 44.92%; Hawthorne – 34.07%; La Mirada – 33.58%; Lakewood – 34.01%; Norwalk – 42.23%; Montebello – 30.25%; Pico-Rivera – 38.18%.

Although the largest number of unclaimed exemptions usually falls within Los Angeles, the highest rates of unclaimed exemptions have been in Palmdale, Lancaster, Lynwood, Pomona and Norwalk. This savings is probably the simplest to get and still people don't use

In fact, in the past because I feel so strongly about this savings program I have along with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors proclaimed January as Homeowners' Exemption Awareness

This year the Homeowners' Exemption is even more important than ever before because of Proposition 19. Prop. 19 changes the rules that apply to transfers between parents and children or in some cases, even grandparents to grandchildren. Current law

allows these family members to transfer a primary home of any value and not cause a reassessment, even if they use it as a rental property. Each person can also transfer other property, such as rental homes or commercial property, and exempt up to \$1 million of assessed value (not market value) from reassessment. A married couple can transfer up to \$2 million.

Prop. 19 abolishes these transfers of any property not being used as a primary residence. It also eliminates the current parent-to-child and grandparent-tograndchild exemption in cases where the child or grandchild does not use the inherited property as their principal residence, such as using a property as a rental house or a second home.

But this is most important: The parent/ owner of the home that is going to be left to the children must have the Homeowners' Exemption at the time of the transfer. Currently that is not a requirement. If the home does not have the Homeowners' Exemption the children do not receive the tax benefit and they could get stuck with a huge property tax increase.

This provision applies to transfers starting Feb. 16, 2021.

As with any ballot initiative, the 25.06%: Commerce – 35.34%; Hawaiian Legislature may be forced to propose legislation to clarify implementation of Prop. 19. Moreover, there are a number of drafting errors that will need to be fixed so that I and the other 57 assessors statewide can administer it. The Board of Equalization, which provides guidance to county assessors, said it "will issue guidance once election results are final and upon completion of our analysis of Proposition 19."

> In the meantime, I do imagine that Prop. 19 will likely disrupted some homeowners' estate plans and throw others in the midst of buying or selling their home into limbo, awaiting for very specific and technical clarifications.

> I will be providing regular briefings as we move forward and our website will be continuously updated to provide general information on Proposition 19 that may assist taxpayers.

> For more information on Prop. 19 or other tax savings programs, visit assessor. lacounty.gov or call 213/974-3211.



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OC Nonprofit Provides Hope, Empowers the Needy



HELPING OTHERS to Prepare for Eternity (H.O.P.E.) is "Sylvia," a dedicated volunteer getting a large supply of food ready to be donated to clients in need, H.O.P.E. is a nonprofit in Garden Grove that has seen an increase in need with the coronavirus pandemic.

BY LAURIE HANSON

Their name literally spells out H.O.P.E.

Giving both help and hope to those in need during the pandemic is the Garden Grove based nonprofit, Helping Others to Prepare for Eternity (H.O.P.E.). They are empowering clients towards self-sufficiency and have done so now for more than two decades.

"For the past 23 years it has been my honor to put faith into action on this blessed journey called H.O.P.E.," said Gayle Knight, president/CEO. She founded the nonprofit in October 1997 after "being called by God to direct her compassion towards helping women and children." She has freely served full time ever since without any personal compensation.

And, like Knight, everyone from their Board of Directors to other volunteers give of their time and resources to make a positive impact. There are many stories of making that difference including one recently of a man who literally cried with gratitude while picking up groceries for his grandchildren. Another is of a once 9-year-old boy receiving free music lessons with them only to return at the age of 23 as one of their music instructors.

Not only does the nonprofit provide immediate assistance for food, hygiene and diapers, case management and advocacy are provided along with workshops that encourage long term client self-sufficiency. Workforce development is provided in their Helping Women Succeed Program, and a long-term impact is made in their M&M Youth Mentoring Program. It provides tutoring, educational enrichment, arts, music appreciation and free music lessons.

"We seek to break the multi-generational cycle of poverty through our youth mentoring program," Knight said.

Though some of their services are temporarily on hold, case management and safety checks are still done, but over the phone. This helps to ensure stability for their most vulnerable clients during the pandemic. The nonprofit has seen a profound impact from COVID-19 for both their clients and the organization's operations, according to Knight.

"Even in the best of times, many of our clients struggled to meet their most basic needs like paying rent or utilities and putting food on the table," she explained. "They are the 'working poor,' who have been hardest hit by the pandemic."

"Parents struggle with the impossible decision of paying rent or feeding their children," Knight said. "Furthermore, parents who may still have some type of employment have to deal with childcare issues and assisting their children with remote learning. This is especially difficult for parents who are non-native English speakers."

To meet the ever-growing need for food, H.O.P.E. has expanded their partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank in Orange County. They have increased their weekly efforts to "rescue" nutritious foods from three to eight grocery stores a week. Staff members and volunteers now make 31 weekly pick-ups, according to Knight.

"This is labor intensive work but is essential in meeting the demand," she said. "It is well worth it to see the faces on those who otherwise would go without. Just last week, an older gentleman with medical issues, who is raising his grandchildren, wept upon receiving fresh meat and produce via H.O.P.E.'s drive-up, pickup line."

As a service organization that has historically relied heavily on direct client contact, H.O.P.E. quickly realized that new and innovative measures were needed to continue serving the community.

"One innovation was drive-up appointments for food and basic supply pickups in our back alley," said Knight. "[It's one of the ways] our staff maintains safety."

Once food security and basic needs are addressed, H.O.P.E. provides the case management and workshops necessary to increase opportunities for their clients. Their workshops include confidence building, empowerment, and employment assistance. Ever since the pandemic's beginning, the overall need for their services has increased significantly, and continues to grow

"Prior to the onset of the pandemic, we served on average 800 to 900 people each month," Knight said. "In October alone, we distributed 15 tons of food, equal to 18,750 meals to 2,200 people."

"The challenges of increased demand are compounded by many other non-profits and churches reducing or altogether eliminating their services," she said. "But our Board of Directors never considered shutting down or reducing services."

H.O.P.E. continues to expand services thanks long-standing partners like the Second Harvest Food Bank, Community Action Partnership and generous support from private foundations, businesses, churches, and individual donors. Knight spends much of her time these days soliciting donations to keep their programs and doors open.

With the help of eight Cal State Fullerton interns, the nonprofit continued to not only meet client physical needs but kept their long-standing commitment to serve the whole person. The interns developed remote modules for their Helping Women Succeed Program, for their piano and cello lessons, and for additional educational enrichment.

"Historically, one of our most successful and well-received programs are our free music lessons to low-income and at-risk youth," Knight said. "The stay-at-home orders and social distancing protocols could have significantly disrupted the music program. However, we quickly switched to virtual music lessons."

"By continuing the lessons, young

MODERNA Continued from page 1

access to desperately needed vaccine; Pfizer was the first.

The Moderna vaccine can be distributed more widely because it can be stored at normal freezer temperatures and does not require ultracold storage. It also comes in much smaller batches, making it easier for hospitals in less populated areas to use quickly.

The vaccines are in short supply, and the initial batches are being given to people at high risk of infection or serious illness: frontline health care workers and the residents and staff of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.

The panel stated that the agency found the vaccine worked equally well in different groups of volunteers defined by race or ethnicity, gender or age.

They also said that protection from the vaccine starts to emerge soon after people get the first dose. people are given at least a small sense of normalcy, while pursuing their passion for music," she said. "Moreover, by offering the virtual music lessons, we continue to provide our instructors with income."

Going forward, H.O.P.E. is carrying on with their mission of, "Turning despair into HOPE." Their goal is to be the most efficient and effective one-stop safety net in all of Orange County, according to Knight.

The organization holds to the truth of an old proverb which says, "Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."

"Addressing the immediate need is absolutely essential, but it is not enough," Knight said. "If people are not provided with education, opportunity, and tools for improvement, hunger will never be eradicated."

For more information about H.O.P.E., please visit online at www.hopebiz.org.











Bowers Provides Hunger Relief, Virtual Online Programming

BY LAURIE HANSON

For the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana the powers of art provide healing and solace even in these trying times.

Though the museum is closed for now, they have creatively implemented hunger relief and gone virtual online to serve others during the pandemic. Their efforts include having provided 23,193 meals to frontline medical and emergency personnel, low-income children, families, seniors and the homeless. Additionally, they also provided 1,148 bags of groceries and 1,527 art kits to low-income children and



THE BOWERS MUSEUM recently took a part in pandemic relief efforts by donating free meals, groceries and art kits to the community.

seniors. In 2021, the museum plans to offer free groceries to their low-income afterschool families from Santa Ana.

"These efforts are important to us for many reasons, including supporting our community," said V.P. of Programs and Collections Victoria Gerard, who started as a volunteer with the Bowers Museum 10 years ago. "2020 has been challenging for everyone, the Bowers Museum included."

During the first stay-at-home orders in March, the museum immediately launched "Bowers at Home," with an online platform including weekly multi-lingual art lessons and instructional videos for children and/ or families, free lectures, art projects for seniors, and virtual exhibitions.

"The vision for this portal was to provide free programming that could spark joy and combat isolation during such uncertain times," Gerard said. She believes art, culture and history are crucial parts of one's life. Through this, she values the preservation of the past while desiring to make it relevant to current situations. It is with this and more that Gerard believes in her work.

"Art can heal, and history can inspire," she explained. "Culture places you within a larger human story. Now more than ever, I think museums have a role to play in fostering togetherness and creative thinking."

In addition to "Bowers at Home," the museum now offers a virtual program schedule featuring fun and compelling information about their collections, exhibitions, greater overall community, and mission. Three virtual tours led by their Docent Guild members are offered every week with themes rotating bimonthly.

"I am so proud of how our Bowers team adapted to the trying circumstances of 2020," Gerard said. "While transitioning to virtual platforms is new and can present challenges, it has also had many positive side effects."

Among the effects are how the museum can share content with people outside of Southern California and into the greater world. It is Gerard's hope they can continue leveraging their technology to increase greater access to the museum in the

future.

Though the museum has been closed now for 9 months and counting due to COVID-19, they look at this year with pride while having hope for the next one. They recently received awards for Best Museum in Orange County by both the Los Angeles Times and Orange County Register.

They also received one of the highest national recognition awards after a rigorous review and inspection by the American Alliance of Museums. It is given only to the top 3 percent of all museums in the country.

"The Bowers is humbled and grateful by the outpouring of support that has allowed the museum to adapt and continue to serve the community, despite what sometimes seemed insurmountable obstacles," Gerard said.

The Bowers Museum first opened its doors in 1936, located on the homestead of founders Charles and Ada Bowers. They bequeathed the land to the City of Santa Ana so that a museum could be established within Orange County. Since that time, the museum has grown and preserves local history in its effort to bring Orange County to the world. Their mission is to enrich lives through the world's finest arts and cultures via their exhibitions, collections, and programming, according to Gerard.

As part of that commitment, they are now offering a free monthly virtual family festival streamed live on Facebook. It includes entertainment, art projects and a recipe. Also, two featured exhibitions are available for viewing in addition to their permanent galleries. The exhibitions are Inside the Walt Disney Archives: 50 Years of Preserving the Magic and

Treasures in Gold & Jade: Masterworks from Taiwan. Both have digital online guides available in English, Spanish and Mandarin.

Furthermore, in their support of education, the Bowers offers virtual school tours for classes and small educational groups, with scholarship funding available. By the end of the week, they will have five digital

See **BOWERS** page 9

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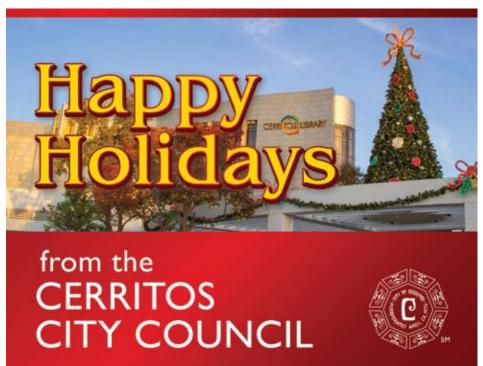
La Palma Home Decorating Winners Announced





WINNERS: Clockwise from top, Best Use of Lights 5428 Houston Avenue, the Jones Family; Best Overall, 5172 Huntswood Circle, the Hays Family; Most Original, 4642 Amberwood Avenue, the Hesse Family.







NOTICE OF COMMITTEE VACANCY

MEASURE BB CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

ABC Unified School District is accepting applications from residents within the District who are active members of a business organization, and may wish to serve on the Measure BB Citizens' Oversight Committee.



APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY JANUARY 8, 2021 AT 4:30PM



To apply, please visit: abcusd.us

Under "News & Announcements"

For more information, please contact Business Services:

562.926.5566 Ext. 21257

(Culinary.net) Do you know that moment when something sweet hits your taste buds and a smile instantly spreads across your face? It's almost magic to some. To others it's just simply bliss. This holiday season, try something that's simple yet sophisticated for an easy way to ensure smiles all around.

Try an Easy Tiramisu Dip because whether you're relaxing at home, having a small get-together with friends or joining your annual family gathering virtually, this dip is sure to spread culinary cheer.

The recipe starts with "easy," and it holds true to its name. With a short list of ingredients and only a handful of instructions, this is something you can whip up (literally) in just a few moments. Also, using minimal tools in the kitchen is always a plus for at-home chefs. The only appliance needed to make this recipe is a mixer.

The outcome is fluffy, rich and sweet with a hint of espresso. It's not overpowering, however, so little ones or noncoffee lovers can still enjoy this delicious

This is also a unique dessert because it can be served cool or chilled. If you are planning to take a sweet treat to a party this holiday season, this is nearly perfect. No oven time needed and simple to serve to kids and adults alike.

Serve with ladyfingers or fruit to bring that sweetness to a whole new level, and

it's topped with a final sprinkle of cocoa powder to give it that extra appeal. You do eat with your eyes first after all.

Give this one a try and see the faces of your loved ones light up with joy this season. This creamy, tasty dip is sure to

For more easy dessert recipes, visit Culinary.net.

Easy Tiramisu Dip Servings: 4

cup heavy whipping cream tablespoon espresso powder ounces cream cheese, softened ounces Mascarpone cheese 1/2 cup powdered sugar teaspoon vanilla extract teaspoons cocoa powder wafers or fruit, for dipping

In medium bowl, whisk heavy whipping cream and espresso powder until blended.

In large bowl, use hand mixer to beat cream cheese until smooth. Add Mascarpone cheese and beat until combined. Gradually add powdered sugar, beating after each addition. Add vanilla extract; beat mixture. Add espresso mixture; beat until soft peaks form.

Keep refrigerated until ready to serve. Spoon mixture into serving bowl. Sprinkle with cocoa powder. Serve with wafers or fruit.

Coffee and Sweetness Whipped to Perfection



A MESSAGE FROM SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

DEAR READER,

I hope you and your loved ones are having a safe and happy holiday season. Whether you are celebrating Christmas, Hannukah, Kwanzaa, or another holiday, things are likely looking much different than they did this time last year.

But there is light at the end of the tunnel. LA County will be receiving hundreds of thousands of doses of the coronavirus vaccine in the coming weeks and months. The first vaccinations will go to healthcare workers and residents of long-term care facilities. We hope that we will be able to begin vaccinating essential workers by the end of January or early February.

> This is great news — but we aren't out of the woods yet. Cases and hospitalizations keep breaking records. Your risk of contracting COVID-19 has never been higher. We each need to do everything we can to slow the spread of this virus - even and especially during the holiday season - so that we can celebrate together in-person next year.

pance trahi

Sign up for the Janice Journal: Text JANICE to (562)-203-0711





Catherine

Grant Wieder

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Scrooge, With a Twist



ESTELLA SCROOGE wittily incorporates characters and plot lines from Dickens' other great novels.

BY TAMMYE MCDUFF

Estella Scrooge is being marketed as the first fully-realized musical to be planned, produced and digitally captured entirely during the pandemic.

A modern day take on Charles Dickens' beloved 1843 novella, A Christmas Carol, Estella Scrooge wittily incorporates characters and plot lines from Dickens' other great novels, Great Expectations, Little Dorrit and Bleak House, among others into a delightful collage set in a haunted hotel.

With an innovative approach that combines the best aspects of live theatre and film with cutting-edge technology, each actor was individually filmed in front of green screens using strict social distancing practices, with hundreds of images, animations and digital environments blended in post-production; it dazzlingly cinematic musical theatre.

The first visit by the female version of Marley, Marla Havisham, opens the visiting trio of specters with a rousing "Wall Street Baby Super Star" and apologizes for making Estella such a cold and unfeeling corporate shark saying "Party girls don't fair to well on judgment day".

The Ghost of Christmas Past is a female rock singer, Sissy Jupe, who on a roller coaster ride, sweeps Scrooge back in time. You can bet there is a love story or two. With the first being between niece of Marla Havisham and the gardeners' son, in a very romantic teenage love song the young couple sings of gardens, and keys and stars.

You even get a three minute intermission for a bathroom break and snacks.

The ghost of Christmas Present has hints of dancing sugar plums from the nutcracker, who is judge and jury to Estella [and turns out to be her great greatgrandfather Ebenezer Scroogel. As the two take flight, in a poignant moment he says "Don't look down Estella, reflect

upon your present blessings, which all of us have many. Not on your past misfortune, which all of us have some."

Tiny Tim has been replaced by Tiny Tammy who is ill with a disease closely resembling CoVID-19. As Estella is viewing the apartment life of Tiny Tammy there is a song about how the world is changing, a reminder that regardless of what you may or may not have, there is worldwide hunger, and faith can be hard to keep, but the love of family is always there. As Christmas Present presents the children of lack he says, "but poor and hungry as they are, they will grow up and they will not forgive you for what you have allowed to happen to them." A thought we all face this year.

The final spirit of Christmas Future, introduces Goth like dancing demons in black and white, death looks like a dead Billy Idol with a voice that will literally send tremors down your spine. The cemetery is full of twisted branches and ravens and tons of social media coverage opportunities. Death appears and shows Estella Tiny Tammy's grave, then Death shows Estella her grave,

In a twist Estella finds that she contracted a debilitating illness and she dies.

When you get past the point that this is a virtual stage play, it gets entertaining. A reference to Charles Dickens as a clever author of social reform is mentioned and wait there's more! There is one more is twist of fate – not going to spoil it – but lost loves are found and families are re-

With a plethora of original musical scores, this Christmas classic offers a fresh new view of the best and the worst of times. It is the perfect family play to order for Christmas Eve, sit around the fire with hot cocoa and be thankful for those that you have in your life.

Streaming now at www.estellascrooge.

Bowers feeding hungry from page 6

educator resource guides freely accessible on their website with three more guides to be released in the coming month, according to Gerard.

With the Bowers at Home portal serving as a "one-stop webpage," the museum offers easily accessible links to all their free online programming. There the public will find videos and audios of past lecturers, exhibitions on YouTube, and art lessons from Kidseum. Also offered are a variety of ticketed programs featuring premier virtual lecturers, artist talks, panel discussions and gallery tours. Arrangements for art kits pickups can also be made.

Coming up in 2021 is the museum's First Annual Chocolate Week from Jan. 26 to Jan. 31. It is kicked off with daily virtual programs and culminates with a chocolatethemed virtual family festival. Hosted in

partnership with 'LA's Chocolate Guru,' Dr. Lee Theisen, it features premiere chocolate-makers from around the world.

Going on now through mid-February is the Walt Disney Archives: 50 Years of Preserving the Magic, extended for a second time and now running through Feb. 28. Also coming next year is Treasures in Gold & Jade running through May 30 in the Bowers' East West Bank Gallery. It features sculptures from two of Taiwan's premier artists, Wu Ching and Huang Fushou. Gerard said the most effective way to help is by giving a donation of any amount. Currently, their Board of Governors are matching all gifts up to \$50,000. "We're encouraging our supporters to donate before Dec. 31, 2020 to help the Bowers raise an unprecedented \$100,000 for our end of year appeal, and ensure a stable 2021 for the museum," she said. For more information on how to give, please visit their website at www.bowers.org.





ANA Travel Ment: Many travel destinations have implemented COVID-19-related restrictions. Before making travel plans, dreck to see if hotels, attractions, drake lines, tour operators, restaurants and local authorities have issued health and safety-related restrictions or entry no unemeets. The local tourism board is a good resource for updated information. Unless otherwise indicated: Rates outset are accurate at three of publication is are per person, based on double occupancy, Antine, taxes, test, suchanges, gealurities, transfers & encursors are adaptional. Advertises rates due not include any applicable daily resert for facility frees payable directly to the hold and decirious, such they amount while achesed at the time of booking. Rates, froms, conditions, availability, timesay, states, from, such advertises rates, availability, timesay, states, from such as a superior condition for terms/conditions & policies subject to drange without notice at any time. Coulse rates above conditions, availability, timesay, states and the properties of the conditions o Pleasant Holidays.



COMMUNITY SPORTS FEATURE

Whitney High's Alex Mo Dives His Way to Top Big 10 School in the Fall

BY LOREN KOPFF @LORENKOPFF ON TWITTER

Whitney High has always been one of the top high schools in the state for its academics and while it offers a diverse athletic program, minus football, it's not uncommon to see its athletes pursue their dreams outside the collegiate classroom.

The latest Whitney athlete who falls in this category is diver Alex Mo, who verbally committed to Northwestern University in July, but won't sign a national letter of intent because he is not a scholarship recipient.

"When you finally get to the point at the end of 10th grade, [and] when you're ready to start looking for colleges and stuff, basically you reach out to the diving coaches of universities you would like to attend and you send them your materials and whatnot," Mo said. "They'll look at your competition history; you'll send them videos of your diving, and they will basically assess your skills and predict how far you will go in the sport."

Mo said he wanted to end up as an aerospace engineer, but Northwestern doesn't have a dedicated aerospace major.

Most likely, he will get into mechanical engineering and then figure it out later.

Mo continued to say that his future Northwestern diving coach, Kris Jorgensen, will submit Mo's academic materials to the admissions office for review, which will "pre-approve" Mo. Northwestern, which Mo was already familiar with, was the only school that he applied to. He said two of his previous teammates went to the Evanston, IL university. However, when Mo began to email coaches, he said he was in contact with "quite a few schools". Some of those schools were Brown University, Duke University and Georgia Tech University,

"Unless I fail two classes or break the law or something, [Northwestern] won't reject me," Mo chuckled.

"That is his talent and for the last three years, especially because I'm a swimming and water polo guy...that kid has been in the top 10 in the state for the last three years," said Whitney athletic director Jeff Day. "He's just so quiet and humble. Even the kids on the water polo and swim team don't realize the talent that he has. He keeps to himself; it's not about him.

"I always want to know about kids," he continued. "I want to brag about kids, I want to showcase kids. It's not that I want to talk about how great Whitney athletics is. I just want to showcase Whitney kids."

Day, who said he followed Mo on the internet when he would go to diving events, found out about Mo verbally committing to Northwestern in October. He remembered asking Mo one day what was going on with his diving and that's when he told Day he had verballed to the Big 10 institution.

Mo said he couldn't remember how he got involved in diving, but before his interest in the sport, he had played soccer. He remembered taking a community class at the pool and the coach was a diver from the club that Mo dives for,



WHITNEY HIGH SENIOR diver Alex Mo, who placed second in the 2019 CIF-Southern Section Division 3 championships, will be taking his talents to Northwestern University in the fall. Mo is also regarded as one of the top divers in the nation.

which is Pacific Diving and Gymnastics Academy, formally known as the Pacific Diving Association. The PDGA, in which the competitions are sanctioned by USA Diving, is based out of Santa Fe Springs.

Mo began diving during his middle school days and most of his work has been done with his club team, under the tutelage of coach Haitao Chen.

"When I started diving, I never thought I would get here; to be able to communicate with such big names," Mo admitted. "On the national stage, there

See MO page 11



MO

Continued from page 10

are a lot of really strong athletes, and everybody is fighting for a spot at one of those [schools]. I qualified for Nationals and competed at Nationals in 2017 and 2018 and those meets are huge, especially in prelims. Going to those meets really opened my eyes to what's out there. I just didn't think I'd be able to stack up in the

In Mo's sophomore season, he finished in second place in the 2019 CIF-Southern Section Division 3 Diving Championships with a mark of 523.10, quite a distance away from champion Joshua Thai of Alhambra High (590.40).

From there, Mo competed in the state meet qualifier and came in fourth place with a score of 273.20 after six 1-meter dives. After that, it was off to the state championships where he finished ninth after taking 11 1-meter dives and had a score of 464.55.

"To get an opportunity to do it for my school is pretty cool," Mo said. "I didn't think I would be able to do it because Whitney doesn't have a diving team. They only have divers when they have divers, I guess. I kind of asked the school about it and they said, yeah, you can compete for us'.

Mo said he didn't think he would finish as high as second place in the Division 3 finals.

He was expecting to finish fourth, fifth or sixth and said it was a surprise to him that he ended up with the second best mark in the division.

That would be the last time Mo competed in a high school event as the pandemic wiped out his entire junior sea-

He resumed practice in May, but only on dry land as the pools remained closed. It wasn't until recently that Mo was able to go back to the pool, but only on Sundays.

In the first couple of months of the pandemic. Mo said he did the strength training that he and the other divers usually do at normal practices.

He is questioning about his senior season and if he will be able to compete and make another run for a high finish in the divisional championships and possibly the state championships.

"Of course, I wish [the spring season] could happen," Mo said. "I really want it to be that way. I look at the news semiregularly and it doesn't seem to be letting up. I know that some vaccines recently came out and are trying to get on the market. But I don't think that will turn things around in time [for the spring].'

As far as his time at Whitney, Mo said ultimately it was a different path he decided to take to college and that it wasn't extremely difficult.

"The other students at Whitney are all very smart and they do a lot of extracurriculars that just isn't serious sports," he said. "Of course, I feel kind of special but at the same time, I've worked very hard over these few years. They've worked very hard over these few years and I don't see myself as something super remarkable among them.

"I'm very excited for the future even though I know it's going to be difficult," he later said. "[Northwestern] is in the Big 10 Conference which, at least for diving, is the most difficult conference, I would say, in the country. Many of the U.S. Olympians in the past have been from the Big 10. It will be difficult, but I'm excited for what's to come."

"It just shows you that there is great talent across the board in our community and kids know if they go to Whitney, they're not giving up athletic opportunities," Day said.

This isn't the first time Whitney has had a diver compete in college.

Alyson Tam, who was a 2018 CIF State finalist, currently is on the University of Southern California diving team. She and her twin sister, Adriane, graduated from Whitney in 2018 and were both on the USC Diving team as freshmen.

"He's just continuing the tradition because he's had a great three-year run, hopefully this will be his fourth year," Day said of Mo. "But we had four years before him with the sisters who are both diving for USC. We've only had seven or eight years of great divers coming out of Whitney."

AMAZON

Continued from page 1

Amazon has tried to mitigate the traffic and noise when it comes to their employees, 120 will arrive at 1:30 a.m. while 55 employees will arrive at 11:30 a.m.

Diesel trucks cannot idle more than five minutes and deliveries are prohibited between 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.

An Economic Benefit Analysis done by the city estimates the Amazon project will ultimately support over 1,000 jobs, generate annual labor income of \$58 million and a total annual regional economic output of \$136.7 million.

In what seems like a franchise fee, Amazon will provide a one-time contribution of \$350,000 earmarked for street and infrastructure maintenance.

According to the city staff, the project will also provide to the city's Recreation and Parks District nearly \$100,000 annually generated by off-site sales and property taxes.

Amazon agreed to a staggering 130 conditions in the CUP which includes heavy investment such as rebuilding the dirt berm separating the site from existing neighborhoods. Amazon committed to strict aesthetic construction guidelines that call for an orderly destruction of buildings on the site, requiring them to have a certain look when reconstructed. Finally, Amazon made the commitment to hire locally and include Cypress residents in the candidate pool for the facility.

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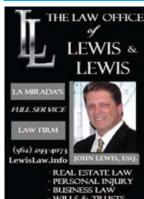
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Continued from page 1

family arrived, Sebastian promptly sat outside in a place of honor, on the sidewalk, "I saw the police cars and I thought there was a car chase or something," said Sebastian, "it was really cool, because they came to see me."

Lakewood Station Lieutenant Juan Briseno told HMG-CN, "One of our Sheriff's had read about the call to give Sebastian a party on one of the city's social media pages, they brought it up at a daily debriefing and it was approved." Several officers took the lead in collecting money, bought and wrapped the presents and delivered them to Sebastian on December 3rd, the day of his party drive through.

On Wednesday, December 16th, Sebastian, his mom and Espinoza visited the Lakewood Station; they took a gourmet box of assorted nuts and a thank you card as a token of appreciation. When Watch Commander Briseno gave Sebastian a tour of the facilities he commented, "Yeah, I think I want to be a police officer when I grow up." Sebastian has an open invitation to visit the station whenever he can.

Sebastian says his favorite toys are the many Lego sets that he received and a scooter. "I just wanted to say thank you to the policeman who came and gave me my presents, I really like them, but sometimes I make a mess in the living room and I hate to pick them up," Sebastian told Briseno.

"As I watched Lieutenant Briseno talk-



GREATTIME: Sebastian with Lakewood Station Lieutenant Juan Briseno. One of Sheriff's had read about the call to give Sebastian a party on social media, they brought it up at a daily debriefing and it was approved. Several officers took the lead in collecting money, bought and wrapped the presents.

ing to Sebastian I realized we adults play a big role in our youths development," added Espinoza, "without a doubt Sebastian won't forget this moment just as he won't forget the surprise visit from the deputies of the Lakewood Station during his drive by birthday party."

With tears in her eyes, Eva Sanchez told Lt. Briseno that she was so surprised that someone would do something like this for her son "I think that he will remember this for his whole life."

Happy Holidays from the La Palma-Cerritos AAUW

BY EDNA ETHINGTON

Beverly Zwick, President of the La Palma-Cerritos Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), said that she would like to wish everyone a "Happy and Healthy New Year!" After suffering through months of quarantine, illnesses, injuries, and personal losses, she, and branch members, pray that the New Year brings everyone nothing but "Sweet Memories." Members are looking forward to being able to meet in-person again in 2021.

The pandemic changed what members have done every year at holiday time to help clients at Su Casa, a safe place for abused women and children. Due to the Covid-19 virus, Su Casa representatives said that members could not shop for groceries, or bring toys, games, books, clothing, and personal items for residents this year. Members were asked to donate cash or gift cards for Target, Wal-Mart, Ralph's, Food 4 Less, or other local grocery stores. Persons who wish to donate cash or gift cards can still donate directly to Su Casa because help is always needed. Call Su Casa in Long Beach at 562-421-6537.

Members of the La Palma-Cerritos
Branch of the AAUW have not been
able to hold in person meetings and
fundraisers because of the health restrictions caused by the COVID-19 virus.

However, branch members continue to work to advance equity for women and girls by raising funds and promoting education, research, and legal advocacy. In 2020, the branch donated \$1,000 for Fellowships and Grants for graduate women, \$1,000 for Greatest Needs, and \$500 for Legal Advocacy through National AAUW Fund. AAUW Fund Co- VP's held two "Take- Out Dinner Fundraisers" at local restaurants in 2020. In January of 2021, they plan to ask for donations through a "Non-Event" called "Share Your COVID Savings with the AAUW Fund." Rather than spend money for a luncheon, the AAUW Fund Co-VP's hope that members will make donations directly for the AAUW Fund.

Monthly Zoom Meetings

Program Co-VP Karen Cox invites interested people to join the La Palma-Cerritos AAUW Branch and participate in upcoming virtual Zoom meetings on the third Thursdays of each month. Persons interested in participating in the virtual Zoom meetings must register no later than one day before the meeting of the month by contacting Karen Cox at 562-519-0596. She will then give you the meeting I.D. number and the passcode. A brief business meeting will follow each presentation.

Thursday, January 21, 2021, Waiting Room open at 6:30 p.m. Presentation at 7:00 p.m. on "Racism" by Whitney High School's Black Alumni, guest speakers Mrs. Megan Ashley-King, M.ED. and educator Jennifer Brooker, ABC Unified School District.

Thursday, February 18,2021, Waiting Room open at 12:30 p.m. Presentation at 1:00 p.m. by guest speaker Ms. Constance Iloh, an AAUW American Fellowship Award winner for 2020-2021. She is a post-doctoral student at the University of California in Irvine specializing in Anthropology. Her project's name is The Iloh Model, "Exploring the College-Going Decisions and Trajectories of Low-income Single Mothers of Color"

The La Palma-Cerritos AAUW wishes everyone a Happy Hanukkah and a Merry Christmas!

Persons who want to work to advance gender equality for women and girls, and who have an Associate or higher degree from an accredited college or university, are invited to join the La Palma-Cerritos Branch of the AAUW. Contact Membership Co-VP Joan Flax at 562-860-0642 for more information.

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: First, read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. The words are found in all directions - vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it off the list. The letters are often used more than once so do not cross them out. It is best to find the big words first. When you find all the words listed in the clues you'll have a number of letters left over that spell out the WONDERWORD. To see the answer use the link below the puzzle.

At The Pet Store

М	Т	R	I	Ν	K	Ε	Т	S	Т	G	S	S	L	F	
S	Ε	M	Α	G	F	D	W	C	K	Ν	Т	G	Т	0	
L	M	Α	D		В	S	Ε	Ν	Ο	I	S	Υ	Ο	0	
I	V	O	L	M	S	Т	Ε	Т	S	D	D	W	R	D	
Z	I	Т	Ο	S	Ο	Ε	Т	I	Α	Ν	Ν	S	R	L	
Α	Ε	C	Н	R	S	Ε	V	C	L	Ε	Α	Ν	Α	Α	
R	W	R	Р	Ε	G	Т	G	Т	R	Р	Н	C	Р	R	
D	Ν	Ε	Ο	Α	Ε	Н	Ο	Ν	L	S	Р	M	K	R	
0	L	Ε	J	Т	L	Υ	Н	Ε	I	1	Ο	U	В	Е	
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Animals, Aquarium, Basket, Beak, Bird, Boarding, Cats, Clean, Comb, Doctor, Dogs, Employee, Filter, Fish, Food, Games, Gerbil, Groom, Hamster, Heated, Hold, Home, Jump, Kids, Kitten, Legs, Lizard, Meals, Models, Noisy, Owner, Parrot, Play, Protect, Purchase, Rabbit, Raise, Referral, Reptile, Sell, Snack, Spending, Staff, Store, Supplies, Teeth, Toys, Trinkets, Turtle, Tweet, View, Visits.

Solution: 5 letters

BELLFLOWERContinued from page 1

The swearing in of Victor Sanchez is quite the historic event for the little city of Bellflower. At 29 years of age, Sanchez is the youngest member every elected, only the fourth minority to serve, the second Latino and the first elected by districts.

"I am humbled and grateful for the support that I have received on this journey. Today we make history, it is our first ever Oath of Office conducted via zoom, but we also bring in new energy and new blood from someone who has been completely born and raised in the City of Bellflower. I am proud to be a representative of this community."

Sanchez thanked his team of young adults raised in Bellflower who lead the day to day operations and calls them "the future of the city."

Pair Who Robbed Cerritos Trader Joe's Arrested

STAFF REPORT

A father and son have been charged with robbery after a holdup at a Trader Joe's market in Chino Hills.

Arresting officers and prosecutors found evidence to suggest that the men may have robbed 20 other Trader Joe's in Southern California, including the Traders in Cerritos Towne Center.

Gregory Johnson, 43, and son Gregory Eric Johnson, 20, each face up to 20 years in prison if convicted, the father is in custody while the son posted bond.

According to FBI affidavit, the two entered the store at about 9:30 a.m. Dec.

4, located at 13911 Peyton Drive in Chino Hills. He pointed a gun at the employee and took cash out of the drawer and into a blue drawstring bag and fled.

A security guard saw the man get in the passenger's side of a silver Toyota Highlander. The guard followed the Highlander onto freeways, and the California Highway Patrol pulled it over at the iunction of the 60 and 10 freeways.

The son, Gregory Eric Johnson, was in the driver's seat. His father was in the passenger's seat.

Under questioning, the son admitted to involvement in two robberies as the getaway driver, the father said he didn't know why he was arrested.

Officers found a 9 mm gun, the bag with cash, and other items that led investigators to believe they robbed other

Authorities had been investigating the series of robberies of Trader Joe's in which the descriptions matched that of the father and in some instances, the clothing he was wearing at the time of his arrest or the clothing found in the car, as well as the backpack and gun.

Also, witnesses described seeing the robber flee in a similar Highlander, as well as two cars the father had driven or had access to: a white Chevrolet Malibu

and a black Dodge Charger.

The other robberies, which netted a total of \$57,000, were Aug. 28 and Nov. 19 in Rancho Palos Verdes, Sept. 9 in Los Angeles, Sept. 16 in Agoura Hills, Sept. 21 in San Dimas, Sept. 30 in Manhattan Beach, Oct. 3 and Nov. 15 in Brea, Oct. 10 in Simi Valley Oct. 12 in Monrovia., Oct. 17 in Tustin, Oct. 18 in Glendale, Oct. 22 in Cerritos, Oct. 24 in Corona, Nov. 6 in Culver City, Nov. 13 in Pasadena, Nov. 17 in Irvine, Nov. 27 in Santa Ana, Nov. 29 in Sherman Oaks and Dec. 1 in Chatsworth.

TEACHERS Continued from page 1

From Monday, Sept. 28 through Sunday, Oct. 25, SONIC fans voted for teacher requests that moved them at Limeades for Learning, and the requests with the most votes nationwide received funding, totaling \$1.3 million at the close of the campaign.

In Artesia, Jennifer Bridwell at Kennedy STEM Academy for the project "Math Manipulatives for Amazing, Motivated Students"

In Cerritos, A. Park at Carver Academy for the projects "Computer Storage Needed!"; "Staying Safe and Healthy!"; "Tracking Student Progress with AppleTV"; and "Virtual Academy - Computer Needed!"

S. Tai And Ms. Hamagiwa at Leal

Elementary School for the project "Tackling Distance Learning"

Anne Krueger at Wittmann Elementary School for the project "An Apple a Day Keeps Teachers at Bay!"

Bianca Strongneves at Wittmann Elementary School for the projects "TK Instruction Matters" and

"Celebrate Diversity With an Equitable Learning Environment."

Carie Dominguez at Wittmann Elementary School for the project s"Osmo Coding and Classroom Cleaning": "Teachers Help Teachers!" and "Document Camera + Storage Solutions!"

Jill Yasutake at Wittmann Elementary School for the project "Document Camera and Monitor!"

Kaitlyn Mcgranahan at Wittmann Elementary School for the projects "Learn Outside of the Screen!" and "iPad Resource!"

Katelyn Witcher at Wittmann Elementary School for the project "Please Remain Standing!"and "Witcher Wish

List"

Leigh Tomooka at Wittmann Elementary School for the projects "Virtual Leaning Technology"; and "Diverse Library."

Sally Choi at Wittmann Elementary School for the projects "Kinder Kids Desperately Need Headphones."and "Document Camera for Kinders and Adjustable Desk for Teacher"

'Celebrating public school teachers through our Fall Voting Campaign feels special every year, but especially this year, as our incredible public school teachers are going the extra mile to keep their students inspired, regardless of where their classroom may be," said Christi Woodworth, vice president for public relations for SONIC.

"From cleaning supplies to humidifiers and technology needs, we were able to fulfill thousands of teachers' wish lists for necessary teaching materials to keep their students safe and learning."

La Palma Employees Help to Make the Season Bright

The City of La Palma helped to make the season brighter for those in need this year. La Palma employees raised and donated over \$750 to the La Palma Kiwanis Club Holiday Food Basket Program, which helps distribute food to an average of 45 families in need. Additionally, employees sponsored local families to provide holiday gifts, clothing, and toys for twenty children. Combined, La Palma's small workforce donated over \$3,000 this holiday season.

La Palma Mayor Nitesh Patel said, "The City Council recognizes and appreciates our employees' willingness during the holiday season to help others who are in need. This is what makes La Palma a great place to live and work."



Not Litter

USED OIL COLLECTION CENTERS Cerritos Ford/Lincoln/Mercury/Hyundai

18900 Studebaker Road

(562) 405-3500

Lexus of Cerritos

18800 Studebaker Road

(562) 865-7447

Penske Chevrolet of Cerritos

18605 S Studebaker Road

Browning Mazda 18827 Studebaker Road (562) 924-1414

Cerritos Dodge/Chrysler/Jeep 18803 Studebaker Road (562) 402-5335

Cerritos Acura 18827 Studebaker Road

(562) 402-5281

(562) 924-1676 Penske Buick GMC of Cerritos 17720 Crusader Avenue

(562) 733-3861

A recycling reminder from the City of Cerritos

Firestone Store 11524 South St (562) 924-5546

Norm Reeves Honda 18500 Studebaker Road (562) 345-9100

Power Toyota/Scion Cerritos 18700 Studebaker Road (562) 860-6561

Paid for by a grant from the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)



At **The Palms**, we offer an affordable, all-inclusive lifestyle with chef-prepared meals. Let us handle life's day-to-day chores, allowing you to focus on the moments in life to be cherished and celebrated.



A Holiday Retirement Community

562-459-4400

13001 La Mirada Blvd La Mirada, CA 90638 The-Palms.net



Great

It's all about the moments, and we make sure each one counts.

©2020 Holiday AL Management Sub LLC. NAME STATEMENT File Number 2020192365

THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: LGM Notaries 11138 E. Del Amo Blvd. #396, Lakewood, CA., 90715 LGMendoza Services, LLC, 11138 E. Del Amo Blvd. #396, Lakewood, CA., 90715. THIS BUSINESS IS CONDUCTED AS A LLC. The date registrant started to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above: N/A. I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to

be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). /S/ Leilanie G. Mendoza. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on 11/19/20 In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the of notice of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the affidavit of identity form. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State or Common Law (see Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). LCCN 11/28, 12/4, 12/11,

CITY OF LA MIRADA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the proposed Fiscal Year 2021-22 Community Development Block Grant projects are available for public inspection during regular office hours at the La Mirada City Hall, 13700 La Mirada Boulevard, La Mirada, California. The City Council will consider approval of the projects on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., in the City Hall Council Chambers, La Mirada City Hall, 13700 La Mirada Boulevard, La Mirada, California. Anyone having concerns or questions or wishing to review or comment on the proposed projects is welcome to contact the City Clerk at (562) 943-0131 or visit the office located at 13700 La Mirada Boulevard.

All persons wishing to comment, object, or otherwise be heard at the public hearing will be given an opportunity to appear and be heard at the time, date and place of the public hearing. In addition, interested persons may submit written comments to the City Clerk at City Hall prior to the public hearing.

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

Anne Haraksin, City Clerk

Published at La Mirada Lamplighter 12/18/20

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE

Escrow No. CEG906017-KT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a bulk sale is about to be made. The name(s) and business address(es) of the seller(s) is/are: MARK ADAM AND LIVE WELL MMA, LLC, 17620 BELL-FLOWER BLVD., UNIT # B-104 BELLFLOWER, CA 90706

Doing business as: I CARE PHARMACY

All other business name(s) and address(es) used by the seller(s) within the past three years, as stated by the seller(s), is/are: NONE

The location in California of the Chief Executive Officer of the Seller(s) is: NONE

The name(s) and business address of the buyer(s) is/are: PETER TAKLA, 1440 E. WILLOW ST, ANAHEIM, CA 92805

The assets being sold are generally de-scribed as: ALL FURNITURE, FIXTURES AND EQUIP-MENT and is located at: 17620 BELLFLOWER BLVD., STE B104, BELLFLOWER, CA 90706 The bulk sale is intended to be consum-mated at the office of: CENTRAL ES-CROW INC, 2134 MAIN ST, STE 185, HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA 9264 and the anticipated sale date is JANUARY

The bulk sale is subject to California Uni-form Commercial Code Section 6106.2.

The name and address of the person with whom claims may be filed is: CENTRAL ESCROW INC. 2134 MAIN ST, STE 185, HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA 92648, and the last day for filing claims by any creditor shall be JANUARY 6, 2021, which is the business day before the anticipated sale date specified above.

Dated: 12/9/2020 Buyer: PETER TAKLA

130482 LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS 12/18/20

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE

(UCC Sec. 6105)

Escrow No. 20-14945-TN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a bulk sale is about to be made. The name(s), business address(es) to the Seller(s) are: JASON THIEN PHAM, 14216 BELLFLOWER BLVD., BELL-FLOWER, CA 90706

Doing Business as: AMERICAN NAIL

All other business name(s) and address(es) used by the Seller(s) within three years, as stated by the Seller(s), is/are: NONE

The name(s) and address of the Buyer(s) is/are: TRINH NGOC HUYNH, 212 W ALONDRA BLVD COMPTON, CA 90220

The assets to be sold are described in general as: ALL FURNITURES, FIXTURES AND EQUIP-MENT, GOODWILL, INVENTORY, LEASE, AND LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS and are located at: 14216 BELLFLOWER BLVD., BELLFLOWER, CA 90706

The bulk sale is intended to be consummated at the office of: LUCKY TE 13305 BROOKHURST STREET GARDEN GROVE, CA 92843 and the anticipated sale date is JANUARY 12, 2021

The bulk sale is subject to California Uniform Commercial Code Section 6106.2 [If the sale is subject to Sec. 6106.2, the following information must be provided] The name and address of the person with whom claims may be filed is: LUCKY TEAM ESCROW, 13305

BROOKHURST ST, GARDEN GROVE, CA 92843 and the last date for filing claims shall be JANUARY 11, 2021, which is the business day before the sale date specified above. Dated: 12/14/2020

BUYER: TRINH NGOC HUYNH

ORD-134409 LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS 12/18/20

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

RANDY PETERS BOLIVAR filed a petition with this court for a decree changing name as follows: RANDY BOLIVAR VA-RONA. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant a petition without a hearing. Court date 1/4/20, Dept C, 10:30 A.M. Room 312. Published at LCCN 11/6, 11/13, 11/20, 11/27/20





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NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

JESUS TRONO SALAZAR

CASE NO. 20STPB10030

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of JESUS TRONO SÁLAZAR.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by JOSEPH SALAZAR in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that JOSEPH SALAZAR be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the

THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examina tion in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow

the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 01/05/21 at 8:30AM in Dept. 11 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES,

CA 90012

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the

court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

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

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

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

Attorney for Petitioner

ELINA K. LARSEN - SBN 209846 LAW OFFICES OF YVONNE HSU

1170 ROOSEVELT

RVINE CA 92620 12/11, 12/18, 12/25/20

TNS-3421933#

LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

JOSE PEREZ

CASE NO. 20STPB10004

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the lost WILL or estate, or both of JOSE PEREZ.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by HEIDI PEREZ in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that HEIDI PEREZ be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's lost WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The lost WILL and any codicils are available for xamination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act with limited authority. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important ac

tions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the trons, nowever, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons they have warved notice of consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 01/12/21 at 8:30AM in Dept. 2D located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES,

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the

court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

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

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

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

Attorney for Petitioner RICHARD BRYSON - SBN 44917

5220 CLARK AVE. STE 220 LAKEWOOD CA 90712

12/11, 12/18, 12/25/20 CNS-3421825#

LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF

RUBEN RODRIGUEZ

CASE NO. 20STPB09732

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

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by NATALIE PEREZ in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that NATALIE PEREZ be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the dece-THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examina-

tion in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow

the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 01/12/21 at 8:30AM in Dept. 2D located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES,

CA 90012 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the

court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal

representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special

Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner

JOHN J. URIBE, ESQ

LAW OFFICES OF JOHN J. URIBE

PO BOX 41077 LOS ANGELES CA 90069

12/11, 12/18, 12/25/20

LA MIRADA LAMPLIGHTER

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE (UCC Sec. 6105)

Escrow No. 20-1282-GL

ESCION NO. 201202-201.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a bulk sale is about to be made. The name(s), business address(es) to the Seller(s) are: TRUC HOANG NGUYEN NGUYEN, 18300 GRIDLEY RD., #D2, ARTESIA, CA 90701

Doing Business as: KUNF FU TEA - ARTESIA
All other business name(s) and address(es) used by the Seller(s) within three years, as stated by the Seller(s), is/are The location in California of the Chief Executive Officer of the Seller(s) is:

The name(s) and address of the Buyer(s) is/are: JEONGKWON SEO AND YEOSOOK CHOI, 8108 CAMBRIA CIRCLE, STANTON, CA

The assets to be sold are described in general as: FURNITURES, FIXTURES, EQUIPMENT, TOOLS, GOODWILL, TRADENAME, LEASE-HOLD IMPROVEMENTS, LEASEHOLD INTERESTS, ALL TRANSFERABLE PERMITS AND LICENSES, AND ALL INVENTORY OF

STOCK IN TRADE and are located at: 18300 GRIDLEY RD., SUITE D2, ARTESIA, CA 90701-5440
The bulk sale is intended to be consummated at the office of: ACE ESCROW, INC., 3030 W. 8TH ST., SUITE 408, LOS ANGELES, CA 90005 and the anticipated sale date is DECEMBER 30, 2020

The bulk sale is subject to California Uniform Commercial Code Section 6106.2. [If the sale is subject to Sec. 6106.2, the following information must be provided]

The name and address of the person with whom claims may be filed is: ACE ESCROW, INC., 3030 W. 8TH ST., SUITE 408, LOS ANGELES, CA 90005 and the last day for filing claims shall be DECEMBER 29, 2020 which is the business day before the sale date specified above. BUYER: JEONGKWON SEO AND YEOSOOK CHOI

125939 LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS 12.11.2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE (UCC Sec. 6105)

Escrow No. 13662D

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a bulk sale is about to be made. The name(s), business address(es) to the seller(s) are: POLLO MEAL, INC.,

A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION, 305 E. BETTERAVIA ROAD, SANTA MARIA, CA 93454 Whose chief executive office is: 5400 E. OLYMPIC BLVD. SUITE 227, COMMERCE, CA 90022 Doing Business as: EL POLLO LOCO #3738 (Type – FRANCHISE MEXICAN RESTAURANT)

All other business name(s) and address(es) used by the seller(s) within the past three years, as stated by the seller(s), is/are: NONE
The name(s) and address of the buyer(s) is/are: UNITED LENORE II, LLC, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, 14765 MAIN STREET HESPERIA CA 92345

The assets to be sold are described in general as: ALL STOCK IN TRADE, FURNITURE, FIXTURES, EQUIPMENT AND GOODWILL and are located at: 305 E. BETTERAVIA ROAD, SANTA MARIA, CA 93454

The bulk sale is intended to be consummated at the office of: CAPITOL CITY ESCROW, INC., 3838 WATT AVENUE, SUITE F-610 SACRA-MENTO, CA 95821-2665 and the anticipated sale date is DECEMBER 31, 2020

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

If the sale is subject to Sec. 6106.2, the following information must be provided.] The name and address of the person with whom claims may be filed is: CAPITOL CITY ESCROW, INC., 3838 WATT AVENUE, SUITE F-610 SACRAMENTO, CA 95821-2665 and the last date for filing claims by any creditor shall be DECEMBER 30, 2020, which is the business day before the sale date specified above Dated: DECEMBER 7, 2020

UNITED LENORE II. LLC. A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY.. Buver(s)

266045-C COMMERCE COMMUNITY NEWS 12/11/2020

CERRITOS

Continued from page 1

have also been reports of positive tests at the Library, the Corporate Yard and the Swim Center.

"Despite what seems to be a steady increase in positive tests throughout City facilities over the last 14 days, the Mayor [Naresh Solanki] refuses to close City Hall to the public or reinstate telecommuting for eligible City employees.

"This puts both City employees and residents at risk. Some of the people who tested positive are in public-interfacing positions. I believe it is important for the residents to know that if they come into City Hall or encounter City employees at other facilities they may be exposing themselves to COVID."

The anonymous letter stated, "as you may or may not know, two employees on the first floor of City Hall have recently tested positive for COVID; one employee in public works and one in finance. Currently six employees in the finance department are out of the office due to having symptoms and or possible exposure. Also there have been employees in the parks and trees department that have tested positive and others exposed. The city clerks office has employees off for the same reason.

"This is a very serious matter and many Cerritos employees feel like upper management does not care for the wellbeing of their employees. As a courtesy employees should be informed as to what is happening at their workplace and be given assurance that matters are being handled appropriately."

A letter obtained by HMG-CN from city manager Art Colucci stated, "the City Council and I received a letter on

December 10 from a city employee who expressed concerns about the health and safety of staff working during the COVID crisis. COVID is a serious illness; I understand and share the strong interest we all take in keeping our families, friends and ourselves safe and healthy.

Gallucci indicated that they had taken all safety guidelines and precautions given out by public health and set up a COVID committee which is comprised of Cerritos employees from various departments citywide, and the City Attorney to develop measures for employees safety.

Gallucci went on to describe the COVID Exposure Control Plan that was distributed to all employees describing the precautions and preventative measures taken by the city to protect their

The city also has an Incident Report Form that is completed upon notification of a suspected or confirmed case of COVID at a city facility. It is completed by the employee and their supervisor and submitted to Human Resources for follow up.

Gallucci stressed that PPE has been provided and germ shields have been put up were necessary.

Still, the steps taken did not seem to be registering with the anonymous letter writer who stated, "I believe it is important for the residents to know that if they come into City Hall or encounter City employees at other facilities they may be exposing themselves to COVID. I understand that the City is in a difficult position but there are some basic steps they could take to reduce risk and they are unwilling to. I am concerned for the safety and health of myself, my fellow employees, our families, and the residents of the City or anyone else who has business with the

102 Year-Old Lakewood Residents Pays It Forward



LAKEWOOD RESIDENT Alleen Cooper has been a dedicated composer of letters to our troops, penning 8,000-plus over many years, going back to World War II.

For the seventh consecutive year, Lakewood's "Thank a Servicemember" campaign invited residents, businesses and community groups to take a moment to share their appreciation for U.S. servicemembers serving overseas.

Each year, the city designs a special postcard for the effort, and this year's card contains the message "Though distant, you're still close to our hearts...from Lakewood, California."

Several individuals and groups helped significantly with this year's efforts. Original Lakewood resident Alleen Cooper has been a dedicated composer of letters to our troops, penning 8,000-plus over many years, going back to World War II. Even at 102, Alleen has remained steadfast in her commitment to correspondence with servicemembers with an impressive 102 letters this year (yes, one for each of her

years)! She continues to be Lakewood's superstar letter-writer.

And while the majority of children have been in distance-learning mode, several participated in the campaign. "On behalf of the Lakewood City Council, I want to give a a virtual high five of appreciation to the children of Riley Elementary School, Boy Scout Troop 65, Camp Fire Tuhwaki Ahma Group, Pony Time at Lakewood Equestrian Center and Bethany Lutheran GEMS who added nearly 200 to our total," said Mayor Todd Rogers.

Since the launch of Lakewood's 'Thank a Servicemember' campaign in 2014, more than 35,000 cards, letters and even handdrawn pictures crafted by Lakewood residents, businesses and community groups have been sent to U.S. military servicemembers stationed overseas during the holidays.



From routine to rare, Jordan's access to care is covered.

With quality care close by, Jordan has access to a full-service children's hospital just minutes away. Whether she is due for a routine check-up or requires a pediatric specialist, we can meet Jordan's needs as she grows. With specialty care close to home, from the South Bay to Orange County, Jordan and her family never have to travel far to get the best for her.

Access to elite care. When you need it.





800-MEMORIAL (636-6742) | millerchildrens.org/Elite

