



The Alhambra Chinese New Year Festival will feature plenty of entertainment.

Lunar New Year Festival to welcome Year of the Pig Feb. 9

The 28th Alhambra Chinese New Year Carnival and Street Fair ushering in the Year of the Pig will come to life from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, with even greater fanfare and pomp than last year. It will take place on Valley Boulevard between Garfield Avenue and Almansor Street.

The event is presented by the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce and Chinese media conglomerate MRBI.

This year's festival will feature prancing lion dancers, mouth-watering and finger-licking delicacies, dazzling all-star radio and TV stage shows, mind bending Chinese board games, on-site calligraphy and brush paintings, a petting zoo with adorable farm animals, vendors of all trades, fun activities for kids, surprises for the whole family, close encounters with favorite Chinese radio and TV talents, and much more.

Since partnering with MRBI last year, the Chamber's outreach into the Chinese community in the San Gabriel Valley has both deepened and widened with the promotion of MRBI's fleet of outlets: KAZN AM1300, KMRB AM1430, KALI AM900, KAHZ AM1600, and SINO TV 44.2.



Shoppers have enjoyed fresh California grown fruit and produce from the Alhambra Farmers Market since 1984.

Alhambra Certified Farmers Market offers best in California produce

The Alhambra Farmers Market, 100 S. Second St., celebrated its 34th year of service to the community of Alhambra. Shoppers have enjoyed fresh California grown fruit and produce from the Alhambra Farmers Market since 1984. Come visit the market and see why.

The market presents craft events for children 12 years and under. Events take place from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on selected dates. Look forward to

celebrating Valentine's Day by crafting a heartfelt frame for a loved one. On March 17, make lucky shamrock chimes. Craft supplies are provided free of charge.

All craft activities take place at the Managers Booth. Parents are encouraged to participate and help their children create craft masterpieces.

The Farmers Market is open from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Sunday, rain or shine, except Easter.

Baldwin's Patricia Allaf honored by the L.A. Clippers at Jan. 27 Teachers Appreciation Ceremony at Staples Center

Baldwin Elementary teacher Patricia Allaf was nominated to be honored by the L.A. Clippers at their Teachers Appreciation Day Ceremony Jan. 27 at the Staples Center. To make it affordable for the Baldwin community to support Ms. Allaf, the Clippers provided the school with a special link to buy game tickets at good prices.

Ms Allaf teaches multiple subjects to Baldwin seventh-graders and has, among many things, helped spearhead the school's ASB Edible School Garden Project. "Our classroom experiences provide a learning community and hands-on learning and shape our students into who they become," said Ms. Allaf.

Ms Allaf still receives notes from former students thanking her — notes like a recent one that said, "Because of you, it was the beginning of many things to come that you helped me to grow into. I hope your students will become great people because of you and hope they feel the same way I did."



Baldwin Elementary teacher Patricia Allaf was nominated by Principal Chris Takeshita to be honored by the L.A. Clippers at their Jan. 27 Teacher Appreciation Ceremony.

>> see **CLIPPERS TEACHERS APPRECIATION** Page 22A

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Mayor's Corner

Affordable green power comes to Alhambra



By Mayor Jeff Maloney

As a public servant and a private citizen, ensuring a sustainable future for our community is my top priority. We have made great strides toward that goal in our city, but we still have more to do. That is why I am very excited to announce the arrival

of a new sustainable option for electricity right here in Alhambra.

What is Clean Power Alliance?

On Feb. 1, Alhambra electricity customers will automatically receive power from the new Clean Power Alliance (CPA), a partnership of 31 cities and counties from around the region that is purchasing and providing cheaper, cleaner power to its customers. Unless you look closely at your power bill, you may not even notice the change, since Southern California Edison will continue to provide the infrastructure and billing services for all CPA customers. Alhambra has the distinction of being one of the first cities to join CPA alongside cities from Arcadia to Santa Monica and South Pasadena to Whittier.

What are my options?

CPA offers its customers three main options: Lean Power, composed of roughly 36% renewable energy; Clean Power, which offers 50% renewables; and 100% Green Power, which is made up entirely of sustainable energy sources like solar, wind, biomass, and geothermal.

Alhambra customers will be enrolled in

the Clean Power tier at a rate comparable to Edison's current default rate (made up of approximately 33% renewable energy). If this suits you, there's no need to lift a finger. You will automatically see an increase in your renewable energy makeup to 50% at no additional cost over Edison's default rate. Not a bad option!

For those on a fixed income or simply looking to cut costs, you can choose to downgrade to the Lean Power option, which is slightly cheaper than Edison's default rate.

If you're concerned about long-term sustainability and want to make sure your energy consumption is not part of the problem, you can upgrade to 100% Green Power. There is a slight cost increase of about 9% over Edison's current default rate, a small price to pay to reduce your impact on the environment. I enrolled in this option in January, and I would ask that you consider joining me and my family in upgrading to the 100% Green Power tier.

Finally, if none of these options are attractive, you may opt out of CPA entirely

and remain a customer of Edison for free after a short transition period.

The future of CPA is very bright. I hope this new community partnership will soon begin to generate its own affordable, responsible, and renewable energy. Keep your eyes peeled for informational mailers that have been going out over the last few weeks and, as always, you can get all the information you need and look into your options at <https://cleanpoweralliance.org>.

Thank you, Alhambra!

As my mayoral term comes to a close, I would like to express my deep and sincere gratitude to the residents of Alhambra for allowing me to serve you. This city is filled with good, thoughtful, and kind people who are concerned about the future of our city. It has been an honor to represent each and every one of you as your mayor.

While my term as mayor may soon be over, I look forward to my next two years on the City Council continuing to fight for a smart, balanced approach to development, safe neighborhoods, a strong economy, and first class quality of life.



City of Alhambra seeks youth to inspire design of 2020 Rose Parade float

The City of Alhambra and the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce are launching a contest to help design the City's 2020 Rose Parade float. Each year, the Rose Parade unveils a new theme and each float sponsor is expected to come up with a design for their float that works in harmony with the theme of the parade. The theme for the 2020 Rose Parade is "The Power of Hope," with hope anything is possible.

Having proudly sent the City's 91st Rose Parade float down Colorado Boulevard this past Jan. 1, it is already time to begin planning for the 2020 parade. The design contest is open to any student who attends elementary school in the City of Alhambra.

This contest will run from Feb. 18, to March 15. Students attending an Alhambra Unified School District elementary school within the City of Alhambra will receive

their applications in their classrooms. Applications can also be picked up at City Hall, Almansor Park, Alhambra Park, Josslyn Center, and the Civic Center Library. The artwork is to be drawn or attached to the back of the application form, and the art can be submitted in any medium such as crayons, markers, digital design, or pencil.

The lucky student whose artwork is selected will receive two tickets to the 2020 Rose Parade in Pasadena, where they can proudly watch the City of Alhambra's float sail down Colorado Boulevard knowing that they inspired the design of that float!

For more information, please visit the City of Alhambra's website at www.cityofalhambra.org, or call the City of Alhambra Parks and Recreation office at 626-570-5044.

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Coupon valid only at 245 S. Atlantic Blvd., Alhambra. One coupon per customer. Expires 02/28/19 



Food Drive: From left are Elizabeth Ruwalcaba, Enrique Sanchez, Miguel Blanco, and Jesus Delgado.



Toy Drive: From left are Jasmine Soza, Miguel Blanco, Enrique Sanchez, and Tatiana Patrick.

Planet Fitness: a good neighbor

During this past holiday season, Planet Fitness in Alhambra hosted a food and toy drive. All of the food and toys that we collected were donated to the Boys and Girls Club of America in Ramona Gardens. The event included support from the Boys and Girls Club staff members as well as team members from Planet Fitness. This initiative started as a way to ensure that families in our community would be able to enjoy a holiday meal together and have gifts to give their loved ones.

There's an understanding and a commitment within the PF organization that it is important to give back to the community. Our pledge of a Judgement Free Zone is one way of doing that. This year

though, we stepped it up a notch.

Food Drive

We have found that fundraising can give the highest return for your effort. With this in mind, we hosted the food drive. We gathered close to 800 pounds of food. After research, we discovered this amounts to roughly 583 meals. Planet Fitness thanks all of our members for joining the fight against hunger in the community. It's important to keep these things in mind in order to have the greatest impact for good.

"It just makes me feel good," agreed General Manager Ursula. "I love doing it, just giving back to my friends and neighbors. I think it's our responsibility to do

our best to live by the saying 'treat others as you would like to be treated.'"

We are all pleased with how involved our PF members were with the food drive.

"I was so pleased with members' compassion and caring for others," said Regional Manager Enrique Sanchez. "It is really awesome to see the Alhambra community come together and be so passionate about an initiative."

Jesus Delgado, a team member at the Boys and Girls Club said, "We are extremely grateful to Planet Fitness for their participation in the food drive."

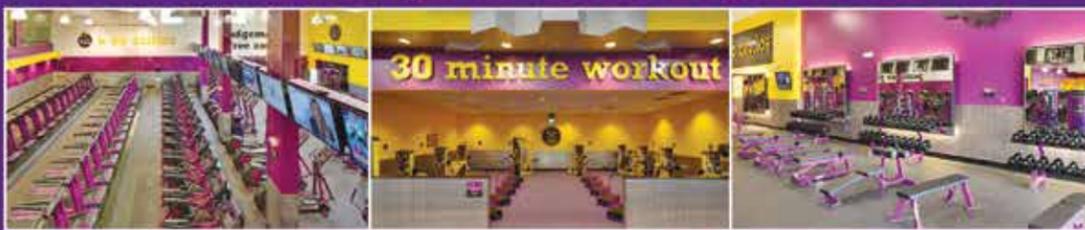
This marks the first food drive Planet Fitness in Alhambra has done. It is the first of many more we will do in the future.

Toy Drive

Additionally, Planet Fitness put out the call for donations of new and unused toys. It was simple. Members brought in one or more toys. All toys were donated unwrapped so we knew what they were. The team members of Planet Fitness and the Boys and Girls Club, working together, wrapped all the donated toys.

About 250 toys were collected and given out (we have to give Santa Claus some credit). With no idea how this toy and food drive would play out, we received a huge response from the generous community, the Alhambra Planet Fitness Community.

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AROUND ALHAMBRA

Published by the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce.

A monthly publication with a circulation of 40,000, Around Alhambra is mailed to every business and residence in the City of Alhambra and to all interested local, state, and county officials.

We welcome comments, press releases, and community interest stories and will make every effort to include all appropriate information. Please e-mail submissions to djenkins@alhamborchamber.org.

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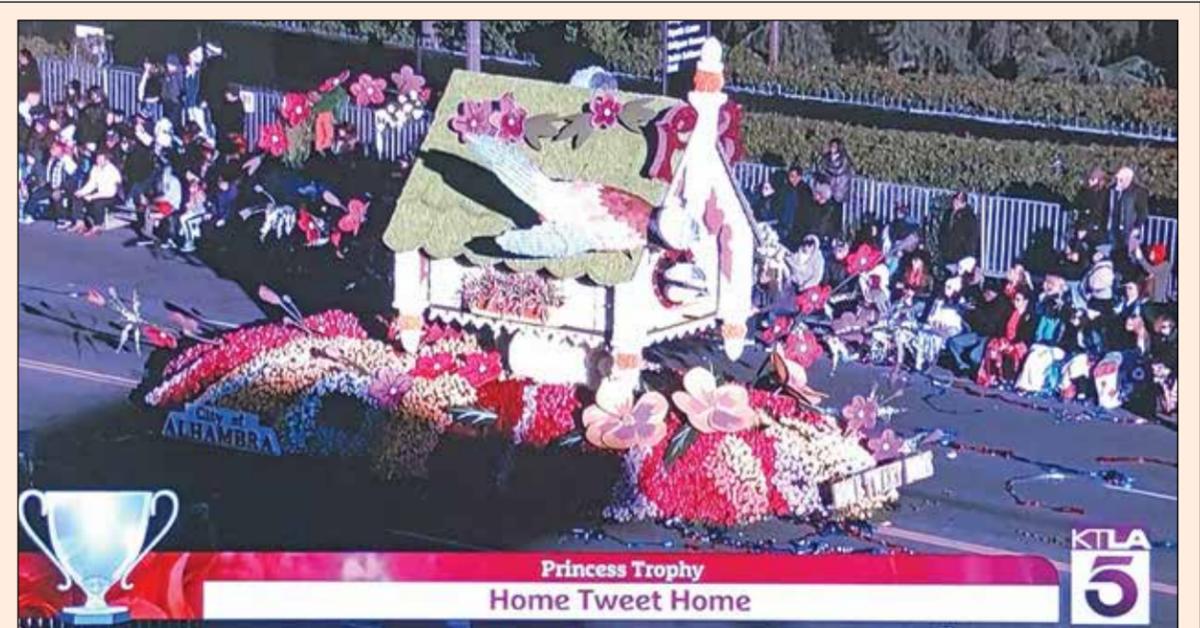
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CORRECTION: Last month's edition of Around Alhambra listed individual rankings (first, second, third, fourth, and fifth) for the Holiday Home Decoration winners. There are no individual rankings for the Holiday Home Decoration contest, only a total of five winners overall. The winners were recognized at the Jan. 14 City Council meeting. Pictured are the Jones family, the Lopez family, the Ramos family, and the Delgado family. Not pictured is the Ngo family.



The City of Alhambra's Rose Parade float, "Home Tweet Home," built by Phoenix Decorating Company, was awarded the Princess Trophy for most outstanding floral presentation among entries 35 feet and under in length. This year's float was inspired by a drawing by fifth-grader Grace Blackwell, who was selected from hundreds of applicants who participated in the city's art contest held in March.



About 250 volunteers from the City of Alhambra dedicated their time to help decorate the float on Saturdays throughout the month of December.

ACCS Alhambra Culinary School & Catering Services **FREE ENTRY LEVEL PREP COOK TRAINING FOR VETERANS**

Alhambra Culinary School is providing free culinary training for Veterans which includes a complete chef uniform, chef knife, and cooking equipment funded by Alhambra Performing Arts Center and donations.



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To reserve your space or to make a donation, contact Chef Bill Yee: **PayPal**
bizwind@yahoo.com or call (626) 230 5435



City presents overview of Alhambra's General Plan

Cities update General Plans in order to provide a vision and goals for the next several decades and what policies will encourage those goals. The new General Plan envisions Alhambra's development to the year 2040.

In 2015, the city hired Rincon Consultants, Inc., to assist in creating the plan. Since then there have been a dozen or more public meetings, outreaches, community polls, information booths, and a Public Review of the General Plan as it has come together.

As the plan has developed, it has covered the six elements required by California to be included in a city's General Plan. They are Land Use and Community Design, Mobility (i.e., Transportation), Quality of Life, Resources, Services and Infrastructure, and Health and Safety.

The next step in the development of the plan is to allow the Planning Commission to consider the Final General Plan and Final Environmental Impact Report. This is occurring over three meetings of the Commission. The first of these meetings took place Jan. 22 and included a public hearing at which Rincon Consultants presented an overview of the content of the plan. There followed an opportunity for the public to comment on the plan.

Concerns raised by the public included apprehension at the prospect of large hotels such as those on Valley Boulevard in San Gabriel, the lack of a survey of historical resources and preservation plans, the lack of planning for bicycle routes and safety, the small number (400) of residents surveyed about the plan, and possible lack of diversity of their random selection. Commission members then expressed some of their own concerns about the plan for Rincon to address.

The next scheduled meeting will be at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 4, at City Hall, 111 S. First St. The meeting will hear the response to public and Planning Commission concerns from the meeting of Jan. 22 and there will be another opportunity for public comment. Please attend.

The final meeting before the Planning Commission will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19, at City Hall to hear final information requested by the Commission. There will also be a final opportunity for the public to address its concerns before the Commission goes into closed session to consider what recommendations they should make on the plan to the City Council.

The General Plan can be accessed at <https://www.cityofalhambra.org/resources/gen-plan-update>.

City places temporary ban on Bird scooters

On Dec. 10, the Alhambra City Council placed a temporary ban on the Bird electronic scooters and other transportation devices that non-owners can locate and activate from an app on their cell phones and leave wherever it is convenient for them. Alhambra is taking a step back to study what other cities are doing and work with Bird on creating safety regulations that will accommodate the new technology and the needs of the public for safety and alternative forms of transportation.

The idea is to pick up a scooter wherever it sits, ride it to a destination, and leave

it anywhere for the next rider to find. A leading company in this movement is Bird. Their scooters can be found in many Southern California cities. Unfortunately the infrastructure to accommodate them is not yet in place in most locations.

Worse, even though Bird is clear in its promotions that riders should wear helmets and ride on the street rather than on sidewalks, scooters are often left haphazardly blocking pedestrian walkways. The common rules of public safety and courtesy are ignored by some riders who are underage and as yet unaware of driver safety norms.

Legal Loophole Costs Local Homeseller \$3,742 in the Sale of Their Home

Alhambra - When you're buying or selling a home, there are many small but important legal issues that you may be unaware of that are, nevertheless, critical to understand. Residential real estate is not an uncomplicated process. When such a major investment is transferred from one party to another, there are subtle details to take care of that can turn into major problems if not handled correctly. It is essential to understand the legal ins and outs that will properly protect you when you buy or sell a home. There are several issues that will certainly cost you if you are not properly informed. In a recent situation right here in the area, misinformation cost

one local homeseller over three thousand dollars in the sale of their home. Don't let this happen to you. In answer to this issue, Industry Insiders have prepared a FREE special report entitled, "Legal Mistakes to Avoid When Buying or Selling a Home"

To order a FREE Special Report, call toll-free 1-888-300-4632 and enter 1011. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW to protect your investment when you buy or sell your home.

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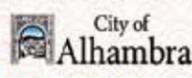


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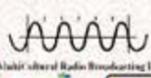
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In 1959 a 17-year old Sam Artino took a bus to Alhambra with his barber tools. He applied for a job in a shop at 636 E. Main and has been cutting hair in Alhambra ever since. He took classes in hair cutting to learn the techniques of working on different kinds of hair becoming a master of the art. Sam's Barber Shop is open Tuesday through Saturday.



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Artists featured in City Hall's Art Gallery in February include Alhambra High School students (from left) Christopher Pham, Kelly Fennel, Hasan Nguyen, Su Win, Jonathan Ochoa, and Kaia Huot.

City Hall Art Gallery to feature work by Alhambra High School students

Art from young artists in teacher Wendy Osawa's class at Alhambra High School will be on display during February in the lobby of Alhambra City Hall, 111 S First St. The theme of this year's collection is Plant the Seed of Greatness. The exhibition features original paintings and other works of art.

Artists include Christopher Pham, Kelly Fennel, Hasan Nguyen, Su Win, and Jonathan Ochoa. Besides their own work, each of them has created a piece of a larger work that when combined creates something greater than the sum of their parts.

To learn more about these talented

young artists, the community is invited to attend a ceremony and reception in the lobby of City Hall at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 20.

Special thanks to teachers from Alhambra Unified School District for participating in the exhibit, including Kaia Huot for the art demonstration, Susan Kane for the choir performance, and Michael Dergar from The Academy of Special Dreams for sponsoring and promoting artistic expression among the special needs community through public awareness, scholarships, competitions, and awards and exhibits like this one.

CITY OF ALHAMBRA POLICE REPORT

Jan. 22

Non-Injury T/C - Officers responded to Fourth and Linda Vista for a traffic collision involving a motorist that struck two parked vehicles. There were no injuries. Drive carefully Alhambra, and always wear seat belts.



Jan. 1

Approximately 2:05 a.m., a suspect approached the victim's residence on the 200 block of North Stoneman Avenue and threw a brick through a window. The suspect then fled the location in an unknown direction. The vandalism was captured on the victim's Ring.com surveillance camera. The Alhambra Police Department is requesting the community's assistance in identifying the suspect. To identify the suspect and remain anonymous, call the Alhambra Police Department Tip Line at 626-308-4875.



This cute dog and owner have been reunited. The scared dog was found hiding under a car in the area of Chapel and Adams.



Do not leave valuables in plain view when out and about. The temptation for some might just make you a victim. Hide it and lock it. This message is brought to the community by the men and women of the Alhambra Police Department.



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The Chamber's Jan. 10 monthly Business to Business networking breakfast was hosted by Cokreeate, 1019 E. Main St., unit B, Alhambra. Cokreeate offers 3D scanning, 3D digital modeling, and 3D printing. Cokreeate has earned a reputable name in the 3D printing industry and has been featured in local media, television news, and radio and television talk shows. Business to Business takes place from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. the second Thursday of each month. It offers opportunities for members of the business community to get to know each other and promote their businesses.

Tax Tips New 1040

With the new tax law, the government has decided to eliminate Forms 1040A and 1040EZ. There are no longer any short forms. We now have one Form — the 1040.

Form 1040 has been condensed from 79 lines to 23 lines. One would think the IRS has made everything easier. Well ... that did not happen.

There are still two pages of the 1040. And now we have "schedules" that are attached to the Form 1040.

In a nut-shell: What used to be on two pages is now on eight pages (two pages for the 1040 and six schedules).

Here is a quick breakdown of the new schedules and what the schedules are used for:

Schedule 1 - Additional income such as capital gains, unemployment, prize and award money or gambling winnings. Deductions such as student loan interest, self-employment tax, or educators expense.

Schedule 2 - Owe Alternative Minimum Tax or need to make an advance premium tax credit repayment.

Schedule 3 - Can claim a nonrefundable credit other than child tax credit or credit for other dependents, such as the foreign tax credit, education credits, or general business credits.

Schedule 4 - Owe other taxes, such as self-employment tax, household employment tax, additional tax on IRA, or other qualified retirement plans and tax-favored accounts.

Schedule 5 - Can claim a refundable credit other than the earned income credit, American Opportunity credit or additional child credit. Have other payments, such as an amount paid for an



Michael Aston is an Enrolled Agent engaged in his family business at Alhambra Tax Center, 1009 E. Main St., Alhambra. Alhambra Tax Center has served Alhambra residents since 1970. He can be reached at 626-282-1084. Tax questions, or any other questions, can be e-mailed to michael@alhambratatxcenter.com. To view previous topics, read his blogs at www.alhambratatxcenter.com.

extension to file excess social security tax withheld.

Schedule 6 - Have a foreign address or a third party designee.

And when you view your next tax return, I guarantee, you'll be wondering about what some people were thinking in Washington, DC.

To view the new forms or to get more information about the forms, visit www.irs.gov. If you have any other questions, contact the IRS or a tax preparer.



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3rd Thursday of the month
Alhambra Chamber of Commerce
104 S. 1st St, Alhambra, CA 91801

Thursday, February 21, 2019
Noon to 1:30 pm



Robert Fukui





Eric Yun





Alex Lee



Complimentary lunch is provided for Chamber members
\$15 for non-Chamber members

Seating is limited

RSVP and info:
Alhambra Chamber of Commerce
626/282-8481
or
ihernandez@alhambrachamber.org

Next event

Thursday, March 21, 2019
Social Media marketing that gets results
Hosted by: HUTdogs

Gain More Website Traffic... and avoid lawsuits too!

Spending time and money to create a beautiful website is good. Knowing some simple tips to build an engaging website that looks good and gets found high in the search rankings will not only gain more customers but can actually help you avoid painful and unneeded lawsuits. But the good news is that making your website ADA compliant has marketing benefits if you do it correctly.

- ADA compliance for websites? Really?
- What an ADA compliant site looks like
- Marketing benefits of an ADA compliant site

Hosted by: **High Point Marketing Inc., Standout Marketing and Access Solutions LLC**

Speaker: **Robert Fukui / High Point Marketing Inc. Eric Yun / Standout Marketing, Alex Lee / Accessolutions**



Crawlers will get to enjoy a brew or two at participating Downtown bars and restaurants on St. Patrick's Day.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day in Downtown Alhambra

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day Sunday, March 17, in Downtown Alhambra by joining in the annual "St. Paddy's Day Pub Crawl." Crawlers will get to enjoy a brew or two at participating Downtown bars and restaurants. The event is free and there's no cover, but price of drinks and food are dependent on each bar or

restaurant on the crawl. Participants must be 21 and over. More info to come about the Pub Crawl schedule and participating bars. Check back at Downtown Alhambra Events Page: https://www.facebook.com/pg/DowntownAlhambra/events/?ref=page_internal.

YMCA of West San Gabriel Valley: It's all about family

The entire family is welcome at the YMCA of West San Gabriel Valley, 401 Corto St., Alhambra. Dad might work out in the gym while mom swims or takes an exercise class. Meanwhile the kids can play safely on the playground or basketball court. If a family needs help with the cost of membership, scholarships and grants can be approved for qualified applicants.



workout, Zumba, tai chi, ballet, tae kwon do, and Latin Groove (dancing). Many of these classes are also specially designed for seniors through the Silver Sneakers program.

The cost of YMCA membership for seniors with United Health Care or Kaiser Permanente can be covered through the Senior Care Action Network (SCAN). There is also Silver Sneakers, a health and fitness program designed for adults 65 and over that's included with many Medicare Advantage Plans. This plan allows discounted or no-cost membership at 15,000 gyms across the nation, including the YMCA.

Meanwhile in the swimming pool, there are children's and adult swim lessons; family swim times, including family Aquacize; and times for arthritis swims. For both the classes and the swim times, check with the front desk in person. Call 626-576-0226, or check the website at http://www.wsgvymca.org/prog_aqua.aspx.

There is still more. The Y offers Summer Day Camp at its facility offering up to 11 hours a day of kid-friendly, educational, and fun activities in a safe setting. For the older kids there is Camp Ta Ta Pochon in the San Bernadine Mountains offering a week's camping experience.

For added convenience, a YMCA membership admits the member to any of the 2,900 YMCAs across the country. Contact the Y to learn more about the advantages of membership.

In other news, the new family building, already fully funded with a grant from the State of California, has had plans drawn up by McClellan, Badiyi & Associates. The plans have passed design review and have been approved by the Planning Department. The project is now ready to go out for bid. *Around Alhambra* will publish updates of the progress of the new building.

Besides the gym and basketball courts, there are several exercise classes available with membership. There are classes available Monday through Saturday. They include muscle conditioning, yoga, cardio



10th Annual St. Patrick's Day Pub Crawl
SAVE THE DATE: SUN, 3/17/19

TASTE OF ALHAMBRA
RESTAURANT WEEK JAN 27 - FEB 2

Enjoy prix-fixe deals from Alhambra's diverse restaurant scene!

**2-3 COURSES
LUNCH - DINNER
\$15 - \$50**

Limerick's Tavern, Vino at Trios, Panasia Sweet and Savory, Mancora Peruvian Cuisine, Diner on Main, Dickey's Barbecue Pit, Charlie's Trio, Bon Appetea Café, Big Catch Seafood, Alondra's Hot Wings, 38 Degrees Ale House & Grill, Mahan Indian Restaurant, and Phoenix Inn Chinese Cuisine

tasteofalhambraw.com @downtownalhambra

TAKE THE PLEDGE
I'M A WATER SAVER!

WWW.CITYOFALHAMBRA.ORG • WWW.SGVMWD.ORG

KNOW YOUR H₂O City of Alhambra SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT



Cindy and David Ho work hard to service clients.



The Ho family, from left: Vay, Michelle, Cindy, Sherly, and David.



Farmers Insurance is located at 1122 W. Valley Blvd., Alhambra.

Farmers Insurance – David San Ho offers 7 days a week service

By JEWELYN CO

Farmers Insurance – David San Ho, 1122 W. Valley Blvd, Alhambra, provides clients assistance in receiving the best coverage of insurance for home, auto, life, commercial, and other special insurance coverage. David San Ho and his family Cindy Ho, Michelle Ho, Vay Ho, and Sherly Ho opened the agency in 2016 to serve the community with great quality insurance.

This family of Farmers Insurance agents decided to work as a team because of their passion for helping others and providing information on ways to protect them and their valuables. As San Gabriel Valley residents, they decided that Alhambra would be

the best location to establish their business because of the community's diversity and acclaimed reputation of businesses. "We work great as a team, and we love helping our community," Cindy said. "We feel that it is a blessing to be there for our clients when they need us."

The Ho family understands the value of family and protecting what is most important to them. "Most families find it difficult to work with each other, but our family works well together because we know that we can depend on one another," Cindy said. "We want our clients to know and feel that they can depend on us to help them get the protection they deserve."

Farmers Insurance and the Ho family are very much involved with the community. They enjoy giving back to the community and have been generously donating to non-profit organizations, schools, and foundations. "We love giving back, and the joy of seeing the appreciation of people we helped out is very rewarding, Cindy said. "It is always a pleasure to help out others and our clients."

Accidents and injuries happen all the time and may be hard to avoid, but prevention can be practiced. "It is important not to drink and drive, don't text and drive, be cautious of your surroundings, and pay very close attention to the road and pedestrians

as well as bikers. Always wear a safety belt when getting in a vehicle," David said.

Clients can walk into Farmers or call to get a free quote or ask the agents questions about insurance and protection. This Farmers Insurance agency is an Alhambra Card participant, and clients who create a new account can receive a gift card. They provide services seven days a week and are open on most of the holidays. Their office hours are from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The agency offers services in English, Cantonese, and Mandarin. Find more information at www.farmers.com, and check out their reviews on Yelp.



Notary services
are available at the
Alhambra Chamber of Commerce
104 S. First St.
Please phone 626-282-8481
for an appointment.

New Year, new labor laws to know

COURTESY OF CALCHAMBER

The beginning of the New Year is a good time for people to resolve to take a few moments to familiarize themselves with the new employment laws they will need to know in 2019.

Employment law counsel for the California Chamber of Commerce analyzed the significant bills signed into law last year and prepared a white paper summarizing the legislation's effects on California employers.

Read the latest information on:

- An increase in the minimum wage as well as the minimum salary for exempt employees.
- A new mandate to train nearly every California employee about sexual

harassment prevention that applies even to smaller employers.

- Changes to employers' obligation to provide nursing mothers with lactation accommodations.
- New protections from defamation lawsuits for employers who give employment references.
- An expansion of employer liability for all types of harassment, even by non-employees.
- Much more.

The CalChamber white paper on New 2019 Labor Laws Affecting California Employers is available for members to download on calchamber.com/HRCalifornia.

Also available on HRCalifornia is a full discussion of the new laws.



Join local businesses for the Alhambra Chamber Business to Business Networking event



B to B

Thursday, February 14, 2019
8:30 – 9:30 am
Cost: Free (coffee & pastries)

Hosted by:
La Parrilla Mexicana Restaurant, Inc.
2938 W. Valley Blvd., Alhambra 91803
626-289-2412

RSVP A MUST:
Alhambra Chamber of Commerce
626-282-8481 or
ihernandez@alhambrachamber.org

Upcoming B to B
Thursday, March 14, hosted by
YMCA of West San Gabriel Valley

NOTE
Please be sure to bring plenty of business cards & promotional flyers for networking.

WELCOME OUR *New* CHAMBER MEMBERS!

Alhambra Jewelry and Gold
1105 W. Mission Road
Alhambra, CA 91803
626-703-4002
alhambrajewelryandgold.com
Alhambra Jewelry and Gold is an authorized Citizen watch dealer and offers a broad selection of these beautiful yet practical pieces. Drop by today to view the latest inventory.

New York Life – Michelle Li
140 Via Verde #200
San Dimas, CA 91733
626-417-2050
newyorklife.com
New York Life has insurance and investment options designed to help clients meet their goals, whether they are just starting out or planning for retirement.

The Rodriguez Law Group
626 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 460
Los Angeles, CA 90017
213-995-6767
aerlawgroup.com
After prosecuting more than 1,000 cases, Mr. Rodriguez knows how prosecutors and police investigate and put together a case. More importantly, he knows the mistakes they usually make and the shortcuts they take. Mr. Rodriguez will use his expertise and knowledge to the client's advantage either in negotiating a plea or taking the case to trial in front of a jury.

Welcome!



State Farm



Talbot Insurance Agency Inc. State Farm Insurance Regina Talbot, Agent, 626-357-3401 Insurance License #: OG05807

Term life insurance vs. whole life insurance: which is right for you?

What are the benefits of a term life insurance vs. whole life insurance?

When considering which type of life insurance you should purchase, understanding the basics, benefits, and realities of both term and whole life insurance is important in making a decision that is best for you.

Term life insurance

Term insurance is the simplest type of insurance. You pay your premiums as scheduled and in return your insurer agrees to pay a death benefit should you die within that term.

The benefits of term life insurance

- **Low initial cost.** Term insurance can be purchased in large amounts for relatively small premiums.

- **You can match terms to needs.**

Many people are concerned about paying off their mortgage, providing money for higher education, or replacing a portion of their income if the unthinkable happens and they pass away. These are typically temporary needs, which may last just a few years or much longer. Matching these needs with the proper amount of insurance can allow your loved ones the time and money needed to make important financial decisions.

- **Convertible.** Most term policies can be converted (age limitations typically apply) to a whole life policy if your temporary needs evolve into lifetime needs.

The reality of term life insurance

- **The policy is temporary.** Term insurance is designed to last for a specific amount of time (term). After the term period is over, many policies are guaranteed to renew on an annual basis at a higher premium and may become unaffordable.

Whole life insurance

Whole life insurance provides a death benefit throughout your life. It also includes a cash value component that accrues value over time, allowing you to borrow or withdraw funds as needed.

The benefits of whole life insurance

- **Lifetime coverage.** A whole life policy covers the rest of your life, not just a stated term. As long as your policy is in force when you pass away, your beneficiaries will receive a death benefit.

- **Build equity.** Over time, a portion of the premiums you pay for a whole life

policy become part of the policy's cash value. Once sufficient cash value has accrued, this cash value becomes available to you through loans and withdrawals. Any way you choose to use it — if you choose to use it — the cash value of a whole life policy provides an additional asset for your family. However, there can be consequences when you access cash value depending on the action and how you access the money.

- **Premium options.** With a traditional whole life policy, premiums are typically paid until age 100, but there are policies with a limited payment period that makes the policy paid-up before a specific event like retirement or before college tuition kicks in.

- **You may receive dividends.** The insurer may pay dividends to whole life policy owners, depending on the company's financial performance. Dividends can be paid in cash, accumulate at a competitive interest rate, or purchase additional insurance within the policy, or even be used to reduce the premium. Although dividends are not guaranteed, the possibility of earning dividends is an attractive feature of whole life policies.

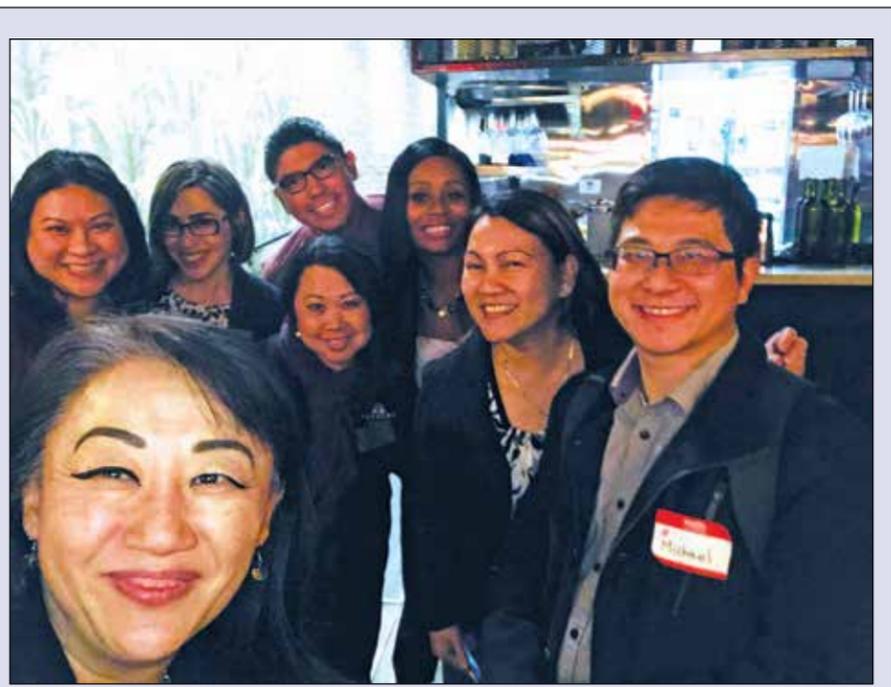
- **Estate planning.** It's not just for the wealthy. Many people want to leave assets for the next generation, do charitable giving, or provide for an individual with special needs. Whole life insurance can be an efficient way of passing money onto the next generation.

The realities of whole life insurance

- **Higher initial premiums.** It's a fact, whole life insurance has a higher initial premium than an equal amount of term insurance, but don't confuse cost with value. The benefits of lifetime coverage, and over time, the guaranteed cash value, and the eligibility to earn dividends makes whole life a good choice for building an additional asset class and for providing for lifetime needs.

Good financial decision-making is based on solid research and sound advice. If you're considering term life insurance vs. whole life insurance, be sure to discuss your options with a State Farm agent and consult your tax and legal adviser regarding your situation.

For more information, contact Regina Talbot at 626-357-3401.



Next Republic Artisan Kitchen, 119 W. Main St., Alhambra, hosted the February Chamber Mixer. Diners at Next Republic can experience a taste of East meets West dishes such as the Hawaiian fried rice, with combinations of pineapples, meat, and surprising twists of curry. Appetizers like Asian chipotle tacos and pork belly buns offer tasteful medleys. The Chamber Mixers are offered on the fourth Wednesday of every month and provide an opportunity for members to get to know each other and share business contacts all in the friendly confines of a member business. A benefit to all Chamber members, these networking events provide the opportunity for the host to showcase their businesses and show off what they do.

raffle prizes

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS MIXER

network

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Mixers hosted by:
 Mar. 27 Alhambra Educational Foundation
 Apr. 24 Iona Work Spaces

HOSTED BY
Ritter's Steam Kettle Cooking
 1800 W. Valley Blvd.
 Alhambra, CA 91803
 (626) 872-6464

5:30 to 7:30 pm

Chamber Members \$10
 Non-Chamber Members \$15

Business to Business Networking hosted by:
 Feb. 14 La Parrilla Mexicana Restaurant, Inc.
 Mar. 14 YMCA of West San Gabriel Valley

The Alhambra Chamber of Commerce
*thanks these members for renewing their memberships
 and for their continued support:*

<p>Alhambra Educational Foundation 1603 Chestnut St. Alhambra, CA 91803 626-943-3080 Member since 2001</p>	<p>Goldberg, Josh Member since 1999</p> <p>Green Menu Organization 560 W. Main St., Unit D Alhambra, CA 91801 877-771-5281 Member since 2013</p> <p>Hi Quality Auto Body 723 S. Fremont Ave. Alhambra, CA 91803 626-457-9114 Member since 2007</p> <p>Johnson, Gordon E. Member since 2003</p> <p>M & M Dental 1711 W. Main St. Alhambra, CA 91801 626-308-1711 Member since 2008</p> <p>Mc Computer Consulting, Inc. 407 W. Valley Blvd., #4 Alhambra, CA 91803 818-303-4111 Member since 2005</p> <p>Next Republic Kitchen 119 W. Main St. Alhambra, CA 91801 626-940-5822 Member since 2016</p>	<p>Regency Park Senior Living 150 S. Los Robles Ave., Suite 480 Pasadena, CA 91101 626-773-8800 Member since 2016</p> <p>Richetts, James T. Member since 1994</p> <p>Royal Vista San Gabriel 901 W. Santa Anita St. San Gabriel, CA 91776 626-289-8889 Member since 1998</p> <p>Sam's Barber Shop 1103 E. Main St. Alhambra, CA 91801 (626) 570-1230 Membership since 2018</p> <p>San Gabriel Hilton 225 W. Valley Blvd. San Gabriel, CA 91776 626-270-2700 Member since 2013</p> <p>Shea Properties 130 Vantis, Suite 200 Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 949-389-7040 Member since 2014</p>
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Thank You!

To renew your membership with a credit card, please phone the Chamber at 626-282-8481.



Team member Celine Vasquez and alumnae mentor Catherine Yip work to make sure the robot is able to withstand any mechanical challenges that may come up during competition.

Ramona Convent Robotics Team kicks off new season

Recently, Ramona Rampage kicked off its 2019 competition season at Foshay Learning Center in Los Angeles. Team members were able to view this year's challenge of Space Innovation at this kickoff ceremony along with all of the other teams participating in the FIRST Robotics competition.

The kickoff ceremony is the start of the six-week build competition for this year's robotics team. The weekend was spent strategizing on how to tackle this year's challenge. Thanks to Aulikki Flagan and the other team mentors, participants have the support and guidance needed to make this season a success.

Innovation, education, and professionalism guide the team. Award-winning Ramona Rampage, Team 1159, is one of very few all girls' FIRST Robotics teams.

With roots going back to the legendary garage of the moderator's home in 2002, more than 80 team members now build the robots in two dedicated classrooms on campus after school and on weekends.

Ramona is a welcoming Catholic college-prep high school for girls in grades 9 through twelve. Ramona graduates face the future with an extraordinary education, a global vision fueled by Catholic values, an independent spirit, confident leadership skills, the support of their Ramona sisters, and the strength of a legacy of more than 129 years of excellence.

Ramona Convent Secondary School is located at 1701 W. Ramona Road, Alhambra 91803. For more information, call 626-282-4151, or visit www.ramona-convent.org.



Fr. Matthias Lambrecht, OCD, will be honored at St. Therese Carmelite School's auction.

Benefit auction for Saint Therese Carmelite School to take place Feb. 22

Saint Therese Carmelite School, which has served the Alhambra community since 1926, will present its annual Little Way Dinner and Benefit Auction at 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22, at the newly renovated Almansor Court, 700 S. Almansor St. The proceeds will go toward necessary facility improvement, need-based scholarships, and enrichment opportunities for the children. Everyone is invited.

The night will begin in the Greenhouse, Lakeview Room, and Palm Court Terrace with happy hour and a chance to browse the auction items, including an authentic, signed Lladro; dinner for 12 hosted by the Carmelite Friars; a San Diego getaway — complete with premier tickets to a Padres game; tickets to prime area attractions; elite restaurant certificates; and more. In addition to the live auction with professional auctioneer, the evening includes a silent auction and the Winter Raffle Drawing.

Guests will savor a gourmet dinner as they listen to a spiritually enriching speech by this year's Lantry Award recipient, Fr. Matthias Lambrecht, OCD. The night will continue with live music from The Teahouse Music Company, who has performed at such venues as the Golden Globes, Bel Air Country Club, the Four Seasons, the Ritz Carlton, and private Hollywood events.

Tickets are \$95 per person before Feb. 8 or \$125 after Feb. 8. Table sponsorships are available. Gold, Silver, and Bronze sponsorships include a table for 10, wine service, sponsor recognition, and more. To purchase sponsorships and tickets online, visit bidpal.net/stcsauction, or purchase tickets in person by visiting the school at 1106 E. Alhambra Road.

For more information, please visit sainttheresecarmeliteschool.com and the school's Facebook page.

The Alhambra Card is here!

Get exclusive offers from your favorite restaurants, retailers, bakeries, coffee houses, and other business in the Alhambra area www.alhambrachamber.org/tac

20% OFF Exclude MAP & Sale Items 2301 W. Mission Rd. Alhambra CA 91803 626-286-0360	FREE 4pcs cheeseballs with purchase of meal 515 W Main St. Alhambra CA 91801 626-576-7183	15% OFF entire purchase 268 W Main St. Alhambra CA 91801 626-281-6701
\$5 EXACT DOUBLE™ SMALL CORNO 205 S. Main St. Alhambra, CA 91801 626-282-1449	10% OFF Entire purchase 100 E Main St. The 112 Alhambra, CA 91802 626-282-5884	A Free Soft Drink with the purchase of any regular priced beverage 1800 E. Main St. Alhambra CA 91801 626-281-6777
Buy one fish taco get one FREE *Limit two per order 2024 N. Valley Blvd. Alhambra, CA 91802 626-672-6679	10% OFF food purchase 626 W Main St #110 Alhambra, CA 91801 626-672-1034	15% OFF Does not apply to large and gift card 7 E 1st St. Alhambra CA 91801 626-282-2227
15% OFF Entire purchase for dine-in purchases 10% OFF larger parties of 3 or more 626 E Main St #102, Alhambra, CA 91801 626-639-2227	10% OFF entire purchase 1127 W. Oakleaf Ave. Alhambra CA 91801 626-282-9828	10% OFF 240 W Main St. 4 Unit A Alhambra CA 91801 626-943-0432
\$88 eye exam and glasses with contact and A/R coating 1234 Oakleaf Ave #102 Alhambra CA 91801 626-282-9828	10% OFF entire purchase 1010 W Main St. Alhambra California 91801 626-639-1622	\$1 OFF regular rate wash \$2 OFF wax 707 W. Main St. Alhambra CA 91801 626-282-2860
10% OFF with every purchase 100 S 1st St Alhambra CA 91801 626-644-0215	\$20 OFF When you dine PINKTAKASTAND 1200 Valley Blvd #2 Los Angeles CA 90025 626-225-4413	10% OFF 100 E Main St #102 Alhambra CA 91801 626-282-6291
\$5 OFF Liquor Pineapple or \$5 OFF Beverage Services 1025 E. Los Angeles St. San Gabriel CA 91776 626-282-9779	15% OFF all retail products 10% OFF all retail products 1014 East Street #6 Alhambra, CA 91801 626-282-4920	\$25 Credit on a sitting 238 W Fairview Ave. San Gabriel, CA 91776 626-285-9278
10% OFF entire purchase 1000 E Main St #102 Alhambra CA 91801 626-282-9828	15% OFF For all printing needs 3005 N Main St. Los Angeles, CA 90018 323-226-4753	\$15 Gift Card for choosing a new account 1024 N. Valley Blvd. Alhambra CA 91801 626-672-6679

If you would like to be a part of the Alhambra Card program, please contact the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce.
* Offers are subject to change without notice.



The Rotary Club of Alhambra welcomed Steve Perry, president of the Alhambra Educational Foundation, as a speaker at a recent meeting. Mr. Perry described the many projects the foundation has funded benefiting the Alhambra Unified School District. Alhambra Rotary meets weekly. For more information, contact President Craig Statton at 559-824-2721.

SoCalGas announces executive leadership changes to help oversee company into clean energy future

SoCalGas recently announced several executive leadership changes as part of an ongoing effort to align Sempra Energy's management teams with strategic priorities and strengthen its leadership with a balance of deep operational and energy policy experience. The new executive leadership will help steward SoCalGas into California's clean energy future while continuing to provide safe and reliable gas service to the company's 21 million customers across Central and Southern California.

In December, Bret Lane, formerly SoCalGas' president and chief operating officer, was named chief executive officer. During his 36 years at SoCalGas, Mr. Lane has demonstrated exceptional leadership at the utility and in the natural gas industry. His experience will be called upon as SoCalGas continues to work together with policymakers, businesses, regulators, and others to integrate the state's energy system in a way that enables California to achieve its 2045 carbon neutrality goal. Mr. Lane's guidance will be instrumental as SoCalGas continues to champion solutions that offer Californians energy choice and affordability.

On Jan. 12, Jimmie Cho was promoted to chief operating officer for SoCalGas. During his nearly three decades with Sempra Energy's utilities, Mr. Cho has held a variety of leadership roles and most recently served as senior vice president of customer services for SoCalGas and senior vice president of distribution operations for

SoCalGas and San Diego Gas & Electric. In his new role as chief operating officer, Mr. Cho will continue to focus on the safety and reliability of the natural gas system and on keeping this clean energy source affordable for customers.

Maryam Brown, Sempra Energy's vice president of federal government affairs, will soon take on the role of SoCalGas president. In this role, Ms. Brown will promote the use of renewable natural gas and the development of renewable energy storage technologies, among other responsibilities. Putting waste streams to work as clean energy sources will be vital to achieving California's climate goals. Prior to Sempra, Ms. Brown served in a number of energy policy leadership positions, in both the private and public sector, including for the U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce, U.S. Senate's Republican Policy Committee, and ConocoPhillips. Her extensive national energy policy experience will be beneficial for SoCalGas customers as California moves toward a new energy future.

Together with the rest of the management team, Mr. Lane, Mr. Cho, and Ms. Brown will lead SoCalGas in its continuing pursuit to deliver reliable, affordable natural gas service to its customers. They will continue to work to identify new and existing technologies that will benefit customers and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a way that is affordable and maintains choice in energy options.

Doodle 4 Google Contest kicks off at Emmaus School

Students at Emmaus Lutheran School are getting ready to participate in the Annual Doodle 4 Google Contest. Google Doodles are the fun, surprising, and sometimes spontaneous changes that are made to the Google logo to celebrate holidays, anniversaries, and the lives of famous artists, pioneers, and scientists. The first Google Doodle appeared in 1998, and two years later the company appointed a Chief Doodler.

Each Emmaus student in grades kindergarten through eighth will design a logo that, if chosen, will be displayed on the Google homepage for a day. One national winner will also receive a \$30,000 college scholarship.

Students will create a doodle that depicts the question, "When I grow up, I hope ..." with the opportunity to let their imaginations run wild.

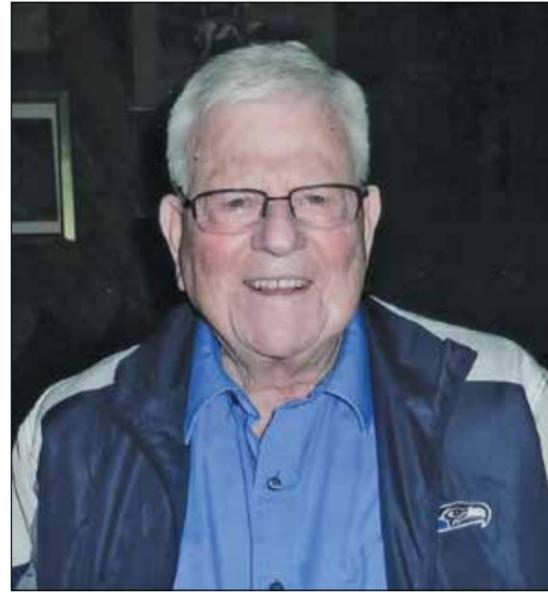
Emmaus is a Google for Education School, using Chromebooks in the classroom to access Google Classroom, giving students hands-on opportunities to learn

and fine tune the necessary technology skills needed to ultimately enhance their performance in high school. This allows the teachers to have more available resources that enhance the students' education and keep them engaged in classroom activities.

On March 10 from 10:15 a.m. to 1 p.m., when Emmaus School has its annual open house, all entries will be displayed for viewing. The entries will have been submitted, but the copies will be displayed to show visitors the innovation and creativity of the Emmaus Lutheran students. Stop by and view the display, and while at the school, check out the many creative projects and academic samples of work typically created by Emmaus students. Visitors will be able to tour the 6+ acre campus, meet the teachers in preschool 3 and 4 as well as the kindergarten through eighth grade, which all provide small class sizes.

Emmaus is located at 840 S. Almanson St. For more information, contact Principal Kit Hittinger at 626-289-3664, extension 105.

Obituary



David Hugh Weakley: a life of service.
1930-2019

Former Mark Keppel, Century High principal David Weakley dies

There are many Alhambrans who exemplify service and giving back to the community. Such a man was David Weakley. Mr. Weakley died Nov. 7.

Mr. Weakley was raised in the Imperial Valley, where his father served as superintendent of schools in the City of El Centro. Taking odd jobs in the local fields, young David labored alongside migrant workers and picked up Spanish language skills that served him all his life.

He was drafted for a two-year stint in the Army (1953-1955), and in that short time he earned two field promotions. After leaving the Army, he got serious about his education, earning two master's degrees from San Diego State and his Ph.D from Stanford. He then began a 35-year career in teaching while living in Salinas.

In 1973, Mr. Weakley came to Alham-

bra as the principal of Mark Keppel High School until 1976 and then served as principal of Century High School from 1976 to 1990. He was active in California school accreditation teams and school administration organizations.

He had been active in Rotary International since 1961 and continued his involvement in the Alhambra Rotary Club. He sponsored the first woman Rotarian in Alhambra and was gratified when his wife Anita joined Rotary with him. In 1997, he was named Rotarian of the Year for his active involvement in fund raising and membership committees.

Mr. Weakley indulged in his passion for singing, joining Barbershop Quartet groups wherever he lived. When in 2005 he moved to Port Ludlow, Washington, to retire he found and joined a quartet there.



U.S. Navy Fire Controlman (Aegis) 2nd Class Baron Chen, from Alhambra, stands by for a replenishment-at-sea to begin aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Stockdale (DDG 106) in the Gulf of Oman, Dec. 28. The Stockdale is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations in support of naval operations to ensure maritime stability and security in the Central Region, connecting the Mediterranean and the Pacific through the western Indian Ocean and three strategic choke points. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Abigayle Lutz)



The Alhambra campus continues to be a magnet for major educational and other institutional tenants.

California State University, Los Angeles, signs lease at The Alhambra

The Ratkovich Company has signed a lease for 12,051 square feet with California State University, Los Angeles (Cal State LA), at The Alhambra, a reimagined 40-acre mixed-use urban community located in the City of Alhambra. The addition of Cal State LA continues The Alhambra's tradition of attracting major educational institutions such as University of Southern California, Alliant International University, and Platt College.

Kevin Duffy, senior vice president for CBRE, represented The Alhambra in the deal, and Will Adams, executive managing director for NKE, represented Cal State LA.

"Cal State LA will join University of Southern California, Platt College, and Alliant International University," said Mr. Duffy, noting that a high percentage of The Alhambra is home to major educational institutions. "The 40-acre campus provides a unique environment that is very conducive to academic life, such as the brick buildings, which resemble an Eastern college; ample green spaces; water features; and a central courtyard for students to socialize. Other benefits include abundant parking, a 170-seat auditorium, and convenient access to the 710 and 10 freeways."

"Taking space at The Alhambra will enable our faculty and students to engage in important learning and research and provide much-needed assistance to the communities we serve," said Jose A. Gomez, Cal State LA executive vice president and chief operating officer. "The location

is minutes from the university, and our students and faculty will appreciate the attractive surroundings and the close proximity of The Alhambra to amenities."

About The Alhambra

The Alhambra is a 40-acre mixed-use urban community in the City of Alhambra owned and operated by a partnership of The Ratkovich Company and ELITE International and Future Land Development. The campus was originally developed in the 1920s as the headquarters for petrochemical engineering firm C F Braun and Co. The Ratkovich Company (TRC) first acquired the site in December 1999 and completed a successful \$56 million renovation that enhanced and expanded the campus into an integrated urban community, home to office tenants such as County of Los Angeles, USC Keck School of Medicine, and Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center (ELARC). The Alhambra's amenities make for a unique workplace that includes a 50,000-square-foot LA Fitness, sundry store, mobile dry cleaners, car wash, conference rooms, and a 170-seat auditorium. The Alhambra has maintained a LEED Gold certification since 2012. In 2005, TRC completed the development of a retail center adjoining the office campus known as The Shops at The Alhambra. Retailers include a shadow anchor Kohl's Department Store, Starbucks, Jamba Juice, Subway, Pick-Up Stix, Sprint, and others. For more information on The Alhambra, visit <http://www.thealhambra.net/>

Alhambra Womans Club to meet Feb. 13

Women living in Alhambra and the surrounding communities are invited to attend the Alhambra Womans Club meeting at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, at Almanson Court, 700 S. Almanson St., Alhambra.

Come and enjoy good food, friend-

ship, a scenic view of the golf course, and entertainment provided by Latin Gents.

The cost of the luncheon is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members.

Please call 626-289307 for a reservation by Feb. 11.



From left: tenor Roberto Esquivelzeta; María Lara "La Golondrina," Academy of Special Dreams artist and singer; Amaris Taghdis, behavioral therapist at California Psychcare; Sylviha Villegas, CEO of New Light Art Gallery, cultural promotor, and curator; Michael Dergar, artist and founder of the Academy of Special Dreams Foundation; Demetrio Gómez, Worshipful Master, 9th Benito Juárez Hispanic Masonic Lodge of California; visual artist Luz Nieto; and Fidel Gómez, Past Master, 9th Benito Juárez Hispanic Masonic Lodge of California.

Artist Michael Dergar honored

Michael Dergar, artist and Founder of the Academy of Special Dreams Foundation, was recently honored at the New Light Art Gallery in Los Angeles, where his solo art exhibition, Emotions: an Abstract Art Collection, was displayed.

"My PERVAZ collection of art represents the freedom and equality of my inner soul, creation, and the universe," Mr. Dergar said. "My use of color and texture in my paintings is representative of physical

objects and the relation of life and inner feelings."

Mr. Dergar supports artists in the special needs community and creates art for exclusive venues and collectors. His work can be found in private collections internationally.

His solo exhibit is still open for private showings. Please contact Sylviha Villegas at 626-703-8817.

For more information about Mr. Dergar, please visit www.michaeldergar.com.



Fourth-graders at Saint Thomas More School participate in a math-a-thon to help fight against childhood cancer.

Saint Thomas More fourth-graders learn power of helping others

Saint Thomas More School fourth-graders recently joined St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in the fight against childhood cancer by participating in a math-a-thon. The week-long event helped the students practice their computation skills while teaching them they have the power to help others.

"Our class goal was \$1,000," said fourth-

grade teacher Lina Markley. Together, with the help of our families and friends, we raised \$3,932 for children battling cancer and other life-threatening diseases. Our involvement was a big part of making this math-a-thon a success. My students made a difference in the lives of other children, and I am very proud of each and every one of them."

Alhambra Day Nursery Foundation financial grants, scholarship applications now available

The Alhambra Day Nursery Foundation will give approximately \$100,000 in financial grants and scholarships to individuals and organizations residing or working within the boundaries of the Alhambra Unified School District. Applications are available beginning Feb. 1 and are due by March 15.

Alhambra Day Nursery was founded in 1943 by a group of women in the Alhambra community with the mission of assisting working mothers with child care during WWII. After the war, the organization continued to assist the community by providing child care and preschool programs in cooperation with the Alhambra School District. Thirteen years ago, Alhambra Day Nursery changed its mission to “providing financial grants to individuals and organizations working with children and scholarships to students graduating from local high schools or local students attending college with majors in childhood education or related fields.”

Financial grant applications will be accepted for consideration from individuals or groups for projects involving children living within the boundaries of the Alhambra School District, which encompasses all of Alhambra, parts of Monterey Park, San Gabriel, and Rosemead. Projects must show evidence of enriching the lives and well-being of children through education and be a “not for profit” program. In the past, grants have been awarded to teachers, schools, the YMCA, Girls Scouts, and others.

Grant applications may be requested

by e-mail from Ed Aguirre, grant coordinator, at eoaguirre@aol.com or by calling Mr. Aguirre at 626-943-3080. Completed applications must be submitted by March 15. Successful applicants will be notified in early May, and the awarded funds will be available shortly thereafter.

The foundation is also offering scholarships to graduating seniors from high schools within the school district boundaries in the amount of \$1,000. Applicants must show an interest in early childhood education or related fields of study. Students continuing their college and university studies in early childhood education or related fields may reapply to qualify for a second year \$1,000 scholarship or \$2,000 for the third and fourth year of advanced studies.

First year applicants must have a minimum G.P.A. of 2.5 throughout high school; submit a letter(s) of recommendation and a personal goal statement; and complete the scholarship application. Individuals, already enrolled in a college or university program, who graduated from a local school or live within the school district boundaries may apply as a new applicant. Completed ADN scholarship application packets must be submitted via mail to P.O. Box 640, Alhambra, CA 91802 or via e-mail to dhbieker@aol.com no later than March 15. The scholarships will be awarded in June. Scholarship applications are available at each of the participating high schools or by e-mail at dhbieker@aol.com.

A tribute to former Alhambra resident Chris Burrous

BY GLENN BARNETT

The popular KTLA Weekend News Anchor Chris Burrous died suddenly in the early morning of Dec. 28. Mr. Burrous was a local television celebrity who once lived in Alhambra. I learned of this when I reached out to him by e-mail to invite him to visit local restaurant Sage Bistro for his much loved weekend restaurant review segment known as Burrous Bites.

To my surprise he called me personally to arrange a time when he could come to Alhambra with his crew to film the segment. It was on the Monday after Thanksgiving, just a month before his death. As we talked, he told me that he and his wife had lived in Alhambra for several years, renting a house from Leonard Erskine of the Wondries automotive group.

He eventually moved away to be closer to his work place at KTLA. He told me that he had fond memories of living here and was looking forward to revisiting the city.

Unfortunately, it did not work out for us to do the filming in early December, so I was looking forward to making it happen early in 2019. I was determined that he get



KTLA Weekend News Anchor Chris Burrous died Dec. 28.

to revisit Alhambra and to tell the story of one of our many fine restaurants. His passing eliminates that possibility and adds to my sorrow at his passing.

Amaya Aranda, 17-year-old student filmmaker from Alhambra, named YoungArts Merit winner in Cinematic Arts

Amaya Aranda of Alhambra, who attends the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts (LACHSA), has been named a 2019 National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts) Merit winner in Cinematic Arts. Selected from the most competitive pool of applicants to date, Amaya has been recognized for her outstanding artistic achievements and joins 710 of the nation's most promising young artists from 44 states across the literary, visual, design, and performing arts.

Amaya will receive a cash prize of up to \$10,000; is eligible to participate in YoungArts' regional programs, including YoungArts Miami (Feb. 19 –24), YoungArts Los Angeles (March 26 –31), and YoungArts New York (April 23 –28), and will join a professional network of distinguished artists.

As a senior at LACHSA, Amaya has collaborated on 34 original student short films, directing 10 and writing 26 original screenplays. “My surroundings really inspire my storytelling, so my hometown of Alhambra has been the setting for many of my film projects,” Amaya said. “It is such an honor to be recognized by the YoungArts Foundation. I look forward to participating in



Amaya Aranda joins 710 outstanding teenage artists from 44 states across the nation and will receive cash awards, mentorship, and professional development opportunities.

the upcoming YoungArts regional workshops in New York this spring. It will be my first trip to New York City, and I am very excited!”

Amaya Aranda's film portfolio can be found at <https://www.aranda.tv/>.

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The Alhambra Rotary Adopt a Family Project fulfilled the wish lists of 131 children in the Alhambra School District. From left are President Elect Edgar Garcia-Mora, Cesar Franco, George Cheung, Santa, Megan Moloughney, Linda Wong, Janet Lees, and Denise Jaramillo.



Volunteers from Alhambra Rotary, the Alhambra School District, and the L.A. County District Attorney's office shopped for Alhambra School District students, using the children's wish lists.

Holiday wishes come true for 50 families

The Rotary Club of Alhambra partnered with The Ratkovich Company/The Alhambra, the Alhambra Unified School District, and the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office to make holiday wishes come true for 50 families.

About 131 children in the Alhambra Unified School District put together their wish lists for Santa. Volunteers from the Alhambra Rotary Club, Alhambra Unified School District, and the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office used the wish lists to shop for these children at the Alhambra Target store.

Thanks go to The Ratkovich Company/The Alhambra for its donation of \$10,000, which sponsored the Alhambra Rotary Adopt a Family Project. On December 12, Santa distributed gifts to the 50 families with the help of Rotarians.

One of the many letters that was given to Santa read:



This quote from the book *Wonder* is at the core of the Rotary Holiday Adopt a Family Project: "When given the choice between being right and being kind, choose kind."



Cal State LA students provide exercise therapy to clients from the community while conducting research on biomedical rehabilitation. (Photo: J. Emilio Flores/Cal State LA.)

Cal State LA receives NIH grant to boost research in biomedical, behavioral sciences

Cal State LA has been awarded a five-year, \$500,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to provide biomedical and behavioral sciences research opportunities to undergraduates.

The grant, from the NIH's Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, will establish the Summer Program of Research Opportunities for Undergraduate Training (SPROUT) at Cal State LA to offer first-hand research experience to students, along with a paid stipend for the summer.

"We are super excited to receive this funding because it will allow promising students the opportunity to focus their efforts on research," said Ray de Leon, who is one of the grant's principal investigators and director of the School of Kinesiology and Nutritional Science at Cal State LA. "We know our students want to do research, but a lot of them can't because they have jobs or other commitments."

Coordinated by Mr. de Leon and co-principal investigator Kimberly Morland, SPROUT will be housed in the uni-

versity's Rongxiang Xu College of Health and Human Services.

Through a 15-week summer intensive training program, undergraduate students will gain expertise and develop research skills in behavioral and biomedical sciences, including the areas of rehabilitation and child development.

Participants will learn about graduate programs and careers in research. They will also attend workshops on scientific writing, analytical techniques, data management, and data presentation. SPROUT scholars will work with professors engaged in a wide range of research.

"One SPROUT scholar may be doing research focused on helping toddlers with language disorders, while another may be researching health disparities in immigrant populations," Mr. de Leon said. "Others may be using biological assays to study exercise in humans or animal models of spinal cord injury."

For more information on the summer program or its application process, please go to the Cal State LA SPROUT's webpage.

Alhambra Rotary to award teacher Mini-Grants

Applications for the Rotary Club of Alhambra and Rotary Club's Mini-Grant Program have been distributed to teachers at every school in the Alhambra School District.

The Mini-Grant Program, started in 1991, awards a limited number of grants to teachers in the Alhambra School District up to \$200 for the purpose of implementing a project that is not paid for by the school district.

The funds are allocated to teachers' projects at a meeting of the committee members. Funds are raised for the program through member and business donations.

"This program is in its 28th year," said Chairman Dr. David Snyder. "The Rotary Club of Alhambra has donated more than \$200,000 to this project."

Grants will be presented to the individual teachers at a school board meeting Tuesday, Feb. 19.

Other sponsors of the Mini-Grant Program are The Alhambra; Transtech Engineering; Republic Services; Kerechuk Motors Service; Spark - Linda Wong; and Beggis H. Lieberg, D.D.S.

For more information, phone Dr. Snyder at 626-282-8493.

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San Gabriel Valley Humane Society

To inquire about these adoptable animals, contact the San Gabriel Valley Humane Society at 626-286-1159, or visit at 851 E. Grand Ave., San Gabriel. Adoption hours are 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. The shelter is closed on Mondays. Directions and photos of many more dogs and cats can be found online at www.sgvhumane.org.

The adoption fee for cats is \$99, which includes spay/neuter, vaccinations, de-worming, FIV/FELV/heartworm testing, and microchip. A \$130 - \$145 dog adoption fee includes microchip, vaccinations, spay/neuter surgery, and de-worming, as well as

a free health check-up at a participating vet (some breeds slightly higher).

Save money with the Buddy Program. Adopt two pets at the same time for a reduced fee.

The Senior for Senior Program offers pets for \$39 each.

The 2019 calendar is available for \$10 if bought directly at the shelter or \$12.50 if mailed.

The San Gabriel Valley Humane Society is the local, affordable choice for spay and neuter, vaccinations, and TNR (trap, neuter, and release) for feral cats. Check out the Web site for information on the adoptable pets and adoption programs: www.sgvhumane.org.



Elaine

Domestic short hair mix • Adult • Female • Medium

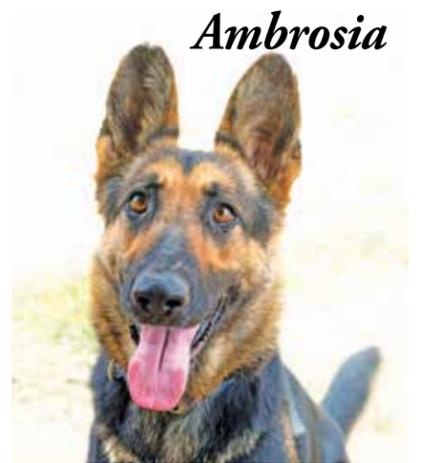
Elaine watches people come into Meow Manor thinking, "Will they stop to meet me and see how wonderful I am?" Her personal ad would tell people she's a 3-year-old snuggle bug and loves people stroking her beautiful, silky gray and white fur from head to tail while she melts into the hands petting her. She lives on the first floor of the cat condos and is well worth coming down to her level to invite her out for a meet. She even likes belly rubs almost as much as that "other" pet species. Both a lover and a player, Elaine keeps in shape chasing laser dots, wrestling stuffed toys, and perfecting the skill of catching flying feathers. Elaine is very talkative, good with people, and even good with children touching her paws and petting her. Now that's a plus in any cat's resume! Please come meet her and see if she's your type.



Raisin

Domestic medium hair mix • Young • Male • Medium

Raisin is our resident dreamboat showcasing a luxurious jet black coat with captivating eyes. He resides in Meow Manor, and even though he doesn't clamor for attention as you enter, he will draw you in with his quiet sophistication. And while he may appear to be aloof at first glance, Raisin just has a laid back demeanor with a very regal bearing. Once you start petting his silken fur and scratch his neck and chin, he rewards you with a steady stream of purring. Raisin especially enjoys being talked to while cuddling. He can fully carry on his part of the conversation with his purring, and his expressive eyes are so understanding. Raisin is a young cat but already a great listener who will love hearing about your day while you unwind snuggling with him and relaxing. If you're looking for a sweet and mellow companion in your life, Raisin is the one! Please do yourself a favor and come spend some time with sweet Raisin.



Ambrosia

German shepherd mix • Adult • Female • Large

Ambrosia is a dazzling 5-year-old large sized German shepherd girl with a beautiful black and tan coat, lively brown eyes, and the cutest perked up ears that are uniquely round in shape. This sweet girl was rescued by the shelter's humane officers when she was found confined and abandoned in a property in Rosemead. Weighing 56 pounds, she arrived to the shelter hungry and with fly strike on both ears but has made a great recovery since then and now she has a clean bill of health. Ambrosia is a playful and rambunctious girl who enjoys long walks, playing fetch, and hanging out with her human friends. She also does well in the bathtub and enjoys frequent brushing of her beautiful coat. Despite the way she was abandoned, Ambrosia has remained a happy-go-lucky girl and is now waiting for the forever loving family that she deserves. If you are a German shepherd fan, Ambrosia is your girl!

Visit us at www.sgvhumane.org

Community Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

- Feb. 4 – Monday**
Planning Commission
7 p.m., City Hall, council chambers
111 S. First St.
- Feb. 5 – Tuesday**
HCDA Citizens Advisory Committee
7 p.m. - City Hall, conference room
111 S. First St.
- Feb. 7 – Thursday**
 - SCORE counselor appointments available
10 a.m. to noon
Phone the Chamber at 626-282-8481
 - Parks and Recreation Commission
7 p.m., Joslyn Center, Story Park
210 N. Chapel Ave.
- Feb. 9 – Saturday**
Alhambra Lunar New Year Festival
10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Valley Boulevard between Garfield and Almansor
Alhambralunarnewyear.com
- Feb. 11 – Monday**
City Council, 7 p.m.
City Hall, 111 S. First St
- Feb. 12 – Tuesday**
 - Library Board of Trustees
6 p.m., library boardroom, 101 S. First St.
 - Youth Commission
6 p.m., library boardroom, 101 S. First St.
 - Design Review Board
7:30 p.m., City Hall, conference room
111 S. First St.
- Feb. 14 – Tuesday**
Business to Business networking
8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

- La Parrilla Mexicana Restaurant
2938 W. Valley Blvd.
Alhambra 91803
R.S.V.P. to Chamber at 626-282-8481
- Feb. 19 - Tuesday**
Planning Commission
7 p.m., City Hall, council chambers
111 S. First St.
- Feb. 20 - Wednesday**
Arts & Cultural Events Committee
7 p.m., City Hall, conference room
111 S. First St.
- Feb. 21 – Thursday**
Lunch & Learn
Noon to 1:30 p.m.
Topic: Gain More Website Traffic ... and Avoid
Lawsuits Too!
Speaker: Robert Fukui, High Point Marketing
Hosted by High Point Marketing, Inc.; Standout
Marketing; and Access Solutions, LLC
Alhambra Chamber of Commerce
104 S. First St.
Please RSVP to the chamber at 626-282-8481
- Feb. 25 – Monday**
City Council, 7 p.m.
City Hall, 111 S. First St
- Feb. 26 – Tuesday**
Design Review Board
7:30 p.m., City Hall, conference room
111 S. First St.
- Feb. 27 – Wednesday**
Chamber Mixer
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Hosted by Ritter's Steam Kettle Cooking
1800 W. Valley Blvd., Alhambra
Chamber members \$10. Non-members \$15

MARCH

- March 4 – Monday**
Planning Commission
7 p.m., City Hall, council chambers
111 S. First St.
- March 5 – Tuesday**
HCDA Citizens Advisory Committee
7 p.m., City Hall, conference room
111 S. First St.
- March 7 - Thursday**
 - SCORE counselor appointments available
10 a.m. to noon
Phone the chamber at 626-282-8481
 - Parks and Recreation Commission
7 p.m., Joslyn Center, Story Park
210 N. Chapel Ave.
- March 11 – Monday**
City Council, 7 p.m.
City Hall, 111 S. First St
- March 12 – Tuesday**
 - Library Board of Trustees
6 p.m., library boardroom, 101 S. First St.
 - Youth Commission
6 p.m., library boardroom, 101 S. First St.
 - Design Review Board
7:30 p.m., City Hall, conference room
111 S. First St.
- March 13 – Wednesday**
Transportation Committee
7 p.m., City Hall, conference room
111 S. First St.
- March 14 – Thursday**
Business to Business networking
8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
YMCA of West San Gabriel Valley
401 E. Corto St.
Alhambra 91801
RSVP to the chamber at 626-282-8481
- March 18 – Monday**
Planning Commission
7 p.m., City Hall, council chambers
111 S. First St.
- March 20 – Wednesday**
Arts & Cultural Events Committee
7 p.m., City Hall, conference room
111 S. First St.
- March 21 – Thursday**
Lunch & Learn
Noon to 1:30 p.m.
Topic: Social Media Marketing that Gets Results
Speaker: David Finstrom, HUTdogs
Alhambra Chamber of Commerce
104 S. First St.
RSVP to the chamber at 626-282-8481
- March 25 – Monday**
City Council, 7 p.m.
City Hall, 111 S. First St
- March 26 – Tuesday**
Design Review Board
7:30 p.m., City Hall, conference room
111 S. First St.
- March 27 – Wednesday**
Chamber Mixer
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Hosted by the Alhambra Educational Foundation
Location to be announced
Chamber members \$10. Non-members \$15

Alhambra Service Clubs and Organizations

Tuesday: The **Exchange Club** meets at noon every Tuesday at Birdies Bar & Grill, 630 S. Almansor St., at Alhambra Golf Course. The **Kiwanis Club of Alhambra** meets at 6 p.m. the first and third Tuesdays of each month at Denny's Restaurant, 369 W. Main St., Alhambra. The Rotary Club and Soroptimist Club meet at noon every Tuesday at Almansor Court, 700 S. Almansor St.

Wednesday: The **Alhambra Historical Society** presents its program meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of January, March, May, September and before or after Thanksgiving in November at the Masonic Center, 9 W. Woodward Ave. **Toastmasters** meets from 6:45 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays each month at the Colonial Kitchen Restaurant, 1110 Huntington Drive, San Marino.

Thursday: **American Legion Post 139** meets at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday each month at the Legion Hall, 24 N. Stoneman Ave., Alhambra. **San Gabriel Valley New Generation Rotary Club** meets from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. every Thursday at Twohey's, 1224 N. Atlantic Blvd., Alhambra. The **Alhambra Woman's Club** meets monthly. Phone 626-289-9307 for information.

Alhambra USD Food & Nutrition Services launches unique Food Recovery Program in partnership with Tzu Chi USA + San Gabriel High School

Alhambra Unified School District Food & Nutrition Services, in partnership with San Gabriel High School and the Tzu Chi Foundation, kicked off the district's first Food Recovery Program Jan. 14 at San Gabriel High.

"We salute the great partnership effort with the Tzu Chi Foundation to build the Alhambra Unified pilot Food Recovery Program with San Gabriel High students," said AUSD Superintendent Denise Jaramillo. "We want it to grow and become a model for all campuses."

"Despite efforts to promote healthy eating habits by looking at lunchroom layouts and providing choices to students with the offer-versus-serve approach (students can select three out of five items with fruit or vegetable as one of those options), it is inevitable that we see uneaten food discarded into trash cans," said Judy Huffaker, AUSD Food and Nutrition Services director. "The ultimate goal

of school meals is to provide students a nutritious well balanced meal."

"'Choose What You Want ... Eat What You Choose' is our message to students," Ms. Huffaker added. "After lunch, if a student decides not to eat their fruit, rather than discarding it, let's recycle."

There are many ways to reduce, recycle, and recover food waste in school cafeterias. At this time, the pilot Food Recovery Program is beginning with the recycling of unwanted, uneaten whole fresh fruit or unopened packages of raisins and raisins. By implementing the Food Recovery Program, San Gabriel High School students play a vital role in scaling back the amount of food taking up landfill space.

Teaching students the concept of reducing food waste as a learning opportunity will instill better habits in young people who then become more community-conscious adults.

San Gabriel High School students' participation in the Food Recovery Program gives them a platform for taking a positive step toward the care of their school campus environment.

The Food Recovery Program is a collaborative partnership between San Gabriel High School, Food and Nutrition Services, and the Tzu Chi Foundation. The Tzu Chi Foundation is a nonprofit organization providing food banks for needy families, among many other charitable programs.

Twelfth-grade ASB member at San Gabriel High School Lindsay Nguyen joined in the kick-off ceremonies Jan. 14 for the AUSD Food and Nutrition Services' first Food Recovery program, a partnership with the Tzu Chi Foundation and San Gabriel High School, to recycle unwanted, un-eaten whole fruit. (Photo: Liezel Gutierrez.)



2019 Pacemaker Finalist
NSPA

The Matador
San Gabriel High School
San Gabriel, California

The San Gabriel High student newspaper, The Matador, is one of 44 high school news sites named as a 2019 National Scholastic Press Association Pacemaker. Awards will be announced in April at the NSPA conference in Anaheim.

ALHAMBRA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Alhambra planning commissioner Wing Ho was appointed to the Alhambra Unified School District Board of Education during a special board meeting Jan. 24. He replaces Adele Andrade-Stadler, who is now on the City Council.

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ALHAMBRA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Save the Date

3rd Annual AUSD Robotics Challenge

April 6, 2019
8:00 am-1:00 pm
Mark Keppel High School

NEW
Dash Challenge
for K-4th grade



Michael Dergar, one of two December AUSD Game Changer Award winners, is a LIFT North occupational health instructional aide, an artist, and founder of the nonprofit Academy of Special Dreams, which harnesses the power of art to bring opportunities to students and adults with special needs. (Photo provided by Michael Dergar.)



One of the two AUSD December Game Changer Award winners, Valerie Lukjaniec, asked her Ynez Elementary colleagues to join her for the photo because "this award belongs to all of us." From left: Marc Ordonez, psychologist; Anallely Valenzuela, eighth-grade teacher; Laura Benavides, eighth-grade teacher; Lilia Leung, home school coordinator; Juanita Navarro, Special Education teacher; Valerie Lukjaniec, Game Changer, eighth-grade special education teacher; Jessica Polo, para-professional; Shelly Gee-Ryan; Rachel Avakian, special education teacher; Jessica Arthur, eighth-grade teacher; Janett Perales, principal; and Gustavo Ramirez, eighth-grade teacher. (Photo: Liezel Gutierrez.)

AUSD December Game Changer Award winners Valerie Lukjaniec, Michael Dergar teach students to believe in themselves

AUSD Game Changer Award winners Valerie Lukjaniec, Ynez Elementary special education teacher, and Michael Dergar, occupational health instructional aide at LIFT North, are brilliant relationship builders. They both emphasize possibilities and opportunities when they work with their students — and they show students that their abilities are greater than their disabilities.

Valerie Lukjaniec

An AUSD alumna who has been with the district for 25 years, Ms. Lukjaniec knew she wanted to be a teacher from the time she was little. Her colleagues at Ynez said, "Valerie gives 200% for her students. She's always creating a meaningful experience for her eighth-graders." When asked about arranging for her award photo to be taken, Ms.

Lukjaniec's telling comment was "this is really everyone's award" and asked a dozen colleagues to join her for the portrait.

As schools move to the learning center model of teaching, with all students integrated in the classroom, this is giving special education students more opportunities to see and learn from others. "And as a result, many of these students are discovering how capable they are," Ms. Lukjaniec said. "My goal is to equip our kids for a successful life." Ms. Lukjaniec's thoughtful approach to the IEP (Individual Education Plan) process — a painstaking, time-consuming effort — wins her raves from students, parents, and colleagues. "Because I believe we are all connected, it takes all of us to help children thrive," she said.

Michael Dergar

Michael Dergar is a LIFT (Learning Independence for Transition) North occupational health instructional aide, an artist, and founder of the nonprofit Academy of Special Dreams, which harnesses the power of art to create opportunities and public awareness for the adult students with special needs. Through the Academy, Mr. Dergar organizes art exhibits for AUSD's LIFT and high school specialized programs and donations to LIFT for art supplies. Visit www.michaeldergar.com to learn more about how art changes lives.

Pat Mahoney, AUSD director of educational services, special education secondary and LIFT programs for 18-22 year olds, said, "Michael is truly passionate

about working with the disabled population and deserves recognition for the daily, ongoing support he provides to students and staff at LIFT." These comments are echoed by many of Mr. Dergar's colleagues, who say that his extraordinary positivity and authentic care for the adult students with special needs builds relationships with students, staff, and community partners.

Ask Mr. Dergar about his work, and his dedication to art and to the students is woven into every sentence. "Every human has a disability and for some they are more visible than in others," he said. "Many people don't know I grew up as a disabled child in Mexico. I vowed that no one would be treated as I was because of a disability."

Through his volunteer work

with the Academy, Mr. Dergar creates art exhibitions around Alhambra and Los Angeles, showing the paintings of his LIFT students and other disabled artists. "Ten years ago, one artist began to paint using his wheelchair as his brush. Today his work is shown at the Riverside Art Museum." He tells about another artist, Todd Tostado, a SGHS alumnus and now an Academy of Dreams board member, who can only use the tip of his finger. He creates computer programs that are turned into art. "I am inspired every day by my students and by the artists they become," Mr. Dergar said. For Mr. Dergar, community collaboration to build public awareness is the key to helping disabled students and adults create fulfilling lives.

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AUSD students: Thanks to a life-changing K-12 teacher could mean \$5,000 award to your teacher and national news story by world class writer

To keep great teachers in the classroom, the nonprofit Honored shines a spotlight on 12 student-nominated teachers each year

Ask people if they had a teacher who believed in them when no one else did, and you will hear stories about the teacher they still think about, the one who forever changed how they think of themselves.

Ask an Alhambra Unified teacher why they teach, and overwhelmingly, they say they teach to make a difference.

But very often teachers don't learn their impact on their students. The nonprofit Honored www.honored.org wants that to change, since research shows exceptional teachers who receive private and public recognition plan to keep teaching at their schools for nearly twice as long.

Honored is dedicated to keeping great teachers in the classroom. To accomplish this goal, the nonprofit created a student nomination process because it believes students give the truest testimonial to a teacher's impact. Every Honored teacher has made an important difference — either personal, academic, or inspirational — in a student's life.

Twelve nominees from across the country are selected by Honored each win a \$5000 award and are empowered to help other teachers with a \$1,000 gift card from Honored's partner, Donor-

sChoose.org.

In addition, Honored asks world-class writers to capture the stories of the difference a change made in a student's life.

AUSD alumnus and LA Times editor Steve Padilla wrote about Honored award winner Manuel Mendoza, a New Mexico high school teacher, and his student Gabriel Holguin, who called Mr. Mendoza "the father I never had." Read Mr. Padilla's story at <http://www.honored.org/honoree/manuel-mendoza>.

Who can be nominated? Classroom teachers of any subject, K-12, full-time or part-time are eligible.

Who can nominate a teacher?

Current or former students and parents on behalf of younger students or those who need help with the online nomination form.

Will your teacher know about the nomination? Yes, every teacher will receive a "You've Been Nominated" e-mail from Honored. This e-mail will include your answer to "How has your teacher changed your life?"

Gratitude is a gift that rewards the giver and the receiver. Thank a teacher today. Learn more at <http://honored.org/nominate>.



San Gabriel High's counseling team, gathered here on the school's front steps, collaborates on supporting the academic, career, and personal and social development of students grades nine through 12 at SGHS. Back row, from left: Dr. Stephanie Hall and Devin Verga. Front row, from left: Paulina Serrano, Solinet Wong, Elaine Jong, Denise Fernandez, Maritza Cha, and Jing Wu. (Photo: Liezel Gutierrez.)

Day with the San Gabriel High Counselor Team shows why counselors matter

Whether SGHS students need help with academics, college applications, career planning, or social emotional issues, this team is there to assist

A school counselor is the frontline mentoring support for up to 500 students as they navigate academic growth, social emotional development, and college and career planning.

"We start every day with a list of what needs to be done, but if a student is in crisis, that takes precedence over everything," said Dr. Stephanie Hall, San Gabriel assistant principal of counseling. "Adolescence can be a challenging time in terms of social stress and finding your place."

Ask Dr. Hall about her team and she says, "Our team is amazingly strong. Each of the counselors has been doing this work for a long time. We work collaboratively

and love one another. That mutual respect is a great model for our students."

The SGHS counselors are Solinet Wong, Devin Vergo, Elaine Jong, Jing Wu, and Maritza Cha. Gateway to Success counselor Denise Fernandez and CTE College and Career counselor Paulina Diaz-Serrano add to the team. "Counseling is high stress, high reward work that all of us are dedicated to doing. We celebrate the joys and share the heartaches as any close team does," Dr. Hall added.

There is no typical day for a high school counselor, but one day in the life of counselors at San Gabriel High School included: In the morning, meet with

students to review their classes. What credits do they still need to graduate? What courses will help them get into college? Next up, a student struggling in math class. Can the counselor arrange tutoring for after school? Another student has been acting out in history class and needs to meet with his teacher. Then a meeting to discuss a child's individual education plan, sorting out strategies to support her dyslexia.

In between, the counselor will call the homes of students who aren't coming to school. They prepare presentations on topics like decision-making, on ELAC + AUSD dual enrollment program, or college and career resources.

San Gabriel High counselors fit in meetings about students' college options — whether they've taken the SATs, filled in financial aid forms, or need help with their application. There are college and CTE field trips to plan and parent and teacher meetings. This juggling act starts again the next day.

Though this is a story about the SGHS counseling team, it is also the story of any counselor in the district. Thank a counselor tomorrow. They are heroes.

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For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 626-570-5044 or by e-mail at parksandrec@cityofalhambra.org
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ELIGIBILITY AND RULES:

- Open to all elementary school students currently attending in the City of Alhambra. One entry per child.
- All entrants must have permission from their parent/legal guardian to complete registration.
- All artwork must be exclusively original and cannot incorporate anything, in whole, or in part that is owned or created by any third party.

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CRITERIA:

- Artwork must relate to the theme: "The Power of Hope".
- All mediums are welcome (for example: pencil, pen, crayons, markers, paint, or digital design).

Submissions must be turned in to your teacher or returned by 12:00 P.M. NOON on Friday March 15, 2019 to Alhambra City Hall, Parks and Recreation Department. **Present your art on reverse.**
FLOAT DESIGN ENTRY FORM

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School: _____ Teacher: _____
Parent/Guardian Name: _____
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SUBMISSION DEADLINE: FRIDAY MARCH 15, 2019

AUSD wins \$1 million Local Solutions Grant to fund support, recruitment of special education teachers

The district to hold informational meetings in coming weeks

The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing announced in January that Alhambra Unified won a \$1 million Local Solutions Grant to address the shortage of special education grant funding.

“There is a lot of work ahead of us, but we are very excited with this opportunity to support special education,” said AUSD Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Anna Kuo.

Approximately 10% of the TK-12 AUSD student population of 16,684 students is receiving special education. The district has 13 K-8 elementary schools, three comprehensive high schools, and one alternative high school. AUSD also has one special education preschool and two adult transition programs.

The \$1 million Local Solutions Grant will enable AUSD to recruit and hire 50 participants. AUSD offices of Special Education and Human Resources will work together to offer informational meetings over the next few weeks. The joint efforts will involve district Special Education Directors Pat Mahony (high school to adult

transition) and Michele Yamarone (birth to eighth) and Human Resources Director Stacie Colman-Hsu along with the efforts of Ms. Kuo.

In addition to recruitment, the funding award will:

- Provide tuition assistance to general education teachers to obtain an additional special ed credential, which will benefit them with the direction that special ed is heading, i.e., more special ed students are being mainstreamed into the general ed classrooms.
- Provide tuition assistance to the special ed interns.
- Provide stipends to teachers in the program when they complete their special ed credential.
- Provide stipends to special ed teachers who are willing to receive training to become Master Teacher.
- Provide for hiring of additional special ed instructional specialists.
- Provide collaboration and training time.

Kapono the Robot visits Brightwood School

Newest colleague at CSU LA's Charter College of Education is winning friends

BY KYLE YIU, BRIGHTWOOD SCHOOL SECOND-GRADE STUDENT

On Dec. 10, our teacher, Kimberly Ng, gave us a surprise, but we had no idea what the surprise was. Everybody was super excited to see what the surprise was.

When the surprise came, it was a robot with a human shape that was white and blue. The blue was on his shoulders and on his hand. There was a small patch of blue on his knees. There was a patch of gray on his leg connecting to the robot's body. And the rest of the robot's arms, legs, and body were white. His name was Kapono.

He was frozen, but it needed a minute to power up. Then his eyes lit up to a rainbow color. It turned super light blue. Kapono's head seemed to twist. He was hearing our sounds that we were making. Dr. Cheryl Ney, from Cal State University L.A., said Kapono can do tai-chi. Kapono did tai-chi but in the middle of that, he fell down. Almost everyone said, “Are you okay?” All of us thought that Kapono was not going to get up. But he did! He slowly got up by the push of his arms. Everybody clapped.

He answered some questions like “How are you?” and “Can you be friends with me?” And he even told ‘Twas the Night Before Christmas! Kapono was an amazing robot that went to my classroom and he was awesome!



Kapono, the humanoid robot from CSU LA, visited Michelle Luong's first-grade class. Her student Madelyn Poon waits patiently for Kapono to answer her question, “How old are you?” Also pictured is Nishkami Patel, the CSU LA CCOE graduate student who is affectionately referred to as Kapono's nanny, and, left, AUSD Board of Education President Bob Gin. (Photo: Liezel Gutierrez.)

All the first- and second-graders really liked Kapono. Here's what other kids said about him: Derek Jimenez: “I liked when Kapono told us the story ‘Twas the Night Before Christmas.’” Mia Mateos: “I was excited to ask Kapono questions.” Nicolas Kiamzon: “I liked when Kapono was doing Tai Chi moves.”

CLIPPERS TEACHERS APPRECIATION From Page 1A

Principal Chris Takeshita nominated Ms. Allaf for her dedication to academic rigor and devotion to students. “Patricia is a great person, so engaged with the school, is on our Cadre Team, our ASB, and she was also nominated for the Above and Beyond Badge through the district,” he said. “She greets her students every day with a high five or a fist bump.” He added that research shows greeting students at the door increases engagement and promotes a sense of belonging.

“I think students need to hear three things from teachers: I believe in you. You have a purpose. How are you, really?” Ms. Allaf said.

The L.A. Clippers have long honored teachers and provided community literacy outreach to support reading and create readers through Read to Achieve programs. To learn more: <https://www.nba.com/clippers/community/education.html>.

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