



LCCN EXCLUSIVE

Montebello Police Chief Was Unlawfully Terminated During Medical Leave

The Chief had qualified for leave under Labor Code 4850. The move was in closed session which violated the Brown Act.

By Brian Hews

When Montebello City Manager Raul Alvarez was hired in December 2024, according to sources, he had zero large municipality budget and operations experience. His career consisted of a stint on the staff of former Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, eventually leaving under a cloud. Rendon got Alvarez a job in Lynwood, where he eventually moved to

[See MONTEBELLO, page 4]

Trump Cuts Off Legal Aid for Child Migrants

By Brian Hews

Children so young their feet can't touch the floor when they sit in courtroom chairs have been left without representation in immigration court.

This week, the Trump administration callously cut a program that provided lawyers to nearly 26,000 immigrant children, some too young to read or speak, who are or were under the custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

The children — about 4,000 of whom live in California — face deportation, and many don't have parents or legal guardians in the country.

Children do not have the right to a court-appointed attorney, though the U.S. recognizes the right to a lawyer.

Some of the children had no choice to come here or have been abused, persecuted or trafficked.

The move rattled immigrant rights group that have been representing children, some who are just months old.

The program, known as the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, dates back two decades and grew as the number of unaccompanied minors rose at the southern U.S.

[See LEGAL, page 7]

L.A. Retail Crime Association Conference at Los Cerritos Center



FIGHT RETAIL THEFT: The Los Angeles Organized Retail Crime Assoc. recently held its first 2025 Quarterly Conference at the Los Cerritos Center in Cerritos. L.A. District Attorney Nathan Hochman and many law enforcement officials attended.

By Brian Hews

The Los Angeles Organized Retail Crime Association (LAORCA) recently held its first 2025 Quarterly Conference at the Los Cerritos Center in Cerritos. The organization was originally founded in 2007 by former LAPD Chief of Police William Bratton as a collaborative effort to combat organized retail crime and is managed under LAPD's Commercial Crimes Division.

Retail theft in Los Angeles has increased significantly in recent years. According to

data from the Los Angeles Police Department, 2023, shoplifting incidents surged by 81% compared to the previous year.

This sharp increase prompted local and state authorities to intensify their efforts to combat retail theft.

In response to the rising incidents, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office filed nearly 500 organized retail theft charges in 2024, achieving an 89% conviction rate—a notable improvement from the 64% conviction rate in 2019.

Despite erroneous reports, California

[See CRIME, page 7]

California Contract Cities Meets at WRD's Albert Robles Center



BOARD MEETING: The California Contract Cities Board of Directors held their board meeting at the Water Replenishment District's Albert Robles Center in Pico Rivera. Several elected and former elected officials in LCCN's area attended including Pico Rivera Mayor pro tem Gustavo Camacho, former Artesia Mayor Victor Manalo, Norwalk Vice-Mayor Jennifer Perez and Lakewood Councilman Jeff Wood. CCC is an association of cities that outsource many of their municipal services—such as law enforcement, fire protection, public works, and sanitation—to external agencies, including county governments and private contractors.

Lawsuit Against Norwalk for Unlawful Ban on Homeless Shelters Moves Forward

No facts or evidence supported the City's conclusion that supportive housing poses an immediate threat to public safety.

By Brian Hews

On November 4, 2024, Governor Newsom and Attorney General Rob Bonta filed a lawsuit against the city of Norwalk on to compel the city to overturn its unlawful ordinance banning the establishment of new homeless shelters and other housing.

The lawsuit alleges that the city's ban violates numerous state laws. The lawsuit was filed after multiple warnings and actions by the state, including revocation of the city's housing element compliance.

The litigation path began when the Norwalk City Council adopted the urgency ordinance on Aug. 6, 2024, to put a moratorium on several establishments, including emergency shelters, single-room occupancy, supportive housing, and transitional housing.

Just one month later, Newsom threatened a possible lawsuit against Norwalk, urging city officials to reverse its adopted moratorium on emergency shelters and supportive and transitional housing for the homeless.

The Department of Housing and Community Development later sent a Notice of Violation to the city for its unlawful ban on the development of new homeless shelters and other housing sites.

Norwalk had until September 23 to respond which they did, and that response was roundly rejected by Superior Court Judge James Chalfant.

As part of his ruling, Chalfant wrote: "No facts or evidence supported the City's conclusion that shelters and supportive housing pose an immediate threat to public safety."

A statement from Norwalk read, "During yesterday's decision by the Los Angeles County Superior Court, the judge's statement—highlighting the absence of any imminent or significant hardship—echoed the City of Norwalk's consistent position. This is not an act of defiance but rather an effort to pause, listen, and find common ground with the State. The City of Norwalk will continue to work with the State's Department of

[See NORWALK, page 2]

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Lakewood Rotary Welcomes New Members



THE LAKEWOOD ROTARY welcomed new members including Anisha Clay, a real estate professional from The Roberson Group and Denise Uriaga, President & CEO of the Greater Lakewood Chamber of Commerce. Both said they are looking forward to becoming involved in the Rotary Club’s school and youth programs. From (l-r) is Dan Ursery, Anisha Clay, Denise Uriaga, Club President Mario Vargas, and Membership Chair Karen Harmon. Photo courtesy Lakewood Rotary.

NORWALK from page 1

Housing and Community Development to attempt to find a common ground to address the important issue of homelessness, but keeping at the forefront the protections of our residents and the City’s efforts to preserve local control over land uses within the City of Norwalk’s jurisdiction. The irony, of course, lies in the fact that the State is pushing for action against a moratorium that is already on hold, protesting enforcement where none exists. The further challenge is the State fails to recognize that the City is a partner in this process who cannot be removed from the discussion on how the homeless housing issue is to be addressed in the City. The City of Norwalk remains committed to transparency, ready to work with the State of California and their

agencies to develop thoughtful, sustainable policies that honor both the law and the well-being of our residents.”
A statement from Gov. Newsom read, “No community should turn its back on its residents in need. We will continue to hold Norwalk accountable for its failure to reverse this cruel and unlawful ban.” “We are pleased to proceed with our case and to protect the public’s interest in the rule of law,” said California Attorney General Rob Bonta. “Norwalk’s ban on new housing for unhoused individuals and lower-income households at risk of homelessness is illegal. At a time when affordability issues are a top concern for Californians, we should be doing everything in our power to help — not hurt — those struggling to keep a roof over their heads or lacking housing altogether. We look forward to holding the city accountable.”

Mark Pulido will make Cerritos better.



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He worked to make our local economy stronger by attracting new businesses and creating new jobs. As our Mayor, sales tax revenue increased, ensuring essential city services, senior and youth programs to continue.

- He is endorsed by Supervisors Janice Hahn and Don Knabe (Ret.), and Councilmembers Frank Yokoyama and Lynda Johnson.
 - He leads with common sense and serves with compassion for all.
- We need him back on the City Council fighting for all of us.

Re-elect Mayor MARK PULIDO • City Council

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Looking for a paid summer job? The La Palma Public Works & Community Services team is hiring. This is an 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

2025 District Spelling Bee Winner



WINNER: After six rounds and impressive performances from 19 elementary school site champions, Aayush Patel from Stowers Elementary School emerged as the ABCUSD Spelling Bee Champion by correctly spelling the final word—reservoir. All participants showcased impressive spelling abilities, making it an exciting and challenging competition. Thanks to the Cerritos Optimist Club and the ABC Education Foundation for sponsoring this event.

Catherine
Grant Wieder

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VOTE

(PAT) ASHOK
PATNAIK

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CERRITOS RESIDENTS.

2

SENIOR SERVICES
ENHANCE PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES TO
IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR OUR
SENIOR CITIZENS.

3

YOUTH PROGRAMS
PARTNER WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE
RESOURCES AND SUPPORT FOR STUDENT
SUCCESS.

ABOUT PAT

EDUCATION: MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
DEGREE & MBA FROM PEPPERDINE
UNIVERSITY
PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: COMMERCIAL
BANKER SPECIALIZING IN SMALL BUSINESS
SUPPORT
LEADERSHIP STYLE: BIPARTISAN, ETHICAL,
TRANSPARENT, AND ACCOUNTABLE

WHY VOTE FOR PAT?

PAT (ASHOK) PATNAIK HAS BEEN A PROUD
RESIDENT OF CERRITOS FOR OVER 26
YEARS, SUCCESSFULLY RAISING HIS FAMILY
IN THE COMMUNITY HE LOVES. NOW, HE IS
DEDICATED TO GIVING BACK AND ENSURING
A SAFER, STRONGER, AND MORE INCLUSIVE
CERRITOS. WITH OVER 2 DECADES OF
EXPERIENCE IN VARIOUS APPOINTED
POSITIONS, PAT HAS A PROVEN TRACK
RECORD OF SERVING WITH INTEGRITY,
DEDICATION, AND A DEEP COMMITMENT TO
THE WELL-BEING OF HIS COMMUNITY.

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(PALAD)
- FIREFIGHTERS UNION
- LOS ANGELES LEAGUE OF
CONSERVATION VOTERS
(LALCV)

MONTEBELLO from page 1

Huntington Park as Assistant City Manager, a city 1/3 the size of Montebello. Finally, in November 2024, Alvarez was hired by the City Council, led by former City Councilman David Torres.

In his first several months in that position, according to a lawsuit filed by Interim City Manager Arlene Salazar and a months-long harassment investigation into David Torres, Alvarez took actions to marginalize and oust multiple women holding executive management positions in the city, several of whom were black and Latino.

According to the lawsuit, starting in January 2024, Alvarez increasingly sidelined Salazar and others in a manner “that was publicly humiliating and made it difficult for her to perform critical job responsibilities,” including barring employees from weekly meetings, one-on-one meetings with various Department Directors within the city, excluding them

from closed session city council meetings, even banning attendance at community events including Rotary and Seroptimists events.

Finally, in June of this year, Alvarez placed Salazar on paid leave; her court case is pending.

Now, through their actions at Wednesday’s regular meeting, Salazar and the Montebello City Council are certain to be in more legal hot water similar to the situation with Salazar.

Montebello Chief of Police Paul Espinoza has been on medical leave for months. In California, all employees on medical leave are protected under numerous state and federal laws. These protections ensure job security, a continuation of benefits, and protection against retaliation.

The California Fair Employment and Housing Act protects employees from discrimination based on medical conditions, and California’s Labor Code Section 132a prohibits retaliation against employees who take medical leave.

Public Safety employees like Espinoza are covered under California Labor Code Section 4850. The Code provides full salary benefits for employees injured in the line of duty. Eligible employees receive 100% of their salary for up to one year instead of standard workers’ compensation payments. Espinoza had qualified for leave under 4580 according to sources.

Evidently, Alvarez and the City Council didn’t read those laws.

At the Wednesday City Council meeting, Alvarez, with the Council’s support, fired Chief Espinoza, exposing the city to numerous violations of federal and state law and a lawsuit filed by Espinoza.

More alarming, the firing was done in Closed Session, which violated the Ralph M. Brown Act governing open meetings by legislative bodies because the City Council can only fire the City Manager.

Under 4850, employees have some job protections, but termination is not completely prohibited. However, an employer cannot fire an employee just be-

cause they are on 4850 leave. Some reasons include that the employer can prove the termination is unrelated to the workers’ compensation claim or injury, fraud, department-wide layoffs or budget cuts, misconduct or policy violations, criminal activity, or insubordination.

During the process, the city conducted what is called a Skelly hearing with Espinoza. A Skelly Hearing is a pre-disciplinary hearing named after a 1975 California Supreme Court case. It is part of due process to provide public employees with the reason for disciplinary action before that action is taken.

Sources tell LCCN that the city told Espinoza he was an “at-will” employee and was released because of his “management style.” He appealed the firing, and just two hours after his Skelly hearing, the city sent a letter terminating Espinoza.

In true City of Montebello style, just months earlier, Espinoza received a great performance review signed off by city officials.

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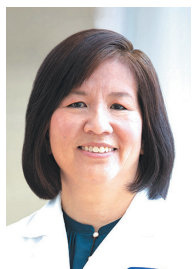
Cutest Pet Photo Contest



SPOT

New Area Medical Director for Kaiser Service Area

DOWNEY – Dr. Laurie Anne Chu, a board-certified internal medicine and infectious diseases physician, has been appointed as the new area medical director for Kaiser Permanente Downey Service Area. She replaces Dr. JT Lee.



Dr. Laurie Anne Chu

Dr. Chu has more than 20 years of experience working at Kaiser Permanente Downey. She studied at the University of Notre Dame, and attended the University of Hawaii for medical school. She did her training in internal medicine and infectious diseases at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, and joined Kaiser Permanente Bellflower Medical Center in 2001.

Her previous leadership roles include serving as an assistant area medical director in 2015, and assistant chief of medicine overseeing internal medicine sub-specialties in 2009.

“I’m deeply committed to Kaiser Permanente’s mission of providing high-quality and affordable care to our members, as well as enhancing the communities we serve,” Dr. Chu said. “My passion for Downey Medical Center stems from my love for the communities we serve. Our team is truly special, and the physicians here consistently go above and beyond to deliver exceptional care.”

Dr. Chu said one of her main goals is to foster a supportive community for all physicians and staff to elevate Downey Medical Center to new heights. “I’m also excited to collaborate with other leaders to make the hospital the best possible place to receive and provide care,” she noted.

Mitch Winnik, senior vice president and area manager of Kaiser Permanente Downey Service Area, said Dr. Chu’s dedication to high-quality patient care and her commitment to fostering strong and productive relationships with physicians, care teams and general staff are admirable.

“I look forward to working alongside Dr. Chu to provide our members with the excellent care they’ve come to know at Kaiser Permanente Downey,” he said. “Dr. Chu and I are both committed to exceeding our members’ expectations to receive the care they want and expect from Kaiser Permanente.”

Kaiser Permanente Downey is located at 9333 Imperial Highway in Downey.



Cerritos

February 10-16, 2025

A total of ten incidents were recorded at the Los Cerritos Center, including six vehicle burglaries. Sheriff’s advise residents to never leave valuables in the car in view. In nearly all of the vehicle burglaries the robber stole a backpack or a briefcase.

Aggravated Assault

At the 91 Freeway & Norwalk Blvd a suspect assaulted the victim with a knife. Deputies responded and arrested suspect.

Residential Burglary

At the 17800 blk of Harvest Ave., the robber went through unlocked bathroom window unlocked, items taken.

At the 16600 blk. of Yvette Way, the rear sliding door was shattered and a safe was taken.

At the 17200 blk. of Antonio Ave., robber broke through the rear sliding door, jewelry was taken.

At the 11100 blk. of Gonsalves Pl., robber went through unlocked front

door and jewelry was taken.

At the 11300 blk. of Candor St., robber went through the side gate, owner still assessing what was taken.

Burglary - Other

At the 17900 blk. of Crusader Ave., the front door lock was pried open, owner still assessing what was taken.

At the 11400 blk. of South St., front door shattered glass, owner still assessing what was taken.

Grand Theft

At the 13300 blk. of South St., at a business, alcohol was forcibly taken.

At the 13300 blk. of South St., currency was stolen.

At the 17000 blk. of Edwards Rd., copper wire was stolen from a business.

At the 13900 blk. of Struikman Rd. , copper wire was stolen from a business.

Artesia Bl & Edwards Rd., copper wire was stolen from a business.

At the Los Cerritos Center, clothing was stolen from a business.

At the Los Cerritos Center, a tailgate was stolen from a truck.

Grand Theft Auto

At the Los Cerritos Center, a Kia Forte was stolen and recovered.

At the Los Cerritos Center, a BMW was stolen and recovered.

Vehicle Burglary

At the Los Cerritos Center, a Hyundai passenger window shattered and a backpack was taken.

At the Los Cerritos Center, a Lexus passenger window shattered and a backpack was taken.

At the Los Cerritos Center, a Kia was broken into and cash was taken.

At the Los Cerritos Center, a Lexus passenger window shattered and a backpack was taken.

At the Los Cerritos Center, a Jeep passenger window shattered and a briefcase was taken.

At the Los Cerritos Center, a Kia window was shattered, duffle bag stolen

At the 11200 Blk. 183rd St., a Toyota passenger window was shattered and a backpack was taken.

At the 11300 Blk. 183rd St., a Jeep passenger window was shattered and a bag was taken.

At the 11200 Blk. 183rd St., Toyota passenger window was shattered and a backpack was taken.

At the 12700 Blk. Towne Center Dr. a Toyota passenger window was shattered and a backpack was taken.

At the 18500 Blk. Bainbrook Ct., a Hyundai was broken into and exercise equipment was taken.

At the 18800 Blk. Carmenita Rd., a Chevrolet door was pried open and tools were taken.

At the 10800 Blk. Alondra Bl., a Kia was broken into and a briefcase was taken.

At the 20000 Blk. Gridley Rd., a Chevrolet door was pried open and tools were taken.

La Mirada

Notable Arrests

- Six suspects were arrested throughout La Mirada for various warrants and narcotics violations.

Robbery

- A robbery occurred on the 14700 block of Beach Blvd. This incident is still under investigation.

Aggravated Assault

- A late-night assault was reported in the area of La Mirada Blvd. and Rosecrans Ave. There were no injuries reported from the incident.

Residential Burglary

- A residential burglary was reported on the 15100 block of Matisse Cir.
- A daytime burglary occurred on the 14900 block of Valeda Dr.

Vehicle Burglary

- A vehicle burglary was reported on the 14600 block of Rosecrans Ave.

Grand Theft

- Copper wire was reported stolen on the 14700 block of Firestone Blvd.

Residents - Be Aware of Distraction Burglaries

Staff Report

Distraction burglaries are becoming more common in nearby communities. In these crimes, a suspect tricks a homeowner into allowing them inside by using a distraction, such as posing as a utility worker, contractor, or someone needing urgent help. While the homeowner is distracted, an accomplice enters the home to steal valuables.

To avoid becoming a victim, stay cautious and vigilant:

- Never allow a stranger into your home. Legitimate service workers will have proper identification and will not mind waiting outside while you verify their credentials.
- Look for official vehicles and uniforms. Utility companies and contractors typically have branded vehicles and identification badges.
- Be aware of suspicious behavior. Watch for individuals lingering near homes or attempting to engage residents in unusual conversations.
- Secure your home. Keep doors, windows, and side gates locked at all times, even when you’re home.

A clever distraction burglary often involves a well-planned ruse that exploits the victim’s trust or sense of urgency.


The Water Company Scam



Two burglars pose as water company workers. One knocks on the door of an elderly homeowner and claims there’s a major water leak in the area. He insists he needs to check the pipes inside the house.

Once inside, he distracts the homeowner by asking them to turn on taps or listen for unusual sounds in the pipes. Meanwhile, his accomplice sneaks in through an unlocked door or follows shortly after and searches the house for valuables, such as cash and jewelry.


After a few minutes, the first burglar pretends everything is fine and quickly leaves with his partner. By the time the victim realizes something is missing, the burglars are long gone.

This type of scam works because it creates urgency and appears legitimate, making the victim less likely to question it.





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La Mirada Introduces New NLMUSD Superintendent



WELCOME: La Mirada Mayor John Lewis pictured with Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Natasha Baker.

Staff Report

The La Mirada City Council formally introduced Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District’s newly appointed Superintendent Dr. Natasha Baker at its February 11 City Council meeting. Dr. Baker officially began her role on January 1.

Dr. Baker brings a wealth of leadership and educational expertise to her position as Superintendent of the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District.

Prior to this appointment, she served as Chief Academic Officer for Fresno Unified School District, overseeing instructional support for nearly 70,000 students across 100 schools.

Dr. Baker has also led the Banning Unified School District as Superintendent, managing a district of 4,500 stu-

dents and 500 staff, as well as serving as Deputy Superintendent for Hazelwood School District, where she supported 18,000 students and 2,200 staff.

Her experience extends to state-level leadership as Michigan’s Deputy Superintendent of Education Services and as the state’s School Reform Officer, guiding accountability systems impacting over 100,000 students in 186 schools.

She holds a doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Michigan-Dearborn, a master’s degree in English from Howard University, and bachelor’s degree in English education from California State University, Long Beach.

Recently, she expanded her expertise by earning a Master of Science degree in Finance from Johns Hopkins University.

Lifetime Learning
Center Spring Day Tours

Staff Report

The Lifetime Learning Center at LB City College is offering 3 fabulous day tours on Luxury Buses with Tour Guide extraordinaire, Curt Tucker.

On March 27 we experience a taste of France at the Getty Center (Monet, Renoir, Degas, gilded furniture, elaborate chandeliers and more) and enjoy a classic French Lunch (\$160).

The April 15 tour begins at the iconic LA Memorial Coliseum, lunch at Philippe’s, the USC campus, Exposition Park and the BMO Stadium (\$130).

On May 8, we experience the treasures of Pasadena, starting with the culinary classics at the Chado Tea House, followed by a docent-led tour of the Wrigley Mansion and Gardens.

All tours depart at the LBCC Foundation in the morning and return around 5 pm. For more information or to register by phone call Theresa Brunella 562 938 3047. Register online at lbccfoundation.org/lifetime-learning-center/tours-events/

Lakewood Earth Walk

Lakewood’s free Earth Walk event returns with a free interactive and educational experience for children and adults on Saturday, March 15, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The event will be held at rustic Monte Verde Park, which is the trailhead to over three miles of landscaped walking trails.

Adults and kids will learn what they can do to help keep the earth beautiful and protected. They are invited to take a nature walk, create nature-themed crafts, visit the petting zoo, and learn about recycling.

Participants can visit the stations along the trail and get their passport stamped with specialty Earth Walk stamps. With a completed passport, participants will receive a special Earth Walk gift, while supplies last.

Free event! For more information, call 562-866-9771, ext. 2408.

1979

My parents moved to Cerritos where I attended ABC schools.

1986

I became the youngest Franchisee of KFC. Owned and operated in Cerritos.

1998

I launched Crave Foods as a food distribution company.

2002

In 2009 I built distribution channels and brought South Asian products to grocery stores nationwide.

2019

I became Cerritos Economic Development Commissioner.

2024

YOUR CANDIDATE FOR
CERRITOS CITY COUNCIL
RIAZ SURTI

RIAZ SURTI

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OP/ED: Trump Takes Joyride While the South Was Drowning

The rain couldn’t stop the president last week from hogging the spotlight at Daytona, making a mockery of the race when he took a lap around the track in “the Beast,” the president’s armored vehicle, followed by his motorcade ahead of the race’s start.

MAGA loved rubbing it in the face of liberals, silly liberals complaining that POTUS is wasting money.

He pulled the stunt while the South was underwater due to heavy rains, and he and co-President Elon Musk are putting thousands of people out of work. Some they have called back, although they are having trouble finding them after deleting their work emails, like the employees who strengthen our nuclear safety at home and abroad or USDA personnel who were re-searching bird flu.

Trump’s latest—and expensive—stunts serve as a reminder that his administration’s purported goals to cut “waste” in government spending remain limited.

His appearance at Sunday’s race prompted social media users to ask, “Where’s DOGE?” referring to Elon Musk’s so-called Department of Government Efficiency operation taking the axe to federal agencies.

The wide-ranging plan is aimed at dismantling federal departments and making mass layoffs as part of their government cost-cutting strategy overseen by DOGE.

Just last week, DOGE slashed funds for the US Forest Service, rangers for crying out loud! Campers will now enjoy closed parks, long lines, long waits for entry tickets, and dirty restrooms. MAGA!

Back to the topic of government waste, reports are saying Donald Trump’s joyride around the Daytona 500 cost American taxpayers around \$5 million.

It makes sense. He flew in on Air Force 1, stopped traffic along the route with his entire motorcade, and the Secret Service had to pre-plan and secure the race course, stands, and anything close to the track. Then, he took a joy ride, leading embarrassed NASCAR drivers around the track in the 4-ton beast.

Critics accused Trump of wasting taxpayer money during a period of major federal spending cuts and prioritizing a “stunt” over responding to natural disasters in the Southeast.

The Republicans Against Trump social media account posted on X, formerly Twitter: “Donald Trump chose to waste millions of taxpayer dollars spent the afternoon at the Daytona 500—while multiple states are devastated by severe flooding, and over 10 people are reportedly dead. Absolutely sickening.”

Chris D. Jackson, a Tennessee Democrat, posted on X: “Sick Deadly storms just tore through the Southeast, leaving devastation and death in their wake—yet Donald Trump is wasting MILLIONS of taxpayer dollars to take a joyride around the Daytona 500 for a cheap photo op. Imagine if Biden or Obama pulled this stunt. The outrage would be deafening. But because it’s Trump? Crickets. Absolutely shameful.”

I think MAGA has lost the right to lecture us about wasteful spending, don’t you?

LEGAL from page 1

border and advocates increased pressure during the Obama administration, which pushed to quickly arraign juveniles whether or not they had counsel.

Since taking office, the Trump administration has sought to weaken portions of the immigration system that support detainees.

“The effect of this move is that thousands of children will be unlawfully deported, and that will surely include children whom Congress intended for the immigration law to protect,” Ahilan Arulanantham, co-director of the Center for Immigration Law and Policy at UCLA told the LA Times.

The administration’s decision to suspend this program undermines due pro-

CRIME from page 1

allocated over \$267 million to local law enforcement agencies and prosecutors in late 2023, leading to more than 10,000 arrests related to retail theft and property crimes in the program’s first nine months.

That is when LAORCA ramped up its activities again.

The new LAORCA structure provides a comprehensive approach to tackling organized retail crime. It brings together experience from different areas of retail operations and members from each major law enforcement agency in the greater Los Angeles market to serve on the LAORCA advisory panel.

The event featured discussions on the

cess, disproportionately impacts vulnerable children, and puts children who have already experienced severe trauma at risk for further harm or exploitation.

“This decision flies in the face of decades of work and bipartisan cooperation spent ensuring children who have been trafficked or are at risk of trafficking have child-friendly legal representatives protecting their legal rights and interests,” said Arulanantham.

Arulanantham will seek to stop the order. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2008 created special protections for children who arrive in the U.S. without a parent or a legal guardian. It said the government should facilitate legal representation for the children put into deportation proceedings, though it did not mandate every child have a lawyer.

latest ORC trends, collaborative strategies, and technological advancements in loss prevention.

LAPD Detective Colin Langsdale kicked off the meeting by urging transparent, itemized reporting regarding the loss of products and damages incurred due to crime and crime reports that accurately reflect reported incidents.

Langsdale also emphasized the need for the Los Angeles Organized Retail Theft Task Force (LAORTF) to collaborate with prosecutors. “The partnership is crucial in ensuring that charges are filed against offenders, including special allegations where applicable, to enhance accountability and deter future criminal behavior by ensuring that offenders face the consequences commensurate with their actions.”

LETTERS

Is America Losing its Democracy?

Dear Editor:

One month in- with ferocity and on a massive scale, the Trump administration is undermining our U.S. constitution and dismantling our democratic institutions in the name of change. The sudden termination of our civil service workforce across ten agencies is beyond retribution. It is disgraceful. Trump’s and Musk’s DOGE, Trump’s unqualified cabinet picks and the complicit GOP collectively are waging a calculated attack against the American people. Unless Americans wake up, America, as we know it, is headed down the path of a lost democracy.

According to respected historian, Lyn Miller-Lachmann, author of The Lost Democracies of the 21st Century, she warns Americans, “We are one of them. Electing a leader who promises to be a dictator on day one puts us in the category of countries in Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Latin America and Asia that willingly brought dictators and would-be dictators into power.”

After people from these nations lost their fight to restore democracy, in a matter of months, they lost their basic freedoms, and their constitutional and human rights. Their fight for democracy reached a point of no return; thus, enabling the structure of dictatorship and authoritarianism to take root.

Lachmann’s research highlights- “Once lost, it took an average of 21 years for a democracy to return.” Six countries remain dictatorships; and it took the Philippines six years to finally resurrect their democracy. She details the circumstances under which each country slipped from a democracy into dictatorship.

So how might Americans save our own democracy? Resist authoritarianism, protect our freedom of the press; call out the greed, corruption and power grabs, restore government accountability and transparency, unseat corrupt leaders, demand the separation of church and state, demand the separation of governmental branches, restore its check and balances,

outlaw dark money and corruption in politics, adhere to the integrity of the constitution, ensure fair and free elections, obey the rule of law; and defend and restore diversity, inclusion and equality.

Undeniably, the rule of law is being blurred with impunity by the executive, legislative and judicial branches. To a large extent, the legislative and judicial branches are relinquishing their power to Trump and Musk. With the Project 2025 playbook in hand and the X and Truth social media platforms, spreading disinformation, both Trump and Musk are sowing deep division and polarization, not only amongst world allies, but here in our crumbling nation. Once stable, democratic, secure, global, respected and a beacon of light, both at home and on the world stage, America is sinking deeper into the grasp of authoritarianism.

From abrupt shutdowns across ten federal agencies and countless forced layoffs to a myriad of backward executive orders, and jeopardizing our civil and constitutional rights, Americans are reeling from this unprecedented authoritarian takeover.

However, we are not powerless, that is if we pay close attention to the negative forces at play? Case and point: Just today, over a thousand federal workers from the Veteran’s Administration were laid off. Don’t we value our veterans anymore? Let us ask- do we value a responsive government? Will we resist this abusive assault?

Do we care about food security and water safety? Housing affordability? Retirement safety nets? Affordable healthcare? Safe communities? Our veterans? Homelessness and the poor? A mental health infrastructure? 21st century infrastructures? Women’s reproductive rights? Responsive leadership? Clean energy? Job security? Government safeguards? Quality schools? Strong democratic alliances? Immigration reform? DACA? Gun control? Privacy protections? Due process? Fair taxes for all, especially for working- class people? OUR VERY DEMOCRACY?

Is not America’s democracy a govern-

ment of the people, by the people, and for the people? If so, then it is on us whether we save our democracy or become a lost authoritarian nation under the Trump/ Musk regime. The time to unify and to act is now.

Sandy Mercado
Downey

Ban All Firewoks

Dear Editor:

The Los Angeles County (LAC) New Year’s Eve and 4th of July neighborhood fireworks have created a domestic war zone. And, setting them off could literally cost you body parts and/or substantial \$ fines.

Several cities are even more guilty of the fireworks travesty as they openly sell these weapons of dismemberment and death. This needs to stop..!

It is truly incredibly selfish of those who set off fireworks knowing the devastating effect it has on animals, veterans, and other vulnerable beings. The fire danger to homes is always present as we have witnessed in the recent fires. And, as of late, thousands of homes, businesses, and people’s lives have been literally burned from the face of this planet. 30 are still missing. The LAC 2025 wildfire damage has topped \$250 billion; forecasters say the two largest of the fires — Palisades and Eaton — have destroyed more than 18,000 structures. Numerous arrests have been made for looting.

Seldom mentioned is the monopolizing of 911 services, rendering them unavailable for more serious and life-threatening needs. Shame on parents who break the law and set an example that it is acceptable.

Criminalizing this travesty is worthless unless we back it up. A special Police Department, LAC Sheriff, and/or National Guard task force should be dispatched for at least a week before and after New Year’s Eve and July 4th. It would be a responsible expenditure truly serving the vast majority of law-abiding citizens.

The whole state of California needs to declare all fireworks illegal with attached

substantial jail time (including murder charges for any resulting deaths) and fines. And, the \$\$ fines should serve to fund this humanitarian endeavor.

Diana Lejins
Long Beach

RE: Cerritos Council to Discuss Replacing 332 CCPA Chairs: Cost is \$420,000

Dear Editor:

Wait what? I thought this was some kind of early April fools joke by Hews, then I looked and found it was true.

I know the place needs chairs, but \$1,200 a pop? And they’re just regular chairs with regular padding?

You go down to San Diego to a place called Rady’s Shell, a beautiful place to go see a concert by the way to, right on the water. Cheap seats are \$100, others up from cost \$1,000, no matter where, you get your own five dollar plastic chair.

Now I’m not saying we should have plastic chairs at the CCPA but how about cutting the cost in half to \$600 and save \$200,000?

My area has been hit by crime lately. I could use another sheriff in the area or a task force that runs around checking on people’s safety.

And here’s an idea that’s always bugged me: the CCPA doesn’t charge for parking! With technology, it would be easy. I know “free parking” was a big thing with Galucci, but maybe CM Lopez can change things? Debit or credit! Use a machine and make thousands. Name me a pro concert/sporting event where you do not pay for parking, and A LOT. A USC game is \$50! Charge for parking!

B. Lee
30 year Cerritos resident

WRITE US! LET YOUR OPINION BE KNOWN!

Send letters to editor@cerritosnews.net. Letters can be edited. The opinions expressed here are not necessarily the views of the publisher.



ABCUSD Measure BB Citizens' Oversight Committee Opening



The ABC Unified School District's Measure BB Citizens' Oversight Committee has openings for the following representatives:

- **Senior Citizens' Organization Representative** - Must be an active member of a senior citizen's organization.
- **Taxpayer Organization Representative** - Must be active in a bona fide taxpayer association.
- **Community-At-Large Representative (2 openings)** - Must be a resident in a community served ABCUSD.
- **Parent of Enrolled ABC Student Representative** - Must be a parent or guardian of a child currently enrolled in ABCUSD.

This committee was established as part of Measure BB, the \$258 million school facilities improvement bond passed by voters in November 2018. The committee is responsible for ensuring the proper spending of Measure BB funds by carefully reviewing expenditures. The committee typically meets quarterly but may convene more frequently if necessary.

Applications for the position can be found online at www.abcusd.us.

For further questions, please contact the Deputy Superintendent/Chief Financial Officer's Office at (562) 925-5566, extension 21257.

ABCUSD Medida BB Puestos Vacantes del Comité de Supervisión Ciudadana

El Comité de Supervisión Ciudadana de la Medida BB del Distrito Escolar Unificado ABC tiene puestos vacantes para los siguientes representantes:

- Representante de una Organización de Personas de la Tercera Edad** - Debe ser miembro activo de una organización de personas de la tercera edad.
- Representante de una Organización de Contribuyentes** - Debe ser miembro activo de una asociación de contribuyentes de buena fe.
- Representante de la Comunidad en General (2 puestos vacantes)** - Debe ser un residente en una comunidad servida por ABCUSD.

Representante de Padres de Estudiantes Inscritos en ABC - Debe ser un padre o tutor de un niño actualmente inscrito en ABCUSD.

Este comité se estableció como parte de la Medida BB, el bono de mejora de las instalaciones escolares de \$258 millones aprobado por los votantes en noviembre de 2018. El comité es responsable de garantizar el gasto adecuado de los fondos de la Medida BB revisando cuidadosamente los gastos. El comité normalmente se reúne trimestralmente, pero puede reunirse con más frecuencia si es necesario.

Las solicitudes para los puestos se pueden encontrar en línea en www.abcusd.us.

Si tiene más preguntas, comuníquese con la Oficina del Superintendente Delegado/ Director Financiero al (562) 925 - 5566, extensión 21257.

Growing Basil- The King of Herbs

By Melinda Myers

Look for opportunities to include basil in gardens, containers, and ornamental plantings. Purple varieties add color and combine nicely with other flowers and vegetables. Everleaf Emerald Towers is a very tall and productive plant that adds vertical interest to container and in-ground gardens.

Always wait for the air and soil to warm before moving basil into the garden. Cold air and soil can stunt or damage the plants and increase the risk of downy mildew. You may even see blackened leaves and other damage when temperatures drop to 50 degrees.

Protect tender plants in spring and extend the harvest in fall with the help of floating row covers. These spun fabrics trap heat around the plants while allowing air, light, and water through. Lightweight row covers can be used throughout the summer to protect the plants from Japanese beetles.

Keep plants healthy and help reduce the risk of downy mildew disease by growing basil in sunny locations with



plenty of room to reach their mature size. The extra space allows sunlight to reach all parts of the plants, and the added air movement quickly dries the leaves.

Avoid overhead irrigation whenever possible. Instead, use soaker hoses, drip irrigation, or a watering wand to apply the water directly to the soil.

Red leaf, Thai, and lemon-flavored basil varieties are less susceptible to downy mildew. Relatively new sweet basil varieties such as Devotion DMR, Obsession DMR, Passion DMR, Thunderstruck DMR, Prospera Compact DMR, and Prospera are downy mildew resistant.

Watch for slugs that feed at night, eating large, ragged holes in the leaves. Trap them with shallow containers of beer sunk into the ground or use a slug beer trap with a built-in cover. The slugs are attracted to the fermenting yeast, crawl inside, and die.

Unlike slugs, the Japanese beetles feed and mate in broad daylight. They devour large portions of the leaves, leaving only the veins behind.

If you see circular clear or black spots on the leaves the four-lined plant bug is the culprit. The dead tissue may eventually fall out, resulting in small holes.

Manage Japanese beetles and plant

'DEVOTION DMR':
New strains of basil are mildew resistant.



KING OF HERBS: Fresh on your pizza, added to your favorite Italian and Southeastern Asian dishes, or made into pesto, it's not surprising basil is often called the king of herbs.

bugs by knocking them into a can of soapy water or treating the plants with an organic insecticide labeled for controlling these pests on basil. Always read and follow all label directions for safe and effective control.

Harvest basil as needed. Regular harvesting will increase productivity and ensure the best flavor. Remove flower buds as soon as they appear to maintain foliage flavor. But don't worry if a few blossoms appear, these are also edible and a favorite of beneficial insects.

Plan to grow and harvest extra basil to make pesto or flavored vinegar. Make plenty to enjoy throughout the

year and share with family and friends.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Myers' website is www.MelindaMyers.com.



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Ballet Folklórico Celebrates Mexican Heritage in Dance at Segerstrom Center March 22

By Lydia Ringwald

The Ballet Folklórico by Amalia Hernandez is a celebration of the dramatic history of Mexico, as depicted in the epic murals of Diego Rivera, Jose Clemente Orozco, and David Siqueiros. This rich cultural tapestry is brought to life in the vibrant dance performances.

This sensational show, which is performed at the monumental Teatro de Bellas Artes (Theater of the Arts) in Mexico City, will visit Segersrom Center on March 22.

A kaleidoscope of folk dance chirographies representing the various cultures of Mexico, with a large cast of dancers and musicians in rich costumes,

illuminates the stage for a thrilling and energetic evening.

The performance is a journey through the diverse cultures of Mexico, featuring the signature Mexican Hat Dance, Jalisco de Tapatio, lively dances accompanied by mariachi music, and folk dances from the state of Guerrero to Vera Cruz. It also reimagines the ritualistic dances of native Mayan and Aztec cultures, with movements, gestures, and costumes influenced by images on temple bas reliefs, sculptures, and pottery.

The tapestry of Mexican national identity, from native Indian cultures to the influences of Spanish colonizers, represents the multifaceted heritage of the Mestizaje, those with mixed Spanish



BREATHTAKING: dancers, clad in eye-popping pink, green and turquoise, move in battalion-worthy, cascading lines, their small stamping steps sharply reminiscent of tap. The gorgeous costumes and breathtaking formations keep coming, dance after dance.”

.....

and native Indian heritage.

Director Amalia Hernandez, who also identifies herself as a Mestiza, expresses her own mixed heritage in luscious choreographies that integrate her ballet training with native folk dance movement, music, and dress.

The dances included in the show reveal the chronology of Mexican history, from the original native cultures to the influences of Spanish flamenco. The



performance spans from the ancient Aztec and Mayan civilizations to the Mexican Revolution in the early 20th century, the dramatic era of leaders Porfirio Diaz, Pancho Villa, and Emiliano Zapata.

Since traditional Indigenous dance would not have been performed on the proscenium stage, the Ballet Folklórico production represents an adaptation of European theatrical convention modified with Indigenous-based movement to function in a new cultural medium.

The Ballet Folklórico is not just a performance, it’s a living history of the heritage of Mexico. This production offers an enriching experience that you won’t want to miss.

For tickets and further information, please visit the Segerstrom Center website at segerstrom.org.

THE COMPANY has reached over 45 million spectators worldwide and has received countless awards and accolades, positioning itself as the premier folkloric dance ensemble in Mexico and around the world.

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CIF-SOUTHERN SECTION DIVISION 3A GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS

Gahr’s height advantage too much for Yeshiva University of Los Angeles in blowout

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on X

After the first round of the CIF-Southern Section Division 3A girls basketball playoffs, Gahr High has already received a vote of confidence from at least one coach. Yeshiva University of Los Angeles (YULA) head coach Gil Dalva says the Gladiators are his favorites to win the division, and handily if they play the way they played last Thursday.

Dalva and his Panthers team got a firsthand look, and the results were overwhelming as Gahr turned a close game after the first quarter into a rout by yielding eight points in the second and third quarters combined as it blitzed YULA 56-25. Gahr then eliminated Shalhevet High 44-39 last Saturday to set up a date with top-seeded Lawndale High in Wednesday’s quarterfinals.

Gahr had everything going in the first half and used its height and outside shooting to take the Panthers out of the game early. The Gladiators (17-10) grabbed 10 rebounds in the opening quarter and eight more in the second quarter while shooting four of six from beyond the arc in the second quarter. All four came after the hosts had a 17-9 lead and the blowout started

with the second perimeter basket from senior Simar Sogi, then senior Christine Ho, off a pass from sophomore Ella Mims. Within a span of 34 seconds, junior Chloe Beard went downtown shopping before Ho ended the first half scoring with her third of the game with 2:08 left in the half. By now, it was apparent that a 29-12 halftime lead was going to be hard for YULA to rally back from.

“We definitely had a size advantage, and we talked that at halftime,” said Howard. “[Assistant head coach Ricky] Roper is about the offense; I’m about the defense and I just didn’t like the effort in the first half. At halftime, we were talking about running this play and this play, and I just grabbed the clipboard and said, ‘forget that’. What’s going to win playoff basketball has got to be defense.”

“I think that they just have a lot of weapons all around,” said Dalva. “So, you can’t really strategize and say we’re going to clog up the middle because they have so many outside shooters. And you can’t re-

ally be aggressive on the outside shooters because then you leave a gaping hole for their bigs. [Gahr] is a really tough team to plan for, and even a tougher team to play.”

Gahr kept the pressure on in the third quarter, scoring the first eight points before Kira Heumann ended her team’s scoring drought. Another 8-0 run, capped by a steal and basket from Beard, ended when Lilla Anziska scored, making it 45-17 entering the final stanza. And when the game had concluded, Gahr’s height was the main factor in a 47-29 advantage on the boards with 11 players grabbing at least one rebound. Sophomore Rachel Freidenburg led the way with 11 rebounds and was one of three players to score nine points. Eventually, Gahr shot seven three-pointers in 23 attempts while YULA was four of 20 in trifectas. Dalva said that was one of the keys when looking at the film on Gahr.

“Make them drive; no shots, and then keep a body on [Mims] the entire time, which we tried to do,” said Dalva. “They got enough shots; they got enough free

looks at the basket and they got enough second chance opportunities to take advantage of us.”

Mims, who stands at 6’1” led all players with 15 points and nine rebounds while Beard added nine points, five rebounds and three steals. Ho also scored nine points and Sogi chipped in with eight points. All five starters, including 5’7” senior Jody Colbert who pulled down six boards, and Sogi, the top bench player, also had at least one assist. The Gladiators has 11 assists of the 23 field goals made with four putbacks and two more baskets scored directly off steals.

“I think that’s what we’ve been talking about this whole year,” said Howard. “In league play, that was the difference; an extra pass here, or one more there. We lost to Paramount by four, but like coach Roper always says, it’s about the one move, it’s about the next pass. A lot of times, our players get that one pass, and they shoot it. We tell them, no. if you have a good shot, pass it up for a great shot.”

A Gahr win over Lawndale will put the Gladiators in Saturday’s semifinals against either El Toro High or Ramona High.

CIF-SOUTHERN SECTION DIVISION 2A BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS

Artesia runs out of steam in fourth quarter, bounced out in second round by Villa Park

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on X

After narrowly defeating Orange Vista High on the road in the first round of the CIF-Southern Section Division 2A playoffs on Feb. 12, Artesia High was hoping to get to the quarterfinals for the first time since 2022. But for the second straight time this season, the Pioneers had no answer against Villa Park High.

Despite making numerous attempts to get back in the contest in the second and third quarters, Artesia was doubled up in the scoring department in the fourth quarter and lost to the Spartans 47-36 last Friday. The Pioneers conclude the season at 21-8, the third time in the past four seasons they have won at least 21 games.

Artesia last led with 2:42 left in the opening quarter but trailed by two points once in the second quarter and three points in the third quarter and was down 31-29 entering the fourth quarter. But the hosts missed seven straight shots to begin the final stanza and did not hit a field goal until there was 1:13 left in the game.

“We were kind of outmanned; without [senior] Judd [Sajise], who probably plays starter minutes for us, we were already down a man,” said Artesia head

coach Jeff Myles. “Not making any excuses, [but] [senior] Jaylen [Reed] kind of got hurt, too. So, that kind of shortened our bench. But we have other guys...we were just smaller, and [Villa Park] was just making offensive rebounds on us. I think we just ran out of gas.”

Sajise injured his ankle against Orange Vista and according to Myles, tried to give it a go against Villa Park, but couldn’t walk.

Artesia led three times in the first quarter, only to see the Spartans come back to tie the game. After Dakari Harris gave Villa Park the lead for the first time with 3:35 left in the stanza, senior C.J. Okeke’s basket almost a minute later put the red and black in front for the last time. Senior Mekhi Shield’s basket 39 seconds into the second quarter tied the game at 12-12, marking the last time the game would be knotted. To make matters worse, the Pioneers wouldn’t score for the next 4:17 but were still in the game at 19-15.

With the score 21-17, Villa Park had a chance to distance itself a few times. The first came with 2:06 left in the half when Okeke and Diego Perez were issued technical fouls, but Perez missed

both free throws. He also missed both free throws 45 seconds into the second half and shortly after that, senior Christopher Vargas scored his only basket of the game to make it 21-19.

With 1:54 left in the third quarter, Okeke nailed a three-pointer from top of the key as the Pioneers trailed 28-26. That would be the closest the 605 League champions would get. After that, Artesia was two of 12 from the field and five of 12 from the free throw line.

“Every time we made a run, they made a big shot,” said Myles. “That’s what good teams do. I think we just ran out of gas; we were kind of running on fumes. But [senior] Jovell Tate probably played his worst game of the season, and he played the whole game.

“I think the turning point in the game came when we missed those four free throws [in the fourth quarter] when we were down by seven,” he added. “Once we missed four straight free throws from our two best players, that’s when we kind of knew it probably wasn’t our night tonight.”

After scoring 14 points in the last two games, and 15 points before that, Tate ended with five points, three rebounds and a steal against Villa Park. Okeke

led the Pioneers with 13 points, four rebounds and three steals while junior Jordan Heredia came off the bench to add five points, all in the second quarter.

The two teams faced each other in the semifinals of the Artesia Winter Classic back on Nov. 29 and the Spartans came away with a 61-49 victory. In that game, senior Cayden Del Rosario had 12 points while Tate added 11 points.

“Our game plan tonight was to take away [Malakhi Johnson], their best player and leading scorer,” said Myles. “I think we kind of held him in check. But I think what hurt us was [Jed Cain-Graves], who didn’t play in the first game, and I’ve never seen him on film before. But he made two big [three-pointers] in the second half, and that might have been the gamechanger.”

Myles has said several times this season that not too many people gave the Pioneers a chance to do much, despite fielding 11 seniors and four seniors. Artesia won the 605 League for the third time since the league was formed and scored over 60 points in five of the last seven games. But its offensive performance in the two playoff games were the lowest of the season.

CIF-SOUTHERN SECTION DIVISION 3AA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS

Cerritos, behind Lacorte and Nguyen, dial up long distance shots in easy victory

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on X

Cerritos High head coach Marcus Chinen is quick to remind everyone that no lead early in a game is safe and constantly preaches to his girls that basketball is a game of momentum. But even as the Dons scored the first 11 points of their CIF-Southern Section Division 3AA second round game against Beaumont High last Saturday, the momentum stayed with the hosts for the entire game.

Cerritos went crazy with its perimeter shooting, connecting on 12 of 23 shots from beyond the arc, and junior Cameron Lacorte and sophomore Kalana Nguyen each had 19 points as the Dons maintained a double-digit lead for the final 27:19 of the game in a 68-51 rout. The black and gold will now travel 171 miles, or close to three hours, to Ridgecrest to face Burroughs High on Wednesday in a quarterfinal game.

“Going through all the practices and everything, we keep telling them that no matter what happens, we’re proud of this team,” said Chinen. “Everything that we’ve been through this year as far as people being sick, injured, out for whatever reason, they stuck to everything. Once we got everyone back, and everyone had a chance to play together, then we started to gel. Everyone is starting to see that, and when they’re seeing that, now the confidence is coming.”

“I think our energy to start off was really good and we just had to keep it up,” said Lacorte. “We were all powered up by the crowd and it was a really good run we had.”

The game began with a furious pace as Lacorte, who immediately missed a three-pointer, had one of her four steals and scored just 22 seconds into the contest.

The next two baskets were scored by senior Ambar Multani with both assists going to junior Mady Macaraeg. Following a timeout from Beaumont nearly midway through the quarter, Lacorte assisted on Nguyen’s first perimeter basket and 10 seconds later, Nguyen’s steal and subsequent basket made it 11-0.

“We all played together as a team; we all did great as a team,” said Nguyen. “The energy on the bench and the energy in the bleachers...it was really a good game overall.”

Kiyanna Ware scored Beaumont’s first basket at the 3:39 mark, but a trifecta from senior Miya Scammahorn put the Dons up by 12 points and the lead would not dip below 10 points the rest of the game.

Cerritos led 21-10 after the opening quarter and after Chinen called a timeout 25 seconds into the second quarter despite a shot not being taken yet, the Dons reeled off eight straight points and the blowout was in its beginning stages. Cerritos was true on its first four shots of the stanza and its final six shots of the half were three-point attempts, connecting on two.

“We just tell the girls during timeouts, whether it’s their timeout or our timeout, if we can extend the lead, extend the lead, and just play our game,” said Chinen. “And if we play our game and play the right way, then we can extend it.”

The largest lead of the game was 25 points, which came after another steal and basket from Nguyen with 4:13 left in the third quarter and since the 5:23 mark of the second quarter, the lead went south of 20 points four times. Standing at 4’10 ½” tall, Nguyen, who never scored more than eight points last season and had reached at least 10 points six times this season, posted a career-high with

her point total against the Cougars. She also had five steals, two assists and two rebounds. Lacorte also had 19 points and has now hit a dozen three-pointers in the past two games.

“We’re not very focused on three-pointers,” said Lacorte, who stands at 5’7” and is one of the tallest players on the team. “But our coaches encourage us if we’re open to shoot it. And we’re all confident in each other and in ourselves. So today, we did a really good job, and we showed it.”

“That’s really good for us,” said Chinen of the team’s outside shooting. “The one thing is we don’t want to shoot ourselves out of a game. If it’s there, and the girls are feeling it, we all say, ‘green light’.

“They’ve improved on their shooting,” he continued. “Cam was out for a while, then we got her back, and she had to get back in a groove, and I think right now, the groove is happening for her. For Kalana too, she is our floor general and she’s trying to get everybody involved. We also told her she has to look, sometimes, for her shot if she’s feeling it.”

The Cougars, who grabbed 35 rebounds, were led by Amirah Jones (23 points, 12 rebounds) and Ware (11 points, eight rebounds). All five starters had at least a rebound and the bench chipped in with eight points and as many rebounds.

“I really liked how she played,” said Nguyen of Jones. “She’s very aggressive, especially on defense and her rebounding. Playing defense on her was difficult for the size I am, but I felt like our bigs; our post [players] did really well playing against her and our guards. It was difficult, but we fought through it.”

At one point in the season, the Dons were sporting a 5-14 record and had lost their first two 605 League games. Now, they have



WITH HEAD COACH Marcus Chinen looking on, Cerritos High junior Cameron Lacorte drives around Amirah Jones of Beaumont High in last Saturday’s CIF-Southern Section Division 3AA second round game. Lacorte scored 19 points and was seven of 15 from the field, including five three-pointers as the Dons took care of Beaumont 68-51.

won seven straight games to get to 15-15, the first time the team has been at the .500 mark since Dec. 12 when it was 4-4. Not only that, but Cerritos has also scored at least 60 points in four straight games and five of its last six contests.

“We give [the players] the tools, they’re the ones who execute everything,” said Chinen. “It’s these girls; they’re the ones that work hard. They’re the ones

that get on each other during practices and even outside of practices. They’re on a mission right now and hopefully we can go a few more rounds and see what happens.”

“I think we just all really want it, and we want to go far,” said Lacorte. “So we’re just doing our best to just keep going because we all love each other, and we don’t want the season to end.”

La Mirada girls basketball back in the semifinals after robust performance against West Covina

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on X

The La Mirada High girls basketball team made history last season with the program’s first trip to the CIF-Southern Section divisional semifinals. That was in Division 5AA and even though the Matadores fell to Colton High by a point, the team was determined to get back there.

Now in Division 4A, La Mirada finds itself in the semifinals again following a 46-31 home win over West Covina High this past Wednesday. The Matadores will host University Prep on Saturday as the Jaguars (16-7) edged Schurr High 42-41.

La Mirada, the eighth-seeded team in the division, fell behind 7-2 just over three minutes into the game before scoring three straight baskets, including a go-ahead three-pointer from senior Hailey Medrano with 1:42 left in the stanza. West Co-

vina would regain the lead 15 seconds into the second quarter and went up by three points on Justine Trejo’s basket. But the Bulldogs scored one point the remainder of the half while the Mid-Cities League champions amped up their scoring, thanks to another go-ahead trifecta from Medrano and one from senior Jael Arreguin with a minute left in the half as the Mats (19-10) led 23-12 at the break.

That advantage would increase to 16 points with 3:33 remaining in the third quarter when senior Simran Sahota grabbed an offensive rebound and passed to senior Destiny Elmore who scored to make it 30-14. Then La Mirada iced the game with six straight points in the first 63 seconds of the fourth quarter.

Arreguin and senior Emily Gonzalez each scored 12 points with the latter grabbing six rebounds and the former getting four rebounds and assisting on

two baskets. Medrano scored 11 points, had five boards and four steals while sophomore Jordin Shaw pitched in with eight rebounds, seven points, four assists and three steals. La Mirada’s defense forced 24 turnovers while committing 14 turnovers.

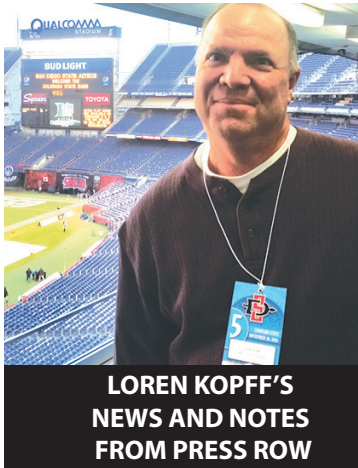
No La Mirada girls basketball team has played for a CIF championship but has an excellent opportunity against the 29th seeded team, which upset fourth-seeded Packinghouse Christian High in the first round. West Covina had also posted a first round upset over top-seeded Sherman Indian High.

In other girls basketball quarterfinal action from this past Wednesday, Cerritos High traveled to Ridgecrest to face Burroughs High and defeated the Burros 50-42 in a Division 3AA game. Junior Mady Macaraeg scored 20 points while senior Ambar Multani added 11 points. The Dons,

seeded 30th in the Division, improved to 16-15 and moved above .500 for the first time since they were 3-2. They will face 10th-seeded Culver City High, which knocked off second-seeded El Segundo High 52-47.

In Division 3A, ninth-seeded Gahr High took care of top-seeded Lawndale High 48-42 behind 19 points from junior Chloe Beard and 14 more from sophomore Ella Mims. The Gladiators (18-10) will host El Toro, the 21st-seeded team in the division, which is coming off a resounding 62-23 win over Ramona High.

Also in the division, Whitney High moved on with a 71-33 rout of Eastside High out of Lancaster. The Wildcats (23-8), seeded 14th in the division, will visit Cantwell-Sacred Heart of Mary High, which is the 18th seeded team in the division. The Cardinals advanced with an 87-68 win over Temescal Canyon High. Senior Hailey



LOREN KOPFF’S
NEWS AND NOTES
FROM PRESS ROW

Wang paced the Wildcats with 33 points while sophomore Alyssa So added 18 points.

In Division 4 girls soccer action, La Mirada and Beaumont High ended regulation tied at 1-1 but the 10th-seeded Matadores earned a trip to Saturday’s semifinals by winning 4-2 in penalty kicks. La Mirada improved to 12-8-3 and will travel to 29th-seeded Redlands East Valley High for a chance to play for a divisional championship.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the **Cerritos City Council** will review and consider the item listed below at a regular meeting on **Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.:** Review and consideration to waive full reading of and adopt **ORDINANCE NO. 1048, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CERRITOS AMENDING CHAPTER 2.15 OF THE CERRITOS MUNICIPAL CODE TO EXTEND THE TERMS OF OFFICE FOR ADVISORY BOARD, COMMISSION, AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS ORIGINALLY APPOINTED TO A TWO-YEAR 2022-24 TERM, AND GENERALLY AMEND THE DATES OF SUCH TERMS.**
City Attorney Summary: Current City law provides that members of the City’s advisory boards, commissions, and committees, who are appointed by the City Council, serve two year terms subject to an automatic extension for not more than 90 days pending the qualification of their successors. The adopted ordinance amends Chapter 2.15 of the Cerritos Municipal Code to automatically extend the 2022-2024 terms only, for the appointed members of the City’s advisory boards, commissions, and committees, through and including the last day of the month in which the Mayor is selected pursuant to Section 404 of the Cerritos City Charter as part of the 2025 annual Mayoral Transition, pending the qualification of his or her successor, or within 90 days, whichever is earlier.

A copy of the full text of this proposed Ordinance can be viewed or obtained by contacting the City Clerk’s Office during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., weekends and observed holidays excepted) at 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90703, city_clerk@cerritos.us, or (562) 916-1248. This meeting will be conducted in person in the Cerritos City Council Chamber, 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, California, 90703. The meeting will also air live on Cerritos TV3 and will be streamed over the City of Cerritos website at cerritos.gov. A copy of the related agenda report will be available for download from the website on the Friday prior to the public meeting. Public comments can be provided during the meeting or via email to city_clerk@cerritos.us or by hard copy to the Office of the City Clerk no later than 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Please identify the agenda item number in the subject line of the email or hard copy document. All written correspondence received by the 3:00 p.m. deadline will be distributed to the legislative body prior to the meeting and retained with the official meeting record. Any person interested in this matter may contact the Office of the City Clerk at (562) 916-1248 for additional information and/or appear at the meeting in person or by agent and be heard. /s/Cynthia Nava, City Clerk

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 2/21/25

CITY OF SANTA FE SPRINGS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

RESOLUTION NO. 9947

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:

that pursuant to the California Mitigation Fee Act (the Act) contained in Government Code Sections 66000 et seq which requires that a city increasing certain fees must establish that there is a reasonable relationship between the specific amount of the fee imposed as a condition of approval and the cost of the public facility attributable to that project. A Public Hearing will be held before the City of Santa Fe Springs City Council to consider the following:

RESOLUTION NO. 9947: A Resolution to amend Resolution No. 9933, approving an update of the City’s Fire Services Fee Schedule and amending and revising the City’s Master Fee Schedule.

THE HEARING will be held before the City of Santa Fe Springs City Council in the Council Chambers of the City Hall, 11710 Telegraph Road, Santa Fe Springs, on **Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.** At that time, anyone wishing to speak in regards to this matter will be given an opportunity to be heard.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS are invited to attend the Public Hearing and express opinions upon the items listed above. If you challenge the nature of these proposed actions 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 City of Santa Fe Springs City Council at, or prior to the Public Hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS may be submitted in writing to the City Clerk at City Hall, 11710 Telegraph Road, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 or, otherwise, e-mail the City Clerk at cityclerk@santafesprings.gov. Please submit your written comments by 12:00 p.m. on the day of the City Council meeting. You may also contact the City Clerk at (562) 868-0511.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 6062a, this notice was published twice on February 14, 2025 and February 21, 2025.

FURTHER INFORMATION on this item may be obtained at the City of Santa Fe Springs Finance and Administrative Services, 11710 Telegraph Road, Santa Fe Springs, California 90670 or by telephone or e-mail: (562) 409-7520, lanadich@santafesprings.gov. A copy of the Comprehensive User Fee Study is available for public inspection during regular business hours, at the office of the City Clerk and on the City’s website at www.santafesprings.gov.

Lana Dich, Director of Finance and Administrative Services
City of Santa Fe Springs, 11710 Telegraph Road, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 2/21/25

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property pursuant to Sections 21700–21716 of the CA Business and Professions Code, Section 2328 of CA Commercial Code, Sections 1812.600 –1812.609, Section 1988 of CA Civil Code and Section 535 of the CA Penal Code.

The undersigned will be sold at public auction conducted on www.storage treasures.com ending on Monday, March 3rd, 2025 at 10:00am. The personal property including: general household goods, electronics, tools, personal effects, and or miscellaneous items are stored at: Cerritos Self Storage, 16515 Valley View Ave., Cerritos, County of Los Angeles, State of California by the following:

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Name | Unit # |
| Harold Freeman | A27 |
| Khalid Salaam | A34 |
| Anna Vallefuoco | A74 |

Purchases must be made in CASH ONLY and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Sale is subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party.

Dated this 21st and 28th day of February 2025.
Self Storage Management Company
Bond #: WL11254152

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 2/21 and 2/28/25

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 **11:00 AM** on the **11th day of March 2025** Bids for:

ABC Bid # 1671 Window Covering at Aloha Elementary School

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. There will be a mandatory jobwalk meeting on March 3, 2025 at 9:00 AM sharp at the front of Administration building at Aloha ES 11737 214th St., Lakewood. All public works are subject to prevailing wage payments, Valid License valid Class C-61/D-52 oContractor's License and DIR Registration will be required.

Los Cerritos News

February 21, 2025
February 28, 2025

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 2/21/25

CITY OF PICO RIVERA PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

UPDATE TO TABLE 18.40.040, LAND USE CHART, OF THE

PICO RIVERA MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 18, ZONING

ZONE CODE AMENDMENT NO. 199

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the Planning Commission for the purpose of amending Table 18.40.040 within Title 18, Zoning of the Pico Rivera Municipal Code. The amendment will require a Conditional Use Permit Application for specified land uses.

In accordance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), to the extent that the actions constitute a project, there is no possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environment and as a result, no further CEQA review is necessary. This determination is in accordance with Section 15061 (b) (3) of the CEQA Guidelines that states, a project is exempt from CEQA where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment.

WHEN:

Monday, March 3, 2025

TIME:

6:00 PM

WHERE:

City Hall Council Chambers
6615 Passons Boulevard
Pico Rivera, CA 90660

PERSONS INTERESTED IN THIS MATTER

are invited to attend this hearing to express their opinion on the above matter. Written comments may also be submitted to the City of Pico Rivera Planning Division by Monday, March 3, 2025, before 5:00 p.m. Copies of all relevant material including reports, and maps are available to the general public for review in the Planning Division at City Hall, 6615 Passons Boulevard, Pico Rivera, California. For more information, please call Julia Gonzalez with the Planning Division at (562) 801-4447 or email at juliagonzalez@pico-rivera.org.

If a challenge is made by any party in court from actions arising out of the public hearing, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised during the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Pico Rivera City Clerk at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Posting Date: February 21, 2025

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the City of Pico Rivera is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for a person with a disability. Please contact Cynthia Ayala at (562) 801-4389 if special program accommodations are necessary and/or if program information is needed in an alternative format. Special requests must be made in a reasonable amount of time for accommodations to be arranged.

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 2/21/25

Notice Inviting Bids

City of Santa Fe Springs

Request for Quotes No. 25-8

As-Needed Portable Restrooms and Washing Stations

The City of Santa Fe Springs invites bids from qualified contractors to provide portable restrooms and washing station on an as-needed basis in accordance to the terms and conditions of Request for Quotes (RFQ) No. 25-8.


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/125947> to access the project directly. You can also visit the City's website and find the link above on the "Bids & Proposals" webpage.

Questions/inquiries regarding this opportunity must be submitted via the PlanetBids Portal by **Thursday, March 13, 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 27, 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 vendors. Responses must adhere to the format and content described in the RFQ. Responses will not be evaluated unless all parts requested are submitted in a complete package.


Published at Los Cerritos Community News 2/21/25



@CERRITOSNEWS



THEREALCERRITOSNEWS



@CERRITOSNEWS

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
MARGARET GREENBERG
CASE NO. 25STPB01584
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the lost WILL or estate, or both of MARGARET GREENBERG.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by MATTHEW GREENBERG in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that MATTHEW GREENBERG be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests the decedent’s lost WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The lost WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 03/14/25 at 8:30AM in Dept. 79 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for Petitioner
TAMMY WILLIAMS, ESQ. - SBN 326137
DANDELION LAW OFFICE
285 E. IMPERIAL HWY., STE. 104
FULLERTON CA 92835
Telephone (714) 766-0373
BSC 226422
2/21, 2/28, 3/7/25
CNS-3897245#
LA MIRADA LAMPLIGHTER

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice US Storage Centers - Cerritos 16015 Piuma Avenue Cerritos CA 90703 intends to hold a public sale to the highest bidder of the property stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storage treasures.com on 3/20/2025 at 10:00 AM. Summer Violet Jones; Robert Andrew Wirthlin; Anthony Abel Huerta; Vincent III Quiroz; Winifred Beauty Crawford; Adriana Irazleth Cook. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply.

Published at LCCN 2/28/25

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
J. ROBERT GRAY AKA JAMES ROBERT GRAY AKA BOB GRAY
CASE NO. 25STPB01166
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of J. ROBERT GRAY AKA JAMES ROBERT GRAY AKA BOB GRAY.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by CYNTHIA A. PARRISH in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that CYNTHIA A. PARRISH be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests the decedent’s WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 03/07/25 at 8:30AM in Dept. 9 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for Petitioner
JENNIFER N. SAWDAY, ESQ. - SBN 228320,
JANA HAGEKHALIL, ESQ. - SBN 340962
TREDWAY, LUMSDAINE & DOYLE LLP
3900 KILROY AIRPORT WAY, SUITE 240
LONG BEACH CA 90806
Telephone (562) 923-0971
BSC 226393
2/14, 2/21, 2/28/25
CNS-3895020#
LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
HELEN R. GRAY AKA HELEN RAY GRAY
CASE NO. 25STPB01168
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of HELEN R. GRAY AKA HELEN RAY GRAY.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by CYNTHIA A. PARRISH in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that CYNTHIA A. PARRISH be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests the decedent’s WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 03/06/25 at 8:30AM in Dept. 44 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for Petitioner
JENNIFER N. SAWDAY, ESQ. - SBN 228320
JANA HAGEKHALIL, ESQ. - SBN 340962
TREDWAY, LUMSDAINE & DOYLE LLP
3900 KILROY AIRPORT WAY, STE. 240
LONG BEACH CA 90806
Telephone (562) 923-0971
BSC 226386
2/14, 2/21, 2/28/25
CNS-3894735#
LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF VICTOR MIGUEL SUAREZ aka VICTOR M. SUAREZ aka VICTOR SU-AREZ
Case No. 25STPB01157
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of VICTOR MIGUEL SUAREZ aka VICTOR M. SUAREZ aka VICTOR SUAREZ.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Raul M. Suarez in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Raul M. Suarez be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held on March 6, 2025 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 62 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for petitioner:
CYNTHIA R. COX ESQ
SBN 153298
LINDA S. STOCKWELL ESQ
SBN 277324
REENA SHAH ESQ
SBN 339391
COX LAW GROUP INC
23326 HAWTHORNE BLVD
STE 390
TORRANCE CA90505-3771
CN113990 SUAREZ Feb 14,21,28, 2025

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINIS-TER ESTATE OF:
REFUGIO MUNGUIA AKA RUDY MUNGUIA
CASE NO. 25STPB01754
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contin-gent creditors, and persons who may other-wise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of REFUGIO MUNGUIA AKA RUDY MUNGUIA.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by BARBARA J. GUADAGNI in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that BARBARA J. GUADAGNI be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests authority to admin-ister the estate under the Independent Ad-ministration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court ap-proval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representa-tive will be required to give notice to inter-ested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 03/18/25 at 8:30AM in Dept. 44 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the peti-tion, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objec-tions with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowl-edgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate as-sets or of any petition or account as provid-ed in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for Petitioner
MICHAEL J. PATINELLI - SBN 158825
PATINELLI & CHANG LLP
2355 CRENSHAW BOULEVARD, SUITE185
TORRANCE CA 90501
Telephone (310) 312-8117
2/21, 2/28, 3/7/25
CNS-3897372#
LA MIRADA LAMPLIGHTER

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE AND OF INTENTION TO TRANSFER ALCO-HOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE
(UCC Sec. 6101 et seq. and B & P 24073 et seq.)
Escrow No. 10675-AK
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a bulk sale of assets and a transfer of alcoholic bever-age license is about to be made. The name(s) and business address of the Sell-er(s)/Licensee(s) are: M & L BRAR, L.L.C., A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPA-NY, 10729 SOUTH ST., CERRITOS, CA 90703
Doing Business as: STRAW HAT PIZZA
All other business names(s) and ad-dress(es) used by the seller(s)/licensee(s) within the past three years, as stated by the Seller(s)/Licensee(s), is/are: NONE
The name(s) and business address of the Buyer(s)/Applicant(s) is/are: NEEYA LLC, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY COM-PA-NY, 10729 SOUTH ST., CERRITOS, CA 90703
The assets being sold are generally de-scribed as: FURNITURE, FIXTURES, EQUIPMENT, GOODWILL, LEASE, LEASE-HOLD IMPROVEMENTS, FRANCHISE RIGHTS, COVENANT NOT TO COMPETE, INVENTORY, AND ABC 41-ON-SALE BEER AND WINE-EATING PLACE LICENSE #390353 and is/are located at: 10729 SOUTH ST., CERRITOS, CA 90703
The type of license to be transferred is/are: ABC 41-ON-SALE BEER AND WINE-EATING PLACE LICENSE #390353 now issued for the premises located at: SAME
The bulk sale and transfer of alcoholic bev-erage license(s) is/are intended to be con-summated at the office of: DETAIL ES-CROW, INC, 13737 ARTESIA BLVD, #105 CERRITOS, CA 90703 and the anticipated sale date is MARCH 21, 2025
The Bulk sale subject to California Uniform Commercial Code Section 6106.2.
The purchase price of consideration in con-nection with the sale of the business and transfer of the license, is the sum of \$339,000.00, including inventory estimated at \$9,000.00, which consists of the follow-ing: DESCRIPTION, AMOUNT: CASH \$209,000.00; PROMIS-SORY NOTE \$130,000.00; TOTAL \$339,000.00
It has been agreed between the Sell-er(s)/Licensee(s) and the intended Buy-er(s)/Transferee(s), as required by Sec. 24073 of the Business and Professions code, that the consideration for transfer of the business and license is to be paid only after the transfer has been approved by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.
Dated: FEBRUARY 1, 2025
M & L BRAR, L.L.C., A CALIFORNIA LIM-ITED LIABILITY COMPANY, Sell-er(s)/Licensee(s)
NEEYA LLC, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIA-BILITY COMPANY, Buyer(s)/Applicant(s)
3282719-PP LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS 2/21/25

T.S. No. 092119-CA APN: 7033-001-020 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE’S SALE IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROP-ERTY OWNER: YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 11/23/2005. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 3/11/2025 at 10:30 AM, CLEAR RECON CORP. as duly appointed trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded 12/1/2005 as Instrument No. 05 2932433 and later modified by a Loan Modification Agreement recorded on 7/26/2011, as Instrument NO. 20110997387, of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Los Angeles County, State of CALIFORNIA executed by: SYLVIA A DESIONGCO, AN UNMAR-RIED WOMAN AND BRYON L THOMPSON, A SINGLE MAN, AS JOINT TENANTS WILL SELL AT PUB-LIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER’S CHECK DRAWN ON A STATE OR NA-TIONAL BANK, A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, OR A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, SAVINGS ASSOCIATION, OR SAV-INGS BANK SPECIFIED IN SECTION 5102 OF THE FINANCIAL CODE AND AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSI-NESS IN THIS STATE; BEHIND THE FOUNTAIN LOCATED IN CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, 400 CIVIC CEN-TER PLAZA, POMONxqA, CA 91766 all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State described as: MORE ACCURATELY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 17315 IBEX AVENUE, CERRITOS, CA 90703-2739 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be held, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, condition, or encumbrances, including fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to pay the remaining principal sums of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid bal-ance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$964,566.09 If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder’s sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned or its predecessor caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are consider-ing bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auc-tion. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder’s office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (855) 313-3319 or visit this Internet website www.clear-reconcorp.com, using the file number assigned to this case 092119-CA. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: Effective Jan-uary 1, 2021, you may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an “eligible bidder,” you may be able to purchase the prop-erty if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (855) 313-3319, or visit this internet website www.clearreconcorp.com, using the file number assigned to this case 092119-CA to find the date on which the trustee’s sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee’s sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee’s sale. If you think you may qualify as an “eligible tenant buyer” or “eligible bidder,” you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS
VANESSA DE JESUS CHAIDEZ GARCIA AND CESAR OMAR BRAVO FOR ANDREA JULISSA BRAVO CHAIDEZ filed a petition with this court for a decree changing name as follows: ANDREA JULISSA BRAVO CHAIDEZ TO ANDREA JULISSA BRAVO. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant a petition without a hearing. Court date 4/11/25, at the SUPERIOR COURT COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 12720 NORWALK BLVD. NORWALK, CA 90650. A HEARING will be held APRIL 11, 2025 at 9:30 am, Dept C ROOM 315. Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 2/14, 2/21, 2/28, 3/7/25 Case number 25NWCPOOO67

Administrative Manager (LOS ANGELES, CA)
Oversee day-to-day administrative operations of the clinic. Maintain & update patient records, appointment schedules, and other necessary documentation. Assist in recruiting, hiring, and training new staff members. Manage employee schedules, time-off requests, and payroll. Handle employee relations and ensure compliance with labor laws & clinic policies. Address & resolve client complaints or concerns. Oversee the management of client appointments, reminders, and follow-ups.
40hrs/wk, Offered wage: \$80,184/yr.
Associate’s degree in Business Administration or related required.
Resume to
Affordable Animal Hospital Silver Lake
Attn. Guillermo Calderon
2417 RIVERSIDE DR, LOS ANGELES, CA 90039

PUZZLE ANSWER: MEET

subject to the following restrictions regarding where RVs may be parked with an issued permit:

1. The permittee may only stop, stand, or park his or her RV directly in front of or within 100 feet of the residential address specified on the temporary RV parking permit. If the property is a corner lot, then the permittee may stop, stand, or park his or her RV directly on the side of, or within 100 feet of, the residential address specified on the temporary RV parking permit. If the RV is not parked directly in front of, or on the side of, as set forth herein, such residence, the RV will be subject to citation, towing, or both.

2. The permittee shall not stop, stand, or park his or her RV within ten feet from the beginning of the apron of any driveway, except at the residential address specified on the temporary RV parking permit, provided that the driveway is not shared with another residence or business.

3. The permittee shall not stop, stand, or park his or her RV within 20 feet of any street intersection, as measured from the curb line or edge of roadway.

4. Nothing in this section is designed to prevent any resident or individual who uses an RV to travel to the City of Santa Fe Springs to receive care, medical services, or to engage in any otherwise lawful business activity.

(D) Prohibited Activities. No person, regardless of whether they were issued a temporary RV parking permit, shall:

(1) Use slide outs/pop outs or other appurtenances on an RV that encroach on or into the roadway, parkway, and/or sidewalk in such a manner as to interfere with the path of safe travel of vehicles and/or pedestrians.

(2) Open or partially open any awnings on an RV in such a manner as to interfere with the path of safe travel of vehicles and/or pedestrians.

(3) Cause or permit any utility connections, electrical cords, extension cords, hoses, or cables to cross over, above, on or across any street or sidewalk to or from an RV.

(4) Use power generators or other noise-generating equipment between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. within or adjacent to an RV.

(5) Conduct any commercial activity while an RV is parked on the public right-of-way.

(6) Connect an RV to the public sewer system or dump waste onto public or private land or into streets, gutters, or storm drains, other than lawfully at a designated licensed and permitted RV sanitary wastewater dump station.

(7) Knowingly allow any type of grease, oil, fuel, human waste or other harmful substances to leak or be emitted onto any public right-of-way.

(8) Trailers must be at all times properly hitched to a vehicle capable of safely towing the trailer on public streets and highways pursuant to Section 72.16 of this code.

(E) Violations and Penalties.

(1) Any RV parked in violation of this section shall be subject to citation, towing as authorized by California Vehicle Code Sections 22650 and 22651, or both, and revocation of any permit issued pursuant to this section.

(2) Any violation of this section is punishable pursuant to Section 70.99 of this code.

(3) Any RV parked on any street or alley in excess of 72 consecutive hours without a valid temporary RV parking permit displayed shall be subject to removal pursuant to Section 72.04 of this code.

(F) Revocation.

(1) The City shall have the authority to revoke a temporary RV parking permit if the City makes any one of the following findings:

(a) The RV has fallen into a state of disrepair and has become a public nuisance or a danger to pedestrians or other vehicles.

(b) The RV has become inoperable.

(c) There has been a parking citation issued for the RV associated with the temporary RV parking permit.

(d) The applicant has provided information that was materially false.

(e) There has been a violation of this section.

(2) To revoke a temporary RV parking permit, the City shall issue a notice of revocation in writing to the permittee specifying the basis for and the effective date of the revocation, which date shall be at least two days after the date of the notice of revocation. To the extent a permit expires pursuant to its own terms before the effective date of such revocation, the City may use such revocation as a basis to deny a future application from the same permittee. The City's determination to revoke a temporary RV parking permit shall be final.

SECTION 4. CEQA.

This Ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Res. Code § 21000 *et seq.*) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., § 15000 *et seq.*) Section 15061(b)(3) under the general rule that CEQA does not apply to activities which can be seen with certainty to have no effect on the environment. The proposed actions would not create any environmental impacts, therefore no additional action under CEQA is required.

SECTION 5. Clerical Errors.

The City Council authorizes the City Attorney to make any clarifying changes necessary to this Ordinance including, but not limited to, typographical errors, irregular numbering and incorrect section references.

SECTION 6. Penalty.

Violation of any provision of this Ordinance shall constitute a misdemeanor and a civil violation subject to the penalties provided for under Section 10.97 of the SFSMC. Each and every day such a violation exists shall constitute a separate and distinct violation of this Ordinance. In addition to the foregoing, any violation of this Ordinance shall constitute a public nuisance and shall be subject to abatement as provided by all applicable provisions of law.

SECTION 7. Severability.

If any section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase in this Ordinance, or any part thereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections or portions of this Ordinance or of Chapters 70 (General Provisions) and 72 (Stopping, Standing and Parking) of the SFSMC, or any part thereof. The City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted each section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase in this Ordinance irrespective of the fact that any one or

more sections, subsections, subdivisions, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, or phrases may be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 8. Savings Clause.

Neither the adoption of this Ordinance nor the repeal or amendment by this Ordinance of any ordinance or part or portion of any ordinance previously in effect in the City, or within the territory comprising the City, shall in any manner affect the prosecution for the violation of any ordinance, which violation was committed prior to the effective date of this Ordinance, nor be construed as a waiver of any license, fee or penalty or the penal provisions applicable to any violation of such ordinances.

SECTION 9. Effective Date and Extension of Ordinance.

In accordance with Government Code Section 36937, this Ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from passage and adoption.


SECTION 10. Certification and Posting.

The City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this Ordinance and shall cause this Ordinance to be published or posted as required by law.

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 18th day of February, 2025, and was carried by the following vote:

| | |
|----------|--|
| AYES: | Councilmembers Mora, Martin, Rodriguez, Mayor Pro Tem Zamora, and Mayor Rounds |
| NOES: | None |
| ABSTAIN: | None |
| ABSENT: | None |

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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.

THE PRESIDENT'S CABINET

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Administration, Assistance, Bill, Board, Branch, Budget, Confirmed, Council, Defense, Department, Designate, Development, Economy, Environmental, House, Majority, Management, Nominated, Offices, Officials, Orders, Party, Policy, Rank, Representatives, Role, Rules, Senior, Service, Staff, State, Succession, Sworn, Treasury

Solution on page 13

Solution: 4 letters



HMG
HEALTH MEDIA GROUP

LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS'

CUTEST PETS

PHOTO CONTEST

ENTER AT LOSCERRITOSNEWS.NET/CUTEST-PETS

A close-up photograph of a dog's face, showing its eye and part of its snout, positioned in the bottom right corner of the advertisement.

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