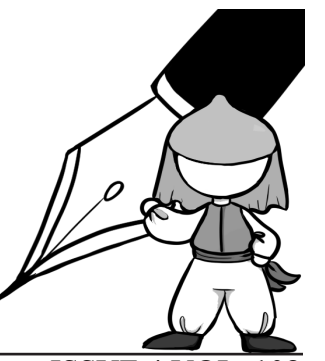


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Alhambra City Council and School Board Elections

Rapid Reading Decline

FRANCES BALDERRAMA
Staff Writer

Candidates for the upcoming Alhambra City Council and the Alhambra Unified School District Board of Education have been preparing for their run. The Alhambra City Council has three seats available for candidates. The City of Alhambra is, however, divided into five different council districts leaving there to be five nominating district seats open.

Within the Alhambra City Council, the first, second, and fifth districts have positions available for the election. Along with the fourth and fifth district of the Alhambra Unified School District Board of Education. Those who will be elected are to serve a four-year-term in their assigned position.

The Alhambra City Council first district seat is up for election. Those who are elected represent the district they are in. Those running are Laura Tellez-Gagliano, Katherine Lee and Andrea Marie

Lofthouse who is a teacher at Alhambra High School. For the second district seat, Ross J. Maza and Thaddeus W. Wiecek are running. Lastly, for the fifth district

Robert Gin, who is currently holding the fourth district seat. In the fifth district seat, Bobbi Bruesch is running against Joanne Russell Chavez.



CANDIDATES IN THE CLASSROOM Alhambra city council Andrea Lofthouse.

MOOR photo by AHYLIE ROSALES

seat, Adele Andrade-Stadler, Suzi Dunkel-Soto and Julian Vincent Reyes are running.

The school board, however, has James David Kurlich running against

As the candidates work on the solutions to surmount these issues in Alhambra, they've realized that the community needs to be open minded about the change.

"People need to have the power and opportunity to guide our community's future," Lofthouse said. "We need to make an effort to connect to people, first through language classes and then through meaningful cultural events."

Lofthouse has made communication one of her main points and believes it can bring the city together. She also cites stable and affordable housing and traffic and safety as important issues facing the community.

Those who wish to hear the other candidates speak in person are welcome to attend the Kids and Candidates community engagement forum on Oct. 11 at Al-

EMILY TRAN
Staff Writer

This generation has experienced a decline in reading, substituting books with technological advances, such as smartphones and computers. According to a recent survey from American Psychological Association, a third of teenagers in the U.S. have not read a book during their own time in at least a year.

"It requires too much time and focus," sophomore Anis Feng said. "Many children are interested in more upbeat activities like YouTube and sports. For books, there's not much interaction or talking to anybody."

A large selection of books could overwhelm people as there are simpler ways to obtain information. Books could provide situations that may deepen a person's understanding of the real world.

"It's important because not only do we learn more about human nature it reveals our inner thoughts; there's nothing more beautiful than celebrating the lives of people and the stories they have to share with the world." English teacher Jasmin Izumikawa said.

According to a study conducted by the Institute of Education at the University of London, reading in leisure time will benefit a student more in subjects such as vocabulary, spelling and math than those who do not read in their spare time. Students who read are also more likely to be able to think critically and understand complex issues.

Asbestos Scare at San Gabriel High School Classroom

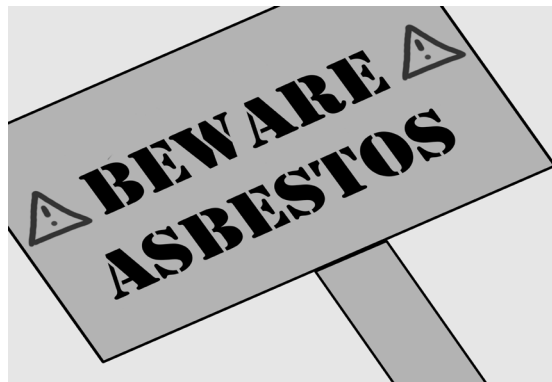
JANELLE ZAVALETA
Staff Writer

On September 17, San Gabriel High School had an asbestos scare in one of the rooms frequently used by the football team. Asbestos is a silicate mineral that is often used in floor tiles, ceiling tiles, insulation of buildings, roofing materials and water supply lines. The school's principal, Debbie Stone, sent a letter out to inform the staff that asbestos tiles were found on campus.

Floor tiles and ceiling tiles containing asbestos always need to be sealed so asbestos fibers will not be released. Tiles can sometimes be loosened, however, by physical impact.

"The football players' cleats likely loosened the tiles," Alhambra Unified School District spokesperson Toby Gilbert said.

She also added that at no point was any person in danger. On September 21, a licensed industrial hygienist inspected the room and it was cleared; the



floors just needed to be waxed again. If properly sealed off by tiles and other materials, asbestos floors are not usually considered harmful. However,

the use of asbestos is still common in many products since it was regulated by the TSCA (Toxic Substances Control Act) and the Clean Air Act of 1970.

Asbestos can cause health problems such as lung cancer, asbestosis and mesothelioma. In some cases, past exposure to asbestos can even lead to death.

Since San Gabriel High is part of the Alhambra Unified School District, the district may worry for the safety of students at other schools, including Alhambra High, in case there may be similar issues.

Even though the specialist confirmed the room was cleared and able to use, the football team has temporarily been switched to another classroom. By making this decision, the district is trying to keep the health of the students in mind.

Increase of Poverty Rate

KAITLYN AGUILAR
Staff Writer

The new historic low for California's poverty rate has been set. California's vigorous economy has dealt with a poverty rating of 19 percent, which has placed a difficult struggle on seven million state citizens. After dropping 1.4 percent in the past year, California still remains at a high ranking of being a poverty incorporated nation. In correlation to the poverty rate, California has also been having falling insured rates. Poverty Figures are said to paint a picture for California of low pay since it encompasses income from some government groups and falls into factors of high cost living in some corners of California.

"The price of housing should be dropped due to all the poverty from having difficult payments of a house, especially if the state of California has a minimum wage of \$11.00 per hour," Freshman Andres Zeas said.

The housing crisis is especially important in Los Angeles County where rents and mortgages are high and there are many citizens. The small increase for minimum wage in Los Angeles county is also a factor. Those who make the least amount of money also have the most trouble finding affordable housing.

"Housing is expensive, so the government should give people more money," sophomore Billy Duong said.

California still has much work to do to decrease the poverty rate.

Recreational Marijuana Use Could Be Banned in Alhambra

MAX TRAN
Staff Writer

Time Magazine reports that marijuana was legalized for limited recreational uses in California through Proposition 64. The law, passed in 2016, received a great amount of support from the state. Despite this, some are still reserved and cautious about marijuana.

The Pasadena-Star news reports that in September the city council of Alhambra voted to bring an ordinance which, if passed, would ban all land use for recreational marijuana cultivation, manufacture and distribution. Mayor

Jeff Maloney talked about the main reasons why he supports the ordinance.

"[I] want Alhambra to be the first ones out of the box trying to figure out what the problems are," Maloney said.

However people tend to either agree Brandon Chau, a senior of this school, a "I full support it," Brandon Chau said. "because not only do I disagree with recreational marijuana... also as a man with Asthma, I try to stay away from things people generally smoke."

This ordinance would greatly affect Alhambra. As the Pasadena-Star news puts it, income from the sale of marijuana

would help the city get more funding. This also means that people who want access to recreational marijuana would have to travel further to get it. Most cities in the San Gabriel Valley have also banned recreational marijuana businesses. Only Baldwin Park is an exception with 25 approved businesses in the field already.

This issue might not be a closed case, though. Mayor Maloney has expressed interest in coming back to this issue sometime in the future. There is a possibility that this ordinance can be debated again, but it appears that the ordinance will be instated as law.

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