

### Quick TAKES

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Chino Community Theatre says 'Here's to you, Mrs. Robinson.'  
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#### Minding the store

A charitable couple hands over the retail portion of their mission.  
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#### Starting on a high note

The Chino Hills High Band has a director for the first time in a year.  
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#### Festival of spirit

Chino's DES Club hosts its tribute to the Portuguese culture and a remarkable queen.  
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Champion readers win passes to the LA County Fair.  
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Don Lugo High's water polo team swims past Chino for the 16th time in 20 years of the Fish Bowl game.  
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Scan this with your smart phone to see the Champion's classified advertising website.

## 'Suspend' rate hike, Ulloa says

### City urged to sell stored water rights

Chino has 65,000 acre feet of water in storage with a current value of \$32 million, a fact that was not considered by the water rate consultant whose rate increase recommendations the council recently adopted, council member Eunice Ulloa said Tuesday.

Rather than raise water rates to generate an additional 5 percent revenue this year and next, the city should consider paying for water system repairs and expansion by selling stored water, Mrs. Ulloa said.

She read a two-page statement urging the council to "suspend" the results of the Sept. 15 Prop. 218 election should the rate increases be approved, as expected. She requested an action item to that effect be placed on the Sept. 15 council agenda.

Increasing the water rate without additional study "would be grossly unfair

See RATE, Page A2

## Cold case kills sale of church

By Marianne Napoles

The failure of an international school to renew its lease has resulted in the listing for sale, for the second time, of the Korean-American church at Grand Avenue and Madrugada Drive in Chino Hills. The move came about after a 43-year-old cold case homicide was solved on the other side of the country.

Crossroads Community Church, owned by Wesleyan Pacific Southwest District, was first placed on the market approximately three years ago after the congregation split and the remaining faction of just 27 families could no longer keep up the payments.

Pacific International Elite Schools Inc., an organization founded by Larry Beck of Arcadia, agreed to purchase the church in February 2014 from Wesleyan on a lease-to-buy arrangement, but did not renew the lease in Febru-

See CHURCH, Page A2

## Crews cope with leaks



Employees of Monte Vista Water District dig out a leak in a lateral line Monday morning on Riverside Drive east of East End Avenue. Some of the affected water lines date to 1948, a district spokesman said.

Champion photos



City of Chino crews repair a leak on Riverside Drive between Benson and Oaks avenues, one of several the city responded to Tuesday. Other leaks were reported Monday or Tuesday at Eucalyptus and Pipeline avenues and in the 13100 block of Norton Avenue. The City of Chino did not respond to a request for information about the leaks before the Champion's Friday presstime.

## Industry pulls land in Chino, Chino Hills off market

By Marianne Napoles

City of Industry's new city council has suspended the potential sale of Tres Hermanos Ranch until it examines all the major policy challenges it faces.

New city manager Paul Phillips told the Champion Wednesday that the successor agency to the city's former redevelopment agency owns the land and will decide in 60 to 90 days what should be done with it.

The successor agency consists of the City of Industry city council.

The decision will go before the oversight board, and then to the State Department of Finance for approval.

Mr. Phillips said although a broker was selected to market the property, the contract was not signed. "There was never a listing," he said.

The broker, selected by the oversight board, was The Hoffman Co., based in Irvine. "I told the broker to go on hold until a determination is made," Mr. Phillips said. "The process has been suspended pending direction from the new council."

Tres Hermanos consists of 2,400 acres of open grassland, oaks and sycamores straddling both sides of Grand Avenue, including 1,700 acres in Chino Hills and 720 acres in Diamond Bar.

Mr. Phillips said the previous city council was serious about selling the land, but the new council has yet to decide.

The June election yielded three new council members. Mr. Phillips was hired June 25.

The Hoffman Co. had begun its marketing efforts by visiting the community development departments of both Chino Hills and Diamond Bar. A grass-roots group called

See RANCH, Page A4

## Putting a face on bullying

### Group honors young victim with videos

By Josh Thompson

The first of a planned series of anti-bullying videos to honor an Ayala High School sophomore who took his own life two days after school ended this year was released Wednesday night on the group's Facebook page—Kennedy's Voice.

Kennedy LeRoy of Chino Hills was 16 years old when he ended his life in his bedroom June 12, writing in his suicide note that he was consistently bullied by a male student at Ayala High as he was also dealing with the pain of having Asperger and Tourette syndromes.

Once word spread of the tragedy, Ayala High graduate Sierra Phelps wanted to do something to end bullying.

Her Facebook post received positive response, and a group of 25 people formed 11 days later. "We took a survey of everyone there and asked if anyone has been the victim of bullying," said Scott Snyder, owner of Chino Hills-based Digital Media Services, who volunteered to shoot the video series. "There were teens, school teachers, lawyers, therapists at the meeting. All have



Submitted photo

A group of students are recorded during the first of a planned series of anti-bullying videos being produced by Kennedy's Voice, a group honoring Ayala High School sophomore Kennedy Leroy, who took his own life saying he was the constant victim of a bully at school.

been victims."

With the help of Chino Hills residents Candy Phelps, Sierra's mother, and Bonnie Palaos, the first video was shot during the summer at Hidden Trails Elementary School and a public park.

The four-and-a-half minute video has several scenes acted out by the Don Lugo High School drama club and also includes an NBC 4 Los Angeles news story on Kennedy's death. Television interviews with Kennedy's father,

Chris, also appear in the video.

Sierra, now a student at University of Redlands, portrays the bullying victim in the video and serves as its voice-over artist.

Since Wednesday's release, the video had been viewed more than 400 times in the first 12 hours, Mr. Snyder said.

"Bullying is striking a nerve everyone has. We're taking this issue to heart. If these videos can

See BULLY, Page A4

## Shooting in Chino puts woman in hospital

By Josh Thompson

One man was arrested and two remain at large in connection with the shooting of a woman early Monday outside Skate Express in Chino.

Chino police investigators served search warrants Tuesday and Wednesday in Compton, Inglewood and Long Beach, arresting 56-year-old Leonard Cordell Jennings of Compton on suspicion of conspiracy and attempted murder.

Two other suspects—Cordell Ray Jennings, 29, and Diondre Lee Murre, 27—remain at large, according to Chino police.

Mr. Jennings is described as black, 5 feet 5 inches tall and weighing 155 pounds. Mr. Murre is also black, about 6 feet tall and weighing 180 pounds. Both men are known to visit the cities of Los Angeles and Long Beach, and are considered armed and dangerous.

Chino police went to Skate Express at 12356 Central Ave. at 12:30 a.m. on a report of a woman with multiple gunshot wounds lying in the parking lot, police said.

Witness said two persons approached the victim and one fired several shots, said City of Chino spokeswoman Monica Gutierrez. The men fled in an SUV type vehicle toward Columbus Avenue, she said.

The unidentified woman, who is not a resident of Chino, Chino Hills or a surrounding city, was taken to a hospital in critical condition, Mrs. Gutierrez said.

The rink had hosted an adult night that began at 8 p.m. Sunday until closing at 12:30 a.m.

After the shooting, police investigators kept many of the skaters at the rink for several hours. "The motive for the shooting is unknown," Mrs. Gutierrez said.



Leonard Cordell Jennings



Cordell Ray Jennings



Diondre Lee Murre

## Holiday schedule

Chino Valley public schools and the school district office will be closed Monday in observance of Labor Day.

Also to be closed Monday are St. Margaret Mary Catholic

School in Chino, and Loving Savior of the Hills Lutheran School in Chino Hills.

City offices in Chino and Chino Hills, branch libraries and courts will be closed Monday.

Trash pickup in both cities will be delayed by one day.

County, state and federal offices will be closed. The Champion office will be closed.



# Ranch

Continued from Page A1

“Save Tres Hermanos” formed to oppose residential development.

Mr. Philips said he made a commitment to the city council that City of Industry would be open, transparent and a good neighbor. “That’s the way I like to operate,” he said.

Mr. Philips is a former city manager for Covina, Artesia and others. His most recent position was deputy director for California Contract Cities Association in Downey, which advocates for cities that contract for municipal services.

The 12.5-square-mile City of Industry has a population of just 469 and 69,040 jobs, mainly in manufacturing and wholesale, according to a 2015 profile prepared by Southern California Associa-

tion of Governments.

Tres Hermanos Ranch was purchased by the City of Industry’s redevelopment agency in 1978. In 2012, the state dissolved all redevelopment agencies and Tres Hermanos was transferred to the “successor agency,” which is governed by an “oversight board” made up of three county employees, two school district employees, and two council members from City of Industry.

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