

Innovative Pallet Houses for Homeless Pop-Up In Redondo Beach



TINY BUT MIGHTY: Fourth District L.A. County Supervisor Janice Hahn with Redondo Beach Mayor Bill Brand surveying pallet houses for the homeless. The houses are 8 x 8 foot and can accommodate one or two people inside, with drop down beds, power outlets, heaters, and personal locked storage areas.

Montebello Hit With Lawsuit for Retaliation Against Firefighter Captain

BY BRIAN HEWS

Montebello Fire Captain Vernon Creswell filed a suit this week in Los Angeles Superior Court for retaliation for his whistleblower complaints of race discrimination, and related issues. Mr. Creswell also seeks injunctive relief for violations of his rights under the Firefighter’s Bill of Rights and disability discrimination law.

The suit is against the city of Montebello and 100 "DOES." DOES are placeholders for individuals and/or businesses who may be included in a lawsuit but have not yet been identified.

Mr. Creswell previously was found to have been subject to racial harassment and retaliation by a jury in 2015, and remains employed by the City.

The Complaint for Damages and Injunctive Relief alleges that the City has retaliated against him for his whistleblower complaint in September 2020.

In a statement Creswell wrote: "As people across the State of California have their lives upended by fires that are encroaching on residential areas, this is a good time to ask what it’s like

See **CRESWELL** page 14

2020 Brought Us...



Toilet Paper Hoarding

For some reason many people thought we were going to run out.



Quarantine Haircut

We all know someone who tried to cut their own hair.



Spray and Wipes

Just like TP, you could only find these at Staples or Office Depot.



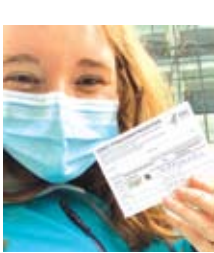
Zoom Shirt

Lots of us wearing a shirt and tie with shorts and slippers.



Quarantine Sweatpants

One of the businesses that have boomed during the pandemic.



God Bless

All frontliners - HMG publisher's daughter above- and essential servers!

Southland Winter Wonderland



SNOW?: a La Mirada resident sent this picture in after hail hit in the city. The city was blanketed with more than an inch in some places.

BY TAMMYE MCDUFF

Southern California is accustomed to rain storms which can be considered our winter weather, but when hail started to fall in cities across Southern California, covering the ground as thick as snow, well that makes the news.

The thunderstorm that pounded the Gateway Cities arrived Sunday night bringing lighting, rolling thunder, and road hazards. As the storm rolled through on Monday it created flash floods and brought snow to the mountains and unexpected problems for those that are still commuting to work.

The National Weather Service reported ‘heavy downpours, small hail and gusty winds’. As of Monday afternoon it was re-

ported that as much as an inch to an inch-and-a half of rain had already fallen. Frigid temperatures brought widespread hail, with reports of ice coming down in the San Gabriel Valley and Inland Empire.

La Mirada, Whittier, Downey and parts of Bellflower received so much hail that it left streets and rooftops covered in white. In some place so much that children gathered in the parks to sled. La Mirada Creek Park was blanketed with hail; the riverbeds were full and flowing, tumbling over the rocks and the waterfalls.

Heavy rains in areas of Long Beach caused roof top and ceilings to partially cave in, flooding local stores. The downfall is the strongest Southern California has seen this winter.

BY BRIAN HEWS & TAMMYE MCDUFF

Two weeks ago, L.A. County Supervisor Janice Hahn shared photos that showed her and Redondo Beach Mayor Bill Brand preparing pallet houses for the homeless.

Pallet houses are eight by eight foot shelters that can accommodate one or two people inside, with drop down beds, power outlets, heaters, and personal locked storage areas.

Best of all, each house costs only \$4,900.

“I joined Mayor Bill Brand in Redondo Beach, where new pallet shelters have been installed in record time. The project broke ground on November 23, and we will have people moving in before the end of the year,” stated Hahn.

The site has 24/7 security and offers three meals a day for residents. Harbor Interfaith Services will interact with residents providing mental health services and substance abuse and medical treatment while working with each person to find permanent housing.

This past Monday, December 28, during Southern California’s worst rain storm to date this year, people began to move into the shelters.

The pallet house idea is the brain child of Brady King, a graduate of Redondo Union High School. The tiny aluminum cabins were originally designed as temporary after Hurricane Katrina.

The shelters are designed to be stored flat, “it is meant to be palletized,” King said, “so you can get as many flat packs on a pallet as possible.”

The Redondo Beach project is paid for by funds from the CARES Act with another \$409,000 from Homeless and Housing Program funds, and an additional \$300,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds will cover operational costs.

The pallet shelters will remain in place for a period of six months, when the City Council will reevaluate the program.

“These Pallet shelters are a creative, affordable, and-- most importantly-- quick solution to get roofs over peoples’ heads.

See **PALLET HOMES** page 14



CERRITOS RESIDENT Siegfried C. Ringwald, a resident since 1968, with daughters Anita (left) and Lydia.

SIEGFRIED C. RINGWALD, 1926 - 2020

Dean of Long Beach City College and President of Cerritos College

BY TAMMYE MCDUFF

Siegfried C. Ringwald passed away in his Cerritos home on December 19, 2020 at the age of 94. His life story and legacy is an inspiration as a prominent resident in Cerritos and an early

Cerritos homeowner in 1968.

After WWII, he attended the University of Southern California [USC] on a GI Bill and became a math instructor at Jefferson Jr. High in Long Beach.

See **RINGWALD** page 14

LOOKING BACK: Optimists-Soroptimists Complete Successful Families in Need Project



HUGE DONATIONS: With the help of Soroptimist International of Artesia - Cerritos and the Cerritos High Octagon students, 14,565 pounds of food, sundries and toys were delivered. Donors included Optimist members, the City of Cerritos, Razor, Red Hat Society, Ralphs, Gahr High School, Crown Carton Company, Revolve, LeFiell Manufacturing, & Supervisor Janice Hahn.



Bragg Elementary School's Green Team Wins Environmental Award

MEMBERS OF THE BRAGG GREEN TEAM are recognized by Grades of Green for their work in reducing the use of single-use plastic water bottles on campus. Due to their outreach on campus, they expect a reduction of over 12,000 plastic single-use water bottles this year. Photo courtesy ABCUSD.

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.



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HMG-CN Investigations January 2020

HEWS MEDIA ARTICLE RESULTS IN A L.A. SHERIFF'S INVESTIGATION OF COMMERCE MAYOR JOHN SORIA

For the second time in less than a week, a Hews Media Group-Cerritos News article resulted in an internal investigation of a state and county employee.

The first instance involved Kevin Hunt, former GM of Central Basin Water based in Commerce, Ca., who was fired last week after a series of investigative articles by HMG-CN.

Now an article published earlier this month has resulted in a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Internal Affairs investigation of Commerce Mayor John Soria.

Soria eventually resigned and now works for the city of Montebello.

HMG-CN Exposé Results in Landslide Recall of Two El Rancho Unified Board Members

BY BRIAN HEWS

An long-running investigation and expose by Hews Media Group has resulted in a landslide recall of El Rancho Board Members Jose Lara and Leanne Ibarra.

The seven article expose started with outlining the corruption and pay-to-play politics involved with the El Rancho School Bond and went from there, resulting in Bond Construction manager Jaime Ortiz and ERUSD Superintendent Karling Forts's resignations and the eventual recall getting started.

The investigation also triggered an audit by the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team, FCMAT, which is ongoing.

Of the nearly 4,000 votes, over 91% were in favor of removing Lara from office and 86% were in favor of removing Ibarra.

El Rancho board and committee member Joe Rivera, who won over 69% of the mail-in ballot vote, will take one seat and Esther Mejia who won nearly 31% of the vote, will take the other seat.

The El Rancho Unified School District (ERUSD) recall, a recall started after HMG-LCCN published a series of investigative articles that revealed graft and corruption at the highest levels of the school board, will go forward.

ERUSD BOARD MEMBER JOSE LARA RESIGNS

Controversial El Rancho Unified school board member Jose Lara announced his resignation at the regular ERUSD Board meeting in January 2020, declaring his last board meeting as Feb. 4.

The announcement came after a series of Hews Media Group-Cerritos News articles triggered a recall election targeting Lara and his crony Leanne Ibarra.

Looking Back: Downey Rose Parade Float Wins Award



DOWNEY'S FLOAT for the parade won the prestigious "The Founders Trophy."

SOROPTIMIST MONTE CARLO NIGHT RAISED OVER \$58,000



MEMBERS of Soroptimist International of Artesia-Cerritos. The proceeds of the event funded the Club's awards/scholarships to low-income, head-of-household college women; career training for local high school girls; and donations to community organizations (Su Casa-Ending Domestic Violence, Community Family Guidance Center, etc.) and Soroptimist education.

HMG-CN Investigations - February 2020

California AG Becerra Took Over \$500,000 From Tribal Casinos, Now His Agency is Paying Them Back

In June 2019, HMG-CN exclusively reported on several large California Tribal Casinos giving nearly \$300,000 to California Attorney General, and new Biden Health Chief Xavier Becerra, to fund his successful 2018 campaign.

Tribal Casinos are direct competitors with California cardrooms, which include the Commerce Casino in Commerce, the Gardens Casino in Hawaiian Gardens, the Bicycle Club in Bell Gardens, and many others up and down the state.

The Tribal casinos have alleged "corruption" in those cardrooms and the casino-style games they offer for decades, but authorities have never filed a single lawsuit based on their complaints.

Bill Lockyer (1999-2007) refused, Jerry Brown (2007-2011) refused, and even Kamela Harris (2011-2017) refused.

But when Becerra was appointed attorney general by then-Governor Jerry Brown in 2016, he signaled to the Tribes he was there to help them out, the casinos in-turn gave him \$286,000.

HMG-LCCN received many calls and emails saying that money was "the tip of the iceberg;" turns out they were right, with a subsequent investigation by HMG-LCCN finding an additional \$506,000 given to Becerra by the Tribal Casinos.

Cerritos Candidate Chuong Vo Took \$7,500 From Cerritos Auto Square

The Cerritos Auto Square is by far the largest revenue generator for the city of Cerritos, routinely generating between \$10 and \$12 million per year for City coffers.

And in the last Cerritos election they showed their teeth in an effort to influence the politics of the city.

HMG-CN obtained campaign finance statements that showed then-Cerritos City Council candidate Chong Vo took an eye-opening \$7,500 from the Southern California Motor Dealer's Association (SCMDA).

The SCDMA has several Auto Square dealers as members.

To put that in perspective, the \$7,500 given to Vo was nearly 30% of his total campaign finances as of Jan. 18.

Vo, a Torrance Police Officer, was against Cerritos' Measure C, the sales-tax measure that would have brought in over \$11 million to the City; imagine if the City had that extra boost right now.

If C would have passed, Cerritos residents would have paid a higher amount of sales tax on new cars at the Auto Square which would chase residents to lower tax cities to buy their car, a clear conflict of interest between VO and the SCDMA.

Vo's stance had many scratching their heads, some of the Measure C funds would be spent to increase public safety in the form of more sheriffs and more sheriff's units on the streets.

Many say Vo was pandering to the neo-conservatives in Cerritos to get their vote.

One thing is certain, Vo's acceptance of the donation should cause him to recuse himself on any vote related to the Auto Square.

First Surge: USNS Mercy Docks at Port of L.A.



THE SHIP SERVED as a referral hospital for non-COVID-19 patients that were admitted to shore-based hospitals providing care for adults. Mercy's support allowed local hospitals to focus on treating COVID-19 patients.



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Looking Back: La Mirada Meals on Wheels Persevered

TWO MEALS ON WHEELS volunteers from La Mirada donned PPE during the pandemic to deliver meals to local area residents. The program is still going, for more information, call (562) 943-0037 or visit mealsonwheelslamirada.org

Artesia HS Girls Basketball Champions!

CHAMPS! The Artesia High girls basketball team defeated San Jacinto Valley Academy 46-39 to capture the CIF-SS Div. 5 AA championship. It's the program's fourth divisional title, but first since 2003. Freshman Samerika Young led all players with 22 rebounds and 21 points while sophomore Sydney McKee added 13 points. When the state playoff brackets were released, Artesia was bumped up to Division IV, seeded 16th and had to travel to top-seeded Lancaster High in the first round of the Southern California Regionals.

HMG-CN Investigations - March 2020

Montebello Unified Syphoning Thousands to the Montebello Teachers Association

BY BRIAN HEWS

Hews Media Group-Los Cerritos Community News obtained financial documents that showed the Montebello Unified School District funneling thousands to the Montebello Teachers Association under a one-page lease agreement for a meeting center in Montebello.

According to property records, the MTA owns the building which is located at 920 W. Whittier Blvd., on the corner of Whittier and 10thSt., in Montebello.

The lease agreement was signed by MTA President Doug Patzkowski, Executive Director Kathy Schlotz and MUSD Superintendent Anthony Martinez.

The lease was valued at \$3,330 per month for the 10,000 square foot building with the MTA also charging the MUSD \$179 per month for use of the building's Wi-Fi network. The MUSD also agreed to pay for custodians to clean the building after use.Total charge to MUSD taxpayers is over \$42,000 per year.

The conflicts of interest for the MTA were numerous.

Online document showed that the MTA's projected 2018 revenue was \$410,000, making the lease 10% of the organization's revenue.

And the organization's 2017 tax returns, also known as 990's, showed that the organization lost \$3,000 that year.

This loss came as the MTA's Executive Director Kathy Schlotz, who signed the lease, takes in over \$262,000 per year, which is 64% of the organization's budget.

Critics alleged pay-to-play and money laundering as it is unknown why the MUSD is leasing the building, given the fact there are several rooms the district could use among their many schools, including the new ATC high school conference room and cafeteria that can seat hundreds and includes a Wi-Fi network.

Covered California Enrollment Debacle Wrongly Canceled Thousands Of Health Plans

BY BRIAN HEWS

A glitch in the auto-enrollment system for Covered California, the massive state-run system that offers health plans and financial assistance if enrollees qualify, unnecessarily canceled "thousands of health policies" placing tens of thousands of California families in the position of not having health care, HMG-CN learned in early 2020.

The cancellations came at a particularly bad time given the coronavirus pandemic.

HMG-LCCN talked to several families, who wished to remain anonymous, who expressed utter frustration, and fear, at the random cancellations.

The cancellations caused those families to be without health care coverage for nearly two months until the situation was rectified.

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News When You Want It

HMG HEWS MEDIA GROUP

Looking Back: Bellflower Opens New Parking Structure



OPENING: Bellflower Mayor Juan Garza, front, along with his fellow Councilmembers, cuts the ribbon on the new downtown parking structure. The new parking guidance system will utilize smart-sensor technology and cameras to display available parking stalls.

La Mirada Native Plays for Hometown Hockey Team



LA MIRADA NATIVE Chase De Leo (right) is being defended by Mikael Granlund of the Nashville Predators in a Jan. 16 game at Bridgestone Arena in Nashville. It was the first game De Leo played for the Anaheim Ducks this past season.

'DOG' IN SINGAPORE WATCHES FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING



SPOT broadcasts a prerecorded message about how to maintain a safe distance from other people, authorities in Singapore said. It is remote controlled.

13 YEAR-OLD LA MIRADA RESIDENT GRADUATES COLLEGE



JACK RICO accepted his diploma from Fullerton College at a private drive by celebration on Escalona Drive in La Mirada on May 27th.

HMG-CN Investigations - April 2020

Central Basin Finance Director, Lawyer Approved Unauthorized Payments

Many in the industry including, the Central Basin Board of Directors were shocked when a HMG-CN investigation revealed that former disgraced CB Finance Director Andrew Hamilton approved payments for tens of thousands of dollars to Kevin Hunt and former CB attorney Steve O’Neil, when he was specifically told not to pay them.

HMG-LCCN learned that O’Neill pushed Hamilton, without CB Board authorization, to pay Hunt’s salary after he was fired, and that Hamilton went along with the scheme, finally admitting it to the board during a meeting.

The payment to Hunt is likely a gift of public funds and a violation of Penal Code section 424, which is a felony.

El Monte Councilwoman Who Held Fundraiser for Veterans Failed to Donate the Money

During the a time of a global pandemic, most organizations that rely on donations are scrambling to devise new ways to raise money.

But what they don’t expect is an organization or person, who pledged donations months prior to the outbreak, denying payment of the promised money later on.

But that is exactly what El Monte City Councilwoman Victoria “Vicky” Martinez-Muela pulled on local organizations in her own city, a HMG-CN investigation found.

Back in November 2019, Martinez-Muela held a Friendsgiving fundraising event to “celebrate the holidays and support sponsorships of youth sports, veteran and community organizations.”

Sources who attended the fundraiser told HMG-LCCN that Martinez-Muela told everyone, “the money was going to several local El Monte organizations in need of donations.”

But, over four months later, during a pandemic that is squeezing all non-profit organizations, Martinez-Muela never donated the money to those organizations.

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Looking Back: WRD Received \$4.1M Grant From U.S. Agency



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HMG-CN Investigations - May 2020

Asm. Cristina Garcia Took Thousands From Companies Who Thirsted for Central Basin Water Receivership

BY BRIAN HEWS

An examination of several campaign finance documents on FollowtheMoney.org and the California Secretary of State’s website Cal-Access revealed a complex web of relationships and monetary donations related to elected officials favoring CB’s take over.

The investigation found that Garcia took thousands from water purveyors inside Central Basin Municipal Water’s boundaries, the same purveyors causing problems inside the agency itself.

In addition, the documents showed several possible campaign finance violations.

The same water purveyors inside CB boundaries that gave money to Garcia donated thousands to several political action committees (PAC’s), with the PAC’s turning around and giving money to Garcia.

Finally, the investigation found a massive web of donations - from the same purveyors and PAC’s that gave to Garcia - paid to elected officials who had their name on SB 625, a bill to take over CB.

Influential names such as Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, Ian Calderon, and Steven Bradford, who co-authored and carried the bill.

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Bottled by inmates at Great Meadow Correctional in Washington County, N.Y.

"It has a very nice floral bouquet."
—Gov. Andrew Cuomo

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Judge Orders Norwalk to Place Houseless In Hotel



THE SADDLEBACK located on Firestone and Bloomfield was used by the county to house homeless. Now the county is buying up hotels for permanent shelters.

News When You Want It

HMG

HEWS MEDIA GROUP



Residents Mourned the Passing of Jim Edwards

STAFF REPORT



Jim Edwards, current city councilman and former mayor of Cerritos, who was a teacher in the area for more than 30 years, died in March of 2020, he was 75.

Mayor Solanki commented, “Jim was a remarkably dedicated and inspiring leader who loved serving the City of Cerritos.

"He will be remembered for his tireless dedication, professionalism and

concern for the community. He made outstanding contributions to the betterment of the City of Cerritos as an elected official, volunteer, coach and teacher, and he will be greatly missed.

" Cerritos resident Linda Hernandez stated, "Over his many years of service, I have always been impressed by his kindness, professionalism and sincere desire to help improve our community in any way he could. My most recent interaction with Jim was during my group of concerned residents’ presentation before the City Council about toxic pesticide spraying in City parks and public places. I believe his wise comments and leadership helped us to get a unanimous vote to ban their use on City grounds."

Did Rio Hondo College President Reyes Violate the Ed. Code and Commit Fraud?

BY BRIAN HEWS

Under the California Education Code, superintendents and other administrators work 245 days per year, which is the normal 260 workday year minus 15 vacation days which are unpaid and earned on a monthly basis; some have more vacation days, some have less.

Under a Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) interpretation, administrators can have less workdays than 260, but they cannot earn vacation, much like other ten-month positions at the college.

ButRioHondoCollegeSuperintendent/President Arturo Reyes wanted it both ways, working less days and earning vacation, all while giving himself a chance to take more money.

HMG-CN obtained documents that showed Reyes violated the Education Code, unilaterally lowering the annual workdays in his employment contract to 217 and giving himself the ability to take extra compensation for any days over 217, amounting to over \$50,000, without the Rio Hondo College Board’s approval.

The revelation caused the board to put Reyes on leave.



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Cerritos Christmas tree recycling for residents

Residents in single-family homes can recycle their Christmas trees through Friday, January 8 by placing them at the curb for pick-up by 7 a.m. on their trash collection days. The trees will be composted or used for the Los Angeles County Sanitation District’s daily landfill cover.

Trees to be recycled should not contain any lights, tinsel, nails, metal stands or decorations, and should not be placed in bags. Trees more than 4 feet tall should be cut in half. Flocked trees will be accepted.

Businesses in Cerritos or residents living in apartments or condominiums can place trees next to their trash bin for collection. For more information, call the City’s Public Works Department at (562) 916-1220.

Gardens Casino Hosts Community Food Giveaway



THE GARDENS CASINO partnered with AFSCME 36 and the L.A. Regional Food Bank to provide food to those who have been impacted by COVID-19. Photo by T. McDuff.

George Floyd Protests in Area Draw Thousands



L. CAMPBELL, Senior Pastor of the Secret Place Church, spoke to over 200 young men and women that were present at the protest in Bellflower.

Senator Archuleta and Supervisor Hahn Participate in Protest



CALIFORNIA STATE SENATOR Bob Archuleta walks with L.A. County Supervisor Janice Hahn during a march in honor of George Floyd from Rowland Heights to Hacienda Heights, on Saturday, June 6, 2020. It was one of many protests against police brutality and injustice in America held across the country.

LAX Offering PPE Vending Machines



NEW NORMAL: PPE vending machine at LAX offers everything the traveller needs, even N95 masks. The machines offer touch-free payment options were installed in August of this year.

HMG-CN Investigations - June -July 2020

D.A. Reviewing Incompatible Office Charges Against Downey Assistant Manager John Oskoui

Review is a result of an HMG-CN series of the controversial Director.

BY BRIAN HEWS

HMG-CN has exclusively learned that Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office of Integrity is reviewing the incompatible office charges leveled against Central Basin Director and Downey Assistant Manager Jahanshah “John” Oskoui as outlined in a letter sent by former CB attorney Anthony Wiloughby.

HMG-CN Article Results in Resignation of Central Basin Director Dan Arrighi

BY BRIAN HEWS

HMG-CN has learned that Central Basin appointed Director Dan Arrighi will be resigning his seat effective tomorrow.

The resignation came just one hour after HMG published an article related to John Oskoui, another appointed Central Basin Director.

Both directors were appointed under Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia’s controversial AB 1794, which passed in 2016.

The article reported on a letter that was submitted to the Los Angeles County District Attorney asking to investigate the obvious incompatible office position Oskoui holds.

Oskoui is the assistant city manager for the city Downey, and a director at Central Basin; Downey is a customer of Central Basin.

Arrighi works for San Gabriel Valley Water. Sources said he was forced to resign by Ron and Tom Calderon.

TO-GO COCKTAIL POUCH



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DEMONSTRATING at the Cerritos Post Office were Hubert Humphrey Democratic Club Membership Chair Norma Williamson and her husband Alan, Linda Hernandez, Wendy Moonier, Al Barlevy, Pamela Crawley, Beverly and William Porter, and Co-President Larry Caballero. They were protesting Louis DeJoy's moves to hurt the USPS.

Thieves Hit Cerritos ATM, Get Away With Over \$315,000



AN ATM in Spokane, WA. was hit in a similar fashion as the ATM in Cerritos, the robbers slammed the rear of their truck into the ATM and stole the money later dumping the truck and getting into another car.

HMG-CN Investigations - June -July 2020

Asm. Cristina Garcia Bilking Taxpayers, Paying for High-End Office in Downey

The Assemblywoman could move one block over and pay 23% - \$15,000 per year - less.

BY BRIAN HEWS

The area on Firestone Blvd. bordered by Downey Ave. and La Reina Ave. is one of the busiest in Downey, with the iconic Porto's Bakery anchoring the upscale community gem.

Known as Downtown Downey, thousands of people, even during the pandemic, visit the area every day to exercise social distancing and enjoy the many fast casual restaurants, later walking over to Porto's for a fabulous butter-laden dessert.

Across the courtyard from Porto's, on the busy corner of Firestone and Downey, is the five-story Downtown Downey Office Plaza, home to Wells Fargo Bank, Keller Williams, Caremore Medical and, according to the Downey Chamber of Commerce directory, former Downey Mayor Mario Guerra.

It is a high-end business building, and its location commands some of the highest per square foot rates in Downey.

And in Suite 203 of the Downey Plaza is the field offices of Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia.

HMG received documents from a Legislative Open Records Act (LORA) request that showed Garcia occupying

the office since 2013.

The space originally started at 1,626 sq. ft., then increased by 771 sq. ft to 2,397 sq. ft., or 46 per cent, in 2015.

And since 2015, taxpayers have funded the high-end office, complete with six parking spaces, to the tune of \$2.21 per sq. ft., \$5,300 per month, \$63,600 per year.

Just down the street on Florence is an office building charging \$1.70 per sq. ft. which is the going rate in Downey, according to one local area realtor.

That cost is 23% less than the Downey Plaza, but Garcia chose to bilk taxpayers another .51 cents per sq. ft., \$1,222 per month, or nearly \$15,000 per year to occupy the high-end office space.

Garcia recently authored a bill, SB 625 that would place Central Basin Municipal Water into receivership for among other things, bad financial management.

Central Basin, which supplies water Garcia's faucets at the Downey Plaza, is in good financial shape with an \$8 million reserve, an \$8 million building owned free and clear, and highly rated bonds; the agency was recently rated clean after an independent audit of its financial statements.

Yet Garcia's ignored her own inept financial management of tax payer dollars and went after Central Basin.

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2021

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La Mirada Mourned a City Treasure - Ms. Myllie Taylor



MS. MYLLIE TAYLOR passed Friday evening, Jun 26th. A memorial was held at the historic Neff house.

HOOT! Baby Owl Was Found in Rockefeller Center Tree



THE SAW-WHET OWL was found by a technician assembling the massive 75-foot tree cut down last week in Oneonta, New York, with the feathered stowaway. The bird is recovering nicely according to the owners of New York based Ravensbeard Wildlife Preserve, they have named the owl Rockefeller.

HMG-CN Investigations -

June -July 2020

Central Basin Corruption Web Now Entangles Assembly Speaker Rendon

BY BRIAN HEWS

The allegations of corruption and privatization swirled around Central Basin Municipal Water District for months, as documented by HMG-CN

The privatization push heated up at the beginning of the year when two CB Directors, John Oskoui and Dan Arrighi, along with Director Bob Apodaca, began an organized effort to stop all business transacted at the Commerce-based agency.

The Los Angeles District Attorney is reviewing a letter that charges Oskoui with incompatible office and Arrighi recently resigned after a HMG article pointed out another incompatible office situation.

Sources are telling HMG that Arrighi's boss Michael Whitehead, CEO of San Gabriel Valley Water and his friends, Ron and Tom Calderon, pressured Arrighi to quit.

Apodaca is mimicking his old ways; at 86 years old, he is a leftover of a past corrupt regime that included James Roybal and former GM Art Aguilar; all, like Whitehead, worked closely with Ron and Tom Calderon.

Later, HMG exclusively reported additional conflicts of interest between Oskoui, Arrighi, and former Central Basin GM Kevin Hunt that could end in FPPC violations and fines and an investigation

by the District Attorney.

The culmination of the scheme came when Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia, who is at the center of the web of privatization, co-sponsored a gut and amend bill that tried to place Central Basin into receivership and disenfranchise 2 million - mostly Latino - voters.

But no one knew that Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood) was involved in the web – until now.

Conflicts of Interest and Recusal

HMG obtained the employment contract of Norris Brandt, who was hired by former CB GM Kevin Hunt.

Brandt had been working at Central Basin for three years, hired as the Principal Engineer and Operations Specialist-retired annuitant earning \$100 per hour, working 12 hours per week and reporting to Hunt.

On his LinkedIn account, Brandt indicates he is the owner of Brandt Water Strategies since 2014 “to the present.” He also indicates he is an Administrator for the San Juan Basin Authority JPA since 2017 “to the present.”

Conspicuously missing is Norris Brandt's three-year employment with Central Basin.

It turned out that Norris was the borthor of Speaker Rendon's long time attorney who helped write the bill to take over Central Basin.

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Looking Back One Last Time at High School, Southern California Sports From 2020

BY LOREN KOPFF
@LORENKOPFF ON TWITTER

The 2020 calendar year for high school, college and professional sports began just like any other year, but will end in a way that none of us would have ever envisioned. For the last nine and a half months, sports fans have been wondering when high school sports will resume and in what fashion.

Weekly and sometime daily changes from the CIF State and Southern Section offices, in accordance with state and local county health office have dictated the landscape of high school athletics for the 2020-2021 season, and rightfully so.

But, before the pandemic hit, there were still some great high school athletic stories from the area. Here is a look back at the 2020 year and hoping that the 2021 year will bring even more memories to not only the area high schools, but Southern California sports in general.

JANUARY

A trio of area basketball teams, which began their seasons on a hot note two months earlier, continued to build more momentum into January and through the regular season. The Valley Christian High boys, which had won 11 straight games before falling to Newport Harbor High in the championship game of the St. Margaret's Tournament, started the month with an 82-73 win at Whittier High before losing six of seven Olympic League games in the month.

The Norwalk High boys basketball team wasn't on anyone's radar, but when the Lancers won their first four games to finish a 10-game winning streak, they were sitting at 14-7 going into Suburban

League play. Then there's the Artesia High girls basketball team, who defied all odds to have a season to remember. The Lady Pioneers, who ended 2019 on a 12-game winning streak, went 7-6 in the month of January and were the top team in the Division 5AA for three of the four weeks.

The Cerritos High basketball teams were finding that January was a good month as well, dominating the 605 League. The boys team went 8-2 in the month with both losses coming in non-league contests by a combined 16 points while the girls posted a 9-2 mark with their losses also coming in non-league games.

On the soccer pitch, the Artesia boys went 7-0-2 in the month with five shutouts, the John Glenn High boys were making some noise, going 5-2-1, the Norwalk boys went 5-2-0, both V.C. teams went a combined 13-0-1 with the girls posting four shutouts and the Cerritos girls, with no competition coming from the rest of the 605 League, went 8-0 with six shutouts

FEBRUARY

Within the first week, league champions were being crowned and playoff berths were being made by some surprise teams. The two Cerritos basketball teams combined to go 19-1 in 605 League play, capturing league crowns and the Norwalk boys stunned Division 4AA by upsetting fourth-ranked St. Margaret's High 60-48 on the road. The Lancers would fall to Summit High 60-58 in the quarterfinals and ended their season at 18-12.

The biggest noise in the basketball postseason came from the Artesia girls, who defeated San Jacinto Valley Acad-



emy 46-39 in the Division 5AA championship game on the last day of the month. It was the program's first CIF divisional championship since 2003. The Lady Pioneers would end their season three days later with a loss in the first round of the Southern California Regionals, capping a remarkable 26-8 campaign.

There were some pleasant surprises in soccer as the Cerritos boys advanced to the playoffs for the first time since 2000, the Glenn boys played in its first playoff contest since 2012 and played in a second round game for the first time since 1999, and the Gahr High girls ended a 16-year postseason drought by advancing to the second round for the first time since 1998. On top of that, both V.C. teams captured the Olympic League crown in the same season for the second straight season and the sixth time since 2009.

The middle of February would also

mark the beginning of the spring season as it was a solid start for the Cerritos baseball team, but a struggling beginning for Gahr and V.C. On the softball field, up and coming Artesia, Gahr, Norwalk and V.C. all went a combined 13-5 in the month.

Outside of high school sports, the month saw the birth of the XFL spring league with the Los Angeles Wildcats being one of the league's eight teams. The Wildcats would play three of its five home games at Dignity Health Sports Park in Carson before suspending operations amid the pandemic.

MARCH

While the usual baseball and softball teams continued to struggle, others continued to ramp it up. However, once word of COVID-19 hit, high schools across the Southland begin to shut down. The

See **LOOK BACK** page 11



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WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER

HMG-CN Investigations - September 2020

Conflicts of Interest are Rife Between Bell Gardens Mayor and Political Consultant

Mayor voted on \$36,000 contract for vendor who managed her Facebook page and who gave \$500 to her campaign.

BY BRIAN HEWS

The City Council of Bell Gardens, like many other cities in Los Angeles County, placed a ¾ cent sales tax on the upcoming November ballot.

And like many other cities, the City Council is going to spend taxpayer money "to ensure the voters are accurately educated and understand the outcome of their vote associated with the sales tax measure," which is against Government Code 8314 which states, "It is unlawful for any elected state or local officer, including any state or local appointee, employee, or consultant, to use or permit others to use public resources for a campaign activity, or personal or other purposes which are not authorized by law."

All this with less than 45 days until election day.

The city sent out a request for proposal labeling a \$36,000 outreach contract "professional services" which precluded the agreement from any kind of formal bidding process.

According to City Manager Mike O'Kelly, the city received one response for the typical outreach contract, submitted by Blue Icon Media, which is owned by long-time political operative Louis

Reyes.

The contract was placed on the Sept 14 City Council agenda, with sources telling HMG-CN that Mayor Alejandra Cortez led the charge for the item to be on the agenda.

Reyes was a staffer for disgraced former State Senator Ron Calderon who in 2014 was indicted on 24 criminal charges that alleged he took nearly \$100,000 in bribes in exchange for efforts to influence legislation. He was convicted in 2016.

Reyes is also best known for staunchly defending indicted former LA County Assessor John Noguez as the D.A.'s investigation into Noguez was revealed by HMG-CN.

Reyes is also good friends with Mario Beltran, who is mounting a major effort to pass cannabis laws in cities across East Los Angeles and who also worked for Calderon.

Now Reyes, and Mayor Cortez, could come under scrutiny from the D.A.'s office related to the outreach contract.

HMG-CN learned that a business relationship existed between Reyes and Cortez, a relationship that would have dictated Cortez recuse herself from voting to give Reyes the contract.

A Facebook screenshot showed that Reyes' Blue Icon was managing Cortez' Bell Gardens City Mayor Facebook page.

But she and three others voted to give Reyes the contract.

LOOK BACK from page 11

last area softball team to play was Gahr, which won its sixth straight game on Mar. 11, a Torrance National Tournament contest against Culver City High. The Lady Gladiators, who had won all six of their games by one run, were primed to make a deep run in the Division 1 playoffs. Whitney High's baseball team, loaded with seniors probably suffered the most, missing a chance of what might have been the program's best season. The Wildcats were 4-1 when the schools shut down.

The dates of Wednesday, Mar. 11, 2020 and Thursday, Mar. 12, 2020 will be remembered for the days that sports began to shut down one by one. The NBA suspended its games on the 11th and the last NHL game was played that day. Baseball's spring training was also cancelled and the next day, the NCAA college basketball postseason tournaments would be halted one by one. Soon after that other sports would follow suit, including the postponement of the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo.

APRIL, MAY, JUNE

The CIF and high school athletic directors were in nonstop motion trying to put a plan together for the 2020-2021 athletic season, already knowing that the remainder of the 2020 spring season could not be salvaged. For professional sports, talks of resuming their seasons at some point in the summer were being worked

out, including utilizing a "bubble" format to help keep the spread of the virus to a minimum.

JULY

On July 20, the CIF State and Southern Section made its first move regarding the 2020-2021 athletic season by releasing its proposed athletic calendar, which would feature some unique changes, but changes that had to be made. Some of those included having a fall season and a spring season with the first set of sports, boys volleyball, to begin its contests on Dec. 12.

Major League Baseball was the first of the major professional leagues to either start, or resume action. A 60-game slate was what we got to see, minus spectators, began on July 23 with teams playing 40 divisional games, plus their opposing league's division only for the other 20 games. Towards the end of the month, the NHL began its short exhibition season.

AUGUST

The CIF-SS continued to provide updates, including certain bylaws for the 2020-2021 season. It also conducted virtual fall eligibility workshops for the student athletes and workshops for new athletic directors and principals.

With baseball in high gear, it was time for hockey and basketball to experiment with the "bubble" as the NBA resumed the tail end of the regular season with all games in Orlando, FL. The playoffs would begin on Aug. 17. The NHL

played games in Toronto and Edmonton only, beginning on Aug. 11 and when the Stanley Cup playoffs ended on Sept. 28, out of all the tests conducted, there was not one positive case.

The Artesia Punishers 16-Under travel softball team participated in the American Fastpitch Association Southwestern Nationals in St. George, Utah in the final days of the month. The Punishers would win all three of their pool play games before losing two straight playoff games in a span of eight hours.

SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER

The National Football League was getting its season underway on Sept. 10 with the Kansas City Chiefs hosting the Houston Texans while the MLB's regular season was coming to an end on Sept. 27 with the playoffs beginning a few days later at four sites-Arlington, TX, Houston, Los Angeles and San Diego. The league championship series would be played in Arlington and San Diego and the World Series, which began on Oct. 20 in Arlington, would eventually be won by the Los Angeles Dodgers. Nine days before the Dodgers won the World Series, the Los Angeles Lakers would capture the NBA Championship.

NOVEMBER

Two days into the month, area high schools could begin conditioning only for its fall sports, which would include boys and girls cross country, football, boys and girls volleyball and boys and girls water polo. However, that was short-

lived as a few weeks later, schools had to shut down those activities as the number of positive cases began to spike.

The month also saw the Athletics-Nielsen 16-Under travel softball team compete in a pair of tournaments in Arizona on consecutive weekends. The Artesia Punishers Gold team would also participate in the Surf City Tourneys Las Vegas Showcase on Nov. 6-8. It was the first youth sporting event to be held in Nevada since the pandemic started.

On Nov. 23, former Gahr pitcher Jake Faria was signed by the Los Angeles Angels to a minor league contract.

DECEMBER

The first sporting event by an area high school was to have been on Dec. 12, a boys volleyball match between V.C. and Long Beach Cabrillo High. However, the CIF put a hold on the return to play as it had not been given the green light by state and county health officials. The CIF also made the decision to move boys volleyball to the spring season, assuring the sport wouldn't go through two straight seasons of not playing. High schools were also readjusting their non-league fall season sports schedules, knowing that no games would be played until January, at the earliest.

On Dec. 14, the California Department of Public Health released its guidelines for the return of indoor and outdoor youth and recreational sports. The hope, at that time, would be that high school sports could return to action on Jan. 25.

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HONORING OUR FALLEN: Senator Bob Archuleta (center) with Marines folding the flag flown over the state capital in honor of Marine Cpl. Marco "Andy" Barranco, one of the servicemen who was killed in a training accident earlier this month. The Barranco family shared their memories of their son, brother and friend during the private ceremony this past Sunday, Aug. 9.

Kobe Bryant Dedication at Rives Mansion in Downey



RIVES MANSION in Downey is adorned with Los Angeles Laker purple and gold lights and balloons in honor of basketball superstar Kobe Bryant, his daughter Gianna, and the seven other crash victims.

Cerritos Triplets Help the Homeless During Covid



KITS FOR HOMELESS: Cerritos residents Josiah, Jacob and Jared Joseph with LAFD officials display their COVID Kits for the Homeless. They were inspired by paramedic Jose Perez and his actions helping the homeless. Firefighter Perez, a 16-year veteran, recently died after contracting COVID. **Photo courtesy of the Joseph family.**

PIH Health Downey Celebrates 100 Years



LIGHTS AND SIRENS blaring, Downey PD participates in the celebration of PIH Health Downey's centennial. The staff also buried a time capsule in the Rose Garden.

HMG-CN Investigations - October 2020

Conflicts of Interest are Rife Between Downey City Council Candidate and Former Downey Mayor

BY BRIAN HEWS

Hews Media Group-Cerritos News learned that former Downey Mayor Mario Guerra sold a condominium he owned in the city, at a reduced price according to nearby comparable properties, to Eric Pierce, current Downey City Council candidate and editor of Downey's local newspaper.

The condominium is located at 8134 3rd St., just one block away from Downtown Downey at Firestone and Downey Ave., one of the busiest areas in the city.

The area is so desirable that Guerra has occupied a large business office in the building on the corner of Firestone and Downey for many years as does Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia.

According to online documents, Guerra paid \$559,000 in cash for the condominium in 2018, then sold to Pierce in August 2019 for \$31,000 more at \$590,000.

Since Guerra owned the condominium for less than two years, the transaction was subject higher than normal short term capital gains tax. Adding the selling commission of 5%-9%, and 3.5% of the purchase price held by California's Franchise Tax Board because it was not Guerra's primary residence, along with other fees, Guerra's likely lost money on the deal.

5% of \$590,000 equates to \$29,500;

3.5% of \$590,000 equates to \$20,650, total fees over \$50,150 meaning Guerra lost \$20,150 on the deal.

The \$590,000 selling price offered by Guerra, for the two bedroom, three bath 1,600 square foot property located at 3rd and La Riena - within walking distance of the iconic Portos' Bakery - equated to \$368 per square foot.

A check of comparable sales on OC-Title.com in the area reveals that Guerra extended a very low purchase price to Pierce.

At 9104 Florence, east of Lakewood Blvd. and nearly two miles from Downtown Downey, a 1,480 three bed, three bath sold for nearly 5% more at \$385 per square foot.

Just one block away on the corner of Downey and 7th street, a one bedroom, one bath property sold for nearly 10% more at \$404 per square foot.

At 7640 Stewart and Gray Rd. is a property that sits in the middle of a residential neighborhood, nowhere near any retail shops, a two bed, two bath property sold for 12% more at \$412 per square foot.

And a condominium in the same complex sold for \$390 per square foot, 6% more in 2018. Pierce lost his bid for city council.

HMG-CN Investigations - November 2020

Consultant Using Central Basin Directors to Pressure New GM for Bogus Payment

BY BRIAN HEWS

Dallas Fowler, the self-proclaimed media professional and consultant, has sent a threatening letter to the Central Basin Board and spoke during public comment today at CB's regular board meeting demanding payment for work Fowler claims she did in regards to SB 625.

"I had a verbal agreement with Central Basin directors and the general manager to perform emergency services for SB625. I was contacted by CB Directors Vasquez and Camacho-Rodriguez and (former CB GM) Panilla who told me they could not access the building but I would still be able to invoice later."

Last week HMG-CN exclusively reported about Fowler using the names of Vasquez and Camacho-Rodriguez' as an entry to submit \$21,000 in consulting fees to CB GM Alex Rojas.

The submittal was highly questionable, and invoked memories of Ron and Ton Calderon and former disgraced CB GM Art Aguilar; the invoice submitted was not approved by a board majority nor is there a signed contract.

In an email to Rojas Fowler wrote, "I'm Dallas Fowler, I was referred to you by Directors Vasquez-Wilson and Camacho-Rodriguez to submit my invoices for work performed."

Rojas asked for a contract and received an unsigned document, with Fowler telling

Rojas, "it was a labor of love."

Fowler claimed she performed public relations, "creating press releases, press kits, social media videos, and spreading that information to local and national media outlets."

HMG-CN, who's coverage of CB is unparalleled and who published several articles related to SB 625, was not contacted and did not receive any correspondence from Ms. Fowler.

2UrbanGirls also questioned Ms. Fowler's sudden interest in SB 625 given that her only work on the project were a few social media posts and a mass email sent to Sen. Steve Bradford.

In addition, at least three CB officials, VP Art Chacon, and Directors Phil Hawkins and Bob Apodaca, have never heard of nor met Fowler.

Finally, HMG-CN confirmed with State Senator Bob Archuleta's (D-Norwalk) staff that, similar to the CB officials, no one at Archuleta's office had met nor heard of Fowler. Archuleta led the fight to defeat SB 625.

Fowler continued, "included in this email and the attached supporting documentation.

The supporting documentation that Fowler included, with Fowler claiming she worked 245 hours, was barely five pages, much of which could be found in articles published by HMG-CN.

Su Casa Receives \$1.25 Million Grant from Bezos Fund



HELPING OUT LIKE AMAZON: Mike Gilligan, GM of Norm Reeves Ford in the Cerritos Auto Square, donated 1,000 face masks for Su Casa residents & staff. With him is Dean Lockwood, Executive Director of Su Casa.

Artesia & Stater Bros. Helping to Feed Seniors



Photo by Tammye McDuff

THEN-ARTESIA MAYOR PRO TEM Rene Trevino (2nd from right) gathered food items with (l-r) Jonny Gutierrez, Anthony Gonzales, and Linda Gonzales. With them is David Godinez Stater Brothers Store Manager. For more information on the program contact Rene Trevino at 562.842.7310 or email him at rtrevino@scioffice.com.

Goats Invade East Orange to Clear Weeds



BUSY EATING: a curious goat checking out the humans. A company set up a perimeter fence and let loose about 50 goats for two weeks, the hills were very clean afterwards. One person told HMG-CN, “watching goats munching away at ugly weeds has been downright soothing, I am going to hate to see them go.” **Photo by Brian Hews.**

La Mirada’s New Self Guided Historic Tour



THE CITY has enhanced the La Mirada History Tour with signage at locations throughout La Mirada. Pictured (l-r): Stephen Thrasher, HPAC Chairperson; Gail Pearce, HPAC Member; Marlene Olsen, HPAC Vice Chairperson; Harry Scott, HPAC Member; John Lewis, Mayor; Steve De Ruse, Councilmember; Raymond Fernandez, HPAC Member; Tony Aiello, HPAC Member; Sabrina Sermeno, Senior Recreation Leader.

What was he thinking? New Mother Was Forced to Vote on Assembly Floor Rather Than Remotely

BY BRIAN HEWS

Lawmakers were incensed when Assemblywoman Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland) was forced to bring her newborn on the floor of the state Assembly after her request to vote remotely was denied. Wicks gave birth to her daughter on July 26 and was on maternity leave.

Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood) said maternity leave was not considered a high-risk category, a decision that incensed fellow Dems. who took to social media to express their outrage.

“Barbaric, people are so clueless and unwilling to adapt,” state Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara) said Tuesday.

A picture and video of Wicks with her newborn drew praise for the new mom, while bashing Rendon, even Hillary Clinton commented on the situation.

Ironically the bill Wicks voted on would provide millions of employees who work for smaller businesses 12 weeks of job protections while taking family leave.

“It was beyond ironic that we are passing legislation that helps moms up and down the state and we have a mom who is there with a 1-month-old,” said state Sen. Connie Leyva (D-Chino).

Rendon tried to smooth his egregious mandate in a statement Tuesday night, I want to make a full apology to Assemblymember Wicks, my intention was never



BUFFY WICKS (D-Oakland) holds her newborn in the Assembly at 11:30 p.m. Speaker Anthony Rendon denied her request to vote remotely.

to be inconsiderate toward her, her role as a legislator, or her role as a mother. Inclusivity and electing more women in politics are core elements of our Democratic values. Nevertheless, I failed to make sure our process took into account the unique needs of our members. The Assembly needs to do better. I commit to doing better.”

Maria Estrada, who is challenging Rendon in the November election, told HMG-CN, “I was saddened and angry to hear Speaker Anthony Rendon failed to show basic consideration and common sense by not allowing Asm Buffy Wicks to have a proxy vote on her behalf. When a mother unnecessarily has to put herself and her newborn child at risk during a global pandemic, we should all take pause and demand better from our representatives. The Speaker's lack of empathy is why we do not have healthcare in California, why no meaningful legislation has been written or passed on his watch that would help mothers, children and families who need at the very least empathy from their elected officials. ”

A photograph of an elderly couple smiling and hugging. The man is on the left, wearing a blue shirt, and the woman is on the right, wearing a light blue shirt. They are both looking towards the camera.

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Creswell from page 1

to actually work as a firefighter. Too often, the 'old boys network' inside fire departments hinders newcomers' ability to not only put out fires, but also to help the public in many other ways. I have proudly been a Firefighter/Paramedic for 26 years, including 12 of those years with the City of Montebello. I love my chosen profession serving the public. I love the fact that I have been able to cherish a career helping hundreds if not thousands of people over the years.

"As an African-American Firefighter, I have always sought to improve the Montebello Fire Department and make it more welcoming to minorities including women, while at the same time respecting my coworkers of different backgrounds. I am not someone whose first instinct is to sue. I have let many problematic remarks by fire department employees slide, so as to try to get along with my coworkers and supervisors.

"I finally sued the City of Montebello for the first time in 2013 after a series of incidents, the worst of which included being called the 'N-word', 'Compton Gang Banger', and 'Mush Mouth' from the television show Fat Albert. A jury agreed that I had been subject to racial harassment and retaliation.

"I sued the City of Montebello again for retaliation in 2017, after I applied for promotion to Battalion Chief and was unfairly denied. Some of the department leadership made remarks such as, 'If promoted to Battalion Chief, I would destroy the organization' and 'minorities always cheat on exams,' indicating that they would never give me a fair chance at the promotion because of my prior complaints of race discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.

"The 2017 case has not yet been heard by a jury. In settlement conferences, the City has insisted that I leave the fire department and retire (15 years early) as a condition of settlement. I feel the City wants to push me out for having the courage to assert my legal rights. I have made it very clear on several occasions that I do not want to leave the department and give up my career. I want to be treated fairly, included in the decision making that helps with the growth and a more racially diverse department, and continue to do my job helping the public. Recently I was notified of an 'investigation' into my on-the-job actions, which I feel are unwarranted and is completely retaliatory. I won't go into details since the so-called 'investigation' is ongoing and I'm prohibited from discussing the details.

"If someone wants to do a true investigation into real misconduct, they should start at the top. It's time for the Montebello City Council or the California Attorney General to look into a pattern of discrimination and retaliation, and other misconduct within the Montebello Fire Department that is perpetuated by the department leadership. If the City of Montebello or the Fire Department wants to truly clean up its act and change the culture, it will need to take a new approach with independent oversight. The leadership current team is not up to the job and has enabled or perpetuated the culture of harassment, discrimination, and retaliation against those who stand up for what is right.

"Recently I was told by one of the Fire Department leaders that the City Manager Mr. Bobadilla wanted to have lunch with me and really get to know me as a person, and had given him my cell number. This turned out to be a bait and switch. Instead of a friendly phone call that I expected, the only communication from the City has been settlement offers contingent on me leaving the department, 15 years before I had planned to.

"On several occasions I reached out to the Fire department leadership with the hope to collaboratively work towards ex-

panding the candidate pool in an effort to hire qualified African-American Chief Officers in some key leadership roles within the fire department. My efforts have gone unreciprocated, and none of the current leadership seems to be interested in building a department which reflects the community we serve. Further, current Montebello Fire Department leadership has engaged in dubious behaviors such as ordering an employee to take a city vehicle out of the city to pick up expensive watches (for leaders' personal use) while on duty.

"On another occasion current Montebello Fire Department leadership ordered a fire engine while on duty to go out of the city limits and into East Los Angeles to attend a birthday parade. One of the members of the Montebello Fire Department leadership boasted to me (back when we were friendly) that he could slow down the workers' compensation processing for firefighters who he did not like. Indeed, it is suspicious that lately I have not been able to obtain workers' comp treatment that I need and am entitled to.

"If Montebello City Council or the California Attorney General wants to investigate this misconduct and pattern of systemic racial bias and retaliation, they should interview myself and other firefighters under the auspices of a 'truth commission' and a guarantee of absolutely no retaliation. This is essential to bringing about transparency and equality that is severely needed. All I want is to be able to do my job, serve the public, and have a fair shot at promotions, without being subjected to systemic race-based harassment, retaliation and discrimination. The Fire Department and City Staff seem to view me as a problem for speaking up, rather than seeing me as a part of the solution. It's time that whistleblowers like me be thanked for bringing forward important issues to see the light of day, rather than repeatedly and unfairly punished."

Ringwald from page 1

In 1952, he was awarded the prestigious Fulbright Fellowship to teach in Germany for a year.

When he returned to California, Long Beach City College engaged him as Dean of the West Adult Center to direct their English for Foreign Born program. He innovated and organized an inspiring summer international dance and cultural festival inviting a variety of performers from countries all over the world. Beautifully costumed Japanese dancers, Spanish flamenco dancers, Mexican dancers and mariachi performers performed on the West Adult Center stage and outdoor stage set up in the parking lot for this unique and educational venue.

He later served as Dean of Long Beach City College and completed a PhD in Education at USC, where his educational achievements were acknowledged by Ronald Reagan and John Wayne, who both received honorary degrees at the ceremony that same year.

In 1968, he served as President of Cerritos College. Under his guidance Cerritos College became one of the first community colleges to introduce computers to the campus and encourage cultivation of the arts and performing arts. After serving as President, he accepted the position of Consultant for Los Angeles City Schools while studying law.

In 1977, with a spirit that would never completely retire, he passed the California State Bar at the age of 52; continuing his practice for 33 years in the city of Artesia.

After suffering a stroke in 2010, he retired from his law practice, and his daughter Anita Ringwald continued business and real estate management at his Artesia office.

Siegfried has been a teacher, college event producer, lecturer, college Dean, college President and consultant. He continued with a career as an attorney specializing in estate planning and real estate management.

Daughter Lydia added, "My father's life legacy encourages us to reach out and continue to learning, create professional opportunities and to accept new career challenges. He was a world traveler and encouraged his family and students to study abroad."

He is survived by his two daughters, Lydia Ringwald a Scripps College and University of California Irvine graduate and a community college English professor, Anita Ringwald, attorney and assistant to her father in his law firm; granddaughter Alexis Ringwald Gin, Yale graduate and a Fulbright Fellowship; grandson Charles Gray, a University of Pennsylvania Wharton School graduate and a member of the Wyoming House of Representatives.

His daughters, Lydia and Anita held a viewing at the Chapel of Memories in Norwalk, December 29th which was followed by his burial at the Santa Barbara Cemetery Association in Montecito, December 30th.

Pallet Homes from page 1

This entire project took just weeks to get up and running after we broke ground in November. I appreciate Redondo Beach for taking this project on. They showed what was possible and I know that cities across the South Bay are watching closely. I have always said that if a city steps up and wants to build a shelter or supportive housing, I will help them find the funding to get it done. That is what I did here, and the same promise goes to any city in my district."

Board and GM Continue Rehab of Artesia Cemetery

FIXING FINANCES AND HEADSTONES: Cemetery GM Tony Mendoza (left) directing the placement of a headstone at the cemetery. Mendoza and the new board are directing many changes at the grounds and plan to hold touring events soon.

Food Drive in Artesia Served Over 1,500 Families

CARS LINED UP for over one mile to receive food from Los Angeles Regional Food Bank sponsored by L.A. County Supervisor Janice Hahn. The food bank distribution is up 145 percent and received donations from Barbara Striesand and the Kardashians.

On to 2021

Parking Enforcement in Cerritos Resumes Feb. 1

The City's overnight parking restrictions and enforcement will resume on Monday, February 1. City Code Enforcement staff will issue warnings for two weeks and will then begin issuing citations on Monday, February 15. This includes citations issued for vehicles parked on the street on street sweeping days. Permits are required to park on City streets between 3 and 5 a.m. to help keep streets clear and allow residents and deputies to quickly spot suspicious vehicles.

Overnight parking permit renewals for 2021 are taking place now. Residents can submit their annual parking permit application or request an overnight parking permit 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, by visiting cerritos.us and clicking on "Parking Permits" under the Featured Links section.

The Cerritos City Council recently amended the parking permit criteria to allow two-car garage households with five vehicles and five licensed drivers to qualify for a second annual parking permit. Three-car garage households would require seven vehicles and seven licensed drivers to qualify for a second parking permit. The Council also temporarily allowed all Cerritos residents and students with a driver's license and vehicle to be issued a limited "Special Circumstance" parking permit that is valid for 90 days.

For more information, call the Community Safety Division at (562) 916-1266.

Mission Founded by St. Junípero Serra Burned



A **MASSIVE FIRE** burned an eighteenth century mission church in San Gabriel, in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, July 11. Archbishop Jose Gomez of Los Angeles called the fire at San Gabriel Mission church, founded by St. Junipero Serra, “devastating.”

Finland Using Dogs at Airport to Sniff Out Coronavirus



SNIFFER DOGS named K'ssi, left and Miina react with trainer Susanna Paavilainen at the Helsinki airport in Vantaa, Finland, Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2020. Four corona sniffer dogs are trained to detect the Covid-19 virus from the arriving passengers.

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL/TELECONFERENCE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICIA PARA UNA AUDIENCIA PUBLICA

CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS PLANNING COMMISSION

****DUE TO THE EVOLVING SITUATION WITH THE COVID-19 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS AND HEALTH ORDERS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND L.A. COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, THE CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING SHALL ONLY BE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC REMOTELY****

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the City of Hawaiian Gardens will conduct a public hearing pertaining to the item(s) listed below:

HEARING BODY:	Planning Commission
DATE OF HEARING:	January 13, 2021
TIME OF HEARING:	6:00 P.M., or soon thereafter.
LOCATION OF HEARING:	REMOTE ACCESS

PUBLIC HEARING 1: Case Number 2020-0056-CUP – The City of Hawaiian Gardens will conduct a public hearing for the purpose of considering a Conditional Use Permit to allow the installation and operation of a hydrogen fueling system in conjunction with an existing gasoline service station (76 Gasoline) on property located at 11807 E. Carson Street, Hawaiian Gardens, CA 90716.

Case Number 2020-0057-VAR – The City of Hawaiian Gardens will conduct a public hearing for the purpose of considering a Variance to allow the extension of a maximum six (6’) feet high wall/fence in association with the proposed hydrogen fueling system at 11807 E. Carson Street Hawaiian Gardens, CA 90716. The proposed wall/fence for the project’s equipment enclosure is 12 feet in height.

Case Number 2020-0058-DRB – The City of Hawaiian Gardens will conduct a public hearing for the purpose of considering a Design Review Board for the architectural design of a hydrogen fueling structure on

CEQA DETERMINATION: The proposed project is Categorically Exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per Section 15304 (Class 4 –Minor Alterations to Land) of the CEQA guidelines. Based on Staff’s analysis, the request to install and operate a hydrogen fueling system as an ancillary use to the existing gasoline station will not result in any changes to existing land use and will not have a significant effect on the environment; thereby staff feels that the request qualifies for this exemption.

INVITATION TO BE HEARD

ZOOM, a web-based video conferencing service will allow members of the public to participate in live meetings. To join in, please use your computer, tablet or mobile device and follow these instructions:

- Go to the website: <https://zoom.us/join>
- Enter the meeting ID: **8916396592**

The general public cannot attend the meeting in the Council Chambers due to various State and County orders and restrictions, including but not limited to social distancing requirements. The meeting can be viewed via various platforms as follows:

City of Hawaiian Gardens local cable/channel:

- ATT-99
- FRONTIER - 16
- SPECTRUM – 36

Live Stream via City website at: www.hgcity.org

FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS PUBLIC HEARING ITEM, IT IS ADVISED TO SUBMIT USING ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:

- Written correspondence** may be delivered to the City Hall Drop Box and must be received by no later than 4:30 p.m. on the date of the meeting.
- Via E-Comment** on the City of Hawaiian Gardens website. A person may leave a written comment to be read during the Public Hearing public comment section.
- Comments** received via email prior before 4:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting will become part of the official meeting record. You must provide your full name, but please do not provide any other personal information (i.e. phone numbers, addresses, etc) that you do not want to be published. Please send electronic comments to knghuyen@hgcity.org

Further information may be obtained by contacting the Hawaiian Gardens Community Development Department at (562) 420-2641. Si desea obtener mas informacion, llame al Departamento de Desarrollo de la Comunidad al (562) 420-2641.

Joseph Colombo, Community Development Director

Published: *January 1, 2021*

Published at Hawaiian Gardens Community News 1/1/21

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
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, 12/18/20

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
File Number 2020162288
THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: LOVE MY GLOW 13337 SOUTH ST #614, CERRITOS CA. 90703. Registered Owner: COURTNEY JUBREY 13337 SOUTH ST #614, CERRITOS CA. 90703. THIS BUSINESS IS CONDUCTED AS A INDIVIDUAL. 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/ COURTNEY JUBREY. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on OCTOBER 14, 2020. 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 11/6, 11/13, 11/20, 11/27/20.

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice US Storage Centers – Cerritos located at 16015 Piuma Ave. Cerritos, CA 90703 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.usstoragecenters.com/auctions on 1/21/2021 at 10:00AM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Brittany Nicole Jenkins; Rebecca Ann Johnston; Tamara Michelle Basenback; Lexus Princilla Lopez; Blanca Estella Valdivia; Aaron Jacob Schwartz; Gabriel Castellanos. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 1/1 and 1/8/21

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice US Storage Centers - Commerce – Olympic located at 5415 E. Olympic Blvd. Commerce CA 90022 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storagecenters.com/auctions on 1/21/2021 at 10:00AM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Roberto Gonzalez; Maria Celia Grijalva; Kay Ruby Badillo Corona; Charlene Duran; Josefa Hernandez-Cervantes; Silvia Angelica Comfort Rodriguez; Maria Baez Juarez; Alejandro Aranda Sanchez; Luz Maria Juarez; Ashley Michelle Reyes-Rivera; Claudia Leticia Juarez; Natalie Garcia; Christina Trevino Harris; Helyn Mabell Sanchez; Bertha Torres; Nellie Elizabeth Lopez; Cheryl Lyn Martinez; Oscar Rony Garcia; Janet Sanchez; Cesar Calderon; Alfred Bobby Pina; Juan Gaudencio Cutillo Marcario; Juan Garcia; Nataliya Glushchekova; Rosalinda Santillana; Dora Morales Rios; Maria de Los Angeles Mendez; Michael Julian Trainor; Gabriela Cambron Guerra; Israel Navarro; Mario Maya. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 1/1 and 1/8/21

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE
(Division 6 of the Commercial Code)
Escrow No. 002089-CK
(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: LAUNDERPLANET, LLC, 12321 E. CARSON ST., HAWAIIAN GARDENS, CA 90716
(3) The location in California of the chief executive office of the Seller is: 822 N. BEAUDRY AVE., #4, LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
(4) The names and business address of the Buyer(s) are: HOANG DAVID DUONG, 1661 S. CAMROSE WAY, ANAHEIM, CA 92802
(5) The location and general description of the assets to be sold are: FURNITURE, FIXTURES, EQUIPMENT, GOODWILL, TRADENAME, LEASEHOLD INTEREST AND IMPROVEMENTS, COVENANT NOT TO COMPETE, INVENTORY OF STOCK IN TRADE of that certain business located at: 12321 E. CARSON ST., HAWAIIAN GARDENS, CA 90716
(6) The business name used by the seller(s) at said location is: LUCKY COIN LAUNDRY
(7) The anticipated date of the bulk sale is JANUARY 21, 2021 at the office of: HANA ESCROW COMPANY, INC., 3580, WILSHIRE BLVD., SUITE 1170 LOS ANGELES, CA 90010
(8) Claims may be filed with Same as “7” above
(9) The last date for filing claims is: JANUARY 20, 2021.
(10) This Bulk Sale is subject to Section 6106.2 of the Uniform Commercial Code.
(11) As listed by the Seller, all other business names and addresses used by the Seller within three years before the date such list was sent or delivered to the Buyer are: NONE.
Dated: DECEMBER 22, 2020
TRANSFEREES: HOANG DAVID DUONG
144037 LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS 1/1/21

Extra Space Storage will sell at public auction at the storage facility listed below, to satisfy the lien of the owner, personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at location indicated: 10753 Artesia Blvd. Cerritos, Ca. 90703 on 1/11/2021 at 11:00 am

Britney Smithers, mattress, bed frame, a few boxes; Carlos Mora, TV; Richard Thomas, Household items; Monica Gutierrez, Household items; Tenaya Volden, Household items; Renika Nelson, Bins of clothes; Nakia Mason, Household items; Enoch Chamberlain, Household items; Kathryn Brady, Brady Kathryn , Household items; Ashley Brown, Fridge, Dresser, boxes, recliner, bags and a Tv stand; Robert Earl Hollis, boxes with items inside; Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder take possession of the personal property.

Publish at LCCN 12/25/2020 and 01/01/2021.

