



Alhambra Hospital was among the California hospitals recognized for high performance in maternity care, patient safety, and commitment to safe opioid care.

Alhambra Hospital Medical Center recipient of 2019 Patient Safety Honor Roll

In December, Alhambra Hospital Medical Center was recognized as a recipient of the 2019 Patient Safety Honor Roll by California Health and Human Services Agency Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly and Cal Hospital Compare. Alhambra Hospital was one of the hospitals in California recognized for high performance in maternity care, patient safety, and commitment to safe opioid care.

- 36 hospitals met performance standards in both maternity care and patient safety.
- 134 hospitals met performance standards in maternity care.
- 77 hospitals met performance standards in patient safety.
- 60 hospitals are being recognized for participating in the pilot year of the opioid care honor roll program.

>> see **ALHAMBRA HOSPITAL** Page 12A

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Alhambra launches Love My City campaign

The City of Alhambra is launching the Love My City campaign and inviting residents and visitors to tell us what they love most about our community.

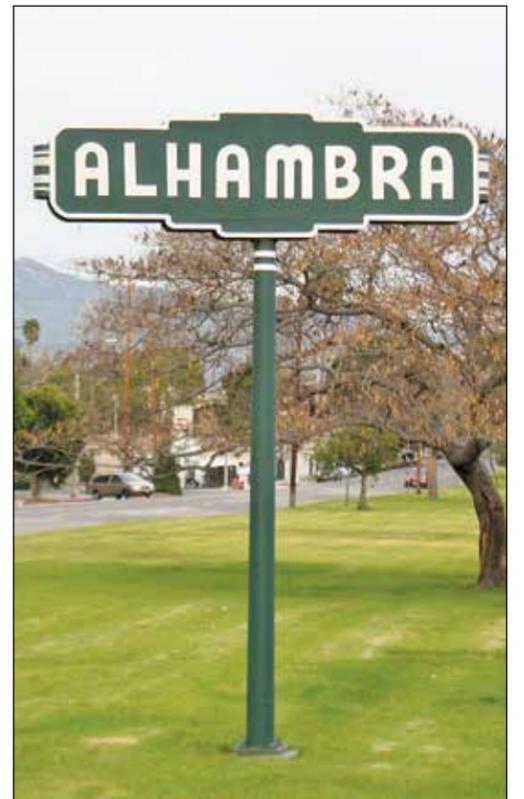
The Love My City campaign is a partnership with the National League of Cities. It aims to spotlight the connection that people feel about the city they live in and the schools they attend or work at. It encourages civic engagement and develops a stronger sense of community trust.

"I'm a long-time resident of Alhambra," said Mayor Ross Maza. "I love our rich culture and our diverse population. Alhambra is a special place to others for different reasons, and we'd love to hear them."

Students in the Alhambra Unified School District were invited to show their love for Alhambra through an art contest.

"K through 12th grade students have submitted drawings that illustrate why they love Alhambra," said Vice-Mayor David Mejia. "Some of the drawings will be displayed at the City Hall lobby in February."

The public can join in on the fun by creating a short video of a minute or less to show why they love Alhambra. They can post the video on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram with the hashtag #LoveAlhambra. The videos may be shared by the city on its social media platforms.



When State Sen. Susan Rubio and her sister, Assemblywoman Blanca Rubio, wanted to learn about the "Jobs for All Abilities" program that LIFT North and East LA Regional Center (ELARC) Paid Internship that helps empower students with disabilities find employment and independence, they visited Frida Pickles Floral Design in San Gabriel. It is owned by Susan Tarka Sanchez and her husband, Juan Luis Sanchez Saldana, who are the parents of 11-year-old Sofia, who is autistic. "Our vision is to train and employ people with special needs — we believe like flowers, people come in all shapes and sizes," said Ms. Sanchez. Telemundo 52's Norma Ribeiro covered the story: <https://www.telemundo52.com/fotosyvideos/programa-busca-emplear-a-jovenes-con-necesidades-especiales/2028646>.

AUSD LIFT North + ELARC Jobs for All Abilities Program wins TV coverage

Only 13% of Californians with developmental disabilities had jobs and only 34% with any disability were employed in 2015, according to latest state data. Califor-

nians with disabilities earned, on average, \$666 a month in 2016.

It was these numbers that brought State Sen. Susan Rubio and her sister, Assemblymember Blan-

>> see **AUSD LIFT NORTH** Page 18A

Mayor's Corner



By Mayor Ross J. Maza

It's amazing how quickly we are into February of 2020 and everything that is already happening around Alhambra. We are full speed into a new decade with so many things to accomplish as a community.

The year started in high spirits with our City of Alhambra Rose Parade Float moving down Colorado Boulevard on Jan. 1 and proudly following our amazing Tri-City Marching Band and the Tournament of Roses President, Laura Farber. The experience of representing our beautiful Alhambra on the City Rose Float was unforgettable for our City Council and something we will forever be proud of and grateful for. A huge "THANK YOU" to all of the volunteers who completed the beautiful float and were a part of the event, as well as the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce and Alhambra Parks and Recs Director Mike Macias and staff. Last but not least, thank you to all of our Alhambra residents who proudly cheered for the float both in person and on TV.

Jan. 21 marked an important day in Alhambra and Los Angeles County as the Homeless Count took place. As we know, the homeless crisis is a major issue, which continues to grow not only in California but the entire nation. Locally, it is important that cities stay a step ahead and

are proactive in addressing this issue. The City of Alhambra along with the Alhambra Police Department has done a great job of being involved and proactive with this situation. It is important that we as a community stay involved in any way we can to keep the situation under control. Thank you to all of the residents who came out and volunteered in the Alhambra Homeless Count Jan. 21. These residents were out on this cold night, physically counting until midnight. Thank you!

February 2020 will kick off a citywide campaign called Why We Love Alhambra. This campaign will be a series of short videos that are meant to highlight the reasons we all love our great city. These will include the people, places, businesses, history, and memories of our city. The campaign will aim to remind us why we are all so proud to be a part of the Alhambra community and at the same time teach us little things we didn't know about our town. It will be exciting to see these come to life. Please be on the lookout.

I would like to remind everyone that preparations for the 2020 census are well on their way. Alhambra has held a number of meetings with census personnel, city residents, Alhambra Unified School District staff, and of course city staff to coordinate plans for a well executed and productive census count. Please remind everyone that you know how vital it is for everyone in our city to be counted. An accurate count will ensure that Alhambra receives the proper funding and resources it is entitled to for every resident within the city. If you would like more information about the 2020 census or would like to be involved in the count, please visit the City of Alhambra webpage at www.cityofalhambra.org and follow the census link. Please remember that everyone must be counted. Helpful volunteers are available in just about every language. The process is simple and painless.

As always, please remember that your Alhambra City Council is available to you for any comments and concerns. Wishing everyone a great February!



The Tiny Eagles Basketball League is for grades one through four.

After-School Sports program needs coaches; sign kids up for sports

There is a need for coaches for the After-School Sports program. Volunteers are needed to coach basketball, flag football, cheerleading, and drill team programs for third through eighth grade kids. If interested in coaching, please contact the Recreation Division Office at 626-570-5080.

Some of the winter programs begin in February. The drill team competitions start Feb. 24. Participants will be able to work on increasing their strength and stamina, learning the basics of marching, and performing drills to music, choreography, showmanship, and team work. See the *Alhambra Leisure Guide* for additional information and registration.

The Tiny Eagles Basketball League is for grades one through four. Practice started

in January, but parents still may be able to register their youngsters. The games and practices will be held Saturday mornings at the Almansor Park Gym. Contact the Recreation Division Office at 626-570-5080 for information and registration.

Teen Basketball begins March 27, and registration begins Feb. 3 for high school students from freshmen through senior year. Sign up early for this one. Games will be played from 5 to 8 p.m. Fridays.

There are nominal fees for all programs that include the cost of a T-shirt when applicable. Get kids in on the fun and introduce them to organized sports at an early age through the programs available at Alhambra's Park and Recreation Department.

Prepare for disasters with CERT



The Alhambra Fire Department will conduct CERT training classes (Community Emergency Response Team), free of charge, for residents of Alhambra from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. beginning March 3 on Tuesdays for six consecutive weeks at the Alhambra Fire Training Facility, 911 S. New Ave. CERT is a community-based

program developed to help residents of the city prepare for disasters and to assist in response within the City of Alhambra following a major earthquake or local disaster.

To register, please contact the Alhambra Fire Department CERT Recruitment at cert@alhambrafire.org.



VISIT THE CHAMBER ONLINE AT alhambrachamber.org



Tuesdays • 11:am to 5:pm

fruit and vegetable farmers • fresh food vendors

parking and entrance off Date Avenue • www.thealhambra.net

Happy New Year and new you

Once again, Planet Fitness was the presenting sponsor of the world-famous New Year countdown at Times Square, New York, “the biggest party on the planet.” Planet Fitness is one of the largest and fastest-growing fitness centers in the United States. In partnership with the Times Square Alliance and Countdown Entertainment, the Judgement Free Zone® hosted the Times Square’s New Year’s Eve celebration for the fifth consecutive year.

Approximately 1 million revelers in Times Square rang in 2020 with festive New Year’s Eve ombré-style party hats complete with purple and yellow decorations — Planet Fitness signature colors. The Planet Fitness party was also featured on “Dick Clark’s New Year’s Rockin’ Eve with Ryan Seacrest 2020” on the ABC Television Network as well as on Times Square’s 2020 webcast throughout the night.

“We couldn’t imagine ringing in the New Year without taking part in Times Square’s legendary New Year’s Eve celebration,” said Chris Rondeau, CEO at Planet Fitness. “Health and wellness is more top of mind for people today than ever before and, as the



In partnership with the Times Square Alliance and Countdown Entertainment, the Judgement Free Zone® hosted the Times Square’s New Year’s Eve celebration for the fifth consecutive year.

leader in affordable, non-intimidating fitness, there’s no better place to start your fitness journey than Planet Fitness. We’ve been rewriting the rules of fitness for nearly 30 years, and we look forward to welcoming everyone into the Judgement Free Zone to tackle their fitness goals — no matter how big or how small — in 2020 and beyond.”

Jeffrey Straus, president of Countdown

Entertainment added, “We were thrilled to welcome Planet Fitness back as the Presenting Sponsor of Times Square New Year’s Eve. Every year, we look forward to seeing Times Square transform into a sea of purple and yellow as we ring in the New Year.”

In addition to its sponsorship, Planet Fitness invited everyone to submit their Confetti Wishes, a heartfelt “wish” for 2020. Each wish

was printed on a piece of confetti that fluttered over Times Square at midnight on New Year’s Eve to become treasured souvenirs. Tim Tompkins, president of the Times Square Alliance noted, “People from around the world tune in to watch the ball drop, and they were greeted by a wave of purple and yellow across Times Square.”

For 2020 fitness goals, Planet Fitness is proud to offer low membership fees starting at just \$10 a month and a variety of benefits, including a hassle-free environment, free fitness instruction with every membership, brand name cardio and strength equipment, fully equipped locker rooms, flat screen televisions, and much more.

The PF Black Card® membership includes additional amenities, such as the ability to bring a guest every day at no additional cost, access to approximately 2,000 Planet Fitness locations, access to massage beds and chairs, and more. To learn more, contact the Alhambra gym at 626- 576-8800. Planet Fitness is fully staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week for the community’s convenience.

find your place



\$10 A MONTH

NO COMMITMENT



the world judges.
we don't.

610 East Valley Blvd • Alhambra, CA 91801

(626) 576-8800

join in person or at planetfitness.com

OPEN
24
SEVEN

Open & Staffed

Must be 18 years old, or 16 with parent/guardian. Home club only. Billed monthly to a checking account. Subject to \$39 annual fee. State/local taxes may apply. Low one time start up fee applies. Offer available at participating locations only. Planet Fitness locations are independently owned and operated. © 2018 PFIP, LLC

AROUND ALHAMBRA  **alhambra CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

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. Articles submitted and printed in Around Alhambra do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce or its Board of Directors. Please e-mail submissions to djenkins@alhambrachamber.org.

For advertising rates and other information, contact

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From left: Engineer Joshua Novella, Firefighter Paramedic Andrew Kreglow, Firefighter Joseph Shiraishi, and Captain Philip Castro.



The crews from Alhambra, San Gabriel, Monterey Park, Arcadia, and Burbank formed a "Strike Team" that would work as a unit for the duration of the emergencies.

Alhambra Fire Department fights fires of summer

As the planet's climate continues to change, forest fires in California have become the new normal. Fortunately the cooperative agreements between individual fire departments in the western United States assure that a united response greets these destructive flames.

On Oct. 24, the Tick Fire broke out north of Santa Clarita. Later that day, Gov. Newsom declared a State of Emergency, which triggered the local, state, and federal response. Alhambra responded to the emergency by dispatching a fire engine and four firefighters, including Engineer Joshua Novella, Firefighter Paramedic Andrew Kreglow, Firefighter Joseph Shiraishi, and Captain Philip Castro. They would be in the field for the next nine days. Captain Castro remembers missing Halloween with his kids.

As the Alhambra crew rushed northward along the 5 freeway, they were met by units from Burbank, Monterey Park, San Gabriel, and Arcadia. The crews from these cities formed a "Strike Team" that would work as a unit for the duration of the emergency.

Upon arrival at the fire, the Strike Team was assigned to "structure protection." They were dispatched to a cul-de-sac, and each crew became responsible for an individual house. "The fire pushed us out of the backyard, but we were able to go back and protect the houses with no losses," Captain Castro said. That night the crews slept in their trucks.

Their stay in Santa Clarita was short lived because an even bigger fire, whipped up by strong winds, was raging in Sonoma County, the Kincade Fire. It turned out to be the largest fire in California in 2019, burning over 77,000 acres. The Strike Team was reassigned to the north and arrived at their base camp in the Sonoma County Fair grounds. A "city" had grown up overnight where firefighters could eat, sleep, do laundry, and learn the latest news of the fire. Evacuees from the fires were also housed there.

The Strike Team was assigned to the city of Calistoga,

just inside Napa Valley. Most of the fire fighting resources were directed to the hills surrounding the fire. The Strike Team was the first to arrive to protect the city itself. The residents cheered as the engines rolled into town. Another Strike Team also arrived, and they took turns with a 24 hours on and 24 hours off cycle. Fire fighting efforts were hampered by strong winds and power outages. Most of their effort was in putting out dangerous hot spots that might flare up in the winds.

The Kincade fire was largely contained by Oct. 31, and the Strike Team was rerouted once again, this time to the Maria Fire in Ventura County. Again, the five-city team worked to prevent renewed breakouts of fires by extinguishing hot spots and embers while keeping a vigilant watch on their assigned territory. Sometimes the fire spread to the unseen roots of trees only to reemerge elsewhere. These root fires were given special attention.

When, after nine days on the fire lines, the Alhambra firefighters returned to Station 71, other shifts were there to meet them and help them clean up and reorganize their engine's equipment so that the returning men could finally go home to their families.



Hitting the hot spots.

Rotary 

THE ROTARY CLUB OF ALHAMBRA
What is Rotary?

A fellowship of business, professional, and Community leaders who:

- ❖ Provide service to others
- ❖ Promote Integrity
- ❖ Advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace

What Do We Do?

Support the AUSD: Tim Siu Scholarship, Teacher Mini Grants, Sponsor High School Service Clubs

Support our underprivileged community: Thanksgiving Food Baskets, APD Hygiene Kits for the Homeless, Holiday Wish List Shopping for Kids

Work with local and international non-profits: Raise Money for Children's Hospital, Send Crutches to Africa and Wheelchairs to Mexico, Eradicate Polio

Please join us for lunch Tuesdays

ROTARIAN OF THE MONTH



Each month, we highlight a Rotarian that exemplifies our values. Our February exemplary Rotarian is **Mark Paulson**, Residential & Commercial Realtor at **Anthony Venti Realtors, Inc.**

As our club's Charities Board Treasurer, Mark has the daunting task of ensuring that we secure the funding necessary to continue supporting all of our charitable projects. Projects that include but that are not limited to; our annual Tim Siu Scholarship where we award AUSD HS students scholarships for college, our Holiday luncheon where we host Alhambra senior citizens over lunch and even our project where we helped supply an Ambulance & Vaccine Transport boat in Ghana.

Mark, our club thanks you for being a wonderful mentor to our newer Rotarians, an inspiration to our community and for embodying our motto of **SERVICE ABOVE SELF.**

For more info reach us at AlhambraRotaryClub@gmail.com

HALL FOR RENT



American Legion Post #139
24 N. Stoneman Ave., Alhambra

Kitchen facilities available. Weddings, birthdays and other occasions.

- Reasonable rates
- Includes security, tables, chairs and cleanup
- Kitchen facilities available at a small fee

Call (626) 576-9584 or (626) 458-2723

Library offers full calendar of events

Library events for February start right away Saturday, Feb. 1, when the Mo Williams Story Party for kids starts the month off right. From 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Reese Hall, be prepared to celebrate "Take Your Child to the Library Day" with a morning of all things Mo: stories activities, elephants, pigs, and pigeons. No registration is required, but please note space and craft supplies are limited.

At noon Monday, Feb. 3, join the library for Documentary Lunch in Reese Hall for a free screening of the documentary film *Geronimo and the Apache Resistance*. This film is a search for an understanding of the people who once lived in the American Southwest.

From 10:30 a.m. to noon every Tuesday, practice language skills with the English-Mandarin Conversation Club 中英对话小组 in the Conference Room (second floor). Come to talk and have fun. If looking for a relaxed place to practice English or Mandarin Chinese, or for those who are native English speakers or Mandarin speakers who enjoy interacting with language learners, then the English-Mandarin Conversation Club is the place to be. No application or registration is required.

The Coloring Book Club is from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5, in the second floor Reference Lounge. Coloring isn't just for kids anymore. Enjoy the latest hobby to help de-stress from a busy world. This program is free. All materials are provided by the library.

On the first Thursday of each month, the Senior Game Club meets to play cards and chess and meet new friends. There are Chinese chess, checkers, Go, Poker, and Mahjong to enjoy. The club meets between 10 a.m. to noon in the Conference Room.



On Saturday, Feb. 8, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in Reese Hall, experience Face Changing & Opera Performance, 变脸&京剧表演.

On Saturday, Feb. 8, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in Reese Hall, experience Face Changing & Opera Performance, 变脸&京剧表演. Enjoy a presentation of the ancient Chinese dramatic art, music, vocal performance, mime, and dance. Performers wear opera costumes and vividly colored masks. They change from one face to another almost instantaneously with the swipe of a fan, a movement of the head, or wave of the hand. Free snacks will be provided.

All of these activities take place in the first week of February alone and the library is only just getting started. Even though there are only 29 days in the month, it is chock full of things to do, to learn, and to experience. Check out the online Alhambra Library Calendar to see all that is offered.

Body found near Almansor Golf Course

On Friday, Jan. 17, Alhambra police officers were alerted to the discovery of a woman lying on the ground at the end of an access road in the Almansor Park and Golf Course complex. The call came in at 12:30 p.m., and police responded immediately.

The responding officers discovered the body of an elderly Asian woman, later identified as 71-year-old Shu Lan Chao of San Gabriel, along a flood control channel. She was pronounced dead at the scene, according to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, who assisted

in the investigation. Aerial video showed the woman's partially clothed body near the Almansor Golf Course and Alhambra wash. Police secured the area where the body was found and searched for clues, as people went about their business nearby. There was no indication of foul play.

The cause of death is unknown. Ms. Chao was dealing with dementia, which may have been a factor in her disappearance and death. It had rained the night before she was found, and investigators believe she might have fallen victim to the weather.

BATTLE OF THE BADGES

Helping save lives on and off the job.

Alhambra Police Department "Battle of Badges" Blood Drive

Held in the Briefing Room
211 S First Street
Alhambra, CA 91801

Wednesday, February 26, 2020 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

To schedule an appointment please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code: Badge, or for more info please email Nicole Haywood at nhaywood@alhambrapd.org

Giveaway: Battle of the Badges t-shirt

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

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Clerks •Performs clerical office duties as assigned.	\$19.00 per hour

Apply online
www.2020census.gov/jobs
1-855-562-2020

Basic Qualifications

- ✓ Must have valid email address
- ✓ U.S. Citizenship required
- ✓ Must be 18 years of age or older.

The U.S. Census Bureau is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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For more information:
2020CENSUS.GOV

Federal Relay Service
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www.gsa.gov/fedrelay

Shape your future
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CITY OF ALHAMBRA CRIME REPORT

The following crimes were reported to the Alhambra Police Department in November. The areas of occurrence are listed to the nearest block—not exact addresses. By publishing these reports, it is hoped Alhambra residents will take the necessary measures to ensure their individual safety, as well as the safety of their property. Neighborhood Watch Works! To join Neighborhood Watch, or for more crime prevention information and safety tips, contact the Alhambra Police Department Crime Prevention Office at 626-570-5177.

District One	700 W. Valley	District Three	1600 W. Sarazen
Burglary (2)	800 E. Valley	Burglary (3)	Theft/Burglary from Vehicle (15)
100 N. Atlantic	900 E. Valley	2500 W. Birch	1200 W. Shorb
400 N. Chapel	Theft/Burglary from Vehicle (16)	300 N. Curtis	2800 W. Shorb
Theft/Burglary from Vehicle (23)	1500 S. Second	800 S. Westmont	2900 W. Shorb
00 N. First (X6)	1400 S. Seventh	Theft/Burglary from Vehicle (11)	1300 S. Edgewood
00 S. First (X4)	700 S. Almansor	500 S. Marengo	1600 S. Edgewood (X2)
100 N. Fourth	800 S. Almansor (X5)	1800 W. Pepper	2900 W. Park View
300 E. Main	900 S. Almansor	Orange/ Date	Cabrillo/ Valley
400 E. Main	Los Higos/Almansor	900 S. Fremont (X2)	2400 S. Avondale
100 N. Chapel	500 E. Los Higos	2500 W. Grand	3200 W. Ramona
200 E. Commonwealth	1000 S. El Molino	800 N. Bushnell	1200 S. Atlantic
700 N. Hidalgo	400 E. Corto	1300 W. Main (X2)	1000 S. Curtis
Grand Theft Auto (1)	900 S. New	2200 W. Commonwealth	2400 S. Capetown (X2)
Fourth/ Main	1400 S. New	2300 W. Commonwealth	2500 Las Flores
Robbery (2)	600 E. Valley	Grand Theft Auto (4)	Grand Theft Auto (6)
00 N. Almansor	700 E. Valley (X2)	1100 W. Main	2700 W. Valley
300 S. Atlantic	1000 E. Valley	1800 W. Main	3000 W. Valley
	1300 E. Valley (X2)	800 N. Atlantic	1800 S. Date
	1400 E. Valley	600 S. Fremont	1000 S. Atlantic
District Two	700 W. Valley		2000 S. Olive
Burglary (9)	Grand Theft Auto (2)	District Four	2100 S. Curtis
800 S. Sixth	900 S. Atlantic	Burglary (7)	Robbery (2)
2000 S. Ninth	900 W. Shorb	2800 W. Parkview	Olive/ Hellman
1000 S. Almansor	Robbery (2)	2100 S. Westboro	1200 W. Hellman
1100 S. Almansor	00 W. Valley (X2)	1000 S. Edith	
1000 S. Cordova		1600 S. Campbell	
600 E. Violeta		2000 S. Campbell (X2)	



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



B to B

Wednesday, February 12, 2020
8:30 – 9:30 am
Cost: Free (coffee & pastries)

Hosted by:
CoKreate
1019 E. Main St., Unit B, Alhambra 91801

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



CoKreate provides services on 3D Scanning, 3D printing, and 3D digital designing. They create replicas and miniature figurines as souvenir, cake toppers, and memorabilia. Come see live 3D scanning demonstration, and see 3D printers in actions.

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

Upcoming B to B
Wednesday, March 11
Hosted by Alhambra Chamber Ambassadors

Tax Tips

Californians must have health insurance or face penalty

The Affordable Care Act, or “Obama Care” as so many people have nicknamed it, mandated that everyone must have health insurance. And if you did not have health insurance, you would pay a penalty on your Federal Tax Return.

President Trump signed the “Tax Cuts and Jobs Act” during December 2017. The act removed the individual mandate penalty. Which means if you don’t have health insurance, you will not get a penalty on your Federal Tax Return.

Are you ready for the drumroll ... ?

Guess what law California passed?

California enacted their own version of the Affordable Care Act.

Starting in the year 2020, California residents must have health insurance. And if you do not have health insurance, you will receive a penalty on your California Tax Return.

“The individual mandate tax penalty will be reinstated, which means Californians who choose not to buy qualified health insurance will face a penalty of either \$695 per adult (\$347.50 per child) or 2.5% of their annual income. A typical family of four that goes uninsured for the whole year would face a penalty of at least \$2,000.”

Basically, in a nutshell, California copied the Affordable Care Act’s individual mandate penalty.

So, if you didn’t have health insurance as of Jan. 1, 2020:



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@alhambrataxcenter.com. To view previous topics, read his blogs at www.alhambrataxcenter.com.

- Federal Tax Return = no penalty;
- California Tax Return = penalty.

If you would like more information about this, contact your tax professional, local health insurance representative, Covered California, or the Franchise Tax Board at ftb.ca.gov.



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Margie and Albert Lew.

1944 50 cent coin brings memories of WWII

By JEWELYN CO

How much is a half dollar coin really worth? In 1794, when the first half dollars were produced as silver half dollar coins, 40% silver in 1965, and in 1971 until the present day made into copper-nickel clad half dollars, they were valued as half dollar currency. To some coin collectors, the value of half dollars or 50 cent coins are worth more as the years pass and the currency value increases. To the late Albert Lew, Alhambra resident from 2011 to 2015, a 1944 half dollar silver coin was more than just a currency coin, it served as a precious treasure and a good luck charm to him.



50 cent coin bezel with chain.

Albert, at the age of 18, served in the U.S. Navy from 1942 to 1948 and made the Navy his home. He was on the USS Raleigh and was then assigned to a hospital ship, the USS Bountiful, where he spent the rest of his service. With unforgettable experiences in the heavy battle zones and painful separation from his family during World War II, the half dollar coin was a reminder of those memories to Albert.



Albert Lew in his Navy uniform.

In 1944, Albert served in standing duty during the battles of Iwo Jima, Saipan, Leyte, Okinawa, and Pelieu. As a coin collector, he found one 50 cent 1944 coin that he kept because it was the year he met his wife, Margie, and it served as a good luck charm during his service in the war. "Al has always felt that he was fortunate to survive the war years and return to civilian life in good health," Margie said.

In March 2011, Albert and Margie brought the coin to the Alhambra Coin Center to have the coin encased in a bezel to be worn on a chain. He shared his story and reasons of why this coin was very important to him to the Alhambra Coin Center employee. Touched by his story, the employee did more than they had expected. The coin had been bezel polished with the coin encased. The employee presented the coin to Al and expressed her gratitude with, "Thank you for your service, and this is our gift to you!"

"Albert and I stood outside the store on the sidewalk for almost five minutes trying to control our emotions. It was such a beautiful gesture from their staff," Margie said.

Margie and Albert were married for almost 70 years. They were blessed with two children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. When Albert passed, Margie kept the coin as her valued treasure as a memory from the years spent with her late husband. Today, in Al's memory, Margie wears the pendant on the special days of Al's birthday Jan. 16, Valentine's Day, their anniversary on Sept. 14, Veterans Day, and on the most memorable day, March 30, the day he met "the love of his life."



Chamber Mixer

The American Legion Post 139, 24 N. Stoneman, Alhambra, hosts the January Chamber Mixer Jan. 22. Alhambra's Post 139 has served the community since 1927 in sponsoring countless Veterans Day and Memorial Day events. Post 139 is open every day for veterans as their home to share with those who understand their experiences. 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. From left are Liz Garcia, Edgar Garcia Mora, Suzi Dunkel-Soto, Cindy Gomez, Chamber CEO Sharon Gibbs, City of Alhambra Vice Mayor David Mejia, Eddie Garcia, and Chamber Ambassadors Sam Yue and Cindy Ho.

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3rd Wednesday quarterly
Alhambra Chamber of Commerce
104 S. First St, Alhambra, CA 91801

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Noon to 1:30 pm

Joanna Vargas

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New Member Spotlight -



FF Gomez produced the front loader, in back, and the scout truck.



Louis, Francisco, and Jorge Gomez

Welcome FF Gomez to the Chamber of Commerce

By GLENN BARNETT

Alhambra residents Francisco, Jorge, and Louis Gomez are family members who own and operate FF Gomez, Inc., at 12301 Wardman St., Whittier. Francisco moved his family to Alhambra when his sons Louis and Jorge were still young. They graduated from Baldwin School and Alhambra High School. The two boys and their sister had a great Alhambra childhood, learning to swim at the pool in Story Park, attending Camp Ta Ta Pochon, and playing sports at Almanson Park. The Gomez boys played baseball at Alhambra High School under Coach Hall and Gewecke

FF Gomez, Inc., was founded by Francisco, who with just a sixth grade education and some training as a welder, moved from Mexico to the United States. He worked as a welder for a company that manufactured trash collecting trucks. Starting as a \$2.50 an hour welder, he worked his way up to become a lead foreman. Along the way he developed a skill for hydraulic engineering.

When the company moved its manufacturing to Mexico, Francisco remained in L.A. putting his skills to work for another

manufacturer of trash trucks. In 1998, he bought out that business and renamed it FF Gomez, Inc.

Today, Francisco works alongside his two sons to run the family owned company. They specialize in serving the waste collection and recycling industry. Specifically, they build truck bodies to order for waste management companies. Customer satisfaction has led to repeat business. The Gómez family continues to play a hands-on management role in the day-to-day operations.

Rarely will you see them in the office. They are out in the field working with customers and coordinating with their employees to ensure production to required specifications. FF Gomez manufactures over 85% of their truck bodies in-house, including the all-important hydraulic cylinders. They offer state-of-the-art technology and invest in innovative engineering. By attention to detail, the company has been able to enhance production quality.

The Chamber of Commerce is proud to welcome FF Gomez and the Gómez family as new members.



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

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

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Educational Consultant
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626-457-9114
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Thank You!

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



Between Raymond, Peter, and Michael (in picture), they have 90 years of tax preparation experience.

Alhambra Tax Center: 50 years of doing business in Alhambra

BY GLENN BARNETT

The story of Alhambra Tax Center is that of post-World War II in Alhambra. Raymond Aston, an immigrant from Great Britain, introduced flexible aluminum conduit for electrical wiring to the United States. The conduit was manufactured at a plant on Date Street and Orange Avenue in Alhambra. The very first house built in the United States with aluminum flexible conduit was on North Fifth Street in Alhambra. Before his introduction of aluminum, the conduit was made with more expensive steel. Mr. Aston eventually sold the company and moved on.

After selling the conduit business, he started Alhambra Tax Center in 1970 with his wife Jean. It was located next to the old El Rey Theater at Fourth and Main Street, which is now the site of Denny's. In the early '70s, he started a free tax service for seniors, first at the Alhambra Library and then at the Joslyn Center. The idea caught on, and today these services are provided by AARP. Due to the redevelopment of downtown (and the Whittier earthquake), Raymond moved the office to the current location at 1009 E. Main, across the street from Bun & Burger.

During 50 years of tax preparation, Alhambra Tax Center has done tax returns for a Nobel Prize winner, a million dollar Lottery winner, professional baseball players, an award winning screen writer, and an award winning music group. They have done many types of tax returns, including individual, business, and trust. Alhambra Tax Center was one of the first e-filers (Rapid Refund) with the IRS.

Today you will be greeted by Jean at the front desk, the heart of the business, and there will be an occasional visit by Raymond. The tax returns are completed by two of their three sons, Peter and Michael. The boys grew up in Alhambra and attended Park Elementary and Alhambra High School. Michael kept his roots in Alhambra, with his two children attending Emery Park Elementary School.

Between Raymond, Peter, and Michael, they have 90 years of tax preparation experience. You can reach Alhambra Tax Center at 626-282-1084, or make an appointment this tax season through their website at <http://www.alhambrataxcenter.com/>

Don't miss Michael's monthly Tax Tips column in *Around Alhambra*.

Lunch & Learn



Development Specialist Chris Lopez, from the Los Angeles Development Authority, presented "Smart Funding — Los Angeles County Business Loan" at the Chamber's Lunch & Learn Jan. 15. The Los Angeles County Development Authority provides loans up to \$2 million that are customizable for business needs. The LACDA is open to financing a variety of business types, which may range from small mom & pop operations to complex manufacturers. Lunch & Learn is held from noon to 1:30 p.m. the third Wednesday of the month at the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce, 104 S. First St.



Talbot Insurance Agency Inc. State Farm Insurance Regina Talbot, Agent, 626-357-3401 Insurance License #: 0G05807

Demystifying car insurance policies, types, terms

Most states require drivers to have auto insurance — but how do you know if you're getting the right type of policy for your needs?

First, fulfill your state's and lender's minimum requirements. In California, the minimum liability requirement is \$15,000/\$30,000 for Bodily Injury and \$5,000 for Property Damage.

The next step is becoming familiar with non-required types of insurance and what each one covers, as well as what is meant by some commonly seen insurance terms.

Know these insurance terms

- Bodily Injury Liability covers injuries, lost wages, pain and suffering, and other damage you might cause to other drivers, passengers, and/or pedestrians.

- Rental Reimbursement may pay for a rental vehicle if your car is not drivable after a crash.

- Collision may provide coverage for damage inflicted to your vehicle after a rollover or crash with another car or object. This coverage typically requires a deductible.

- Comprehensive provides coverage for damage to your vehicle after a non-vehicle or non-rollover incident, such as theft or weather damage. This coverage typically requires a deductible.

- Emergency Road Service may cover expenses related to a breakdown, including

towing and locksmith services.

- Medical Payments and Personal Injury Protection may offer compensation for medical expenses, lost wages, and even funerals if you or other covered persons are injured in a vehicle-related crash.

- Property Damage Liability may cover damage you cause to another individual's property while driving. This also covers court costs and legal expenses.

- Uninsured or Underinsured Motorist Coverage may provide reimbursement if you're involved in a crash with a driver who doesn't have sufficient liability insurance — or any at all.

Learn these basic terms

- Premium: Payment you make to your insurance company for your policy.

- Deductible: The amount you pay before your insurance company may pay the rest, up to any policy limits that apply. Higher deductibles equal lower premiums; conversely, lower deductibles equal higher premiums.

- Covered Persons: Policies generally cover the policyholder, their spouse, other relatives living in the home, and individuals driving the policyholder's vehicle with their permission.

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



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Artist Michael Dergar receives award

Michael Dergar, Impressionist artist and CEO of the Academy of Special Dreams, received the Golden Award Andres Henestrosa, the highest recognition in Oaxaca, Mexico, for his mission of inclusion and financial contribution to support children facing stages one and four cancer in Oaxaca. The award was presented by Oaxaca Mexico Delegation and the National Broadcasters of Mexico.

"I want to thank all my friends and supporters from the academy but in particular Lic. Isela Sédano, Emanuel Reyes, and my dear family in Oaxaca, artist Maru Pombo and Dr. Sergio Andres Bello Guerra.

Mr. Dergar creates colorful rhythmic patterns in his art through the use of textures and colors. "While I am painting, my textures, colors, and designs awaken another part of me that connects me with another world where time does not exist," he said. His artwork can be seen in galleries internationally.

After his childhood in Mazatlan, Mexico, and his formative years in California, Mr. Dergar discovered his passion to help artists with disabilities by creating the Academy of Special Dreams Foundation, which brings public



Michael Dergar, Impressionist artist and CEO of the Academy of Special Dreams, receives the Golden Award Andres Henestrosa.

awareness and recognition to artists with disabilities. He lives and works mainly in the Pasadena area.

"I paint to help," Mr. Dergar said. "If I can make a difference with my talent, I will definitely use it to bring people together. Art has no borders, no nations, no language, no race. Art is universal!"



Cal State LA President William A. Covino, far right, accepted the award from the Campaign for College Opportunity at an event with alumni and students. (Credit: Cal State LA)

Cal State LA recognized as champion for transfer students

Cal State LA has once again been recognized for its exemplary efforts in enrolling and supporting transfer students.

The university was among 15 colleges and universities in California recognized by the Campaign for College Opportunity as 2019 Champions of Higher Education for Excellence in Transfer. The institutions included 12 community colleges and three California State University campuses.

This is the second consecutive year Cal State LA has received the recognition, which honors colleges and universities that have increased the number of students earning an Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT), enrolling those students at a CSU with junior status, and graduating them with bachelor's degrees.

An Associate Degree for Transfer, sometimes called a "Degree with a Guarantee," is a special degree offered at all California Community Colleges that guarantees transfer to many four-year universities in the state, including CSU.

The goal of the partnership is to provide a clear pathway for students to transfer under the same program of study as their ADT to

ensure timely and cost-effective completion of their bachelor's degree program.

Of Cal State LA's nearly 3,000 transfer students in fall 2018, 28% were ADT students on a guaranteed pathway in their program of study, according to the Campaign for College Opportunity.

"Having the structure of the ADT program not only helped me save money, but it gave me peace of mind and made me feel like I have accomplished a significant step toward earning my bachelor's degree," said Leily Sanchez, a Cal State LA transfer student majoring in business administration with an option in marketing. She expects to graduate in spring 2020.

Cal State LA Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Jose A. Gomez praised the efforts of ADT students and their contributions to the university.

The colleges and universities were recognized in November, along with California Secretary of State Alex Padilla, at an event celebrating the Campaign for College Opportunity's 15th anniversary. Cal State LA President William A. Covino accepted the award on behalf of the university.

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Alhambra Rotary to award teacher mini-grants

Applications for the Rotary Club of Alhambra'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 ranging from \$50 to \$200 to teachers in the Alhambra School District for enriching classroom projects in kindergarten through 12th grade.

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 29th year," said Chairman Dr. David Snyder. "The Rotary Club of Alhambra has donated more than \$215,000 to this project."

Grants will be presented to the individual teachers at a school board meeting Tuesday, Feb. 4.

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, contact Dr. Snyder at 626-282-8493.



Serenity Cervantes works on her Girl Scout Gold Award project at the Alhambra Historical Society.

Senior Girl Scout works toward Gold Award

Serenity Cervantes, a Senior Girl Scout from Alhambra/Monterey Park Troop 4671 and a sophomore at Alhambra High School, has been working on her Girl Scout Gold Award project at the Alhambra Historical Society and Museum under the direction of museum President Rose Marie Turney-Markus. “As a history lover, I found a project that I could be passionate about,” Serenity said. “When I set out to help the Historical Society with the many mounds of historical document files that needed research, I never imagined how wonderful it would be to have a project that would also allow me to learn about the history of Alhambra and the people and events that played an important role in our city’s history.”

The Alhambra Historical Society’s historical documents, artifacts, and photos are housed in 11 rooms with over 150 years of information. “With over 100 hours of research, Serenity has completed working

on document files that pertain to the history of our city, schools, and churches,” Ms. Turney-Markus said. “She has implemented a new document filing system and created a guidebook that will enhance the preservation of the city’s historical document files for many years to come. For this we are very grateful.”

“By learning about the history of our city’s humble beginnings and the people who built it to be the Gateway to the San Gabriel Valley, we can only learn to appreciate the necessity to continue to preserve our city’s rich heritage and landmarks by taking a look through the historical resources housed at the Alhambra Historical Society and Museum,” Serenity said. “My project helped me realize that I could definitely be of service to my community. I encourage other youth to do the same.”

Serenity looks forward to completing high school and attending a four-year college to major in educational psychology.

Academy of Special Dreams brings happiness, encouragement

The Academy of Special Dreams sponsored its first fundraiser for a residential group home in Mazatlán that treats depression and drug addiction for at-risk young men. The academy wanted to reinforce a message of hope to these young men that they can have productive lives.

The academy also provided a warm meal, music, and Christmas gifts to home-bound seniors residing in a communal center in the small town of Escuinapa. Most of the seniors have no family or relatives who visit them.

For another event, the academy treated 250 kids living in a very low income fishing town on the outskirts of Mazatlán to a posada with food, refreshments, games, and toys. “It was a pleasure to bring happiness and joy to these children during this holiday season,” said Mr. Dergar. “We hope you can keep supporting our mission of hope, compassion, and inclusion.”



“We begin the New Year 2020 offering hope and planting the seeds of inclusion and compassion in Mexico,” said Michael Dergar, CEO of The Academy of Special Dreams.

Nation’s largest dairy renewable natural gas producer announces expansion of California facility

Growing supplies of renewable natural gas key to reducing emissions from trucks and buildings

Experts estimate that 4,450 trillion btus of renewable natural gas will be available by 2040, about 90% of the nation’s current natural gas consumption

Calgren Dairy Fuels and Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas) announced that four additional Central Valley dairies have started send-



ing methane produced from cow manure to Calgren’s biogas operation in Pixley, where it is processed into high-quality, renewable natural gas (RNG) and injected into SoCalGas’ system. The Calgren facility now collects methane—a potent greenhouse gas that would otherwise escape to the atmosphere and contribute to climate change—from more than 66,000 cows at 10 area dairy farms. The additional dairies are projected to nearly double the amount of RNG produced at the facility, further reducing greenhouse gas emissions and displacing more traditional natural gas. Calgren partnered with Maas Energy Works to develop these four new dairy digesters as well as the previous six dairy digesters that have been operating since 2018.

Renewable natural gas can rapidly cut greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) because it takes more climate pollution out of the air than it emits as an energy source. The RNG produced at Calgren’s facility today is used as a carbon-negative fuel for heavy-duty vehicles like transit buses and long-haul trucks. RNG can also be delivered to customers to generate clean electricity and heat homes and businesses. Last year, SoCalGas committed to delivering 20% of the natural gas it buys for homes and businesses from renewable sources by 2030.

More than 80% of all methane emissions in California come from organic sources like wastewater treatment plants, landfills, food and green waste, and farms. In California, a 2016 law requires a 40% reduction of methane emissions from waste sources such as landfills and dairies,

with provisions to deliver that energy to customers.

RNG is already helping eliminate emissions from trucks and buses.

Over the last five years,

RNG use as a transportation fuel has increased 577%, helping displace over seven million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (how GHG emissions are measured). That’s equal to the emissions from more than a million homes’ electricity use for one year.

Research shows that replacing about 20% of California’s traditional natural gas supply with RNG would lower emissions equal to retrofitting every building in the state to run on electric only energy and at a fraction of the cost. Using RNG in buildings can be two to three times less expensive than any all-electric strategy and does not require families or businesses to purchase new appliances or take on costly construction projects.

SoCalGas is also working to build on RNG’s success in the transportation sector here by making it available to fuel the homes of the company’s 21 million customers across Southern California. Earlier this year, SoCalGas’ committed to replace 20% of its traditional natural gas supply with renewable natural gas (RNG) by 2030 as part of a broad, inclusive, and integrated plan to help achieve California’s ambitious climate goals.

To kickstart the plan, SoCalGas is pursuing regulatory authority to implement a broad renewable natural gas procurement program with a goal of replacing 5% of its natural gas supply with RNG by 2022. SoCalGas also recently filed a request with the CPUC to allow customers to purchase renewable natural gas for their homes.

For more information on SoCalGas vision for California’s clean energy future, visit www.socalgas.com/vision.

Deputy District Attorney Emily Cole to speak at Rotary meeting

Deputy District Attorney Emily Cole will present a talk on “Child Sexual Abuse & Assault” at noon Tuesday, Feb. 18, at the Rotary Club of Alhambra luncheon meeting. The meeting will be held at Almanson Court, 700 S. Almanson St., Alhambra. The public is invited.

Ms. Cole, who works in the sex crimes division, will discuss the statistics of victims of sex crimes and will describe what some of the profiles are for victims and perpetrators.

She will also provide information about the grooming technique that perpetrators use as well as the Child Sexual Assault Accommodation Syndrome that victims tend to develop in response to ongoing abuse. She will explain how to protect children and what to do if there is any suspicion that an assault has occurred.

The cost of the meeting is \$20 to defray the cost of lunch. To make a reservation, contact Edgar Garcia at 323-491-5635.

Housing Happy Hour brings Alhambra Community together

Earlier this month, Vino's filled with over 50 community members from across Alhambra and the San Gabriel Valley for a "Housing Happy Hour."

Hosted by Abundant Housing L.A. with the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce and California YIMBY, this Happy Hour brought together neighbors and local leaders around the mission of addressing Alhambra's housing needs.

Speaking to a full crowd gathered at Vino's Back Alley, representatives from Abundant Housing L.A. and Alhambra's Chamber of Commerce discussed the economic consequences of the ongoing housing shortage and the importance of creating more housing in Alhambra to support its future.

With a short program and a great menu on tap at Vino's, supporters of housing mixed and mingled throughout the evening. Attendees included a representative from American Family Housing, the developer selected to build low income and supportive housing for the City of Alhambra, and team members with The Villages at The Alhambra and The Ratkovich Company, a local housing proposal supported by Abundant Housing L.A. that would bring 1,061 new housing units with a dedicated component of affordable housing.

There wasn't a Housing Happy Hour dress code, but small green stickers reading "We (heart) housing" could be seen on almost everyone in the room.



Ramona Convent Secondary School alumnae reunite every year for an athletic competition.

Ramona Convent Secondary School hosts 'Gold and White Reunite' athletic competition

Ramona Convent welcomed alumnae from across the decades to participate in Gold and White Reunite, an annual athletic competition between the varsity soccer and basketball teams against alumnae. Sunny but brisk weather made an enjoyable afternoon for athletes and spectators alike on the soccer field.

Varsity scored two goals in the first half and held on to the lead for most of the second half. In quick succession, the alumnae scored three goals and won the match 3-2. After a quick lunch from a local taco truck, the basketball game began. It was another exciting game, and the lead changed several times but again the alumnae prevailed 27-24. All athletes, alumnae, family, and

friends had a fantastic time.

Ramona alumnae provide a strong network of support for Ramona students. Every month, students look forward to an Alumnae Speaker Series, Ramona Goes to Work, where an alumna shares her post-Ramona journey through college and on to her professional life.

Ramona is a welcoming Catholic college-prep high school for girls in grades nine through 12. 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 130 years of excellence.



There will be something for everyone at the 29th annual Lunar New Year Festival Feb. 1.

Lunar New Year Festival to usher in Year of the Rat Feb. 1

The 29th Alhambra Chinese New Year Celebration and Carnival ushering in the Year of the Rat will be held from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1. It will take place on Valley Boulevard between Almansor and Vega.

People who are born in the 12-year cycle of the Chinese zodiac take up the personalities of the designated animal, albeit there is an imaginary one, the dragon. Rat ranks first in this cycle and is believed to be full of spirit, wit, flexibility, agility, resilience, and vitality.

The community is invited to partici-

pate in this festival, sponsored by KAZN AM1300/KMRB AM1430 and the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce. There will be impressive stage shows, great food, surprise offerings from diverse vendors, activities, a petting zoo for children, unique Chinese cultural immersions, and close encounters with Chinese radio KAZN AM1300/KMRB AM1430 and TV stars from SINO TV 44.2. There will also be prancing lion dancers, mind bending Chinese board games, on-site calligraphy and brush paintings, fun activities for kids, and surprises for the whole family.

ALHAMBRA HOSPITAL From Page 1A

"Improving the quality of patient care in hospitals is critically important," said Dr. Ghaly. "These annual measurements through Cal Hospital Compare allow us to acknowledge hospitals doing excellent work and also inform hospitals when improvement is needed."

"Cal Hospital Compare is proud to contribute to the statewide effort to improve quality in the hospital setting by providing a roadmap and way to evaluate performance for hospitals in the important areas of maternity, patient safety, and opioid care and show where improvement is needed," said Bruce Spurlock, MD, the executive director of Cal Hospital Compare. "We invite all California hospitals to use these honor rolls as a tool to evaluate and benchmark performance against other hospitals."




29th Annual Alhambra Lunar New Year Celebration

FEB. 1ST 2020 SATURDAY 10AM - 7PM

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The Carmelites help out in the photo booth at last year's auction.

Saint Therese Carmelite School to hold Benefit Auction Feb. 21

Saint Therese Carmelite School (STCS), which has served the Alhambra community since 1926, will hold its annual Little Way Dinner and Benefit Auction at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21, at the recently renovated Almanson Court, 700 S. Almanson St. The proceeds will go toward educational programs and the scholarship fund. Whether involved with the school or not, everyone is invited to this event in support of the students and to grow new relationships in the Alhambra community.

The night will begin in the Palm Court with happy hour and a chance to browse some highly coveted silent auction items while being serenaded by live musicians. Attendees can try their luck at the annual Winter Raffle Drawing for a cash prize. Travel through the scenic Greenhouse to have a photo snapped before entering the Lakeview Room for the evening's program. Savor a gourmet three-course dinner followed by a live auction with professional auctioneer. There will be bidding on many items, such as an authentic, signed Lladro; dinner for 12 hosted by the Carmelite Friars; A night on the town including tickets to *Hamilton*; and a romantic Hawaiian vacation. The night will continue with live music from Modern Cocktail Society, who has performed for a long list of celebrity clients, including Clint Eastwood, Kim Kar-

dashian, and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, as well as big name corporate clients, such as Mattel, Warner Brothers, and the Getty Museum.

Tickets are \$95 per person if purchased by Feb. 12 or \$125 after Feb. 12. Consider supporting the school through a table sponsorship. 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.

Saint Therese Carmelite School serves students in TK through eighth grade. The school educates students through the Catholic classical model to equip them with the logic, critical thinking, and language skills necessary to succeed throughout their lives. As an alternative to Common Core, this model is developmentally appropriate and aims to provide well-rounded education, including classic literature, mathematics up to Euclidean geometry, sciences, Catholic catechesis, Latin, music, art, and P.E. Recent graduates of STCS have been accepted to all area Catholic high schools. Above all, the school aims to form students in faith and virtue. For more information, please visit sainttheresecarmeliteschool.com and the school's Facebook page.

Alhambra Day Nursery Foundation financial grants, scholarship applications now available

The Alhambra Day Nursery Foundation (ADN) 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 will be available beginning in February and are due by March 20.

ADN 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 pre-school programs in cooperation with the Alhambra School District. Thirteen years ago, ADN 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. 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/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/ 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 91802 or via e-mail to dhbicker@aol.com no later than March 20. The scholarships will be awarded in June. Scholarship applications are available at each of the participating high schools or by e-mail at dhbicker@aol.com.



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Sunday, March 8, 2020

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Register for 2020/21 school year
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Tour our six acre campus with a full gymnasium, visit our classrooms, talk to our teachers and learn what our students are doing in Preschool 3 and 4, Kindergarten and Grades One through Eight. We've been serving the Western San Gabriel Valley community since 1941. (We accept I-20 students)

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Welcoming all students entering K-8th grade in Fall of 2020!

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8:30 AM-1:00 PM (lunch included) and 1:30 PM-5:30 PM
Ynez School • 120 S. Ynez Ave., Monterey Park, 91754

Counselors and Translators Available to Help!

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San Gabriel High School Library
Saturday, March 7, 2020
8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Early Bird Discount
March 7th - 14th

For complete course selection and additional information: aef4kids.com • 626-943-3080



2020 SUMMER HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

For Incoming 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th Grade Students
GET AHEAD! Earn High School Credits This Summer!

Location

San Gabriel High School
801 S. Ramona St.
San Gabriel, CA 91776

Dates

**Thursday, June 11th -
Wednesday, July 15th**

7:30 AM - 12:55 PM

**One Day On-site
Registration &
9th Grade Orientation**

at San Gabriel HS Library
Saturday March 7, 2020
8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

**Counselors & Translators
Available to Help!**



Early Bird Discount Registration
March 7th - March 14th

Tuition: \$480/10 credits, \$240/5 credits

Offering Courses in:

Math • Science • Social Science • Fine Arts
English Language Development • Afternoon Enrichment

For complete course selection and additional information: aef4kids.com • 626-943-3080

Obituary

Marsha Owens, Alhambra Beauty Supply owner, passes

Marsha Owens, affectionately known as Cookie, passed away Jan. 10. She left a wonderful legacy in Alhambra having been in business nearly 50 years with her Alhambra Beauty Supply.

Cookie was a southern girl, born in Norfolk, Virginia, Dec. 15, 1942, into a proud Navy family. Her father, grandfather, and uncles all served. Her father was career Navy serving all over the world and finally settling in California, where Cookie went to high school in Coronado. In San Diego, she met her first husband, Lyman Latta, in 1961. They came to Los Angeles and had two sons, Robert and James Latta. In 1970, she was widowed. In 1972, she bought Alhambra Beauty Supply to support her and her boys and became one of the first women to own her own home in

Alhambra.

The next year she married Gerald Owens and had a daughter, Sherry. In 1988, she was widowed again. She lost her son James in 2009. In 2015, she was semiretired and started working from her home. She was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2017 and beat it in 2018. Cookie was a devoted mother and sister and loved all her family deeply. She was a pioneer owning her own business in 1972. She was an amazing business woman. She was active in her community and was loved by many. She will be dearly missed.

Cookie is survived by her children Robert and Sherry, her grandsons Michael and Luke Latta, four great grandchildren, and her sister and family here and in Virginia.



Marsha Owens bought Alhambra Beauty Supply in 1972.



Marsha, middle, with her son Robert and daughter Sherry.

Local Soroptimist club to provide career guidance, mentorship to girls during one-day conference

Find out about going to college, acquire guidance on how to set and achieve career goals, and learn how to access professional role models and mentors at the Soroptimist Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls program, which aims to help girls grow to be strong, successful, and happy adults. The conference will be held from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at Ramona Convent Secondary School, 1701 W. Ramona Road, Alhambra.

Soroptimist International of Alhambra, San Gabriel, San Marino and Soroptimist International of El Monte, South El Monte are joining together to host the conference for secondary school-age girls, where they will learn about career opportunities, setting and achieving goals, and overcoming obstacles to success. Lunch will be provided. Girls and their parents/guardians can learn more and sign up for the program by visiting or contacting www.SIAlhambra.org.

Throughout the day, the girls will attend sessions based on the following topics:

- Discovering your dreams.
- Exploring careers.
- Creating achievable goals.
- Rising above obstacles.
- Turning failure into success.
- Balancing your stress.
- Putting dreams into action.

"Because we don't expect that all girls will know what they want to do for the rest of their lives, and we also know that plans change, the skills developed through the day can be applied to any goals the girls identify throughout their education and careers," said Karen Chao, club president. "The girls will also have the opportunity to speak with working women and perhaps arrange a mentorship with a woman whose

career interests them."

In addition to learning important life skills, the girls will leave with a variety of other resources and fun items, including a dream workbook for keeping track of their goals, a swag bag with useful school items, and a certificate for participating at the end of the day. Every participant will be eligible for door prizes, including an HP laptop (winner must be present).

Dream It, Be It joins with the long-running Live Your Dream: Education and Training Awards for Women to create the "Soroptimist Dream Programs," which provide sustainable, measurable change for women and girls and ensure they have access to the education and training needed to reach their full potential and live their dreams. The Live Your Dream Awards assist women by giving them the resources they need to improve their education, skills, and job prospects.

Soroptimist International of Alhambra, San Gabriel, San Marino and Soroptimist International of El Monte, South El Monte are part of Soroptimist International of the Americas, a cause-related philanthropic federation of clubs improving the lives of women and girls through social and economic empowerment. The Alhambra, San Gabriel, San Marino, El Monte, South El Monte Soroptimists join 1,300 Soroptimist clubs in 20 countries and territories that empower women and girls through volunteer projects, such as cash grants for education, hands-on efforts to end domestic violence, career mentoring for girls, women's health initiatives, and many other community-based projects. For more information on how Soroptimist improves the lives of women and girls, visit www.Soroptimist.org.

7 Things You Must Know Before Putting Your Home Up for Sale

Alhambra - A new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9 Step System that can help you sell your home fast

and for the most amount of money. This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's market.

The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of homesellers don't get what they want for their homes and become disillusioned and - worse - financially disadvantaged when they put their homes on the market. As this report uncovers, most homesellers make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally

thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable. In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled "The 9 Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar".

To order a FREE Special Report, call toll-free 1-888-300-4632 and enter 1000. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Get your free special report NOW to find out how you can get the most money for your home.

This report is courtesy of Rudy L. Kusuma Real Estate Broker Lic# 01820322. Not intended to solicit buyers or sellers currently under contract. Copyright © 2012



ALHAMBRA COUNCIL PTA FOUNDERS' DAY DINNER AND AWARDS CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2020
ALMANSOR COURT
700 South Almansor Street, Ballroom, Alhambra

Tickets \$50 per person
(available through your local PTA)

6:00 to 6:30 p.m. Cocktails and Mingling
6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Dinner and Awards
8:30 to 11:00 p.m. Casino Night and Dancing

SILENT AUCTIONS • PHOTO BOOTH
OPPORTUNITY DRAWINGS (\$1 per ticket)
RAFFLE TICKETS (\$5 per ticket)
Buy your \$5 ticket for a chance to win
a 50" Ultra HD Roku Smart LED TV **OR** a Lenovo Ideapad 15.6" Intel Core i28GB
Each prize will be raffled separately

Proceeds raised will help fund our ACPTA local area high school scholarships



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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 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 website for information on the adoptable pets and adoption programs: www.sgvhumane.org.

Visit us at www.sgvhumane.org



Bubba

Domestic short hair • Adult • Male • Small

Bubba makes a show-stopping fashion first impression in his orange tuxedo with white bib and spats. That silky coat is a pleasure to see and softly stroke. He is a young cat who can appear shy at first meeting. But he is a good guy and just needs a little extra care to gain his confidence. While inside his cubby, Bubba acts quirky, slinky, and silly but can be lured out with a string, a mouse tail, or anything snake like. As he gets to know his guest, he enjoys coming out into the "catio," melts into petting hands, and will snuggle into a lap purring his appreciation while being brushed. Treats are another path to his heart. Bubba is looking for a forever home that will appreciate his charm. The adoption fee is \$99, which includes neuter surgery, microchip, first vaccinations, and a free wellness check-up at a participating veterinarian.



Freebo

Chihuahua mix • Senior • Male • Small

Freebo is a sweet 10-year-old senior dog who is looking for that special someone who can appreciate his optimistic charm. He has interesting color variations in his coat giving him a unique look all his own. He is being called a Chihuahua mix, but at 14 pounds, he is probably more mix. Freebo is a friendly boy who seems to enjoy the company of people as well as other dogs. Freebo has lost most of his teeth, which may explain why he is a bit head-shy, but he does enjoy pets and affection. Freebo is easy to manage on the leash and enjoys going on walks to the park with the other small dogs. He is polite and well-behaved around them. If looking for a "no drama" companion, come and meet Freebo. The adoption fee includes neuter surgery, microchip, first vaccinations and a free wellness check-up at a participating veterinarian



Tyson

Dachshund miniature pinscher • Adult • Male • Small

Tyson is a 5-year-old dachshund-miniature pinscher boy. Tyson has the barrel chest and bowed legs of a weight lifter or boxer with the classic black and tan markings of a min-pin. Tyson has a happy, joyful energy and thoroughly makes the most of his walks with the volunteers. He is always ready for a good run, followed by a roll in the grass and a belly rub. He is social with other dogs and will take his turn waiting for treats. Tyson is a smart boy who knows how to sit for treats. He also likes playing with toys and can entertain himself. And once he burns off some of his energy, he is happy to cuddle in a lap for some attention, sweetly sharing kisses. The adoption fee for Tyson is \$130, which includes neuter surgery, microchip, first vaccinations, and a free wellness check-up at a participating veterinarian.

Community Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

Feb. 3 – Monday

Planning Commission
7 p.m., City Hall, council chambers
111 S. First St.

Feb. 4 – Tuesday

• HCDA Citizens Advisory Committee
7 p.m. - City Hall, conference room
111 S. First St.

Feb. 5 – Wednesday

Alhambra Woman's Club meeting
Almanson Court
700 S. Almanson St., Alhambra
\$20 members; \$25 non-members
626-289-9307 for reservations

Feb. 6 – Thursday

• SCORE counselor appointments available 10 a.m. to noon
Call the Chamber at 626-282-8481
• Parks and Recreation Commission
7 p.m., Joslyn Center, Story Park
210 N. Chapel Ave.

Feb. 10 – Monday

City Council, 7 p.m.
City Hall, 111 S. First St.

Feb. 11 – 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. 12 – Wednesday

• Business to Business networking event
8:30 to 9:30 a.m.
Hosted by CoKreerate
1019 E. Main St., Unit B
Alhambra 91801
• Five City Mega Mixer
Meet local elected officials and March 2020 candidates
5 to 7 p.m.
West San Gabriel Valley Realtors headquarters
1039 E. Valley Blvd., #B205, San Gabriel
RSVP at <https://conta.cc/2tzLN5k>
Open to WSGVR and Five City Chambers members.
Free admission

Feb. 19 – Wednesday

• Lunch & Learn
"Learn How to Make Money on Instagram"
Presented by Joanna Vargas, The Fit Factor
Noon to 1:30 p.m.
Free to members; \$15 non-members
RSVP to the Chamber at 626-282-8481
• Arts & Cultural Events Committee
7 p.m., City Hall, conference room
111 S. First St.

Feb. 24 – Monday

City Council, 7 p.m.
City Hall, 111 S. First St.

Feb. 25 – Tuesday

Design Review Board
7:30 p.m., City Hall, conference room
111 S. First St.

Feb. 26 – Wednesday

Chamber Mixer
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Hosted by Wondries Toyota
1439 W. Main St.
Alhambra 91801

MARCH

March 2 – Monday

Planning Commission
7 p.m., City Hall, council chambers
111 S. First St.

March 3 – Tuesday

HCDA Citizens Advisory Committee
7 p.m., City Hall, conference room
111 S. First St.

March 5 – Thursday

Parks and Recreation Commission
Story Park, 210 N. Chapel Ave.
7 p.m.

March 9 – Monday

City Council, 7 p.m.
City Hall, 111 S. First St.

March 10 – 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 11 – Wednesday

• Business to Business networking event
8:30 to 9:30 a.m.
Hosted by the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors
Alhambra Chamber of Commerce
104 S. First St.
• Transportation Committee
7 p.m., City Hall, conference room
111 S. First St.

March 12 – Thursday

SCORE counselor appointments available 10 a.m. to noon
Phone the chamber at 626-282-8481

March 16 – Monday

Planning Commission
7 p.m., City Hall, council chambers
111 S. First St.

March 17 – Tuesday

St. Patrick's Day Pub Crawl
Downtown Alhambra

March 18 – Wednesday

Arts & Cultural Events Committee
7 p.m., City Hall, conference room
111 S. First St.

March 23 – Monday

City Council, 7 p.m.
City Hall, 111 S. First St.

March 24 – Tuesday

Design Review Board
7:30 p.m., City Hall, conference room
111 S. First St.

March 25 – Wednesday

Chamber Mixer
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Hosted by the Alhambra Educational Foundation
Location to be announced
Alhambra 91801

Alhambra Service Clubs and Organizations

Tuesday: 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** meets at noon every Tuesday at Almanson Court, 700 S. Almanson St. The **Soroptimist Club** meets at noon the first and third Tuesday of the month at the San Gabriel Hilton, 225 W. Valley Blvd, San Gabriel 91776.

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 the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce, 104 S. First St.

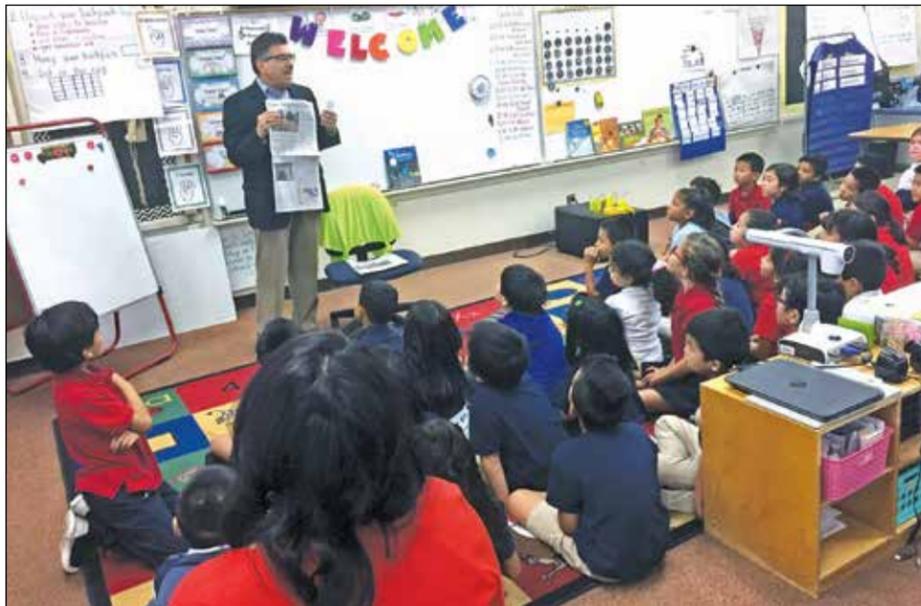
The **Alhambra Woman's Club** meets monthly. Phone 626-289-9307 for information.

Garfield School welcomes back Steve Padilla LA Times Editor + Turnaround Arts CA Visiting Artist

The students at Garfield Elementary so loved their day with Steve Padilla, AUSD alumnus, Turnaround Arts CA visiting artist, nationally revered wordsmith, and *Los Angeles Times* "Column One" editor, that they have been writing him letters since September 2018 to ask when he will return.

They remember that Mr. Padilla, an accomplished tenor, broke into the *Streets of Laredo* to give students a surprise lesson in good storytelling. He made them laugh when he read his funny poem, *Ode to the Mosquito*, written for the Alhambra High School literary magazine when he was a student, to show that stories are all around us waiting to be told. Mr. Padilla reminded the multilingual, multicultural Garfield students that when they speak two languages, they have double the power, emphasizing that the *Los Angeles Times* prizes and hires bilingual reporters,

Garfield students are excited to learn that Mr. Padilla is returning in February (exact date not set at press time) to mentor student writers and future journalists with his signature storytelling and writing tips



Talking to rapt Garfield students during his September 2018 visit, Turnaround Arts CA visiting artist Steve Padilla, *Los Angeles Times* "Column One" editor and AUSD alumnus, delivers his writing tips with his signature charismatic style while showing the front page of the *Los Angeles Times*. He will return in February to Garfield Elementary to coach student writers.

performance theatre. A testament to and an advocate for the lifelong gift of arts education, Mr. Padilla said the skills he gained

from being an AHS drum major and acting and singing in school musicals are skills he uses every day in his work as editor.

"Arts education teaches essential life skills like teamwork, focus, and empathy and builds a sense of belonging and equity that is foundational for students to flourish," agreed Malissa Shriver, co-founder of Turnaround Arts CA and nationally recognized arts education advocate.

"Steve is the ideal artist for our Alhambra Unified Turnaround Arts CA school," Ms. Shriver said. As a sixth grade student at Ramona Elementary School, he started a newspaper, long before becoming an editor at the *LA Times*. Steve is also a musician who started out playing French horn at the all-city orchestra, which rehearsed at Garfield Elementary School. In addition to his editing life, he plays various instruments and sings tenor with the Los Angeles early music chamber ensemble, Jouissance. Our students adore him, as do we."

To learn more, visit www.garfieldelementary.org, or follow @ausdGarfield @StevePadilla2 @TurnarndArtsCA @MalissaShriver.



ALHAMBRA

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
Denise R. Jaramillo

1515 West Mission Road, Alhambra, CA 91803
Phone: 626.943.3330 Fax: 626.943.8050

January 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I am writing to share very important information about an event that will take place in Spring 2020: the U.S. Census. The census is a count of all people living in the U.S. and takes place every 10 years. Since the first census in 1790, the need for useful information about the United States' population and economy became increasingly evident.

It is simple and confidential to complete. For the first time, you can respond online. You will receive a unique identifying number in the mail, which will allow you to fill out the online form beginning in March 2020. It will ask questions about your household such as how many people reside in your home, date of birth, race, and sex. Here are some things you should know:

Your identity remains anonymous. Any personal information you provide on the census form is protected by law and cannot be shared with anyone or any other federal agency. Regardless of your immigration status, the information cannot be used against you or to invade the privacy of you or any members of your family.

The Census is important:

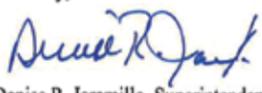
- The Census helps to decide how much federal money our schools will get over the next ten years.
- The Census helps to decide how much money our state will get for our parks, neighborhood improvements, public health, and transportation.
- The Census also will determine states' representation in Congress.

The Census is safe: All the data collected through the census is protected under Title 13 of the U.S. Code. Records are confidential for 72 years by law. The U.S. Census will never share a respondent's personal information with other government agencies. Data is only released in summary tables; no individual records are released.

What do you need to do? Complete the short and easy form online (coming in March). If you don't have a computer at home, you can use one at a library or at a location in your community clearly identified Census Questionnaire Assistance Center. Information will be coming soon on locations that will assist you with the Census.

Your kids count, so make sure to count them when you fill out the census form in Spring 2020!

Sincerely,



Denise R. Jaramillo, Superintendent

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Classified Game Changer Award winner Rudolfo (Rudy) Molina, AUSD senior food service manager, was honored Jan. 14 by the AUSD Board for his leadership, ability to meet any challenge, and for his knowledge and experience. Recently, Mr. Molina was interviewed by Ryann Vargas for Spectrum New 1 TV's story on AUSD's new Global Flavors Menu. Mr. Molina talked about the complex process involved in creating the recipe for the delicious house-made broth that makes the Pho Bar a student favorite. From left: Josephine Quach, AUSD assistant superintendent financial services; Denise Jaramillo, AUSD superintendent; Vivien Watts, AUSD executive director of food + nutrition services; Game Changer Award winner Mr. Molina; his wife, Lizann Molina; William Fong, director, food + nutrition services; Judy Huffaker, director, food + nutrition services; and Stacie Colman Hsu, director, human resources.



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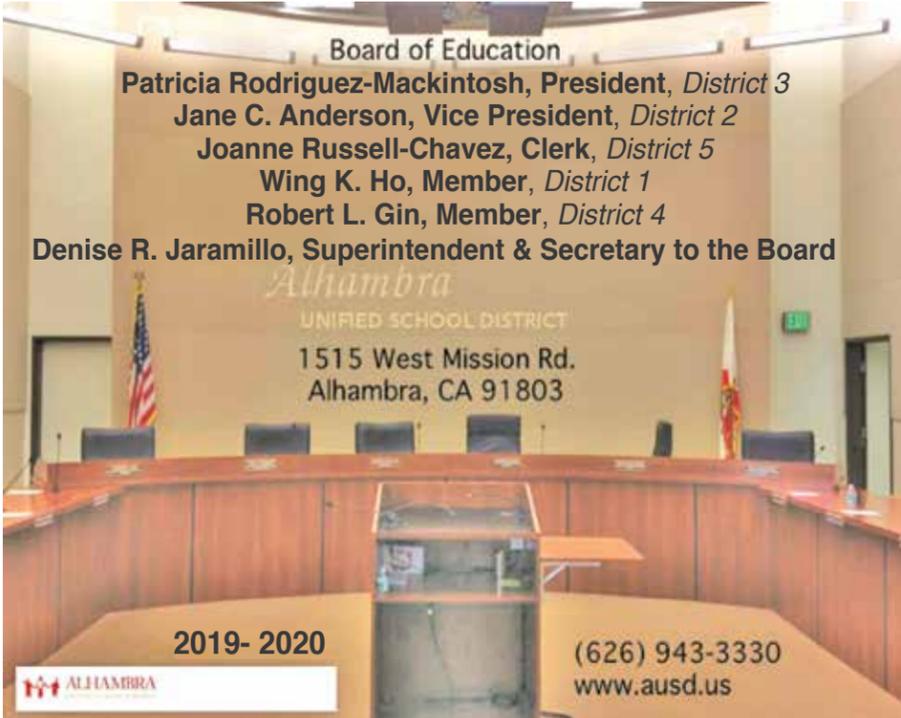
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Monterey Highlands Robotics Teams vying for Regional 2019-2020 City Shaper Competition Qualifier. The three Monterey Highlands Robotics Team members, Brainy Bots, Dream Team, and R Squared are pictured at the 2019-2020 City Shaper Competition Qualifier. Top row, from left, Dream Team: Ethan Amaro, Nicholas Villasenor, Gabrielle Wong, Raelene Aragon, Hannah Lee, Sarah Duong, and Chelsea Chien. Brainy Bots: Kristine Sy, Nicholas Jung, Jacob Chow, Justin Wong, Gavin Chan, and Sonia Hinojosa. Bottom row, from left, R Squared: Alexander Song, Kiera Chan, Sophia Duong, Jolene Kwan, Katelyn Kwan, Aditya Kumar, Diego Ruiz, Jacqueline Villasenor, and Cesar Osorio.



Monterey Highlands FIRST Lego League teams win again

BY KELLY TONG, MONTEREY HIGHLANDS ROBOTIC TEAMS LEAD COACH AND PARENT

For the second year in a row, two of the three Monterey Highlands FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Lego League teams qualified for the LA Region Championship Tournament for the top 18% best teams in the region. Three Highlands teams, with new and returning members, competed at the Cal Poly Pomona Qualifier Tournament on Nov. 16, 2019. The Brainy Bots and Dream Team advanced to the next level of competition in mid-December, and the Brainy Bots came home with the first place trophy for Robot Design and a third place finish in the Robot Game. Although both teams fell short of reaching international competition, the students continue to discover new skills and look forward to next season.

The Brainy Bots, with sixth and seventh grade members Gavin Chan, Jacob Chow, Sonia Hinojosa, Nicholas Jung, Kristine Sy, and Justin Wong, also won the “Best Presentation” award in their earlier Blockhead Bash Rewind tournament in October. As part of their project, the defending champions presented their Innovative solution of the BBSS (Brainy Bots Street Sweeper) to Athens Services Street Sweeping Division, City of Monterey Park Councilmember Mitchell Ing and City of Alhambra Mayor Ross Maza and Vice-Mayor David Meija.

The Dream Team, with fifth, sixth, and seventh grade members Ethan Amaro, Raelene Aragon, Sarah Duong, Hannah Lee, Nicholas Villasenor, Chelsea Chien, and Gabrielle Wong, were excited with their fifth place robot game finish at the Qualifier. At the Blockhead Bash Rewind Tournament in October, the Dream Team brought home two trophies, one for their Innovative Solution of a robotic storm

drain cleaner and a second place robot game finish.

During the competition, the teams presented research on a problem with a building or public space in the community. The teams are judged on their project and solution, robot design, and application of Core Values. The Core Values are FIRST philosophies encouraging participants to pursue discovery, innovation, inclusion, impact, teamwork, and fun in the spirit of friendly competition. Members also built, designed, and programmed a robot using LEGO Mindstorms to complete a series of missions on a table top playing field. “Our favorite core value is Fun because even though we are learning and working, we are hanging out with our friends,” explained Brainy Bot Nicholas Jung.

The 2019-2020 “City Shaper” season started for the students in April by researching city issues, interviewing Los Angeles Civil Engineer Matt Masuda, learning robot coding, and visiting the La Kretz Innovation Campus. With the guide of their volunteer coaches, the students met twice a week starting the first day of school to conduct research, develop their solution, prepare and practice presentations, and build and program their robots. The students also worked together to actively fundraise to pay for their equipment, team registration, and tournament fees. Through generous donations from Raytheon and the Alhambra Nursery Foundation, Monterey Highlands was able to expand the program to a third team, R Squared. Although R Squared did not advance, the team is proud of their 15th robot game finish and their accomplishments. Monterey Highlands parent Kelly Tong is lead coach for the robotics teams. Other volunteer coaches are Alana Hinojosa, John Tong, Oscar Amaro, Albert Ruiz, and several part-time parent volunteers.

The AUSD Board honored certificated Game Changer Award winner and Moor Field special education teacher Katey Huynh, center in white blouse, at its Jan. 14 meeting. Beloved by colleagues, students, and parents, Ms. Huynh is known for her signature perseverance, professionalism, and creative ability to make students and parents feel safe and engaged. An army of “Katey fans” joined Ms. Huynh, to help her celebrate the honor. From left: back row, Denise Jaramillo, AUSD superintendent; Diane Parker, Moor Field speech language pathologist; Mr. and Mrs. Rueff with son, Moor Field parents, and student. Middle row: Jame Delariva, Moor Field teacher; Faviola Ultreras, Moor Field teacher; Pat Mahony, AUSD assistant superintendent student employee welfare; Ms. Huynh, Game Changer award winner and Moor Field teacher; Ms. Huynh’s son and daughter and husband, Mr. Huynh; and Harry Wong, administrator, Moor Field LIFT. Front row: Chan family son and Moor Field student holding “Ms. Katey is Best” sign; Ms. Chan, Moor Field parent, holding “We love Katey” sign; Chan family son and Moor Field parent, with flowers, holding “We love Katey sign.”

AUSD LIFT NORTH From Page 1A

ca Rubio, to see the hope, heroes, and action steps of the AUSD LIFT North (Learning Independence For Transition) program for young adults with developmental disabilities. Partnering with the East LA Regional Center (ELARC) to find students meaningful work opportunities through their PIP (Paid Internship Program), AUSD LIFT North young adults are empowered to be lifelong learners who contribute to the communities in which they live and work.

Telemundo 52 journalist Norma Ribeiro, whose mother was a special education teacher in Venezuela, wanted to film the recent visit of the senator and assembly member as they saw the inspiring results of this partnership at Frida Pickles Floral Design in San Gabriel, when the sisters met some of the AUSD LIFT North students working there through the ELARC PIP program.

“Our vision is to train and employ people with special needs — we believe like flowers, people come in all shapes and sizes,” said Susan Tarka Sanchez, a botanist and co-owner of Frida Pickles Floral Design, which is also celebrated for its creative arrangements.

Ms. Sanchez and her husband, Juan

Luis Sanchez Saldana, decided to become small business owners for their daughter Sofia, who is autistic. She is only 11 years old, but her parents know how hard it can be for people with special needs to find jobs when they become adults.

The *LA Times*, *Harper’s Bazaar*, *Spectrum News One*, and *Sunset Magazine* are also inspired by the compassionate vision of inclusion and unique style of Frida Pickles Floral Design, named after the family dog.

“There really aren’t many jobs out there for those with disabilities, and the jobs that are out there aren’t paid or are low-paid or maybe doing things that are high-stress like bagging groceries with a lot of lights and commotion,” Ms. Sanchez said. “We wanted to create employment opportunities that are calming and that are less stressful and that help our daughter and others to really be calm and to learn something.”

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are at the heart of the work at AUSD LIFT North, ELARC, and Frida Pickles Floral Design.

“We want to light the way for all of us to move forward with inclusion by working together with AUSD LIFT

North Learning Independence For Transition + the East LA Regional Center, and we are doing just that,” Ms. Sanchez said. “I think we have started a movement. Our customers love us as much for our amazing LIFT student staff as for our unique floral arrangements.”

To view the Telemundo 52 story, visit <https://www.telemundo52.com/>

[fotosyvideos/programa-busca-empresar-a-jovenes-con-necesidades-especiales/2028646](https://www.telemundo52.com/fotosyvideos/programa-busca-empresar-a-jovenes-con-necesidades-especiales/2028646).

AUSD urges the community to support the diversity, equity, and inclusion of businesses who hire LIFT North students. Frida Pickles and Charlie’s Trio both hire students through the Paid Intern Program. Home Depot hires LIFT North students.



Teacher Virginia Parra helps run San Gabriel High School's PODER program for first-generation students with academic potential. In addition to preparing the students for college, she tracks where they've applied and hangs pennants in her classroom featuring universities both near and far. (From *The Washington Post* story by Laura Meckler with photo by Philip Cheung for *The Washington Post*.)

San Gabriel High garners national story for its teacher diversity

When *The Washington Post's* national education reporter Laura Meckler was writing her December 27 story on the nation's lack of teacher diversity in public schools — 80% of teachers in the U. S. are white, even as schools are more diverse than ever — she wanted to come to Alhambra Unified to see teacher diversity in action. Out of 712 AUSD teachers, 503 are Asian American, Latino Hispanic, African American, or Native American. At AUSD, teachers are as diverse as their multicultural, multilingual students. Because Cal State LA's Charter College of Education is the teacher diversity pipeline for AUSD, Ms. Meckler also met with Dr. Cheryl Ney, dean of CCOE and CSLA students.

To learn first-hand how AUSD's teacher diversity impacts students, Ms. Meckler and *Washington Post* photographer Philip Cheung spent much of the day with San Gabriel High School teachers, students, and parents. The day before the SGHS mega-event for the visit of the 2020 Tournament of Roses CEO Laura Faber, and with three days' notice, SGHS principal Debbie Stone and her team assembled a custom itinerary for the two journalists. Park Elementary Principal Carin Gasca finished her application for 2020 CA Distinguished School (which Park won along with five other AUSD elementary schools) to build an equally creative afternoon itinerary for

the duo.

The SGHS itinerary included meeting parents, Nora Hernandez, SGHS PTSA treasurer, and Mr. and Mrs. Lam. Ms. Meckler and Mr. Cheung talked to and observed the 11th grade AP English class of Virginia Parra, adviser for the PODER program (Pursuing Our Dreams through Education and Responsibility) to assist first-generation college-bound students in connecting identity with academic purpose and continued commitment to education.

They met with and observed Yvonne Lopez's 10th to 12th grade physiology class and talked with assistant principal Amy Wu about the January launch of the SGHS NewComer program after-school program for English learner students and their parents. They shared lunch with six SGHS students to ask them about how having a teacher who looks like them and shared their culture affects the way they think about themselves and how their dreams have changed as a result.

The results of these conversations at SGHS and Park Elementary produced a moving national education story that Ms. Meckler called "pockets of success" and featured photos of Ms. Parra, 15-year-old SGHS student Ashley Macias, and Park Elementary students. Read the story at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/local/education/teacher-diversity>.



Thanks to the generosity of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses, in association with Honda, Alhambra Unified students at three high schools are able to go on college campus and apprenticeship school field trips.

Pasadena Tournament of Roses, in association with Honda, underwrites Alhambra Unified college, career field trips

"I really enjoyed this field trip; I really learned a lot, and I'm definitely gonna apply to University of La Verne!" Melissa Silva, Alhambra High junior

As part of a community commitment to enlarging opportunities for post-secondary education, the Pasadena Tournament of Roses, in association with Honda, provided an \$8,000 donation to the AUSD Career Technical Education (CTE) program to fund college and career field trip experiences.

These high school field trips are to two-year and four-year post-secondary institutions and apprenticeship programs. The goal is to expand the exposure students have to learn first-hand about the variety of campus options and particular programs and services available. Studies show that middle school and high school students who visit college campuses and apprentice programs are more likely to apply and more likely to graduate.

"Going to the University of La Verne's campus amplified my hopes for coming to the school, and hearing about all the opportunities like choir and the study abroad program made me even more excited to apply — and hopefully, get accepted," said Mark Keppel High senior Brianna Avila.

Yared Andrade, a San Gabriel High 12th grader, is another student who loved her field trip. "My experience at La Verne was fantastic thanks to the people who are there. Once you arrive, you feel welcome, and they help you with any questions you have."

"The field trip to Cal State University Long Beach gave me insight about the campus life and resources that I would never have been able to get from online researching," said Crystal Pham, a 12th grade Mark Keppel High student. "The hands-on experience in the Marine Biology Department was a good chance for me to learn more about the school's learning environment."

Alhambra High senior Darlene Lizama, who visited CSU Long Beach, had a request, "Add more field trips because it's easier for us to visit the campus and get an idea of the college."

All field trip visits include a campus tour. The UC Irvine visit also included an information session at the School of Business, Social Ecology, and the School of Nursing. At CSU Long Beach students had an art department tour, visited the Marine Bio lab, and sat in on an information session for the School of Engineering.

The University of La Verne visit included a student panel, while the Cal Poly Pomona visit included info sessions at the College of Engineering, Science and Business Administration. At Cal State Fullerton, students had a housing tour. UC Riverside offered a general information session and a tour of the Recreation Center.

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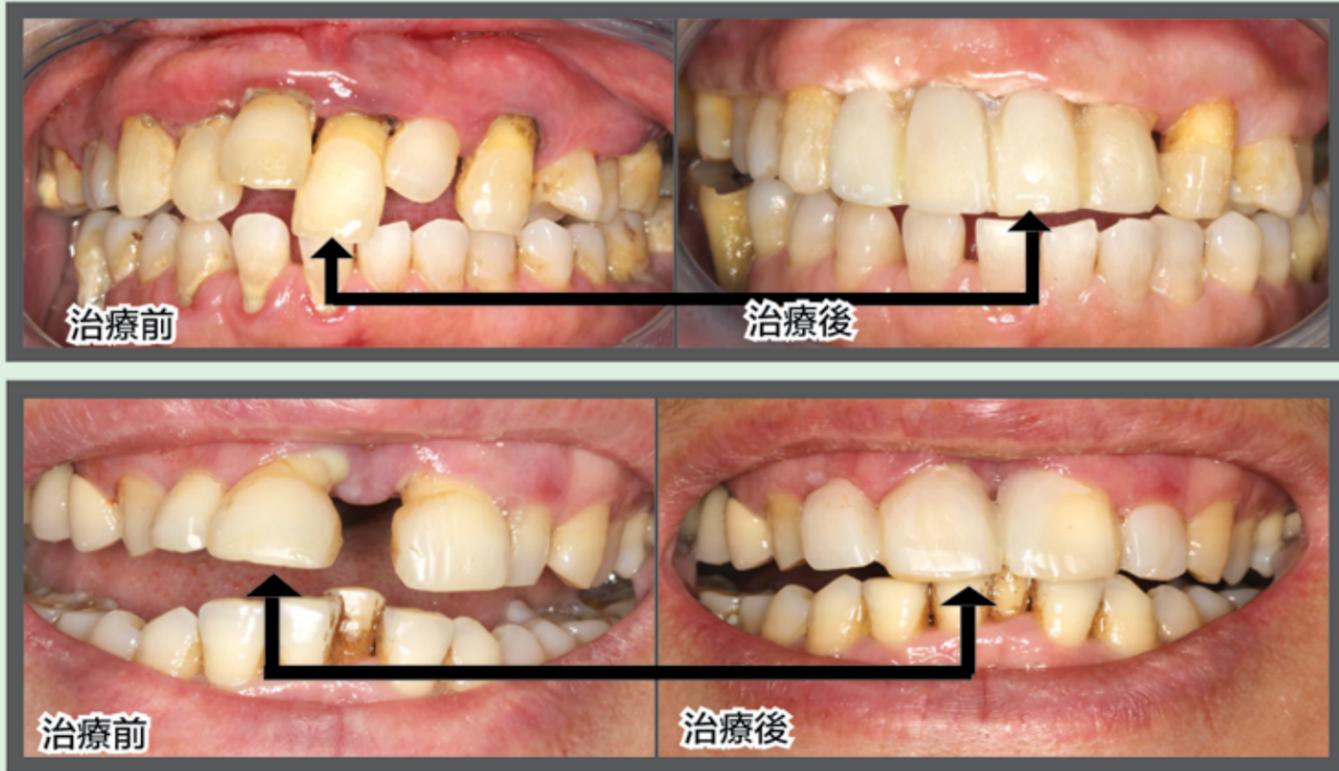
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