



Termed-Out Central Basin Board Members Flouting State Law, Remain on Board

An unauthorized letter seeks to alter State Bill AB 1794 so appointed directors can remain on the board; a water industry non-profit is also in on the scheme.

By Brian Hews

It's gotten to the point at Central Basin Water [CB] where if certain board members disagree with California State law and have a majority and control of the bank account, the group will try anything to keep their seats and prized majority on the board. The question is, why?

Los Cerritos Community News has obtained a letter from CB and the Central Basin Water Association [CBWA], a letter that was not agendized and voted on by either board at a properly noticed meeting. The letter asks California Attorney General Ron Bonta, under the guise of "clarification," to consider clauses in state bill AB 1794 related to appointed—not elected—CB Board member terms.

AB 1794 was passed in 2016 because of years of CB Board chaos and operational instability after Jim Roybal and Bob Apodaca took seats in 2012. For years the majority—which was three at the time—handed out sole-source contracts while firing General Managers who did not do their bidding.

AB 1794 added three appointed (not elected) directors to the board, one director was appointed by cities inside CB boundaries, one by water purveyors inside CB boundaries, and one by large water companies inside CB boundaries.

The bill was supposed to bring stability to the board, but it has had the extreme opposite effect.

Almost all of the appointed directors have brought chaos and corruption to the board while not finishing their four-year terms.

Of the nine directors appointed since AB 1794 passed, only one director has finished out their term, the remainder resigned, sometimes only serving one year.

And the group of four attempting to change AB 1794 wants to give current and future appointed directors longer terms on the board?

The directors behind the letter, and those who are currently in the majority, include the GM of Golden State Water and President Nem Ochoa, who was appointed in 2024 and whose term is in question; Gary Mendez, who has zero water experience but was appointed to Vice President mere weeks and one board meeting after he was elected; Joanna Moreno, an engineer at the city of Vernon who was appointed in 2024 and who defiantly remains on the board despite her term ending in December 2024, and Director Juan Garza who has issues himself, including a \$50,000 California Franchise Tax Board lein on his home related to his company, Six Heron, LLC, which was filed eight months ago and remains open.

The majority is using attorney Victor Ponto to author the letter. They recently voted to hand out an additional \$134,000 to Ponto and his company, Burke, Williams, Sorensen, with Ponto blowing through the initial annual budgeted amount due to "unforeseen legal issues."

The move has many observers scratching their heads. AB 1794 is very clear: Appointed directors serve four-year terms and then resign. After a director terms out, the replacement process starts in

[See **WATER**, page 4]

Pico Rivera Honored With 2024 Energy Action Platinum Award

By Brian Hews

The City of Pico Rivera is proud to announce that it has been awarded the 2024 Energy Action Platinum Award, the highest distinction recognizing energy efficiency and sustainabil-

ity leadership from the Gateway Cities Council of Governments (GCCOG). This inaugural award places Pico Rivera at the forefront of environmental innovation, honoring its commitment to creating a

[See **PICO RIVERA**, page 12]



WELCOME HOME: State Center Bob Archuleta (holding scissors) with Supervisor Janice Hahn, with Santa Fe Springs elected officials including Mayor Bill Rounds, Mayor Pro Tem Joe Angel Zamora, Councilwomen Juanita Martin and Annette Rodriguez and Councilman John Mora celebrate after the official ribbon cutting signaling the opening of the Safe Families Center.

Grand Opening of Safe Families Center in Santa Fe Springs

By Brian Hews

This past Saturday, February 1, Supervisor Janice Hahn joined The Whole Child, state leaders, and Santa Fe Springs City Council members for the Grand Opening Ceremony of the Safe Families Interim Housing and Support Services Center

which will serve hundreds of children and families annually in Los Angeles County.

The project was made possible with \$7.3 million in county funding secured by Supervisor Hahn.

The completed center is the first phase of The Whole Child's innovative "Homeless to Home-

owner Campus," which will provide a comprehensive continuum care: bringing families in crisis under one roof for services and interim housing, then providing permanent supportive housing in apartment units, and ultimately allowing an opportunity for formerly unhoused fam-

[See **CENTER**, page 3]

La Mirada Girls Basketball Seniors Finally Have Their Long-Awaited League Title

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on X

For over four decades, the La Mirada High girls basketball program has had to sit and watch six other schools celebrate a Suburban League title. Three of those schools are current members of the 605 League—Artesia High, Cerritos High and John Glenn High, while the other three are either in the Gateway League or Mid-Cities League—Bellflower High, Mayfair High and Norwalk High.

In fact, since the 1997-1998 season, the highest league finish the Matadores had was third

[See **LA MIRADA**, page 11]



THE 2024-2025 La Mirada High girls basketball team will be one for the ages as its 54-45 win over Dominguez High last Friday clinched at least a share of the Mid-Cities League title. It's presumed to be the first league championship for the program in school history, at least in 40 years. **Photo by Loren Kopff.**

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MemorialCare Long Beach First in State to Adopt ‘Revolutionary’ Spinal Surgery System



THE NEW SYSTEM improves the precision of spine surgeries, allowing surgeons to make real-time, data-driven decisions. One of the most advanced features is how it automatically halts instrument movement when approaching a danger zone – lit up in orange – preventing potential harm to patients. Dr. Brandon Ortega is seen here demonstrating the system on a test spine.

LCCN Staff Report

Advanced surgical planning and navigation technology enhances precision and expands options for spine surgery, cutting down the length of surgery, which improves patient outcomes

MemorialCare Long Beach Medical Center is the first in the California to adopt Stryker’s Q Guidance System with Spine Guidance Software. This system revolutionizes spinal surgery by enabling precise, computer-assisted navigation for both open and minimally invasive spine procedures. By integrating optical tracking capabilities, sophisticated algorithms, and advanced instrumentation, the Q Guidance System significantly enhances surgical planning and execution, offering spine surgeons unmatched accuracy and efficiency.

“The Q Guidance System with Spine Guidance Software truly streamlines every aspect of spine surgery, from preoperative planning to intraoperative execution,” says Brandon Ortega, M.D., spine surgeon, MemorialCare Orthopedic & Spine Institute, Long Beach Medical Center. “This technology not only improves precision but also provides Long Beach Medical Center with customization capabilities that are needed to optimize outcomes for our patients.”

The Q Guidance System’s advanced proprietary camera provides surgeons exceptional speed and flexibility, offering multiple tracking options, including full-spectrum active and passive hybrid optical tracking. This technology enables the calibration and registration of surgical

instruments in under two seconds, saving valuable time in the operating room. The accompanying Spine Guidance Software further enhances efficiency with an intuitive, modern interface. Its customizable dashboards allow surgeons to tailor the system to their workflow preferences, ensuring a seamless and optimized surgical experience.

“The Q Guidance System is a powerful tool that delivers the reliability and scalability needed for a wide range of spine procedures,” says Dr. Ortega. “When used with the Airo TruCT scanner, the Q Guidance System with Spine Guidance Software can help simplify our intraoperative decision-making with its suggestion-based platform. Its intuitive and customizable software enables us to configure the system to fit our preferences.”

Stryker’s Q Guidance System with Spine Guidance Software represents a significant advancement in spine surgery technology. It offers surgeons the ability to personalize their approach, integrating advanced planning tools, gesture recognition, and compatibility with multiple spine screw systems. These features, combined with the flexibility of customizable settings and an array of surgical instruments, allow surgeons to tailor the system to meet the unique demands of each procedure.

By adopting this groundbreaking technology, Long Beach Medical Center reaffirms its commitment to providing the highest level of care for patients requiring spine surgery. Long Beach Medical Center has been rated a High Performing Hospital in Spinal Fusion and a Best Regional Hospital by U.S. News & World Report.

Summer Employment & Volunteer Opportunities With La Palma

Looking for a fun and rewarding way to spend your summer? Whether you want to gain work experience as a volunteer or start a paid seasonal job, the city of La Palma could have the perfect opportunity for you.

Join the city’s Summer Volunteer Program and gain valuable skills while making a difference in the community, and building lifelong friendships. Apply by March 9 at

governmentjobs.com/careers/lapalma/jobs/4810354/volunteer

Looking for a paid summer job? The La Palma Public Works & Community Services team is hiring Summer Recreation Leaders and Day Camp Counselors to help bring fun and energy to its seasonal programs.

This is an excellent opportunity to work with the community, develop leadership skills, and enjoy a rewarding summer job. But hurry—applications are due by March 2, apply at

governmentjobs.com/careers/lapalma/jobs/4818956/recreation-positions-part-time-summer-day-camp

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ilies to purchase townhome units.

Benefitting from land donated by the Santa Fe Springs valued at over \$1.4 million, as well as over \$20 million in funding from Supervisor Hahn, the State of California, Congresswoman Linda Sánchez, and the Bezos Day One Fund, among many others, the center will house up to 40 families at a time as they transition from homelessness to permanent supportive housing. The first floor of the building contains amenities: a computer lab, laundry services, a food pantry, treatment rooms for mental health services, and a spacious playground for children. Living units in the center include full kitchens, furnishings, appliances, housewares, and more. The facility is also a trauma-informed mental health hub focused on treating the effects of homelessness on children, teens, and parents.

“This represents the culmination of over six years of planning, fundraising, commitment, and excitement,” said Constanza Pachon, CEO of The Whole Child. “To finally open this facility is a testament to the hard work of our Board, leadership team, facilities, team, funders, and partners. We are grateful for all of their efforts to bring this transformative center to life.”

“As we continue to address the homelessness crisis, we have to try new strategies and this Homeless to Homeowner Campus we are bringing to Santa Fe Springs is innovative,” said Supervisor Janice Hahn, who secured \$7.3 million for the project. “This first phase is perhaps the most important part. This will be interim shelter for families in crisis with wrap around services to provide stability and support to parents and kids in what might be the worst chapter of their lives. I applaud the Whole Child for their commitment to supporting families and setting them up for better futures and I hope this can be a model for us going forward.”

“On behalf of City of Santa Fe Springs, I want to sincerely thank The Whole Child for bringing the transformative Homeless to Homeowner Campus to our community. This innovative facility represents hope, stability, and opportunity for families experiencing homelessness. The Whole Child is not just addressing homelessness but offering a pathway to lasting change. We are proud to partner with such a visionary organization to create a brighter future for our residents and thank them for making a meaningful difference in our city,” said Mayor Bill Rounds.

Best-Selling Author Visits Gonsalves Elementary



STUDENTS AT GONSALVES Elementary School celebrated Black History Month by hearing from best-selling author, singer, and actress Latrice McGlothlin. Ms. McGlothlin shared her story “Hello Coco!,” a fun book about an amazing girl showing pride in preparing a meal for her loved ones. The story serves as an uplifting message about the importance of healthy habits, healthy eating, and spending time with family.

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December, culminating with a nomination in February.

If a director resigns before the term ends, AB 1794 is again very clear, “A vacancy in an office of appointed director shall be filled in accordance with the [normal] selection process. The replacement director serves out the remainder of the term and then must resign their position.”

CB Director Thomas Bekele, who, you guessed it, brought major chaos to the board, verbally resigned on video in May 2024.

Vernon Engineer Joanna Moreno was nominated and replaced Bekele in mid-2024, knowing she would be off the board in December 2024 under AB 1794.

But the board majority, management, and lawyers at CB have covertly delayed the nomination process, which should’ve ended with Moreno’s replacement appointed “on the last Friday in February,” which would have been in 21 days on February 28, 2025.

The majority have bought themselves a seat for at least three months; the process to fill a seat takes 120 days.

As with other appointed CB Directors, Moreno has defied the law under AB 1794 while remaining on the board so that Ochoa, Mendez, and Garza can retain their majority and vote for a slew of contracts.

The group recently voted to approve a five-year office lease far from the center of CB in the swanky Cerritos Towne Center, paying \$3.05 per square foot for a 5,000-square-foot space. A quick check by LCCN of available office space in Commerce, immediately off Interstate Five freeway, found space at \$2.7 per square foot, and in the city of Industry, LCCN found space at \$2.4 per square foot.

Knowing that they needed to move on from the Ochoa and Moreno situation at some point, the group concocted the AG letter scheme. Ponto and his assistant Zach

Lopes drafted an expensive six-page letter, hiding it as “clarification,” subsequently arguing, using precedents and the Water Code, that both Ochoa and Moreno should remain on the board, in effect asking Bonta to alter AB 1794.

LCCN exclusively obtained the letter from sources; CB lawyers, in a questionable maneuver, refused to give LCCN the letter after a proper public records request “because [Victor] Ponto said it was a draft and not disclosable.”

The letter shows that the Central Basin Water Association is also involved in the scheme, asking for a “co-opinion” with Central Basin Municipal Water. According to sources, neither the CB Board nor the CBWA board approved the draft letter.

It is similar to what CBWA pulled in 2016, covertly lobbying for AB 1794 while violating federal and state reporting laws related to lobbying, as exclusively reported by LCCN in 2019.

That illegal lobbying paid off; three CBWA Board members, Dan Arrighi, Frank Heldman, and Mark Grejeda, were eventually appointed to the CB Basin Board. All three brought chaos to the board, with Arrighi and Heldman eventually resigning before their term ended.

No CB Board members ever asked for an opinion from the attorney general after the two resigned, and two more appointed CB Directors resigned after Arrighi and Heldman.

The letter must now be approved by both the CB Board and the CBWA Board, but there are numerous conflicts of interest; two glaring conflicts would be Ochoa and Moreno voting.

It remains to be seen whether conflicts of interest have prevented the group from voting on and approving agenda items before.

Lakewood’s Homeless Outreach Team Seeing Success



DUAL APPROACH: A homeless encampment in the rear alley behind Petco on Lakewood Blvd., the city has a dual approach of offering mental health services and enforcement against encampments.

By Brian Hews

When Lakewood implemented its ideas to combat homelessness two years ago, the city ended up using a dual approach of intensive outreach to homeless people, offering services and help in leaving the streets and getting housing, coupled with Sheriff’s enforcement to ensure that illegal encampments are removed as quickly as possible and laws are being followed. The program has been a success.

It’s called the Lakewood Outreach Team.

LOT has succeeded in encouraging dozens of homeless people in Lakewood to accept help and leave the streets over the past two years, but challenges remain.

Recently, the city’s team efforts focused on a homeless encampment in the rear alley behind Petco on Lakewood Blvd.

Deputy Sheriffs contacted three homeless people there and found that one had a felony warrant.

As they were arresting him, the man said he was having a medical emergency due to drugs he had taken earlier.

He was taken to the hospital and will eventually be arrested.

The city’s Public Safety Officers (PSOs) offered homeless services to the other individuals, but they refused the help. They were told to gather their items and leave the area quickly.

PSOs also contacted the manager of Petco regarding the incident to emphasize calling the Sheriff’s Station anytime there are homeless congregating in their parking lot.

They also successfully had the manager sign a Letter of Agency, which allows the Sheriff’s Department to enforce trespassing on behalf of a business during non-business hours.

The city indicated that Deputy Sheriffs, PSOs, the city’s Homeless Services Liaison, and Southwest Patrol will continue to monitor Petco and take appropriate action to offer outreach services and remove any encampments.

“Lakewood will continue to carry out actions like that,” said City Manager Thaddeus McCormack. “We are being as active and creative as we can in addressing homelessness in our city. We’re doing everything we can to offer help and maintain the quality of life for our overall community.”

If residents see an encampment, they are encouraged to call Lakewood Station’s non-emergency line at 562-623-3500 or submit a request using the Lakewood Connect app. Residents involvement is crucial in the city’s efforts to address homelessness.

If an individual is acting erratically or appears to be a danger to themselves or others, call 911 immediately.

Businesses can enforce the encampments by posting no-trespassing signs and educating employees about the process for reporting issues involving the homeless, as outlined above.

Businesses interested in signing a Letter of Agency or wishing more information on steps to report and address homelessness can contact the city’s Public Safety Department at 562-866-9771, ext. 2114.

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What's Happening in La Mirada

LCCN Staff Report

Enjoy the Farmers Market

Savor the season’s best with fresh regional produce, handcrafted goodies, and ready-to-enjoy treats perfect for sharing with someone special.

The Farmers Market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and features 20 to 25 vendors each week.

The Farmers Market has a temporary new location within the Civic Center campus adjacent to the Activity Center.

Love a Tree Poster Contest

Students are invited to showcase their creativity and express their appreciation for the urban forest by participating in the Arbor Day “Love a Tree” poster contest.

This contest is open to all La Mirada students, from kindergarten through 12th grade. Entries must be submitted by Monday, March 17.

The original artwork should reflect the theme “Love a Tree” and be created on paper (ranging from 8.5” x 11” to 12” x 18”), digitally, or using recycled materials.

Be sure to include the artist’s first and last name, school, grade level, and parent contact information on the back of the poster.

First-place winners from each grade level will be honored at a City Council meeting in April.

Digital entries may be submitted to LoveATree@cityoflamirada.org. For more information, please call (562) 943-7277.2025

Older Americans Recognition Award

The City of La Mirada honors residents ages 60 and above whose active involvement and volunteer service have greatly enhanced the quality of life in the community. Nominations for the 2025 Older Americans Recognition Day Award are being accepted through February 17.

Nomination forms are available here and at the Activity Center. Nominations may be submitted electronically to OARD@cityoflamirada.org and in-person at the Activity Center. The selected award recipient will be recognized as La Mirada’s honoree at the Los Angeles County Commission on Aging’s Older Americans Recognition Day award ceremony and at a City Council meeting in May.

For more information, call the Activity Center at (562) 902-3160.

La Mirada Celebrates 65 Years: A Journey Through History

La Mirada is celebrating its 65th anniversary as an incorporated city! A special celebration will be held on Saturday, March 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the historic Neff Estate.

Experience La Mirada’s rich history by touring the Carriage Barn, the George



42 HOME MIXED-USE PROJECT APPROVED

A MIXED-USE PROJECT offering a total of 42 market-rate residential homes at 15700 Imperial Highway has been approved. “This development, marking the first mixed-use project within the Imperial Highway Specific Plan, is a significant milestone for the City’s La Mirada Housing for All initiative,” says Community Development Director Manuel Muñoz. The residential project is being financed and built by a private developer.” It will include 35 spacious townhomes featuring three to four bedrooms and two to three stories with floor plans ranging from 1,588 to 2,200 square feet.

House, and the Neff House, and explore exhibits and a historical timeline showcasing La Mirada’s key milestones. The celebration will feature a craft fair, food vendors, family-friendly activities, and live entertainment.

For more information about La Mirada’s 65th Anniversary Celebration, visit cityoflamirada.org.

Volunteer for the 2025 Los Angeles County Homeless Count

The Los Angeles County Homeless Count was postponed in January and is now scheduled for Wednesday, February 19 at 8 p.m. The data collected from the Count is an essential part of understanding and addressing homelessness in L.A. County. Information gathered from the Count helps the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) and its partners deliver services where they are needed most. For more information, or to sign-up, visit count.lahsa.org.





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Long-Time Cerritos Resident Passes Away

Rosemary Economy

Longtime Cerritos resident Rosemary Economy passed away on January 13, 2025. Ms. Economy had moved to Palm Springs a few years ago. She was a founding member of the Let Freedom Ring Committee, a former Planning Commissioner and was very active in the community. Ms. Economy and her husband Richard “Dick” Economy with both active partners in the community. Rosemary was interred at Artesia Cemetery January 24.

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The Play That Goes Wrong Does Everything Right at La Mirada Theater



WRONG: from (l-r) John Sanders, Mary Faber, Reggie De Leon and Trent Mills star in the La Mirada Theatre’ hilarious comedy now until Feb. 16.

By Stepheny Gehrig

Laughter roared throughout La Mirada, all due to the production of “The Play That Goes Wrong” at the Theatre for the Performing Arts.

The over-the-top slapstick comedy quickly became an audience favorite, featuring punchless punchlines and gauche stunts. With the understanding that the audience is watching the first performance of an amateur whodunit production, the show sets itself up as a meta-play, a play within a play.

The show succeeds in establishing the success of its actors. By portraying characters who are victims of everything going wrong in their own production, these actors successfully demonstrate their talents as performers.

The unassuming pairing of Regina Fernandez, who played Sandra/ Florence Colleymoore, and Garrett Clayton, who plays Max/Cecil Haversham and Arthur the Gardener, both brought an authentic sense of gaudiness and passion to their respective characters. In a scene where they share a synchronized “kiss,” Fernandez and Clayton are perfectly synchronized, making their moment so much more comedic.



Trent Mills, Robert/Thomas Colleymoore, who also featured in La Mirada’s “The Little Mermaid” production, showcased his range diving into comedy. A particularly humorous scene in which Mills and Clayton settle an argument with a sword fight becomes more comical as the actors embrace the exaggerated moment.

Although given a few lines, Sterling Sulieman, who plays Jonathan/Charles Haversham, acted phenomenally through subtleties like facial expressions, sighs, and physicality. Sulieman truly added a spark to the show that is worth praise.

Both Reggie De Leon, who plays Dennis/Perkins, and John Sanders, who plays Chris/Inspector Carter, deserve a moment in the limelight as they carry the majority of the laughter in the house. De Leon and Sanders’ characters derived their comedic essence through puns that are said so casually and quickly that they might take a minute for viewers to digest or be overlooked.

The characters Trevor and Annie, played by Michael-Leon Wooley and Mary Faber, respectively, introduce an interesting value to the show that gets the audience involved. Wooley and Faber interact with the audience in ways that make the show much more enjoyable and memorable.

Another highlight of the show is its precision in its set design. For a show where everything goes wrong, breaks, or falls down, it is imperative that each piece of the set is functioning and in its proper place — something that can go unnoticed in any production. The set design, in this case, is essential to the success of the show. Additionally, the show should be commended on its technicality in its stage fighting, which was performed so accurately that moments were gasp-worthy.

If you’re looking for an easy-to-watch and over-the-top comedy, then “The Play That Goes Wrong” is perfect. However, this show might not land well with some audiences as jokes are re-used and predictable, while the physical comedy comes across as brash — almost as if the show does not expect its viewers to be able to keep up.

The show might be fun for Gen Z audiences or those who are fans of Disney’s “Teen Beach Movie,” as Clayton is a lead character in the film.

“The Play that Goes Wrong” will be in La Mirada until Feb. 16. Its shows are Thursdays through Sundays, and tickets range from \$13 to \$87.

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Building a Stronger Artesia: My Vision and Path Forward in 2025

By Ali Sajjad Taj
Artesia Mayor

“As Mayor of the City of Artesia, I am deeply honored and humbled to serve our vibrant and diverse community for a third term. This privilege is one I hold close to my heart, and I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the residents and constituents of Artesia for placing their trust in me once again. Your confidence and continued support inspire me to work tirelessly to ensure Artesia remains a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family. During my previous terms, we have successfully expanded community programs, improved local infrastructure, and fostered partnerships with local businesses to drive economic growth. These achievements are a reflection of our shared dedication to making Artesia a thriving and inclusive



city. I also want to express my sincere thanks to all of you for your overwhelming support of Measure AAA. This critical initiative, made possible by your votes, will provide much-needed resources to enhance the quality of life in our city. It is a testament to the strength and unity of our community, and I am excited to see the positive impact it will have in the months and years to come. As we embark on the year 2025, I am pleased to share our top priorities that will guide our efforts:

1. Enhancing Public Safety: Keeping Artesia a safe place to live is our highest priority. This year, I am thrilled to announce the establishment of a new Public Safety Service Center. This facility will allow law enforcement, code enforcement and staff to better serve our community, ensuring quicker response times and a stronger presence in our neighborhoods. Public safety is the foundation of a thriving community, and we are committed to providing the resources necessary to keep every resident safe.

2. Driving Economic Development and Revenue Generation: To sustain and grow Artesia’s prosperity, we will focus on attracting new businesses, supporting our local entrepreneurs, and securing additional funding through county, state, and federal grants. Economic development is key to creating jobs, enhancing city services, and increasing revenue streams that benefit all residents. For instance, the upcoming Artesia Town Center project, which includes a mix of retail, dining, and community spaces, is expected to generate significant local revenue and create numerous job opportunities for our residents. By fostering a business-friendly environment, we aim to strengthen Artesia’s economic foundation for future generations.
3. Investing in Our Workforce: The hardworking employees of the City of Artesia are the backbone of our success. This year, we will prioritize hiring new talent, offering competitive compensation packages, and retaining our dedicated staff through promotions and reward programs. Our goal is to build a motivated, high-per-

forming team committed to serving our community with excellence. In addition to these priorities, we remain steadfast in our commitment to improving our city’s infrastructure, including roads and public spaces. These enhancements will ensure Artesia continues to be a city we are all proud to call home. As your Mayor, I am committed to maintaining an open-door policy. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly or through my office with any concerns, suggestions, or ideas. I also look forward to working with my City Council colleagues and the staff. Together, we can make Artesia even better. Finally, our thoughts and prayers are with the victims of the recent wildfires. Let us stand in solidarity with those affected and continue to support each other in times of need. Thank you for your trust and support. I look forward to serving you and working together to make 2025 a year of progress and prosperity for Artesia.”

By Ernie Nishii, President, ABC Unified School District Board of Education

The ABC Unified School District (ABCUSD) has long been recognized as a leader in education nationwide. Since I joined the Board of Education in 2017, I’ve witnessed firsthand the great work happening in our schools and communities. In December, my colleagues entrusted me with the role of board president—a position I last held in 2019. Reflecting on our district then and now, times couldn’t be more different. In 2019, California’s economy was doing well. Our community had just approved a facilities measure to modernize our first in 23 years. Our district weathered the Great Recession without laying off permanent employees, and while we anticipated declining enrollment, we were addressing it. Then, in 2020, the COVID pandemic happened. Now, as I begin my second term as board president, we face a trifecta of challenges: an inconsistent state economy/loss of federal revenues, declining student enrollment, and the financial impact of Assembly Bill 218. California public schools are funded



primarily through the state. In theory, this should mean that schools have the resources we need. The reality is that we don’t. During the pandemic, federal one-time funds provided crucial support for addressing student “learning loss” and mental health. The funds allowed us to keep class sizes smaller, with lower teacher-to-student ratios. Those restricted one-time funds are either spent or allocated to be spent very soon. School funding is tied to student attendance. Over the past years, ABCUSD has suffered a decline in enrollment, from over 20,000 students pre-pandemic to fewer than 17,500 today. This undeniable trend will continue as declining birth rates (2023 marked the lowest birth rate in Los Angeles County’s history) and family relocations reduce our student enrollment. Declining enrollment impacts not only our funding but also the resources available for our students to succeed. This is not unique to ABCUSD—districts in Los Angeles County and across California are grappling with similar challenges. As if the economic and enrollment pressures weren’t enough, Assembly Bill 218 (AB 218) has added another layer of financial strain. This law extended the statute of limitations for survivors of childhood abuse to file lawsuits, including cases dating back decades. While the intent of the law is noble, its finan-

cial consequences for public schools are devastating. ABCUSD is not immune. Last year, we settled a case stemming from an incident in the 1980s for \$6 million, and last month, we settled more cases from the 1980s totaling \$4.5 million. If you look up cases in Los Angeles County, you will understand the potential financial impact of not settling these claims. The people who committed these heinous acts are long gone, but we, as a district, live with the consequences. These settlements are paid from our general fund - monies meant to support our current students and diverting these resources to address decades-old cases, while morally commendable for victims, hurts all our students today. Districts statewide face similar lawsuits, and unfortunately, settling these cases is often the best course of action since a single jury verdict could lead to financial disaster. One district suffered a judgment of over \$100 million. While the governor’s proposed budget allocates some relief funds, it’s nowhere near enough. During my seven years on the board, I’ve learned that public education makes an extraordinary impact despite challenges. Challenges rarely exist in isolation—one issue often affects many others. If we were facing only declining enrollment and the challenges of meeting the academic needs in smaller schools, we might consider school consolidations. If it were only an

economic downturn, we could collaborate with employees and the community to find solutions, like we’ve done in the past. If it were only AB 218 cases, we could work to identify long-term funding. Now, we are dealing with all three - a trifecta of challenges we’ve not experienced before. Despite these obstacles, we remain committed to student success. We will do everything to minimize the impact of these challenges in our classrooms. However, difficult and likely unpopular decisions lie ahead, and we will need the collective efforts of families, staff, and community to navigate this complex storm: simple answers and slogans won’t work. Indeed, it is how we address these challenges together that will shape our future. While we face major challenges, I remain hopeful. Together, we can preserve and strengthen the legacy of academic excellence that has defined ABCUSD since it was founded nearly 60 years ago. Our students deserve nothing less. Ernie Nishii is the president of the ABC Unified School District Board of Education and has served on the board since 2017. A practicing attorney since 1992, he became involved in the district as an active parent while his child attended ABCUSD schools. He represents Trustee Area 3, which includes Cerritos, and was reelected in 2022.

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Organic Insect Pest Control in Vegetable and Flower Gardens

By Melinda Myers

You can have a beautiful, productive garden while working with nature to manage insect pests.

As you incorporate various eco-friendly pest management strategies, you will encourage songbirds, beneficial insects, and pollinators to visit your gardens.

You will find slight variations of definitions, but most organic gardeners agree the focus is on cultivating a system that supports and sustains all its members. This includes plants, soil microbes, and other beneficial organisms.

As with any garden, it starts with creating a healthy soil foundation, selecting the plants best suited to the growing conditions, and providing them with proper care.

When you do these things, you will be able to grow healthier plants that are more tolerant of pest attacks and more resilient when damaged.

Removing weeds from garden beds is an important pest management strategy.

These uninvited plants compete with your desirable plants for water and nutrients. Many also attract and harbor plant-damaging insect pests and disease organisms in the garden.

No matter how well you plan, plant, and care for your gardens, insect pest problems can arise. Include nature's pest managers in your organic garden approach. Ninety-six percent of terrestrial North American birds rely on insects for part of their diet.

They also add color, motion, and entertainment to our landscapes. Many beneficial insects eat or parasitize insects.

Lady beetles, green lacewings, young and old, eat hundreds of aphids a day. Parasitic wasps, depending on the species, can attack specific or a variety of insects including caterpillars like the tomato hornworm, aphids, leafhoppers, scale, beetles, and true bugs.

Attract more beneficial insects, both pollinators and pest managers, to your gardens with plants. Grow plants like sweet alyssum, columbine, thyme, lavender, goldenrod, sedum, asters, and other plants that attract beneficial insects to your garden.

Be proactive by regularly monitoring your gardens. Look for emerging pest problems and the good guys stopping by to dine on them. You will need to tolerate some damage so there will be food to attract and feed the predators in the garden.

If intervention is needed, look for the most eco-friendly control options. Barriers of lightweight floating row covers protect against cabbage worms, Japanese and bean beetles, cucumber beetles, squash bugs, and squash vine borers on susceptible plants. Just cover the plantings with row covers immediately after seeding. Since basil and beans do not need to be pollinated to produce the harvest, leave them covered for the season. Uncover squash, pumpkins, melons, and cucumbers when they begin flowering so pollinators have access to the blossoms. Research found vine crops in this manner limited damage by squash bugs, squash vine borer, and the cucumber beetles that

CABBAGE WEBWORM- These are easy to spot with their tan body and four strips running along the length of the body. These webworms are found nestled on the margins of leaves. The cabbageworm feeds off the mustard and cole family, including cabbage and broccoli.

can infect and kill cucumber plants with bacterial wilt.

If you forget to cover your cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, and Brussels sprouts, enlist the help of a naturally occurring soil bacterial called *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* (Btk) found in Summit's Biological Caterpillar and Webworm (SummitResponsibleSolutions.com). It only kills true caterpillars and webworms and can be applied to edible plants right up to harvest.

A strong blast of water is a great first step in managing mites and aphids. It knocks them off the plant, helping minimize the damage. If needed, apply lightweight horticulture oils, like organic Summit's Year-Round Spray Oil according to label directions. It kills a wide variety of soft-bodied insects in all stages (including eggs) on contact and poses few

risks to beneficial insects that land on the treated plant.

Over time these eco-friendly strategies become part of your gardening routine. And the more we work with nature, the better it is for you, your plants, and the environment.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Summit for her expertise to write this article. Myers' website is www.MelindaMyers.com.

California Science Center’s Summer 2025 Hands-On Science Camp



EXCITING EXPLORATIONS, delightful discoveries and wild wonders await this summer at the California Science Center’s Hands-On Science Camp. The camp has a variety of weeklong day camps on half or full-day schedules.

The California Science Center’s summer 2025 Hands-On Science Camp will be held June 16 through August 8, offering Pre-K through 8th grade students over 25 unique classes in weeklong day camps on half or full-day schedules, with something to appeal to each camper’s specific interests. Enrollment opens Feb. 26 at 11 a.m.

In Hands-On Science Camp, curious young minds engage in exploration-based activities led by a staff of trained educators with backgrounds in science and/or education and working professionals from a variety of science fields. Campers learn by doing science as they mix, launch, dig, dissect, observe, explore, and so much more.

Hands-On Science Camp provides a class for every age and stage. Programs for the youngest learners are parent-child classes for Pre-K students, that focus on a scientific theme with exciting hands-on activities, including classes that invite children to take a look at themselves from the inside out or examine chemical reactions

that take place all around us. Campers in Kindergarten through 8th grade can join courses on topics of rocket building, robot building, chemical reaction experiments, the connection between science and cooking, magic in science, engineering, animal care, and marine biology, among others.

Hands-On Science Camp takes place in the California Science Center’s Wallis Annenberg Building for Science Learning and Innovation. Courses take advantage of the building’s unique features with hands-on investigations involving air flow, buoyancy, gravity, and ecology; as well as the exhibits available at the California Science Center. Classes are available in the morning, afternoon, or full-day options to create an optimum schedule and students should select classes based upon their rising grade level, the grade they will enter in Fall 2025.

*View class descriptions
and enroll online at*

californiasciencecenter.org/camp



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GATEWAY LEAGUE BOYS BASKETBALL

La Mirada's Defense Sets the Tone in Rout of Former SGVL Powerhouse Team

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on X

When La Mirada High was in the former Suburban League, titles were hard to come by with Artesia High and Mayfair High running the show while the Matadores were primarily a third or fourth place team. When Dominguez High was in the former San Gabriel Valley League, its boys basketball teams were virtually untouchable as the Dons won 11 CIF-Southern Section championships from 1989-2008.

How the tables have turned in the 2020s as the Matadores are now the ones to beat while Dominguez is dreaming of what it's program used to be. La Mirada moved to 5-3 against Dominguez since 2008 with a resounding 82-34 victory last Friday, leaving the Matadores at 22-4 overall and 6-0 in the Gateway League as they inch closer to their fourth straight league title. In contrast, Dominguez hasn't won a league crown since going 10-0 in the 2021-2022 season.

"Coach [Matt] Dunn at [St. John] Bosco said sometimes you're the bug, sometimes you're the windshield," said La Mirada head coach Randy Oronoz. "So we've all been there. I know the score got up there. We're trying to win with class, and we have to just play hard, and that's the only way we know how to do it. You don't want to throw it in the other team's face, but sometimes you're the bug and sometimes you're the windshield, and we've done a good job of building this program up to be able to compete for our fourth league championship in a row."

The Matadores never trailed and after Andre Johnson's basket made it 6-5 just over two minutes into the game, La Mirada scored the next 13 points to start the runaway affair. Even when Dominguez, which dropped to 1-5 in league, scored the first seven points of the second quarter, the Matadores managed to go on a 17-4 run over the final 5:35 of the first half and did not allow their counterparts to score consecutive baskets in the second half.



LA MIRADA HIGH senior M.J. Smith throws down a dunk in the second half against Dominguez High as junior Andrew Castro admires the talent. Smith scored 19 points, nine coming in the second half as the Matadores trounced the Dons 82-34. Photo by Carol Emmerling.

The 34 points allowed are a season-low and in six league games, La Mirada has allowed less than 60 points in three straight games and five times. Longtime nemesis Mayfair scored 62

points on Jan. 17. "The saying goes, defense wins games, and offense just tells you how much you won by," said Oronoz. "We got steals; we weren't trying to go for a mil-

lion steals. But we really want to solidify and put our stamp on the game as being a defensive team. Everyone plays defense in the [CIF-Southern Section] Open Division; it's there for a reason. So, if our offense isn't going, we might have to just squeak out a win every now and then."

The usual playmakers were doing their thing for the Matadores, led by sophomore Gene Roebuck, who was on fire from the very beginning, pulling down seven rebounds in the first quarter while scoring nine of the team's 21 points in the stanza. He finished the game with 25 points, 12 rebounds and four assists.

Senior M.J. Smith posted 19 points, six steals, five rebounds and two assists while senior Julien Gomez pitched in with 15 points, three rebounds, three assists and two steals. In fact, the Matadores grabbed 43 rebounds with 23 coming from the offensive end, and of those, five were putbacks.

"I think guys were just trying to play hard and give us extra opportunities," said Oronoz. "That's basically it. Credit to our guys because they played such big teams over the preseason. Dominguez isn't small, but compared to what they've been seeing, they thought they could have opportunities to chase down a rebound."

With two games remaining in the regular season, both at home against Gahr High and Mayfair, La Mirada is seeking for its fourth straight league championship and has won 26 of 28 league games during that stretch. Those two losses came to Dominguez and Downey High in 2023, both on the road as the Matadores shared the first place honors with Downey. Before that, the last time La Mirada finished in first place was during the 2015-2016 season.

"It's the players," said Oronoz. "We have a great senior class that has really solidified themselves in trying to be the best team La Mirada has every had. So, 26-2 in league; they haven't lost a league home league game in four years...and we're hoping to stay that way."

OLYMPIC LEAGUE GIRLS BASKETBALL

Valley Christian's Douglas has career night in season finale against Whittier Christian

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on X

LA HABRA-The Valley Christian High girls basketball team capped off a disappointing 10-16 season with a come from behind 43-41 victory over Whittier Christian High this past Tuesday inside the Leon Davis Event Center. However, the victory was somewhat bittersweet as the result was a case of what could have been for the Defenders.

V.C. ended the season with a 2-6 mark in Olympic League action, but the Defenders lost to Whittier Christian on Jan. 14, then to Heritage Christian High a week later, both games at home and by identical 49-46 scores. Add a seven-point loss to Maranatha High on the road, a team it had defeated to begin league play, and it's easy to see how close V.C. was to a 4-4, or even a 5-3 league mark. Why is that important? V.C. finished one game behind Maranatha and Whittier Christian for third place and two games behind Heritage Christian for second place.

The Defenders watched the Heralds reel off five straight points over the final 1:31 of the third quarter to lead by 11

points, the largest lead of the night. But the fourth quarter would see V.C. display one of its best quarters of the season. The only points Whittier Christian would score came from Analise Quintero in succession in a span of 22 seconds, making it 41-34 with 4:42 left in the game. After that, the hosts would miss on their last nine shots of the game while V.C. went five of seven from the field.

"Obviously, it's really easy when you're going into a game and you don't have anything to play for as far as the postseason," said V.C. head coach Dan Leffler. "But our goal was to continue to get better and the girls have gotten a ton better. We put them to work and made a commitment [that] we were going there to win a basketball game, and they did that."

The game began with three ties, two lead changes and neither team leading by more than two points until Ayanna Gray scored consecutive baskets to make it

10-6 with half a minute remaining in the stanza. However, the Heralds missed their first seven shots of the game despite getting a slew of offensive rebounds. Meanwhile, V.C. got just five rebounds, three steals and were four of 12 from the field.

"It was obviously one of my points of emphasis for the game-no second chances," said Leffler. "I think we've been in so many games where they get three or four chances, and the gap widens, and we can't catch up. I was a little sterner talking to them at half-time [telling them] it's got to be one and done." Sophomore sensation

Hannah Burgoyne missed her only two shots she took while freshman Molly Douglas, who had a say in the victory, was held scoreless and didn't take a shot. That would change in the second quarter when she accounted for seven of V.C.'s nine points with the other two points coming off free throws. The Defenders stayed

within striking range but were down 23-17 at the half.

That lead would reach 10 points three times in the third quarter but each time, the Defenders managed to trim it down to seven points, then eight points and finally six points when senior Chayse Chambers scored on her putback to make it 32-26 with 1:49 left in the stanza. Still, Burgoyne was having a tough time in the scoring department, adding a free throw to her point total while Douglas scored once, bringing her game total to nine points.

"Every team we've played in the second half [of league play], their goal is the same; hey, we're doubling Hannah, we're taking her out of the game," said Leffler. "So I've challenged our team every game. Somebody else has to step up and score because you're going to be open. If they have two people guarding Hannah, somebody is open. Molly, I think, is just a competitor. She has a really short memory; if she does something wrong or makes a bad pass, she doesn't get frustrated by that. She goes down and plays hard, and she stepped up huge."

Burgoyne began the fourth quarter

MID-CITIES LEAGUE GIRLS BASKETBALL

La Mirada Pulls Away From Dominguez, Clinches First League Title in Program’s History

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on X

La Mirada High senior Jael Arreguin has seen the highs and lows of the girls basketball program during her four years on the varsity team. But when the Matadores rallied to knock off Dominguez High last Friday, she was full of tears, and for a good reason.

Arreguin kick started an 8-0 run to end the game and helped give La Mirada a 54-45 victory over the Dons, clinching at least a share of what is presumed to be the program’s first league title. Multiple sources dating back to the 1986-1987 season indicate that La Mirada never won a Suburban League title through the 2021-2022 season. The program has been in the Mid-Cities League since the 2022-2023 campaign.

“It’s surreal,” she said. “Playing since my freshman year, we weren’t as good of a team. We were losing almost every game, and this year, we’re league champs. It’s like a perfect ending; happily ever after.”

For head coach Victoria Luong, she was just satisfied to see how proud the girls were of themselves when that buzzer sounded with triple zero’s on the clock.

“At halftime, I told the girls...they’ve heard me say the same things for all 25 games this season, and for four years,” said Luong. “It’s like a broken record, and I keep in telling them the same thing. Now you just have to execute it. It’s the second to the last regular season game and they just had to come out. I think they finally realized that [I was right], and I think, them actually proving to themselves, that they could do it was a big moment for us.”

The game was divided into three parts, the last being the 8-0 scoring spree over the final 2:19 of the game which nearly mirrored how the contest began as Dominguez raced to an 8-2 lead within the first two and a half minutes. In between, neither team held a lead greater than three points with four lead changes in the second and third quarters.

“We told them, against a good team, you can’t start off slow,” said Luong. “It was simple mistakes: turnovers, not getting back on defense, little things...and they just weren’t there. [They] had all this time



LA MIRADA HIGH senior Jael Arreguin takes one of her 10 shots in the second half against Dominguez High last Friday as the Matadores clinched at least a share of the Mid-Cities League title with a 54-45 win. Arreguin scored a team-high 13 points and had four assists, four rebounds and two steals. **Photo by Carol Emmerling.**

to get [their] head into the game and it took them a minute before they realized they had to pick it up now before it gets further.”

La Mirada went up 21-18 with 5:01 left in the first half before Jocelyn Luis and Mya Harris had consecutive baskets to give the Dons the lead. Moments later, Kayla Scott gave Dominguez a 25-22 lead before Arreguin had her first theft of the game, then fed a pass to sophomore Jordin Shaw who scored. With 11.8 seconds left in the half, senior Hailey Medrano’s pass to

senior Emily Gonzalez gave the Matadores (15-10, 8-1) a 26-25 halftime lead.

“I did let my nerves get to me in the beginning,” said Arreguin. “But once I got into the game, I just had to wipe my mind blank, and I focused on energy with my teammates and just the bond we’ve created over the years.”

In La Mirada’s 59-47 win at Dominguez (21-4, 7-2) on Jan. 15, the Dons were without the services of Scott, their leading scorer. In her absence, Mya Harris picked

up the slack and scored 23 points. In the first half last Friday, Scott’s presence was felt as she scored 10 points while Harris added nine points.

“That was different, not knowing [Scott’s play],” said Luong. “I felt [Harris] was a lot stronger. She’s a freshman, she’s taller and she’s fierce. Just by stats, we knew she was the leading scorer, but even offensively, [Harris] was strong.”

“Dominguez is a great team; aggressive, and they have some really tall girls which we’re not really skilled in that category,” chuckled Arreguin. “But Dominguez is a great team and super aggressive, and I admire that about them.”

La Mirada took its second three-point lead 71 seconds into the third quarter when Arreguin scored off her own offensive rebound and two minutes later, senior Destiny Elmore made it 30-27 before the Dons took the lead with two straight baskets, then opened a three-point advantage on a basket from Ngozi Okoye with 3:01 remaining in the stanza.

But here came La Mirada with a three-pointer from Elmore and a basket from senior Nayeli Tamayo to take the lead again with 42. 5 seconds left in the third quarter. The final lead change of the game was on the last basket of the stanza, an offensive putback from senior Simran Sahota, making it 37-36. After that, there would be three ties within the first three minutes of the fourth quarter.

Even though the Matadores had the lead for most of the third quarter, it wasn’t the best for Arreguin, who missed three of four shots, turned the ball over five times, had two rebounds and an assist. But the team’s leading scorer turned it around in the fourth quarter with seven points and ended the game with 13 points, four rebounds, four assists and two steals.

“Just in the fourth quarter, I really knew I had to lock in; forget about the rest of the game and forget about my mistakes,” said Arreguin. “That’s what I’ve always been taught as a player; next play mentality. So, I really tried to go into the game with that.”

“If you look at our stats from our first round [game] versus Dominguez, I think

[See **CHAMPIONS**, page 12]

LA MIRADA from page 1

place as they came in fifth place eight times, fourth place seven times, sixth place three times and last place once.

Then when the 605 League was put together beginning with the 2018-2019 season, La Mirada watched Mayfair crown itself champions four times before the Gateway League and Mid-Cities Leagues were formed as part of the Suburban Valley Conference. Still, La Mirada was waiting for its turn to celebrate a first place finish.

Now, the Matadores can celebrate as their 54-45 win over Dominguez High last Friday assured them of at least a share of the Mid-Cities League crown. But for La Mirada to get to this point, it had to experience the worst of times and make sure the freshmen of four seasons ago, stayed with the program.

The rebuilding process began with the 2021-2022 season as the Matadores fielded a team of nine players, four of whom were freshmen-Jael Arreguin, Emily Gonzalez, Nayeli Tamayo and Aleeya Willie. The heart and soul of that team was then-sophomore Jirah Domingo, who scored at least 20 points in three of the first seven games. But La Mirada finished that season with a 2-12 mark

and went winless in six Suburban League games.

Making matters worse was that La Mirada had a tough time scoring, reaching the 30-point mark three times while not getting 20 points in league play. But the next season would be worlds apart as the Matadores went 10-12 overall and 4-6 in the new Mid-Cities League.

Domingo was still the leader of the team, but Arreguin was beginning to make her presence known as the team now had one senior, one junior and 10 sophomores, including current players Destiny Elmore, Francella Ortiz and Simran Sahota. The team was sitting at 9-9, 3-3 at one point and the scoring had improved immensely.

Last season’s team of 10 players was the best in school history as the Matadores went 22-7, finished in second place in the Mid-Cities League, splitting their two games with league champion Mayfair, losing to Colton High by a point in the CIF-Southern Section Division 5AA semifinals and willing a CIF Southern California Division 5 state game.

Domingo was still the leading scorer at 20 points per game, but Arreguin was stepping up her game as was Gonzalez, Sahota and Tamayo. Then-junior Hailey Medrano had joined the varsity squad while Willie was no longer in the

program, and freshman Jordin Shaw was beginning to make a name for herself, reaching double digits in scoring eight times.

“Honestly, I don’t think I even thought about that,” said Arreguin of winning a league championship. “I just thought that might be a possibility except for this year. Last year, we depended on our best player, Jirah [Domingo], so much. I miss her all the time, but this year I knew I really had to step up my game to help out the team and it paid off.”

Now, all that hard work has paid off as La Mirada (15-10, 8-1) gets set for the playoffs next week. Arreguin has scored at least 10 points in 18 games, including the last 14 entering the final game of the regular season against Norwalk.

“I think she has really stepped it up as team captain this year as far as pushing her teammates,” said Luong. “Not just herself, but just motivating her teammates...and taking more initiative as a team captain, which I’ve been waiting for years to really step up. But this year she’s really stepped up and taken over that role.”

Elmore and Gonzalez have been solid starters, known more for her rebounding performances and Medrano has stepped up her game, scoring a career-high 28 points at Norwalk on Jan.

17 and 21 points against Firebaugh High a week later. Add in the maturity of Shaw, who has complemented Arreguin in the scoring department this season and it’s easy to see why the Matadores have finally reached first place. The only league blemish was a four-point setback to Warren High on Jan. 10.

But with the good comes the bad as La Mirada graduates nine seniors with Shaw the only returning player coming back next season. No matter what happens in the playoffs, the 2024-2025 team will be one for the scrapbook in the history of La Mirada girls basketball.

“They’re my everything,” said Luong of the seniors. “I think least half of the varsity team started off as freshmen on the varsity team. We were the Firebaugh at that time when they were freshmen. We didn’t get wins; they were freshmen and for some of these girls, they were on varsity, and they really never touched the basketball. In the first game [against California High], I didn’t realize I had to go over how to inbound a play. So, they’ve come a long way, and they’ve really developed; they never gave up after a losing season. Even their sophomore year was rough for them. If you keep losing, why would you want to stay on the same team? But they came back every year and every year, they’re setting records.”

CHAMPIONS from page 11

she blew up in the fourth quarter,” said Luong of her team captain. “I think she had 10 points in the fourth quarter. She didn’t score at all in the second quarter [in this game], and in the third quarter had only had one basket.”

Both teams traded baskets in the first 5:06 of the fourth quarter but the difference for the Matadores came when Shaw nailed her lone three-pointer with 4:05 left, making it 44-41. And with a one-point advantage, Arreguin scored with 2:19 remaining, making it 48-45, then 76 seconds later, she stole the ball from Dariya Snyder and scored, making it 52-45. She and Shaw would sink free throws in the final 22.3 seconds of the game.

“This is exactly how we wanted it to end,” said Arreguin. “We worked so hard to be here; that’s what I always tell the team. We worked to be here; to be in this moment, and this is where we need to keep pushing and keep fighting.”

Shaw would also score 13 points with four rebounds, four assists and three steals while Elmore pitched in with 10 points, nine rebounds, two assists and two steals. Gonzalez led La Mirada with 10 rebounds and scored half a dozen points while Tamayo came off the bench to add eight rebounds and five points.

La Mirada can clinch the title outright on Wednesday with a win against Norwalk High or a Dominguez loss against fifth place Bellflower High. La Mirada had its way against Norwalk on Jan. 17, cruising to a 68-17 victory.

“We definitely are not [overlooking Norwalk],” said Luong. “I tell the girls every game, they can have some player that I didn’t know about come in, or we can have an off day where we aren’t hitting baskets. I tell them we have to come out strong and be ready for it. Even though we had a

big win against Norwalk last time, I never have the same expectations in the second round.”

VALLEY from page 10

with her first field goal of the game before Douglas scored five straight points. After Quintero’s two baskets. Douglas scored with three and half minutes left to trim the deficit to five points. Just over a minute later, Burgoyne scored off a pass from Chambers and following a Whittier Christian timeout, junior Aniyah Peoples scored back to back baskets, the second with 28.9 seconds remaining to give V.C. the lead for good. It would mark only the third lead of the game for the maroon and gold.

Whittier Christian called a timeout with 21.5 seconds left and coming out of the timeout as it was setting up a play, Douglas had a steal and Burgoyne was fouled with 8.1 seconds remaining, making the second free throw for the final point of the game. After a V.C. timeout, Andrea Padilla raced down the far sideline, drove to the basket only to see her lay-up miss the mark as time expired.

“I think they really realized that they could play with them if we can get the ball out of [Padilla’s] hands and let somebody else shoot it,” said Leffler. “They committed to playing hard defense and it’s something that we’ve spent more time on this year than anything.”

Padilla scored four of her team-high 15 points in the second half, none in the fourth quarter while Quintero added 10 points. Douglas scored a career-high 16 points, had five rebounds and four steals while Burgoyne ended with nine rebounds, eight points and four steals. Her eight points is tied for her third lowest point total of the season and fourth of her young high school career. Peoples also scored eight points, Chambers added

seven rebounds and freshman Jaiya Lee another six boards as the Defenders are set up nice for next season as they graduate just two players.

“Obviously, we’re super young, so we’re taking our lumps now and trying to figure put how to close out games,” said Leffler. “I think it’s great that we get to do it with freshmen kids who are on the floor and get them game experience. I have great expectations for next year for us to be competitive.”

PICO RIVERA from page 1

sustainable future for its residents.

Pico Rivera was selected to receive this first-ever prestigious award among 27 cities within the Gateway Cities region. The recognition reflects the City Council’s proactive leadership and the City Manager’s strategic vision in prioritizing environmental stewardship, energy efficiency, and sustainability initiatives.

“This award is a testament to Pico Rivera’s unwavering commitment to protecting our environment and improving the quality of life for our residents,” said Pico Rivera Mayor John R. Garcia. “We are proud to lead by example and demonstrate how innovative strategies can create a greener, more sustainable community.”

Key achievements that contributed to this recognition include:

Energy Efficiency Projects: Implementing energy-efficient upgrades in city facilities, reducing energy consumption, and lowering carbon emissions.

Sustainability Programs: Introducing initiatives that promote renewable energy, water conservation, and waste reduction throughout the community.

Community Engagement: Partnering with residents and local organizations to raise awareness and involve the community in sustainability efforts.

The Energy Action Platinum Award underscores Pico Rivera’s leadership in environmental innovation and sets a benchmark for other cities in the Gateway Cities region to follow.

“This award reflects the hard work and dedication of our staff, partners, and community,” said Pico Rivera City Manager Steve Carmona. “It motivates us to continue pursuing cutting-edge solutions that address the challenges of climate change while creating a thriving, sustainable future for Pico Rivera.”

Pico Rivera will continue to advance its sustainability goals through ongoing projects and collaborations, ensuring that it remains a model for energy efficiency and environmental responsibility.

Norwalk-La Mirada Unified National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs for the 2024-2025 School Year

Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District is participating in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs for the 2024-2025 school year. The school sites listed below are approved for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) which allows all enrolled students to receive lunch and breakfast every school day at **NO CHARGE**.

- Dolland Elementary - 15021 S. Bloomfield Ave, Norwalk, Ca 90650
- Dulles Elementary - 12726 Meadow Green Rd, La Mirada, CA 90638
- Eastwood Elementary - 15730 Pescados Dr, La Mirada, CA 90638
- Edmondson Elementary - 15121 S. Grayland Ave, Norwalk, CA 90650
- Escalona Elementary - 15135 Escalona Rd, La Mirada, CA 90638
- Foster Road Elementary - 13930 Foster Rd,

- La Mirada, CA 90638
- Gardenhill Elementary - 14607 E. Gardenhill Dr, La Mirada, CA 90638
- Glazier Elementary - 10932 E. Excelsior Dr, Norwalk, CA 90650
- Johnston Elementary - 13421 S. Fairford Ave, Norwalk, CA 90650
- La Pluma Elementary - 14420 La Pluma Dr, La Mirada, CA 90638
- Lampton Elementary - 14716 Elmcroft Ave, Norwalk, CA 90650
- Moffitt Elementary - 13323 S. Goller Ave, Norwalk, CA 90650
- Morrison Elementary - 13510 S. Maidstone Ave, Norwalk, CA 90650
- New River Elementary - 13432 S. Halcourt Ave, Norwalk, CA 90650
- Nuffer Elementary - 14821 S. Jersey Ave, Norwalk, CA 90650
- Sanchez Elementary - 11960 E. 162nd St, Norwalk, CA 90650
- Huerta Elementary - 15415 Pioneer Blvd, Norwalk, CA 90650
- Benton Middle School - 15709 E. Olive Branch Rd, La Mirada, CA 90638
- Corvallis Middle School - 11032 E. Leffingwell Rd, Norwalk, CA 90650
- Hutchinson Middle School - 13900 Estero Rd, La Mirada, CA 90638
- Los Alisos Middle School - 14800 S. Jersey Ave, Norwalk, CA 90650
- Waite Middle School - 14320 S. Norwalk Blvd, Norwalk, CA 90650
- El Camino High School - 14640 Mercado Ave, La Mirada, CA 90650
- John Glenn High School - 13520 Shoemaker Ave, Norwalk, CA 90650
- La Mirada High School - 13520 Adelfa Dr, La Mirada, CA 90650
- Norwalk High School - 11356 E. Leffingwell Rd, Norwalk, CA 90650
- Southeast Academy High School - 12940 Foster Rd, Norwalk, CA 90650
- Ramona Headstart/Preschool - 14616 Dinard Ave, Norwalk, CA 90650

Eating school meals will help support and enrich your students’ academic, social and healthy eating behavior skills for the future. Eating the proper nutrition will provide the students with the environment to nourish their physical and mental health.

The Student Nutrition Department follows all US Department of Agriculture Meal Pattern guidelines for healthy school meals. Please encourage your child(ren) to participate in the lunch and breakfast programs by dining in and enjoying our meals at any of the school cafes.

For additional information please contact the Nutrition Services Department at (562) 210-2141 Monday - Friday 8:00 am-4:00 pm.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax-2Mail.pdf> from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant’s name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

- 1.Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
 2. Fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
 3. Email: program.intake@usda.gov
- This institution is an equal opportunity provider



By **DAVID OUELLET**

HOW TO PLAY: The words are found in all directions - vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it off the list. The letters are often used more than once so do not cross them out. It is best to find the big words first. When you find all the words listed in the clues you'll have a number of letters left over that spell out the WONDERWORD.

CLASSIC ROCK BANDS

M D G S I S E N E G B L I E N

U O E R H Q I H S A L C O I S

S I T F E E U S C A R S R A L

E T R L L E A E A E N V N C E

E I I O E E N R E O A T U N I

D S D N N Y P D T N A R R A R

O E O N G M C P A N E E E C B

M N O J O E A R A Y O Z D I A

E O R E C L U I U R V E R L G

H M S N C D B I D E D E O L R

C A I C N I S K C E B W W A E

E R I A N S L J O A N J E T T

P R R X I S C O R P I O N E E

E U S K C I R T P A E H C M P

D A V I D B O W I E A G L E S

Beck, Blondie, Cars, CheapTrick, Clash, Creed, Cure, DavidBowie, DefLeppard, DepecheMode, Doors, DuranDuran, Eagles, EricClapton, Genesis, GreenDay, Heart, INXS, IronMaiden, JoanJett, Kiss, Metallica, MotleyCrue, Muse, Neil, NewOrder, Nirvana, Oasis, PeterGabriel, Police, Prince, Queen, Ramones, Santana, Scorpio, Sting, Weezer

Solution on page 13

Solution: 7 letters

CITY OF SANTA FE SPRINGS
ORDINANCE NO. 1154

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SANTA FE SPRINGS ADDING SECTION 10.24 (NAMING OF PUBLIC FACILITIES AND STREETS) TO CHAPTER 10 (GENERAL PROVISIONS) OF TITLE I (GENERAL PROVISIONS) OF THE SANTA FE SPRINGS MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO THE NAMING OF PUBLIC FACILITIES AND STREETS

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to establish a uniform and equitable policy and procedure for considering names for City parks, facilities and streets; and

WHEREAS, these policies and procedures shall apply to parks, buildings, plazas, streets, and other eligible municipal property; and

WHEREAS, the names implemented through this process shall aim to foster a shared sense of pride and belonging, while recognizing the unique attributes of these public spaces.

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Santa Fe Springs does ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 10.24 is hereby added to Chapter 10 of Title I of the Municipal Code of Santa Fe Springs to read as follows:

§ 10.24 NAMING OF PUBLIC FACILITIES AND STREETS

(A) Eligibility.

(1) City owned parks including recreational or open space sites and trails.

(2) City owned facilities including but not limited to athletic fields, large amenities, community centers, and recreational and sporting facilities.

(3) Public city streets.

(4) There shall be no duplicative naming of facilities or streets.

(5) The provisions of this section shall not apply to the application of donor recognition of minor items such as benches, trees, water fountains, or similar items.

(6) Private streets shall not be subject to provisions of this section.

(B) General Naming Criteria. The following may be deemed as appropriate naming nominations:

(1) Geographical locations or natural features.

(2) Adjoining subdivisions or streets.

(3) Names of historical significance, such as an event, group, culture, landmark or place.

(4) Names representative of the City’s ethnic or cultural identity.

(5) Outstanding features, design, or themes.

(6) Native flora or fauna.

(7) Appropriate Language. All nominations shall be free of vulgar, offensive, or politically charged language.

(C) Naming After Individuals. There may be instances in which a community member has demonstrated extraordinary contributions towards a specific municipal project or the City at large and is eligible for nomination.

(1) To be considered for a naming opportunity, the individual must have been deceased for at least two years, unless the City Council deems it appropriate to take such action on the basis of a significant contribution, which warrants deviation from this guideline.

(2) Individuals may only have one eligible facility and one street named after them.

(3) Considerations:

(a) Donation of land or financial contributions to a specific facility.

(b) Contributed substantially and improved the quality of life in the City through:

(i) Voluntary work of outstanding contribution.

(ii) Service to local school, community, elected or appointed positions, nonprofit groups, or other community organizations.

(4) Individual’s legacy would be reviewed to ensure alignment of their character with the city’s values.

(D) Procedures.

(1) Nomination Filing. Any person, group, organization may submit a nomination for the consideration of naming a public facility or street. Nominations shall be filed to the Department of Parks and Recreation and must include the following:

(a) Completed nomination form.

(b) Supplemental documentation in support of the nomination.

(i) Supplemental documentation may include letters of support, resident signed petitions, newspaper clippings, maps, or any other significant evidence of eligibility.

(2) Department of Parks and Recreation Review. Upon receipt of a nomination request, the Department of Parks and Recreation shall review the request as follows:

(a) Confirm completion of the appropriate nomination form and supplemental documentation submitted.

(b) Assess compliance with the Naming Criteria of subsections 10.24 (B) and 10.24 (C).

(c) Make a recommendation to the Historical and Community Preservation Advisory Committee for their review.

(3) Historical and Community Preservation Advisory Committee Review. Upon receipt of a nomination from the Department of Parks and Recreation the Historical and Community Preservation Advisory Committee shall review the request as follows:

(a) Hold a public hearing considering the nomination request and providing a recommendation to the City Council.

(b) Consideration of nomination material:

(i) Compliance with the Naming Criteria of subsections 10.24 (B) and 10.24 (C).

(ii) Assessment of the supplemental documentation.

(iii) Input of public comments received.

(c) Provide a recommendation to the City Council to approve or deny the nomination or direct the Department of Parks and Recreation to provide further justification of the nomination.

(4) City Council Action. Upon receipt of a recommendation by the Historical and Community Preservation Advisory Committee, the City Council shall consider the nomination at a public meeting and approve or deny the nomination or direct the Historical and Community Preservation Advisory Committee to provide further justification of the nomination. The City Council decision is final.

(E) City Council Initiated Nominations.

(1) Notwithstanding subsection 10.24 (D) of this section, an active city council member may initiate a name nomination during a city council meeting and shall be exempt from the nomination filing, staff review and recommendation of the Historical and Community Preservation Advisory Committee. Nominations shall be compliant with subsections 10.24 (A), 10.24 (B), and 10.24 (C).

(2) A city council initiated nomination shall be approved by unanimous decision.

(F) Renaming of Public Facilities and Streets.

(1) Renaming Criteria. The renaming of public facilities and streets shall only be

considered under exceptional circumstances such as:

(a) Correction of historical inaccuracies or removal of inappropriate and offensive language.

(b) Recognition of significant contributions.

(c) Public safety or operational concerns.

(d) Alignment with modernization or rebranding.

(e) Requests from the community with substantial support.

(2) Renaming Process. The renaming process shall be the same procedures as those outlined in subsection 10.24 (D).

SECTION 2. Any provision of the Code of Santa Fe Springs inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance, to the extent of such inconsistencies and no further, is hereby repealed or modified to that extent necessary to affect the provision of this Ordinance.

SECTION 3. In any section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, phrase, or clause of this Ordinance, or any part thereof, is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this Ordinance. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance and each section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, phrase, or clause thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, phrases, or clauses may be declared unconstitutional or invalid.

SECTION 4. The City Clerk shall certify the passage and adoption of this ordinance and shall cause the same to be published in the same manner required by law. In accordance with Government Code 36937, this ordinance shall take full force and effect thirty (30) days from its passage and adoption.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Santa Fe Springs at a regular meeting on this 4th day of February, 2025.

I, Fernando Muñoz, City Clerk of the City of Santa Fe Springs, do hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance was adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council held on the 4th day of February, 2025, and was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Mora, Martin, Rodriguez, Mayor Pro Tem Zamora, and Mayor Rounds

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 2/7/25

Notice Inviting Proposals
City of Santa Fe Springs
Financial Audit Services

The City of Santa Fe Springs invites proposals from qualified consultants to provide financial audit services in accordance with the terms and conditions of Request for Proposals (RFP) No. 25-9.

To view the complete proposal package and associated documents visit: <https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/65093/portal-home> and click “Bid Opportunities” or <https://vendors.planetbids.com/portal/65093/bo/bo-detail/125917> to access the project directly. You can also visit the City's website and find the link on the "Bids & Proposals" webpage.

Questions/inquiries regarding this opportunity must be submitted via the PlanetBids Portal by **Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 2 PM Pacific**. The City will not respond to any questions/ inquiries submitted after this deadline.

Please review all related documents in their entirety before submitting a response. Responses must be submitted electronically via the City’s PlanetBids Portal by **Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 2 PM Pacific**. Any proposals received after this deadline will be deemed non-responsive, and the City reserves the right to reject them.

Responses to this request will be evaluated to determine the most qualified and responsive consultants. Responses must adhere to the format and content described.

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 2/7/25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File Number 2025010368

THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: ENERGY EFFICIENT EXTERIORS, 1903 W 169TH STREET, GARDENA CA 90247 LOS ANGELES COUNTY. REGISTERED OWNER: ENERGY EFFICIENT EXTERIORS, 1903 W 169TH STREET, GARDENA CA 90247, INCORPORATED IN CA. THIS BUSINESS IS CONDUCTED AS A CORPORATION. The date registrant started to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above: 1/2025 I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). /S/ ENERGY EFFICIENT EXTERIORS CEO, THOMAS REILLY This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on 1/16/25. In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the of notice of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the affidavit of identity form. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State or Common Law (see Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). LCCN 1/24, 1/31, 2/7, 2/14/25

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE
(Division 6 of the Commercial Code)
Escrow No. L- 041565-JB
(1) Notice is hereby given to creditors of the within named Seller(s) that a bulk sale is about to be made on personal property hereinafter described.
(2) The name and business addresses of the seller are: JHKIM, 141 LOS CERRITOS CENTER B, CERRITOS, CA 90703
(3) The location in California of the chief executive office of the Seller is:
(4) The names and business address of the Buyer(s) are: PAKCERI INC, 4004 HUMBOLDT LN, YORBA LINDA, CA 92886
(5) The location and general description of the assets to be sold are: FURNITURE, FIXTURE, EQUIPMENT, TRADENAME, GOOD-WILL, LEASE, LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS, COVENANT NOT TO COMPETE of that certain business located at: 141 LOS CERRITOS CENTER B, CERRITOS, CA 90703
(6) The business name used by the seller(s) at said location is: AUNTIE ANNE’S AKA AUNTIE ANNE’S PRETZELS CERRITOS MALL
(7) The anticipated date of the bulk sale is FEBRUARY 27, 2025, at the office of TOWER ESCROW INC, 3400 W. OLYMPIC BLVD, #201, LOS ANGELES, CA 90019, Escrow No. L-041565-JB, Escrow Officer: JULIE BAHANG
(8) Claims may be filed with Same as “7” above.
(9) The last date for filing claims is: FEBRUARY 26, 2025
(10) This Bulk Sale is subject to Section 6106.2 of the Uniform Commercial Code.
(11) As listed by the Seller, all other business names and addresses used by the Seller within three years before the date such list was sent or delivered to the Buyer are: NONE
Dated: JANUARY 26, 2025
TRANSFEREES: PAKCERI INC
ORD-3236409 LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS 2/7/25

NOTICE OF SALE OF ABANDONED PROPERTY

Notice is given that pursuant to sections 21700-21713 of the Business and Professions Code, Section 2328 of the Commercial Code, Section 535 of the Penal Code. 1812.607, that Mission Hills Self Storage 15241 Rinaldi St., Mission Hills, CA 91345 intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a Lien imposed on said property. The undersigned will be sold at public auction conducted on www.storage-treasures.com (bond #63747122) ending on or after Tuesday February 18th, 2025, at 9:00AM.

NAMEUNIT

Justin Roy Hill H160

This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of Section 21700 et seq. of the Business and Professions Code of the State of California. Storage Treasures’ Principal Auctioneer and Auctioneer on Record: Auctioneer License Numbers for Christopher Paul Ro-sa-California 3112562
Sales subject to prior cancellation in the event of settlement between Owner and obligated party.

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 1/31/25 & 02/07/25

PUZZLE ANSWER: BONJOVI

CLASSIFIED LISTINGS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-424-7581 (Cal-SCAN)

AUTOS WANTED

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE to fund the SEARCH FOR MISSING CHILDREN. FAST FREE PICKUP. 24 hour response. Running or not. Maximum Tax Deduction and No Emission Test Required! Call 24/7: 1-877-434-6852 (Cal-SCAN)
GOT AN UNWANTED CAR??? DONATE IT TO PATRIOTIC HEARTS. Fast free pick up. All 50 States. Patriotic Hearts’ programs help veterans find work or start their own business. Call 24/7: 1-855-408-6546 (Cal-SCAN)
Tiene un vehiculo no deseado? Donelo a Patriotic Hearts! Recogida rápida y gratuita en los 50 estados. Patriotic Hearts ofrece



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programas para ayudar a los veteranos a encontrar trabajo o iniciar su propio negocio. Llama ahora: 1-855-408-7368 (24/7) (Cal-SCAN)
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Debt? Pay off up to \$10,000 Per Month. Discover our new budgeting Course and Membership. 1-833-283-4380, 1-760-865-0707 Also Hiring www.Applyhere.info(Cal-SCAN) Struggling with debt? If you have over

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Attention: VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! A cheaper alternative to high drugstore prices! 50 Pill Special - Only \$99! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW: 1-888-256-9155 (Cal-SCAN)

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costs! (Additional terms apply.) Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 12/29/24.) Call 1-833-985-4766 Safe Step. North America’s #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-888-989-5749 (Cal-SCAN)

INSURANCE/HEALTH

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-844-203-2677 [#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/calnews) (Cal-SCAN)

MISCELLANEOUS

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-844-908-0605 (Cal-SCAN)

MISCELLANEOUS

DID YOU KNOW Newspaper-generated content is so valuable it’s taken and repeated, condensed, broadcast, tweeted, discussed,

posted, copied, edited, and emailed countless times throughout the day by others? . For a free brochure call 916-288-6011 or email cecelia@cnpa.com (Cal-SCAN)

REAL ESTATE LOANS

RETIRED COUPLE \$\$\$\$ for business purpose Real Estate loans. Credit unimportant. V.I.P. Trust Deed Company www.viploan.com Call 1-818-248-0000. Broker-principal DRE 01041073. No consumer loans. (Cal-SCAN)

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BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-877-252-9868 (Cal-SCAN) Don’t Pay For Covered Home Repairs Again! Our home warranty covers ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES. We stand by our service and if we can’t fix it, we’ll replace it! Pick the plan that fits your budget! Call:1-855-411-1731 (Cal-SCAN)
WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home’s value! Call 24/7: 1-888-248-0815. Have zip code of service location ready when you call! (Cal-SCAN)

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Private Party loans generally have higher interest rates, points & fees than conventional discount loans

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August 11-21, 2025

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 24-04

5401 E. WASHINGTON BOULEVARD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of Commerce will conduct a public hearing to consider Conditional Use Permit (CUP) No. 24-04 to allow a drive-through facility in conjunction with the operation of a new 2,300 square-foot Starbucks sit-down café in the City’s C/M1 (Commercial-Manufacturing) zone. Pursuant to Chapter 19.09, Table 19.11.030A of the Commerce Municipal Code (CMC), eating with drive-through service requires the review and approval of a CUP upon the required findings of CMC 19.39.420. The project site is located at 5401 E. Washington Boulevard in the City of Commerce.

Said public hearing will be held before the Planning Commission of the City of Commerce in the City Council Chambers, 5655 Jillson Street, Commerce, CA 90040, on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 6:30 p.m., at which time proponents and opponents of the proposed Conditional Use Permit No. 24-04 will be heard. Any comments, objections, or other information may be offered in person at the time of the hearing or in writing, prior to the hearing.

Per Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge this Conditional Use Permit in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission at, or prior to, the public hearing.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION

Louis Morales

Published: Los Cerritos Community News, February 7, 2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 551

6311 E. WASHINGTON BOULEVARD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of Commerce will conduct a public hearing to consider a one-year extension for Conditional Use Permit (CUP) No. 551, which was approved on December 20, 2023, to allow a double-lane drive-through facility in conjunction with the operation of a new 3,822 square foot fast food restaurant (Chick-fil-A) in the City’s C-2 (Unlimited Commercial) zone. Pursuant to Chapter 19.09, Table 19.09.010A of the Commerce Municipal Code (CMC), eating-places with drive-through service requires the review and approval of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). The project site is located at 6311 E. Washington Boulevard in the City of Commerce.

Said public hearing will be held before the Planning Commission of the City of Commerce in the Council Chambers, 5655 Jillson Street, Commerce, CA 90040 on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 6:30 p.m., at which time proponents and opponents of the proposed one-year extension for Conditional Use Permit No. 551 will be heard. Any comments, objections, or other information may be offered in person at the time of the hearing or in writing, prior to the hearing.

Per Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge this proposed time extension for Conditional Use Permit No. 551 in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission at, or prior to, the public hearing.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION

Louis Morales

Published: Los Cerritos Community News, February 7, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE
(Division 6 of the Commercial Code)
Escrow No. L- 041565-JB
(1) Notice is hereby given to creditors of the within named Seller(s) that a bulk sale is about to be made on personal property hereinafter described.
(2) The name and business addresses of the seller are: JHKIM, 141 LOS CERRITOS CENTER B, CERRITOS, CA 90703
(3) The location in California of the chief executive office of the Seller is:
(4) The names and business address of the Buyer(s) are: PAKCERI INC, 4004 HUMBOLDT LN, YORBA LINDA, CA 92886
(5) The location and general description of the assets to be sold are: FURNITURE, FIXTURE, EQUIPMENT, TRADENAME, GOOD- WILL, LEASE, LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS, COVENANT NOT TO COMPETE of that certain business located at: 141 LOS CERRITOS CENTER B, CERRITOS, CA 90703
(6) The business name used by the seller(s) at said location is: AUNTIE ANNE'S AKA AUNTIE ANNE'S PRETZELS CERRITOS MALL
(7) The anticipated date of the bulk sale is FEBRUARY 27, 2025, at the office of TOWER ESCROW INC, 3400 W. OLYMPIC BLVD, #201, LOS ANGELES, CA 90019, Escrow No. L-041565-JB, Escrow Officer: JULIE BAHANG
(8) Claims may be filed with Same as "7" above.
(9) The last date for filing claims is: FEBRUARY 26, 2025
(10) This Bulk Sale is subject to Section 6106.2 of the Uniform Commercial Code.
(11) As listed by the Seller, all other business names and addresses used by the Seller within three years before the date such list was sent or delivered to the Buyer are: NONE
Dated: JANUARY 26, 2025
TRANSFEREES: PAKCERI INC
ORD-3236409 LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS 2/7/25



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CITY OF CERRITOS

NOTICE THAT ALL BALLOTS FOR THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025 WILL BE COUNTED AT A CENTRAL COUNTING PLACE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Clerk of the City of Cerritos has authorized that the City Council Chamber, 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90703 is designated as the central place to count the ballots for the General Municipal Election to be held on Tuesday, March 4, 2025. Vote-by-Mail ballots will begin to be counted at 8:01 p.m. The results of the vote-by-mail ballots will not be released until after the close of the polling places at 8:00 p.m.

喜瑞都市

特此通知，將於 2025 年 3 月 04 日（星期二）舉行的市級普選的所有選票將在中心計票處數票。

特此通知，喜瑞都市書記官已授權指定市議會會議廳（位址：18125 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90703）為將於 2025 年 3 月 4 日星期二舉行的市政大選的選票計算中心地點。郵寄選票將於晚上 8：01 開始計票。郵寄選票的結果要到晚上 8：00 投票站關閉後才會公佈。

सेरिटोस शहर

ध्यान दें कि मंगलवार, 4 मार्च, 2025 को होने वाले आम नगरपालिका चुनाव के लिए सभी मतपत्रों की गिनती केंद्रीय मतगणना

स्थल पर की जाएगी

सूचना एतद्वारा दी गई है कि सेरिटोस शहर के सिटी क्लर्क ने अधिकृत किया है कि सिटी काउंसिल चैंबर, 18125 ब्लूमफील्ड एवेन्यू, सेरिटोस, सीए 90703 को मंगलवार, 4 मार्च, 2025 को होने वाले आम नगरपालिका चुनाव के लिए मतपत्रों की गिनती के लिए केंद्रीय स्थान के रूप में नामित किया गया है। डाक द्वारा डाले गए मतपत्रों की गिनती रात 8:01 बजे से शुरू होगी। डाक द्वारा मतदान के परिणामों को तब तक जारी नहीं किया जाएगा जब तक कि मतदान स्थलों के रात 8:00 बजे बंद होने के बाद तक जारी नहीं किया जाएगा।

세리토스 시

2025 년 3 월 4 일에 실시되는 총선거의 모든 투표 용지는 중앙 개표소에서 계수될 예정임을 통지합니다.

세리토스 시 서기관은 2025 년 3 월 4 일 화요일에 실시될 세리토스시 총선거의 투표용지를 집계할 중앙 개표소로 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90703 에 위치한 시의회 회의실을 지정하였음을 이에 공지합니다.

우편투표용지의 집계는 오후 8:01 시에 시작될 것입니다. 우편투표용지의 집계결과는 투표소가 문을 닫는 오후 8:00 시 이후에 발표될 것입니다.

CIUDAD DE CERRITOS

TENGA EN CUENTA QUE TODAS LAS BOLETAS PARA LAS ELECCIONES MUNICIPALES GENERALES QUE SE LLEVARÁN A CABO EL MARTES 4 DE MARZO DE 2025 SE CONTARÁN EN UN LUGAR DE CONTEO CENTRAL

POR LA PRESENTE SE NOTIFICA que el Secretario Municipal de la Ciudad de Cerritos ha autorizado que la Cámara del Concejo Municipal, 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90703 sea designada como el lugar central para contar las boletas para las Elecciones Municipales Generales que se llevarán a cabo el martes 4 de marzo de 2025. Las boletas de voto por correo comenzarán a contarse a las 8:01 p.m. Los resultados de las boletas de voto por correo no se darán a conocer hasta después del cierre de los lugares de votación a las 8:00 p.m.

LUNGSOD NG CERRITOS

PANSININ NA ANG LAHAT NG BALOTA PARA SA PANGKALAHATANG HALALAN NG MUNISIPYO NA GAGANAPIN SA MARTES, MARSO 4, 2025 AY BIBILANGIN SA ISANG CENTRAL COUNTING PLACE

BINIGYAN NG PAUNAWA na ang City Clerk ng Lungsod ng Cerritos ay nagbigay ng awtoridad na ang City Council Chamber, 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90703 ay itinalaga bilang sentral na lugar upang bilangin ang mga balota para sa Pangkalahatang Halalan ng Munisipyo na gaganapin sa Martes, Marso 4, 2025. Magsisimulang bilangin ang mga botohan sa pamamagitan ng koreo sa ganap na ika 8:01 ng gabi. Ang resulta ng botohan sa pamamagitan ng koreo ay hindi ilalabas hanggang matapos ang pagsasara ng mga lugar ng botohan sa ganap na alas 8:00 ng gabi.

THÀNH PHỐ CERRITOS

THÔNG BÁO RẰNG TẤT CẢ CÁC LÁ PHIẾU CHO CUỘC BẦU CỬ ĐỊA PHƯƠNG CHUNG SẼ ĐƯỢC ĐẾM TẠI MỘT ĐỊA ĐIỂM ĐẾM TẬP TRUNG VÀO THỨ BA, NGÀY 4 THÁNG 3 NĂM 2025

THÔNG BÁO ĐƯỢC ĐƯA RA RẰNG Thư ký Thành phố Cerritos đã ủy quyền rằng Phòng Hội đồng Thành phố, 18125 Đường Bloomfield, Cerritos, CA 90703 được chỉ định là địa điểm trung tâm để kiểm phiếu cho Cuộc bầu cử Địa phương Chung sẽ diễn ra vào thứ Ba, ngày 4 tháng 3 năm 2025. Các phiếu bầu qua thư sẽ bắt đầu được kiểm vào lúc 8:01 tối. Kết quả của các phiếu bầu qua thư sẽ không được công bố cho đến sau khi các điểm bỏ phiếu đóng cửa vào lúc 8:00 tối.

/s/ Cynthia Nava, City Clerk, 喜瑞都市書記員, सिटी क्लर्क, सिटी ऑफ़ सेरिटोस, 세리토스 시 서기관, Secretaria Municipal, ciudad de Cerritos, Klerk ng Lunsod, Lunsod ng Cerritos Thư Ký Thành Phố, Thành Phố Cerritos

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 2/7/25

CITY OF CERRITOS
LOTS FOR THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON
2025 WILL BE COUNTED AT A CENTRAL COUNTING PLACE
The City Clerk of the City of Cerritos has authorized that the City Council
ue, Cerritos, CA 90703 is designated as the central place to count the
lection to be held on Tuesday, March 4, 2025. Vote-by-Mail ballots will
The results of the vote-by-mail ballots will not be released until after the
p.m.

喜瑞都市
3月04日(星期二)舉行的市級普選的所有選票將在中心計票處數票。
市議會會議廳(位址: 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90703)為
市政大選的選票計算中心地點。郵寄選票將於晚上8:01開始計票。郵寄選票的結
公佈。

सेरिटोस शहर
हो होने वाले आम नगरपालिका चुनाव के लिए सभी मतपत्रों की गिनती केंद्रीय मतगणना
स्थल पर की जाएगी
शहर के सिटी क्लर्क ने अधिकृत किया है कि सिटी काउंसिल चेंबर, 18125 ब्लूमफील्ड
र, 4 मार्च, 2025 को होने वाले आम नगरपालिका चुनाव के लिए मतपत्रों की गिनती के
गया है। डाक द्वारा डाले गए मतपत्रों की गिनती रात 8:01 बजे से शुरू होगी। डाक
री नहीं किया जाएगा जब तक कि मतदान स्थलों के रात 8:00 बजे बंद होने के बाद तक

세리토스 시
총선거의 모든 투표 용지는 중앙 개표소에서 계수될 예정임을 통지합니다.
일 화요일에 실시될 세리토스시 총선거의 투표용지를 집계할 중앙 개표소로
s, CA 90703 에 위치한 시의회 회의실을 지정하였음을 이에 공지합니다.
시 시작될 것입니다. 우편투표용지의 집계결과는 투표소가 문을 닫는 오후 8:00 시

CIUDAD DE CERRITOS
LAS BOLETAS PARA LAS ELECCIONES MUNICIPALES GENERALES
EL MARTES 4 DE MARZO DE 2025 SE CONTARÁN EN UN LUGAR DE
CONTEO CENTRAL
que el Secretario Municipal de la Ciudad de Cerritos ha autorizado que la
125 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90703 sea designada como el lugar
ra las Elecciones Municipales Generales que se llevarán a cabo el martes
de voto por correo comenzarán a contarse a las 8:01 p.m. Los resultados
o no se darán a conocer hasta después del cierre de los lugares de

LUNGSOD NG CERRITOS
BALOTA PARA SA PANGKALAHATANG HALALAN NG MUNISIPYO
MARSO 4, 2025 AY BIBILANGIN SA ISANG CENTRAL COUNTING
PLACE
ity Clerk ng Lungsod ng Cerritos ay nagbigay ng awtoridad na ang City
ld Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90703 ay itinalaga bilang sentral na lugar upang
angkalahatang Halalan ng Munisipyo na gaganapin sa Martes, Marso 4,
nga botohan sa pamamagitan ng Koreo sa ganap na ika 8:01 ng gabi.
agitan ng koreo ay hindi ilalabas hanggang matapos ang pagsasara ng
a alas 8:00 ng gabi.

THÀNH PHỐ CERRITOS
ÁC LÁ PHIẾU CHO CUỘC BẦU CỬ ĐỊA PHƯƠNG CHUNG SẼ ĐƯỢC
ĐẾM TẬP TRUNG VÀO THỨ BA, NGÀY 4 THÁNG 3 NĂM 2025
Thư ký Thành phố Cerritos đã ủy quyền rằng Phòng Hội đồng Thành
rritos, CA 90703 được chỉ định là địa điểm trung tâm để kiểm phiếu cho
ể diễn ra vào thứ Ba, ngày 4 tháng 3 năm 2025. Các phiếu bầu qua thư
tối. Kết quả của các phiếu bầu qua thư sẽ không được công bố cho đến
a vào lúc 8:00 tối.

市書記員, सिटी क्लर्क, सिटी ऑफ़ सेरिटोस, 세리토스 시 서기관, Secretaria
k ng Lungsod, Lungsod ng Cerritos Thư Ký Thành Phố, Thành Phố Cerritos

ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOTICE CALLING FOR BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ABC Unified School District will receive up to but not later than **2:00 PM** on the **18th day of March 2025** Bids for:

ABC Bid # 1669 Melbourne Elementary School Modernization

All bids shall be made and presented on a form furnished by the District. Bids submitted shall conform to the terms and conditions stated on said form. Bids shall be received in the office of the **Purchasing Department at 16700 Norwalk Blvd., Cerritos, CA 90703** and shall be opened and publicly read aloud at the above-stated time and place. Bidders can request bid documents by emailing esthela.perez@abcusd.us. There will be a mandatory jobwalk meeting on February 11, 2025 at 9:00 AM sharp at the front of Administration building at Melbourne ES 21314 Claretta Av. Lakewood. All public works are subject to prevailing wage payments, Valid License valid Class B Contractor's License and DIR Registration will be required.

Los Cerritos News
2025

January 31,
February 7, 2025

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 1/31/25 and 2/7/25

SMALL DONATIONS MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE



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