



Spring is when you feel like whistling, even with a shoe full of rain.

~Doug Larson

Parents Voice Their Anger Over Involuntary Staff Removals at ABCUSD Board Meeting

By Fatima Durrani and Brian Hews

Angry teachers, staff, parents and students voiced their opinions in public comment at an ABC Unified School District board meeting on Tuesday, March 21. The crowd was passionate in their comments to the board as they expressed frustration at involuntary administrative moves.

Last week, Interim Superintendent Toan Ngyuen announced the removal of Cerritos High School Principal Patrick Walker, the removal of a school counselor at Gahr and other administrators within the district. Ngyuen said the changes were

a natural process and made for their professional growth.

"We're resuming the process of moving administrators and that's a natural rotation," Ngyuen said. "We have sent surveys to get input from families, staff and students to understand the needs of the school and better prepare the incoming administrators to ensure a smooth transition."

Several public speakers at the board meeting said that the survey was an attempt to cover up the real issues and failed to give them a spot to voice their concerns. Parents said that the decision Ngyuen made affected

[See ABC page 13]



WEIRD WEATHER: TORNADOS TOUCH DOWN IN SOCAL

TWO TORNADOS touched down this week, a result of a monster storm that hit Tuesday. One twister was in Santa Barbara on Tuesday, the other in Montebello on Wednesday. The Montebello tornado was an EF-1, and left a trail a half-mile long and 50 yards wide, shredding roofs and tearing apart metal fences. Seventeen buildings were damaged, and 11 were red-tagged, causing millions in damage; clean-up is underway.

ABCUSD Trustee Soo Yoo Attended 'Detransition Rally' in Sacramento

Detransition is the belief that parents force their children to transition with drugs and then make them have life-altering surgeries.

By Brian Hews

On March 14, 2023, Los Cerritos Community News exclusively reported that ABC Unified School District Trustee Soo Yoo interviewed with the right-wing misinformation, anti-China, pro-Trump media empire of Falun Gong channel - which also publishes the Epoch Times newspaper - was heard spouting racist right-wing talking points and who is on the record for bashing Latinos for having Quinceaneras and telling African Americans "to get over the slavery thing."

It looks like Yoo was making the rounds with racists and homophobes in Sacramento prior to her interview with the Falun Gong.

LCCN has learned that just four days prior to the interview,

Yoo attended a homophobic anti-LGBTQ+ "Detransition Awareness Rally" in Sacramento.

Detransition is the belief that parents force their children to transition with drugs and then make them have life-altering surgeries.

Detransitioning, or "later regret," means stopping or reversing gender transition, which can include medical treatment or changes in appearance, or both. The World Professional Association for Transgender Health said evidence of later regret is scant. Dutch research from several years ago found no evidence of regret in transgender adults who had comprehensive psychological evaluations in childhood before undergoing puberty blockers and hormone treatment.

Yoo is seen in a picture on Facebook standing next to a God Bless America banner and in front of a sign that reads, "Democrats Supporting Detransitioners."

The post was by Erik Elness, who wrote on his page, "proud

[See SOO YOO page 14]

Monthly Habitat Restoration of Los Cerritos Wetlands

By Stepheny Guehrig

On the first Saturday of each month, Tidal Influence, in partnership with the Aquarium of the Pacific, hosts a habitat restoration for the Los Cerritos Wetlands. This month's restoration took place on March 4, and included planting native species of plants, weeding and picking up palm fronds.

From 10:30 a.m. until noon, ecologists led a group of around 60 volunteers who worked together to restore the wetlands. Supplies, water and sunscreen were provided -- all that was needed was a desire to help. From heavy duty work like pushing a wheelbarrow filled with palm fronds to less muscle-intensive work, like placing native plants into the soil, people of all ages were welcomed and able to help.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, "Wetlands are areas where water covers the soil, or is present either at or near the surface of the soil all year or for varying periods of time during

the year, including during the growing season."

Human development is the main cause for the damage done to the wetlands. Oil rigs, asphalt, buildings are scattered all around, but due to privatized ownership of the land and the oil, the human development that resides on the land is unable to be removed.

"The private oil operators, they have mineral rights to the underground mineral oil reserves; the Los Cerritos Wetland Authority the public land owner is not trying to fight or get off the land,"

Bahrami said. "They want their money going towards restoration."

Restoring the wetlands is vital to the California environment as it creates a habitat for native species like the belding Savannah Sparrow and the Wandering Skipper, which reside in the Los Cerritos Wetlands.

"Because of human development there's just this little gem left. There used to be lots of wetlands along the coast of Cal-



THE FIRST SATURDAY of each month, Tidal Influence, in partnership with the Aquarium of the Pacific, hosts a habitat restoration for the Los Cerritos Wetlands.

ifornia. There's not too many left," said Daniella Gavriel, an associate restoration coordinator for Tidal Influence, an ecological consulting firm based in Long Beach.

Meaning little hills, the topography of the Los Cerritos Wetlands is unique. Located in Seal Beach, the wetlands are a great source for minerals and oil, while also serving as a refuge for native plants and animals. Zelder Marsh, the only ac-

[See WETLANDS page 13]

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Asm. Sharon Quirk-Silva's Woman of the Year



ASSEMBLYWOMAN Sharon Quirk-Silva (left), with Dr. Joanna Schilling. Dr. Schilling is President of Cypress College. Photo by Lily Jimenez.

By Brian Hews

This past week, Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva (D - Fullerton) announced her 67th Assembly District 2023 Woman of the Year, Dr. JoAnna Schilling.

Dr. Schilling is President of Cypress College. She began her career in community colleges as Dean of Arts and Cultural Programs at Rio Hondo College, and went on to serve as Vice President of Academic Affairs at both Cerritos and Rio Hondo Colleges.

"Dr. Schilling has continued to serve her community with integrity, compassion, and enthusiasm throughout her career and I am proud to recognize her as the California State Assembly District 67, 2023 Woman of the Year," said Assemblywoman Quirk-Silva.

"I am honored, and more than a little

humbled, by this recognition," stated Dr. Schilling. "Assemblywoman Quirk-Silva has been a tireless advocate for education in our communities, and so it is especially gratifying to receive this award from her. It has been my privilege to serve the resilient and hardworking students who come to Cypress College looking for a better life through the power of education. Thank you to Assemblywoman Quirk-Silva for this award and for shining her light on the students we all have a vested interest in serving."

This year, the California Legislative Women's Caucus celebrated "Women Making Herstory" with a ceremony at the state Capitol on March 20. Assemblywoman Quirk-Silva presented her recognition on the floor of the state Assembly to Dr. Joanna Schilling.

Elijhaa Penny to Coach Football at John Glenn High



JOHN GLENN HIGH SCHOOL will hold a welcome ceremony for its new head football coach Elijhaa Penny on March 24, at 1:00 p.m. in their quad on campus. Penny is seen here with his brother after the Norwalk City Council declared a Penny Brother's Day in the city.

Lakewood Sites needed for Volunteer Day

By Brian Hews

Lakewood's Volunteer Day program is looking for project sites for its Saturday, April 15 clean-up and fix-up event.

Teams of volunteers will fan out on that day to locations throughout Lakewood to donate a morning's work to help their neighbors in need.

Recipients of Volunteer Day aid can

be seniors or persons of any age who, because of a disability or limited means, need some neighborly help to make their Lakewood yard or home exterior a little nicer.

Work can include a number of fix-up categories including gardening, yard cleanup or minor painting.

If you, or someone you know, can benefit from a Volunteer Day project and meet the selection criteria, please submit a site suggestion online or call the Burns Community Center at 562-925-7512.

The proposed project sites are reviewed by city staff for eligibility and suitability.



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Blanket Drive For Earthquake Victims in Turkey at Tracy High



STUDENTS from the Tracy High Peace and Red Cross clubs with the blankets they collected and two special guests who informed the students about the disaster and heavy toll on the people in Turkey. Pictured are Nurittin Celik, back row right in blue shirt, a Turkish American from Cerritos and Venezia Van Schuerbeck, right of Nurittin. Heather Calderon, green shirt on left, represented the Red Cross sponsorship and Pat Alviso, flashing the peace sign, is the Peace Club sponsor.

SEAACA Pet Care & Adoption Fest March 25

The Southeast Area Animal Control Authority (SEAACA) and Michelson Found Animals are partnering to offer a free pet care and adoption event.

The fest will occur on Saturday, March 25 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the SEAACA facility in Downey.

Free pet services, supplies, pet food adoptions and more will be offered.

The Downey facility is located at 9777 Seaaca Street, Downey, CA 90241 Phone is (562) 803-3301

Kennedy High Scholarship Foundation Fundraiser Dinner

The Kennedy High event will be held at La Palma City Community Center Royal Palm Room on Sat. April 15th

The event will begin at 6:30 p.m., with a silent auction, raffle and buffet dinner. Reservations can be made for \$50 p/p or \$375 for a table of eight. If you are unable to attend but would like to donate, send a check to the Foundation at P.O. Box 1371, Cypress, CA 90630. For further information, contact the Foundation at (714) 826-4537 or email at jfkscholarshipfoundation@hotmail.com.

Enjoy Artesia's Diverse Cuisine During Restaurant Week

Artesia is hosting the 2nd annual Restaurant Week from Monday, March 27 through Sunday, April 2. The city is asking area residents to order from participating restaurants during Restaurant Week, to help support Artesia businesses.

The following participating restaurants will feature their unique menu items, providing patrons the opportunity to experience the variety of international flavors that can be enjoyed in Artesia. Some restaurants will also offer special pricing or free select items with purchase.

Participating Restaurants

1. Aikan Sushi & Ramen
2. Ashoka The Great Cuisine of India
3. Awaze Ethiopian Restaurant
4. Bhookhe Ethnic Cuisine
5. Bonchon Korean Fried Chicken
6. BOPOMOFO Cafe
7. Dave's Hot Chicken
8. Dim Sum Hut
9. Happy Bee Kitchen
10. Julio's Pizza
11. London's Pub & Grill
12. Marlin Restaurant Mexican & Seafood
13. Meken Pinoy's Pride
14. MIAN
15. Paco's Tacos
16. Pirate's Kitchen Artesia
17. Ramen Zuru
18. Saffron Spot
19. Salo Salo Grill
20. Sam Woo Café
21. The Punjab Restaurant

Do not miss this exciting culinary experience, an up-to-date list of participating restaurants is available at <https://tinyurl.com/ArtResWeek>. Call the Parks and Recreation Department at 562-860-3361 for more information.

Norwalk Approves Improvements at City Parks

By Brian Hews

The Norwalk City Council approved a number of improvements at Bob White Park at their last meeting, part of the Norwalk's Parks Master Plan.

"Norwalk councilmembers and I recognize the importance of providing high-quality parks and recreational facilities to residents," said Mayor Ana Valencia.

Developing a dog park and restroom installation to meet the needs of Bob White Park visitors come from Prop 68 per capita funds. The restroom installation is scheduled to complete fall 2023; a new playground begins this summer.

In addition to Bob White Park, the plans include the following highlights:

- Hermosillo Park - The city has been awarded an \$8.5 million to rehabilitate the park. The playground was replaced in 2018, now a Pour N Play surface will be installed as part of the overall project.
- Norwalk Park - New sports fields, playgrounds, an additional restroom and park amenities are currently planned.
- Lakeside Park - Laser leveling of ballfields at the park was completed.
- Holifield Park - One of the playgrounds was replaced, funded by Supervisor Janice Hahn. Due to the placement of the playground, a large open area was created which has been evaluated for installing an in-ground skate park.
- Gerdes Park - Ballfield lighting will be added to the main ballfield at the park. This project will increase play time capacity of three to four hours per day, five to six days per week for the leagues.



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Downey Mayor's Corner

Greetings:

Happy Spring! I am happy to report 32 (thirty-two) miles have been paved during the first quarter of 2023. Many of you continue to express concern over the condition of streets in and around your neighborhoods. During my first year as Mayor in 2021, the council voted unanimously to invest over \$30 million on infrastructure improvements (street rehabilitation and repaving) over the next few years. I realize many streets have not been repaved in 25-30 years, and believe me, we will get to your street. I thank you for your patience in advance as there will be disruptions and intermittent street closures as these streets get rehabilitated. How do we prioritize streets throughout our city you may ask? The city has a Street Repaving Management Plan that guides the prioritization of streets and neighborhoods.

I had the pleasure of welcoming Governor Gavin Newsom to Downey last weekend as he announced California will take the lead in slashing insulin prices by entering a 10-year partnership with Civica, to manufacture insulin and reduce prices by 90%, to \$30 dollars a vial. This is good news for the people of California and certainly residents of Downey.

We also had a mayor's roundtable with our newly elected Assemblywoman Blanca Pacheco. Mayors representing her district met in Downey to discuss issues of concern and legislative priorities, including hous-



GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM visited Downey last weekend and announced California will slash insulin prices by manufacturing the drug here in California, reducing prices by 90%, to \$30 dollars a vial. With Newsom is Supervisor Janice Hahn, Mayor Frometa and Asm. Blanca Pacheco.

ing, fentanyl, and homelessness.

Update on Fire Station #4:

I have continued to hear from residents of District-4 about their frustration and displeasure at the ongoing delays with the reopening of the fire station. The contractor is ready to install a new roof, unfortunately the heavy rains have continued to delay the project. We will need two weeks without rain for the roof completion. The new timeline for occupancy and re-opening is end of April.

Downey's anti-litter campaign #BINIT started during my first Mayoral year in 2021 and continues strong. Residents may call

CalMet/Athens services at 562.259.1239 to arrange a bulky item pick up. Additional important numbers to save on your phones:

- Graffiti Hotline: (562) 923-4484
- Abandoned Shopping Carts: (800) 252-4613
- Illegal Dumping: (562) 904-7194

The Keep Downey Beautiful Clean Ups continue to bring together residents who want to make a change and help beautify our city. The next clean-up is scheduled for 9 am on Saturday, April 8 at the Quick-Shor located at 13217 Laurendale Avenue

**Claudia M. Frometa
Mayor**

Prescription for Housing? California Wants Medicaid to Cover Six Months of Rent

By Angela Hart

Gov. Gavin Newsom, whose administration is struggling to contain a worsening homelessness crisis despite record spending, is trying something bold: tapping federal health care funding to cover rent for homeless people and those at risk of losing their housing.

States are barred from using federal Medicaid dollars to pay directly for rent, but California's governor is asking the administration of President Joe Biden, a fellow Democrat, to authorize a new program called "transitional rent," which would provide up to six months of rent or temporary housing for low-income enrollees who rely on the state's health care safety net — a new initiative in his arsenal of programs to fight and prevent homelessness.

"I've been talking to the president. We cannot do this alone," Newsom told KHN.

The governor is pushing California's version of Medicaid, called Medi-Cal, to fund experimental housing subsidies for homeless people, betting that it's cheaper for taxpayers to cover rent than to allow people to fall into crisis or costly institutional care in hospitals, nursing homes, and jails. Early in his tenure, Newsom proclaimed that "doctors should be able to write prescriptions for housing the same way they do for insulin or antibiotics."

But it's a risky endeavor in a high-cost state where median rent is nearly \$3,000 a month, and even higher in coastal regions, where most of California's homeless people reside. Experts expect the Biden administration to scrutinize the plan to use health care money to pay rent; and also question its potential effectiveness in light of the state's housing crisis.

Biden's Medicaid officials have approved similar experimental programs in Oregon and Arizona, and California is modeling its program after them.

Top health officials say that, to contain soaring safety-net spending and help homeless people get healthy, Medi-Cal has no choice but to combine social services with housing.

5% of Medi-Cal patients account for a staggering 44% of the program's spending, and many of the costliest patients lack

stable housing: Nearly half of patients experiencing homelessness visited the emergency room four times or more in 2019 and were more likely than other low-income adults to be admitted to the hospital, and a large majority of visits were covered by Medi-Cal, according to the Public Policy Institute of California.

Rent payments could begin as soon as 2025 and cost roughly \$117 million per year once fully implemented. Among those who stand to benefit are nearly 11,000 people already enrolled in Medi-Cal housing services.

Health care experiments in California and around the country that funded housing supports have demonstrated early success in reducing costs and making people healthier. But while some programs paid for housing security deposits or participants' first month of rent, none directly covered rent for an extended period.

In a randomized control trial in Santa Clara County that provided supportive housing for homeless people showed reductions in psychiatric emergency room visits and improvements in care. "Lives stabilized and we saw a huge uptick in substance use care and mental health care, the things that everybody wants people to use to get healthier," said Dr. Margot Kushel, director of the University of California-San Francisco's Center for Vulnerable Populations at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center, who worked on the study.

But insurers implementing the broader Medi-Cal initiative say they are skeptical that spending health care money on housing will save the system money. And health care experts say that, while six months of rent can be a bridge while people wait for permanent housing, there's a bigger obstacle: California's affordable housing shortage.

Newsom acknowledges that criticism. "The crisis of homelessness will never be solved without first solving the crisis of housing," he said last week, arguing California should plow more money into housing for homeless people with severe mental health conditions or addiction disorders.

He will ask the legislature to put before voters a 2024 ballot initiative that would

infuse California's mental health system with at least 6,000 new treatment beds and supportive housing units for people struggling with mental health and addiction disorders, many of whom are homeless. The proposed bond measure would generate from \$3 billion to \$5 billion for psychiatric housing and treatment villages aimed at serving more than 10,000 additional people a year. The initiative also would ask voters to set aside at least \$1 billion a year for supportive housing from an existing tax on California millionaires that funds local mental health programs.

Public health experts say the problem will continue to explode without creative thinking about how to fund housing in health care, but they warn the state must be wary of potential abuses of the program.

For Stephen Morton, who lives in the Orange County community of Laguna Woods, the journey from homelessness into permanent housing illustrates the amount of public spending it can take for the effort to pay off.

Morton, 60, bounced between shelters and his car for nearly two years and racked up extraordinary Medi-Cal costs due to prolonged hospitalizations and repeated emergency room trips to treat chronic heart disease, asthma, and diabetes.

Medi-Cal covered Morton's open-heart surgery and hospital stays, which lasted weeks. He landed temporary housing through a state-sponsored program called Project Roomkey before getting permanent housing through a federal low-income housing voucher — an ongoing benefit that covers all but \$50 of his rent.

Since getting his apartment, Morton said, he's been able to stop taking one diabetes medication and lose weight. He attributes improvements in his blood sugar levels to his housing and the healthy, home-delivered meals he receives via Medi-Cal.

"It's usually scrambled eggs for breakfast and the fish menu for dinner. I'm shocked it's so good," Morton said. "Now I have a microwave and I'm indoors. I'm so grateful and so much healthier."

This story was produced by KHN, which publishes California Healthline, an editorially independent service of the California Health Care Foundation.

Rep. Sánchez Delivers \$750K to Whittier Union High District



U.S. REP. Linda Sánchez with city and district officials, from left to right, Whittier City Manager Brian Sacki, Rep. Sánchez, Whittier Mayor Joe Vinatieri, WUHS District Board of Trustees President Jaime Lopez and Superintendent Dr. Monica Oviedo.

By Brian Hews

U.S. Rep. Linda Sánchez delivered a \$750,000 check to Whittier and the Whittier Union High School District, which will help transform the athletic fields at Sierra Education Center (SEC) into a community recreation space that can be used for youth sports programs.

“Every community should have places to relax and come together as neighbors,” Sánchez said. “These funds will be used to transform underused property at the Sierra Education Center into recreation space for all to enjoy.”

The funding for the recreation space was secured as part of the Consolidated

Appropriations Act of 2023. Signed by President Joe Biden in December 2022, the Appropriations Act provides money for a host of community projects within Sánchez’s 38th District. “We thank Congresswoman Sánchez for providing this generous gift that will positively impact the Whittier community for generations to come,” Oviedo said.

The Sierra Education Center houses the Whittier Union High School District offices and Board room, Sierra Vista High School, Frontier High School, Whittier Union Adult School, and the District’s fleet of school buses, as well as a soccer field, track, basketball courts and other open areas.

Freedom City Church to Give Away 3,000 Easter Baskets

The giveaways will be part of an Easter at Freedom Chocolate Factory experience that will also feature a live Easter production for the entire family and photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny.

The event will take place on Sunday, April 9 with giveaways and live production beginning at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. A Spanish live production will take place at 3 p.m. The event will be held at Freedom City Church located at 6355 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier, Ca 90601.

For additional information visit go2freedom.org or Freedom City Church’s instagram page [@go2fcc](https://www.instagram.com/go2fcc).

Gov. Newsom Plans for CA. to Make Its Own Lower Cost Insulin

Staff Report

California will manufacture more affordable insulin in a partnership with nonprofit generic drugmaker Civica Rx, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced this past Saturday.

The partnership will provide insulin to Californians for \$30 per 10 milliliters, the governor said during a stop in Downey.

The 10-year partnership will be administered through Cal Rx. Manufacturing is expected to begin later this year with deliveries coming next year, Newsom said.

As part of the \$50 million contract, Civica will produce three insulins — glargine, lispro and aspart. They will be available in vials and pre-filled pens with the Cal Rx label.

Newsom also announced Saturday a plan allowing California to manufacture its own lower-cost Naloxone, or Narcan. The potentially life-saving drug reverses the effects of an opioid overdose.

“We’re starting with insulin, but we’re not stopping there,” said Mark Ghaly, secretary of the state’s Health and Human Services Department, who joined Newsom for the announcement. “We are going to look for other opportunities for savings.”

At the national level, efforts to pass laws capping the price of insulin for uninsured Americans or those with private insurance failed in the Democratic-controlled Congress last year.

President Biden, however, has still championed last year’s bill as a success for the millions of Americans who



aren’t on Medicare. Drug companies, facing public pressure after tripling their prices for the life-saving drug over the last two decades, have started to voluntarily lower the cost of insulin. Drugmaker Novo Nordisk announced Tuesday it was cutting the cost of insulin to about \$72 a vial, on the heels of an announcement from rival Eli Lilly that it would start selling its generic for \$25.

“This builds on the important progress we made last year when I signed a law to cap insulin at \$35 for seniors,” Biden said in a statement on Tuesday on Novo Nordisk’s announcement. “I urge all other manufacturers to follow suit and Republicans in Congress to join us and cap insulin at \$35 for all Americans.”

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Cerritos Resident is Mayflower Transit's Van Operator of the Year



CONGRATULATIONS: Mayflower's President and CEO Jason Mills and Chairman of the Board Charles W. McDaniel with Richard Pittman presented the award at the company's recent Learning Conference held in St. Louis.

Staff Report

Richard Pittman of Active Logistics out of Northborough, Massachusetts, was awarded Mayflower's Van Operator of the Year for logistics. The award recognizes Pittman's excellent performance in the areas of customer service and safety. Mayflower's President and CEO Jason Mills alongside Chairman of the Board Charles W. McDaniel presented the award at the Company's recent Learning Conference held in St. Louis.

Richard joined the trucking industry just under five years ago, but his dedication and customer service speaks for itself. He takes pride in his efficiency, organizational skills and professionalism. Although his initial career background didn't begin in

the moving industry, he understood that in order to be successful you must take risks.

"My motivation while I'm on the road is to provide good service, be punctual and never turn down a load because I am the face of Mayflower Logistics," Pittman said.

His love for the open road goes deeper than trucking, he also rides motorcycles in his free time.

There are more than 1,300 driving professionals in the Mayflower network, and Pittman was one of the three winners this year. The Van Operator of the Year began in the late 1970s to recognize the men and women who sacrifice so much for a life on the road and who help other families through one of the most stressful times in their lives.

Former Long Beach Mayor and Congressman Robert Garcia Does Not Want to Ban TikTok

By Brian Hews

In an interview on MSNBC this morning, Congressman Robert Garcia sounded more like a TikTok Board Member than a concerned elected official, saying banning TikTok is a bad idea "because 150 million people use the app in the United States... people that built their brand and businesses on the app."

Governments have expressed concerns that TikTok, which is owned by the Chinese company ByteDance, may endanger sensitive user data. Lawmakers in the United States, Europe and Canada have escalated efforts to restrict access to TikTok.

"Before we ban it, I think we should work on the privacy concerns first," Garcia told MSNBC's Jose Diaz Balart.

That statement despite the White House telling federal agencies on Feb. 27 that they had 30 days to delete the app from government devices. Britain and its parliament, Canada, the executive arm of the European Union and New Zealand's parliament also recently banned the app from official devices.

Garcia went on to acknowledge the danger of TikTok but reiterated he did not want to ban TikTok, "we need to have hearings and debates and make sure security agencies are plugged in."

Lawmakers and regulators in the West have increasingly expressed concern that TikTok and its parent company, ByteDance, may put sensitive user data, like location information, into the hands of the Chinese government. They have pointed to laws that allow the Chinese government to secretly demand data from Chinese companies and citizens for intelligence-gathering operations. They also worry that China could use TikTok's content recommendations for misinformation.

Acknowledging that Facebook was a problem, Garcia did not think TikTok would cause the same problems like Facebook did during the 2020 elections.

"It speaks to the next generation, people are communicating through TikTok people are finding each other, LGBTQ+ folks are coming out, people are being educated on topics, I think we need to be a little more thoughtful and not ban TikTok."

The Chinese government has tremendous control over the information and just today, the House conducted a hearing with the TikTok CEO that became very contentious at times; yet Rep. Garcia does not want to ban the app because, as he said several times during the interview, "it has 150 million users."

India banned the platform in mid-2020, costing ByteDance one of its biggest markets, as the government cracked down on 59 Chinese-owned apps, claiming that they



Rep. Robert Garcia

were secretly transmitting users' data to servers outside India.

Diaz-Villar then asked, "Doesn't it bother you that a totalitarian regime who is exploiting and destroying Muslims, has no freedom at all in their country, has personal information about United States residents using it for good?"

Garcia repeated his meme ignoring China's human rights violations, "Before we get to banning an app that has over 150 million users, I think we need to be smart and have hearings holding folks accountable to get TikTok to a better place."

That statement despite a Justice Department investigation of TikTok's surveillance of American journalists. ByteDance said in December that its employees had inappropriately obtained the data of two U.S. TikTok users who were reporters and a few of their associates.

The threat to ban TikTok seems to stem from its Chinese ownership.

Critics of the efforts to ban the platform have pointed out that all social media networks engage in rampant collection of their users' data.

Fight for the Future, a nonprofit digital rights group, recently waged a #DontBanTikTok campaign with the goal of redirecting lawmakers' attention on TikTok to creating data and privacy laws that would apply to all Big Tech companies.

"The general consensus from the privacy community is that TikTok collects a lot of data, but it's not out of step with the amount of data collected by other apps," said Robyn Caplan, a senior researcher at Data & Society Research Institute.

Of course, millions of Americans, digital creators and marketers would hate to see the platform go away, and blocking a popular app could create a political backlash among young people.

The administration could approve TikTok's plan for operating in the United States. There is also a chance that lawmakers would force ByteDance to sell TikTok to an American company — which almost happened in 2020.

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Passings: Vivian Maureen Stout

Vivian Maureen Stout, passed on February 25, 2023 at the age of 102 in Kingman, Arizona. Born February 19, 1921 in Dallas, Texas to Claude and Vassa Duke. Vivian was married to Joseph Junior Stout and worked as the Director of Hillcrest Alzheimer's Day Care in La Habra Heights. She will be remembered for her caringness and strength. She adored her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren. Vivian was preceded in death by her parents, husband (Joseph), child (Thomas), grandchild (Dennis), great-grandchild (Mitchell), and sibling (Dorothy). She is survived by her 3 children: William Stout, Robin Mooring, Michelle Michalak, 7 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and 5 great-great-grandchildren. Memorial service will be

held Saturday April 1, 2023 @ 11:00am at Community Presbyterian Church 13701 Hillsborough Dr, La Mirada.



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Soroptimist Monte Carlo Gala Fundraiser a Huge Success



TWENTY-SIX of the Fifty Members of Soroptimist International of Artesia-Cerritos take a break during the festivities. Photo by Chris Kempf.

By Diana Needham

Soroptimist International of Artesia-Cerritos' Monte Carlo Night Gala fundraiser on February 25 was a huge success, with all 255 event tickets sold for maximum venue attendance.

The event raised over \$49,000. Casino



MONTE CARLO and Soroptimist leaders (r-l) Norma Williamson, Pres.; Sandy Fikse, Event Co-Chair; Susan Green, Event Co-Chair; and Mary Ann Tipton, President-Elect.

games (blackjack, craps & poker), a delicious buffet dinner, and prizes totaling over \$21,000 highlighted the event.

A "Return to Paradise" tropical theme entertained partygoers with an elegant and fun experience. Beautiful, exotic fresh flower centerpieces helped set the theme for the tropical evening in paradise.

"This Monte Carlo event was one of our best, and as our major fundraiser for the year, it will fund most of our important programs and donations," said Sandy Fikse, event Co-Chair.

The proceeds of the event will fund the Club's cash grants to low-income college women who are head of household; career training for high school girls; and donations to community organizations, including Su Casa-Ending Domestic Violence, Community Family Guidance Center and many others.

"We are thankful to the community for their overwhelming support of this awesome event," said President Norma Williamson. "As a result of its success,

we can improve the lives of many women and girls as well as help make our community a better place."

"We are thrilled with the support from community members, sponsors, and prize donors, as well as the many dignitaries who were in attendance," said Susan Green, event Co-Chair and Master of Ceremonies (MC) for the evening.

Dignitaries included Assembly member Sharon Quirk Silva; Cerritos Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Barrows; Cerritos Council Member Frank Yokoyama; Artesia Mayor Monica Manalo; Artesia Mayor Pro Tem Tony Lima; Artesia Councilmembers Melisa Ramoso, Ali Taj and Rene Trevino; Cerritos College Board of Trustees Members Dawn Green and Dr. Shin Liu; Cerritos College President/Superintendent Dr. Jose Fierro; ABC Unified School District President Brad Beach, Vice President Sophia Tse, Clerk Ernie Nishii and Board Member, Olga Rios; ABC Interim Superintendent Toan Nguyen; Su-Casa-Ending Domestic Violence Executive Director Alberto Uribe; and Community Family Guidance Center Executive Director Bill Sinko, as well as seven former Cerritos and Artesia Mayors and a former Judge.

Event sponsors donated over \$14,500. The top two event sponsors were: Berkshire Hathaway Home Services and Dr. Kent Choi-Ichthus Injury Network.

Top prizes included a one-week stay in a Big Bear house, donated by Becky Lingad; over \$2,000 in gift cards; and a 4-day/3-night stay at The Atlantis Hotel, a five-star hotel in the Bahamas.

To learn about becoming a Soroptimist member, contact President-Elect Mary Ann Tipton at 562-706-2881. The local service club welcomes new members. Soroptimist International of Artesia-Cerritos celebrated its 50th year of founding and a successful past year with over \$25,000 in giving through its Soroptimist programs and donations to many local organizations/charities.

Senator Bob Archuleta's Woman of the Year for Senate District 30

SACRAMENTO – In celebration of Women's History Month, Senator Bob Archuleta (D-Pico Rivera) recognized former Walnut Mayor Mary Su as 2023 Woman of the Year for Senate District 30.



Mary Su

Senator Archuleta accompanied Mary at the California Woman Making Herstory Ceremony, hosted by the California Legislative Women's Caucus in the Senate Chambers.

"Mary Su's 30 years as a leader in education and civic and humanitarian affairs in the San Gabriel Valley exemplifies this year's theme of 'herstory-making actions,'" Senator Archuleta said. "She has made notable contributions in the political, educational and humanitarian arenas, which have benefited the district and beyond."

She is the founder of many non-profit organizations, including the Chinese American Parents' Association of Walnut Valley Unified School District.

Mary, who immigrated to the United States in 1982, was the first Asian woman elected to the Walnut City Council and the first Asian woman to serve as the city's mayor.

Senator Bob Archuleta Shows Support for Striking SEIU Local 99 Members

Norwalk, CA – Yesterday, Senator Bob Archuleta (D-Pico Rivera) offered words of encouragement and solidarity on the third day of the strike for workers demanding better wages and working conditions from the LAUSD. Archuleta expressed his desire to see the strike end with living wages that are on par with the cost of living in Los Angeles County.

"Thousands of workers at SEIU 99, and teachers of LAUSD live and reside in the cities I represent in Senate District 30. Indeed, many of my constituents not only attended LAUSD schools (as did I), but now serve as assistants, bus drivers and cafeteria workers and, in many cases, are currently living under the poverty level earning approximately \$25,000 a year," wrote Archuleta in a letter to Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho. "This poverty wage is unacceptable from the second largest school district in the country."

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Deadly Fungus *C. auris* Detected in Many U.S. States

Staff Report

A deadly fungus that is considered an urgent public health threat by the CDC spread at an “alarming rate” during the pandemic.

The fungus, called *Candida auris*, preys primarily on older people with weakened immune systems and is particularly dangerous because it resists treatment by common antifungal medications. *C. auris* was first reported in the United States in 2016, showing up most notably in New York and Illinois, where public health officials hoped they could contain it by rigorous screening and infection control in long-term care facilities and nursing homes.

But over the course of 2021, state and local health departments around the country reported 1,474 cases, more than a 200 percent increase over 476 cases in 2019.

The surge represents a “dramatic increase” in case load and transmission of *C. auris*, according to a research paper published Monday in the *Annals of Medicine* and compiled by researchers at the C.D.C. The fungus is now in half the states, many with just a handful of cases, but with higher concentrations in California, Nevada, Texas and Florida.

The new paper did not include case loads from 2022. However, a C.D.C. website that tracks the spread of the fungus shows that there were 2,377 infections reported last year, another sharp increase.

It is likely that the coronavirus pandemic worsened the spread of *C. auris*, C.D.C. officials said. With attention focused on Covid-19, less emphasis was put on screening for *C. auris*. Also, the fungus tends to cling to nursing gowns, gloves and other personal protective gear that, under ideal conditions, would be changed



THE SURGE represents a “dramatic increase” in case load and transmission of *C. auris*, according to a research paper.

frequently but that were reused during pandemic because of supply shortages. *C. auris* can also attach to ventilators or other medical equipment.

C. auris is not a particular threat to young healthy people, whose immune systems can fight it off, but can be transported on skin and clothing. The fungus commonly strikes older patients, particularly those who have many visits or prolonged visits to health care facilities, where it can be hard to clean or eradicate.

More concerning to health officials is that 1.2 percent were resistant that year to a frontline treatment class of drugs called echinocandins. If resistance to echinocandins becomes more common as the germ evolves, *C. auris* could become extremely difficult, if not impossible, to treat, health officials said.

Dr. Lyman also said that the news is not all bad. Intensive efforts to stop the spread of the germ in New York and Illinois appear to have been effective in containing *C. auris* within the health care systems in those states — even as the bug rooted elsewhere. “It’s not a hopeless situation,” Dr. Lyman said.

Review: Pop’s Cafe - The Hidden Gem of Downey



THE BIG BREAKFAST at Pop's with eggs, sausage, pancakes and french toast.

By **Lukas Luna-Arellano and Christine Nader**

A surefire way to test how much love a restaurant has accumulated is by experiencing the atmosphere for yourself.

Pop’s Cafe in Downey can honestly be hailed as one of the last remaining food spots in the city that has a genuine connection between customer and staff.

Once you enter, you’re greeted by bright turquoise walls littered with everything that makes you think the restaurant has been through a tour of America.

License plates, Coca Cola decals, speedway signs and posters are spaced out in an even fashion for the eyes to see.

The menu at Pop’s includes breakfast, lunch, a variety of omelettes, burgers and specialties.

My order consisted of a meat and cheese omelette, chocolate chip pancakes and four french toast wedges accompanied with scrambled eggs and sausage.

The pancakes were fluffy and the omelette had a pleasant crisp.

The scrambled egg and sausages were a nice change of taste for the palette and was

even better with hot sauce.

Personal greetings arrive at each customer’s disposal as Pop’s Cafe owner Alex Tsankov makes his way to the tables.

The cafe first opened in 1954 and the first California location was in Downey.

Pop’s Cafe has always garnered customers but business took off after Tsankov’s ownership.

During the interview, a regular greeted Tsankov as he was exiting the cafe.

Tsankov explained that the man had moved to Puerto Vallarta but had frequented the restaurant so much in the past 20 years that he visits as much as he can.

“It’s not a place where people go and then they never repeat,” Tsankov says, “Here, everybody has been coming for decades.”

Pop’s is looking forward to expanding their menu and their business beyond Downey and the other location in Santa Ana.

Pop's is located in Rives Square at 7840 Florence Ave in Downey. Open for breakfast and lunch everyday from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., phone- (562) 927-0096.

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Sierra Homers Against Valley Christian from back page

Olympic League rival Heritage Christian High 12-2 last Friday, made up a rained-out game with Whittier Christian High prior to the regularly scheduled Cerritos contest. V.C. won that game 8-4 for the team's third straight win. But three games in roughly 24 hours caught up to the Defenders.

Burton worked the first four innings, allowing second inning hits to senior first baseman Kenny Hoogerheide and Witt and a two-out single to center fielder Austin Abrahams in the fourth. The only other runner to reach base off Burton was senior second baseman Evan Sawai, who earned a two-out walk. Gibbs and Sierra combined to throw 42 pitches, allow two runners and strikeout four batters.

"I thought he mixed his pitches well," said Blume of Burton. "I just think we couldn't get any feel from him. We couldn't get any idea; we were guessing up there. Their pitcher did a really good job."

Like all other outdoor spring athletic teams, Cerritos and V.C. have had to navigate through the recent inclement weather to make up games or find open dates to reschedule rained out contests. Still, both teams have handled the adversity to split their first 10 games.

"It starts us off with everything," said Masella of the days off because of the rain. "Our pitching staff now is on point where we can just continue to go in motion with what we've been doing. We don't have to struggle because we wasted too many pitchers in this game. We're still in a good place as far as the rotation goes. We actually had a really

good practice on Friday leading up to this game today and I think that was the difference. We were able to get back onto the field after not being on the field for five days with the rain from last time."

On top of that, Cerritos, which has won three straight 605 League titles made a coaching change in early February. It's the third head coach in as many seasons for a program that has gone 66-22 over the past four seasons. Blume replaced Matt Dahlenburg in November and becomes the 11th head coach since 2002.

"With the coaching change, we came in and told our guys we have 10 games," said Masella. "We're going to act like it's spring training and we're going to implement a few new things. We kind of struggled with guys in different places, so we kind of moved around a couple of infielders and a couple of outfielders, dropped a couple of guys, brought a couple of up [from junior varsity]. We took the first 10 games and this is game number 10 as spring training."

"The chemistry has been there," he continued. "But I think them kind of coming into their own with what positions that they're playing and what their roles are going to be, they're kind of embracing it and we're rocking and rolling."

"These guys are really passionate, and they are very coachable," said Blume. "There's not a lot of quit in them. We've come behind in three games now and we almost beat Mira Costa when we were down."

Cerritos was to have opened league

play against Pioneer High this past Tuesday before completing the home and home with the Titans on the road on Friday. The Dons then are slated to visit Mayfair High on Saturday and go to Artesia High on Tuesday.

V.C. was to have hosted Maranatha High this past Tuesday but planned to make it up on Mar. 24 before visiting the Minutemen on Friday for its last regular scheduled games until Apr. 4.

"No one likes to lose," said Blume. "That's the fact to the matter. I hope they take what they've learned in this game; that's what we spoke about. You take what you learned, and you move forward."

GAHR from back page

he continued. "I didn't think we did a good job of adjusting to the umpire and Quinones. It's different than what we've kind of been playing."

"Coming into this game, we just wanted to win," said Alba. "I started off hot because it's a doubleheader and most of the time in high school, doubleheaders are kind of hard to stay focused after you get a game break and come back and play another game after winning the first one."

Alba was in control from the very beginning, surrendering a one-out single to Samuel Mojica in the top of the first, inducing Fabian Lopez into a groundout, then striking out four straight batters. He would yield a one-out single to Lopez in the fourth, a lead-off single to Michael Reyes in the fifth and a two-out infield knock to Lopez in the sixth.

Only four runners reached base with none getting past second. On top of that,

Alba threw first-pitch strikes 14 times and was ahead in the count 0-2 10 times. To cap off the great outing, sophomore center fielder Jake Curneen dove forward to take away a base hit from Matthew Garcia for the first out in the seventh.

"The big thing was jumping ahead; getting the first strike," said Alba. "If you get that first strike, and then get ahead on the second strike, you have more success to win. That's what we preach; getting ahead and staying ahead and just not letting them put us in pressure. We put them in pressure and keep attacking."

"That's commitment to his work ethic, honestly, and his commitment to his routines; to try to stay normal for him to come out here and to do that as much as possible," said Perez.

But Quinones was holding his own early on, striking out 10 batters through the first four innings (15 batters), giving up three hits and walking one. No Gahr runner got to third until the fifth inning when freshman shortstop Andres Gonzalez doubled to center with two outs and came home on a triple from senior shortstop Kyle Panganiban. In the next inning, Quinones walked senior pinch hitter Christian Johnson and with one out, surrendered a double to senior first baseman Alahni Salcedo.

"He threw three pitches for strikes and he was able to stretch the plate off the plate," said Perez of Quinones. "He was getting that call and had us off-balanced a little bit. About midway through the game, we started making adjustments. We took too long, but we did make it later."

In the second game, Gahr struck early with a pair of runs in the bottom of the first as senior catcher Angel Cortez singled to right with one out and came home when Salcedo tripled down the left field line. Four pitches later, freshman designated hitter Bryce Morrison sent a ball to center, deep enough for Salcedo to come home. It seemed to be enough for senior pitcher Noah Andrunas, who went into the fifth inning, scattering three hits and striking out five.

But he led off the inning walking Armando Sanchez, then with one out, gave up a double to Damien Gonzalez before walking Reyes to load the bases. Two pitches later, Aaron Torres tied the game with a double before getting thrown out at third base.

Junior third baseman Jose Perez singled to begin the bottom half of the sixth and scored the game-winner with two outs on Alba's single to left. The Gladiators collected eight hits with Perez the lone recipient of two of them.

"We're very comfortable manufacturing runs and doing that kind of stuff," said Perez. "But I kind of have a club that's a little bit more physical this year. It's a little bit unique, but I'm glad that we have some of the principles as far as being able to manufacture runs when you

[See GAHR page 11]



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NEWS AND NOTES from back page

“One thing we were really trying to stress with them, because they are such good hitters, was not getting anything down the middle; keeping it inside-outside,” said Machado of Manni’s pitching. “I think what didn’t help is if they got a good hit, and we [didn’t make a catch] we could have caught traditionally, I think those were getting onto Monica, possibly. That’s what was weighing on her more so. I thought her pitching was pretty on today. But I think the mental mistakes from the rest of the team just really hurt her confidence.”

Meanwhile, Valenzuela was enjoying her second straight strong performance, giving up a hit, striking out eight and walking three through the first four innings. Twice, the Wildcats had a runner get to third and both times, Valenzuela ended the inning with a strikeout. The lone run came in the fifth when freshman catcher Olachi Anyama reached on an infield single, stole second and third and came home on an error.

“I’m working with her,” said Blanck. “She’s a junior, but she’s starting to mature and listen to me pitching-wise. A lot of other teams, first-pitch strike is not going to work. So, I want her to get ahead, but not ‘right down the middle get ahead’. And I need her to use her off speed a little bit more. She’s learning; she’s getting in the process. She’s a project for me. I have all the faith in her.”

Just as Whitney has improved in Machado’s second season as head coach,

Blanck is hoping to keep Artesia’s progress going in his third season. Blanck replaced former head coach Dayna Feenstra prior to the 2021 after she had taken the program to two playoff trips and in his first two seasons, Blanck has gone a combined 16-19 with a pair of third place finishes in league and a pair of first round losses in the playoffs.

“A lot of work and a lot of trust in their coach,” said Blanck. “Finally, they started listening [and it’s] hard work. When we get to practice...they’re really maturing. Now, it’s only the first [league] game and I need them to mature more as a team. I need them to be there.”

Artesia is scheduled to visit Oxford Academy on Friday before hosting Cerritos High on Tuesday in the first of a home and home series with the reigning league champions. Whitney, which was slated to host Oxford Academy this past Tuesday, is scheduled to host Cerritos on Friday and go to John Glenn High on Tuesday in the front end of a home and home series. The Wildcats also had a make-up game at Buena Park High on Mar. 23. This season figures to be a much tighter league race as all six teams in the circuit has a combined 37-9 record entering this past Monday.

“I’m really excited to play the other teams because Pioneer, John Glenn and Oxford [are] killing people left and right,” said Blanck. “Everybody is getting close and close and I can’t wait to see the end of the year outcome.”

“I do think we are way better than we were last year,” said Machado. “I think we will have competitive games against

more people in the 605 League. So yeah, I am hoping [the race] is more closer than it was last year.”

In other softball action, Cerritos made up a rained out game from last month at Redondo High and was edged 8-7 to drop to 5-2 overall. The Dons were scheduled to host Pioneer High last Thursday and Glenn this past Tuesday but will hope to get their games with Artesia and Whitney in.

Gahr (7-4-1, 1-0 in the Gateway League) was slated to visit La Mirada High on Mar. 23 and will make-up a rained out game against Mayfair High on Monday before entertaining Downey High on Tuesday and facing Great Oak High on Wednesday in the opener of the Michelle Carew Classic.

Glenn, ranked eighth in Division 6 with an overall record of 6-0-1, including a league victory over Oxford Academy, has scored 77 runs while allowing just eight. The Eagles visited Pioneer on Mar. 23 and will go to Montebello High on Thursday.

La Mirada (6-5) had games at Cypress High and Warren rained out but after facing Gahr on Mar. 23, will face Chino High on Saturday and go to Mayfair on Tuesday while Norwalk High split a pair of games in the Santa Fe Tournament last Saturday, edging Downey 7-6 before falling to San Dimas High 3-2. At 6-5 overall, the Lancers were slated to visit Paramount on Mar. 23 in the Mid-Cities League opener, go to Bellflower High on Tuesday and host Dominguez on Thursday.

Valley Christian High, which had

not played in two weeks, fell to Mayfair 12-4 last Friday to even its record at 2-2. The Defenders went to Maranatha High on Mar. 23 and will host the Minutemen on Monday in a make-up from this past Tuesday’s rained out encounter.

BASEBALL

Artesia (2-6) is scheduled to host Maywood CES out of the CIF-Los Angeles City Section on Friday and go to Buena Park on Saturday before hosting Cerritos on Tuesday and making up a rained out game from this past Wednesday against St. Anthony High on Wednesday.

Glenn (2-3) will visit Oxford Academy on Friday and make up a rained out game against Firebaugh High on Monday while La Mirada, just on the outskirts of the Division 1 top 10, improved to 8-2 following a 9-4 win over Douglas High out of Nevada in the first round of the Lions Tournament. The Matadores will face El Modena High on Saturday in the final game of the Loara Tournament.

Norwalk has been on fire all season and is in complete control of the Mid-Cities League. The Lancers shutout Paramount High 3-0 this past Monday to improve to 10-2 overall and undefeated in six league games. Norwalk is ranked 10th in Division 6 and has shutouts in its last three games, four out of its last five and five out of its last seven. The Lancers were scheduled to host Paramount this past Wednesday and will welcome Dominguez High on Friday, face La Salle on Saturday and go to Dominguez on Wednesday.

GAHR from page 10

need to.”

Junior A.J. Gonzalez replaced Andrunas and worked out of a two-out, bases loaded jam in the sixth when he struck out Michael Medina, who struck out five times in the two games. Then in the seventh, and with Reyes at first with a one-out single, Gonzalez got Torres to fly out to center and struck out Angel Garcia, who never put the ball in play in his four at-bats.

The Gladiators have now won 10 of the past 11 meetings with the Vikings, 15 of the last 17 and last season, swept Downey by identical 2-1 scores. Downey is the first opponent for Gahr not situated in Division 1 or Division 2.

“They’re a good club,” said Alba. “No matter who people think is better, it’s going to be a close game every single time. They come out there and compete no matter what. Obviously, they did today. They stuck around with us the whole seven innings.”

Gahr was to have hosted Bellflower High this past Tuesday but instead will host the Buccaneers in another league doubleheader on Friday. On Saturday, Gahr is expected to travel to Foothill High and was to have visited its toughest league challenge in La Mirada High on Tuesday. However, that game and an originally scheduled Mar. 30 contest have since been moved to Apr. 25 and Apr. 26, a day before their regularly scheduled meeting. Those three games will take place on the last week of the regular season.

“I think everyone has experienced it,” said Perez of the recent storms. “Actually, if you take a look at most of the top-ranked schools, they’ve all had losses. I think it’s just real tough to find your rhythm; your consistency. This game is tough enough to be consistent at, let

alone trying to find consistency when you don’t practice. But, at the same time, I don’t want to take anything away from what Jaden did. I don’t care who he would have faced today, I think he lived up to the promise.”

“It’s been kind of tough,” said Alba. “Obviously, it’s last minute trying to figure out when you’re pitching. But, it’s always just trying to stay locked in, coming to practice, getting your throwing done, planning on bullpens and playing as fast as possible in the week.”

Street Closures For Run Seal Beach 5K/10K Saturday Mar. 25

From 4 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Marina Bridge — affecting both directions.

Marina Drive — from Electric to 1st St. 1st Street — from Seal Beach Shores (mobile home park) to Marina Drive.

From 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

1st Street — from Marina Drive to Ocean Ocean Avenue — from 1st Street to 7th Ocean Avenue — from 7th Street to Elec-

tric & Landing. Seal Beach Blvd. — from Electric to PCH. **From 8 a.m. 8:30 a.m.**, the intersection of PCH and Seal Beach Blvd. to be closed. Seal Beach Blvd. — from PCH to Westminster Blvd. — one lane of southbound traffic will be closed. Other lanes will be open to through traffic. Electric Avenue — northbound side from Seal Beach Blvd. to Marina Drive. Westminster Blvd. — from Seal Beach Blvd. to River Trail Input — one lane of eastbound traffic will be closed but open to through traffic in other lanes.

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ABC from page 1

their students' mental health.

"I would implore the cabinet and board members to reconsider its choices with the input of key partners and not ask us as an afterthought or simply to check a box," said Brittany Gooden.

Current students at Cerritos High School also urged the ABCUSD board to reconsider their decision because of how Walker made a positive difference in their life. It was said multiple times that Walker knew students by name, welcomed disabled students to his school and was there to support students at many events outside of school.

Holly Matchett, a teacher at Cerritos High School, spent over the allotted time for her public comment. Matchett questioned the motives of the ABCUSD board while making involuntary changes - specifically interim Nguyen.

"Stop gaslighting us," Matchett said to the board. "Our stakeholder staff, students, parent and community were never asked about whether we felt Mr. Walker was unfit to be our principal. We were not consulted."

Students who currently attend Cerritos High School, including two with disabilities, had publicly commented on how their mental health was affected by the changes of administration. By replacing counselors students have formed deep connections with, students are being emotionally affected, according to the crowd.

"What makes this specific interim superintendent qualified to make such detrimental decisions for our district... without communicating with the schools beforehand?" said Abigail Cordero, a sophomore student. "Students are so upset by these changes that we can't focus on our education."

Parents of the crowd criticized the lack of transparency and communication from the ABCUSD board. Many staff and parents of special needs students praised Walker's welcoming to Cerritos High School.

President Brad Beach then called for a break, but Trustee Soo Yoo, violating several parliamentary rules and apparently unaware she was exposing ABCUSD to litigation, demanded everyone wait "because I want to say something."

Her speech sounded more like she was campaigning while throwing Interim Superintendent Toan Nguyen under the bus.

"I would like to applaud the greatest spirit of the Cerritos family, Mr. Walker was obviously well-loved."

Watching the video, at that point, Trustee Chris Apodaca, who was next to Ms. Yoo, could be seen shaking his head, looking at and waiting for President

Beach or Clerk Ernie Nishii to gavel out Yoo; but both did nothing.

"We have been through a lot, especially last year when I was president. Dr. [Mary] Sieu, who was superintendent of the year, transitioned out. Interim Superintendent Nguyen did go through a lot, picking up extra work. We heard you all, and we will consider everything very carefully. Please, we are not dismissing you; thank you very much for coming out and supporting your principal."

The board then adjourned for its break.

In regards to the Whitney High School bomb threat that happened on March 16, vice president Sophia Tse insisted that every school have a comprehensive school safety plan. Emergency protocols are going to be rechecked by Nguyen to ensure they're up to date.

WETLANDS from page 1

tive restoration site of the wetlands, lies between San Gabriel River and Hanes Cooling channel. The habitat restoration takes place in about 10 acres of land, to which native species are planted, trash is removed, and asphalt is removed.

"Out of the 550 acres, [Zedler Marsh] is the only active restoration site in the whole Los Cerritos Wetlands Complex. It's only about 10 acres," Gavriel said. "We've been out here since about 2009 and we've been actively restoring or making this place better to our best ability by planting native plants, taking out some of this asphalt which used to be roads and making a lot of different places for different kinds of endangered species such as the Belding Savannah Sparrow."

Aiming toward a self-sustaining environment, Tidal Influence works to restore the land and reverse the negative impact of human development through group volunteer events like the habitat restoration. Each habitat restoration at

the Los Cerritos Wetlands contains different tasks based on the time of the year, specifically based on the native wildlife.

"Because it's such degraded conditions, they need help to get established. But once they're established, then we actually take off some of our help and ween them off some of the watering scheduling and once they get their microbes and soil ecology and everything like that, they thrive out here," Gavriel said.

Ecologists that led the habitat restoration served as educational forces as they provided infographics about the environment, spoke about the impact of oil harvesting and human development and informed volunteers about respecting the land as it is sacred to the Tong-va/Gabriolino tribe.

"We are in a sacred land," Bahrami said. "We've hurt a lot of it but it's still biodiverse and beneficial to all of us."

"With restoration, the plan is not always to be constantly working, restoring, but to finally have a place come to a point where it's resilient and sustainable

all on its own and that is the goal for all of the Los Cerritos wetlands," Bahrami said. "Not only that but to have it one day be fully resilient and sustainable on its own, but also make it more publicly accessible."

Daniella Gavriel works for Tidal Influence Associate as a restoration coordinator; TI is a small ecological consulting firm in Long Beach

"Because of human development there's just this little gem left. There used to be lots of wetlands along the coast of California. There's not too many left but there are some like this which are really important places"

Wetlands have a lot of ecosystem benefits meaning they have a lot of different benefits for the people and for the habitats themselves.

They provide benefits such as preventing storm erosion. The plants in the wetlands take up that water and filter it as it goes back down into the ground

"Weve been out here since about 2009," said Gavriel, "and weve been ac-

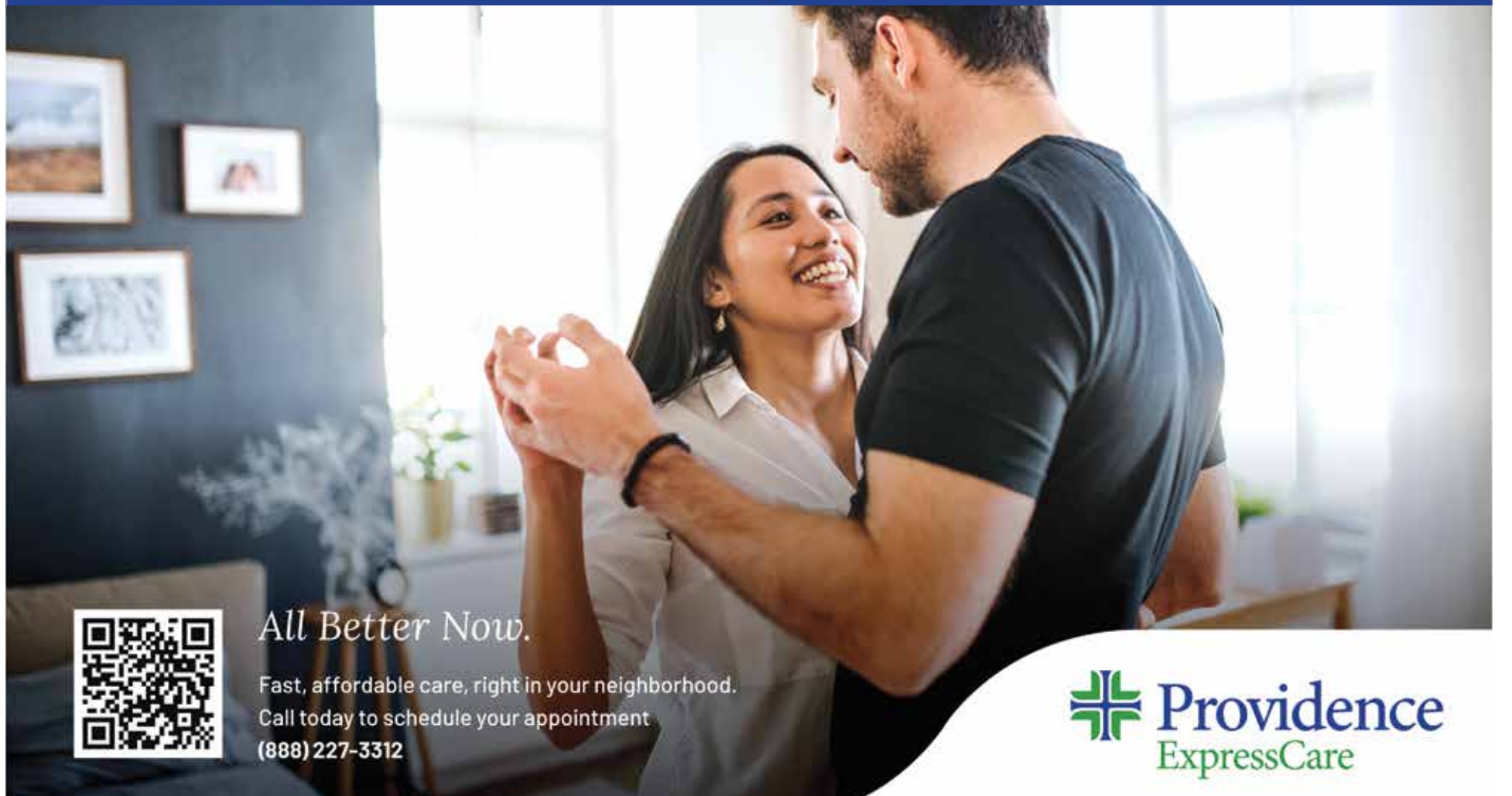
tively restoring or making this place better to our best ability by planting native plants taking out some of this asphalt which used to be roads and making a lot of different places for different kinds of endangered species.

"With restoration, the plan is not always to be constantly working, restoring, but to finally have a place come to a point where it's resilient and sustainable all on its own and that is the goal for all of the Los Cerritos wetlands. Not only that but to have it one day be fully resilient and sustainable on its own, but also make it more publicly accessible."

Trails at the Los Cerritos Wetlands are open to the public on Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., including events like guided hikes and other volunteer-based restoration events.

More information about volunteering in the habitat restoration can be found at Tidal Influence's website, <http://www.tidalinfluence.com> or by emailing iwant-tohelp@Tidalinfluence.com.

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SOO YOO from page 1

to attend the Detransition Awareness Rally on the steps of the state capital today; great to see my friends Peter Kuo and Soo Yoo at the rally as well.

A check of Elness' page shows he is a Trump-supporting conspiracy theorist recently posting the bizarre meme that George Soros is behind New York D.A. Alvin Bragg's actions against Trump.



Elness continued about the rally, "it was very informative and frankly heart-wrenching to hear the first-hand stories of adults who were coerced as children to have life-altering surgeries.

The long-term psychological trauma and physiological complications to these vulnerable children was heart-breaking."

Federal guidelines call for thorough psychological assessments to confirm gender dysphoria — distress over gender identity that doesn't match a person's assigned sex — before starting any treatment; children are not forced to transition.

That treatment typically begins with puberty-blocking medication to temporarily pause sexual development, giving youngsters time to mature enough mentally and emotionally to make informed decisions about whether to pursue permanent treatment.

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at location indicated: **17701 Ibbetson Ave, Bellflower CA, 90706 on 04/11/2023 at 12:30 PM**
 Petrina King- Washer dryer boxes bins full bed set Glen Sutherland- Household items
 The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

Published at LCCN on 03/24/2023 and 03/31/2023

PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF PICO RIVERA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS
FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2023-2024 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN & 2020-2025 CONSOLIDATED PLAN SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT NO. 1

Hearing Date: Tuesday, April 25, 2023
Time: 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard
Place: Members of the public wishing to observe the meeting may do so in one of the following ways:

- (1) Turn your TV to Channel 3;
- (2) City's website at <https://bit.ly/picorivera-ctv3live>
- (3) Email public comments to publiccomments@pico-rivera.org prior to 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting
- (4) Attend the Public Hearing in person

Description: The City of Pico Rivera (City) hereby notifies the general public of a public hearing on April 25, 2023, to receive public comment for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan and Substantial Amendment No. 1 to the 2020-2025 Consolidated Plan. The City is an entitlement community and is expected to receive federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in FY 2023-2024 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024).

As an entitlement jurisdiction, the City is required to prepare and submit to HUD an Annual Action Plan that generally describes how the City will utilize federal money during the next fiscal year to meet the goals and objectives approved by the City Council in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan. The Five-Year Consolidated Plan is a five-year plan detailing the priorities and needs of the community for the use of CDBG and HOME funds. The Consolidated Plan amendment will realign its goals with current City priorities by including a goal to address Neighborhood Preservation.

Proposed Amendment to the 2020-2025 Consolidated Plan will add a goal as noted below:

- Economic Development – Business Assistance

FY 2023-2024 CDBG Annual Action Plan
 For FY 2023-2024, the City expects to receive approximately \$559,364 in CDBG funds. Additionally, the City has approximately \$102,013 in unspent funds available for programming. The total available funds for programming as part of the FY 23-24 Annual Action Plan is \$661,377.

Priority Funding for CDBG activities are given to activities that:

- Provide decent affordable housing
- Maintain and promote neighborhood preservation
- Affirmatively further fair housing choice for all
- Provide public services for extremely low, low- and moderate-income residents
- Construct or upgrade public facilities and infrastructure
- Planning and administration

Members of the public wishing to make public comments may do so via email to the City Clerk at publiccomments@pico-rivera.org or to the CDBG Coordinator at alfonso.rodriguez@pico-rivera.org.

Availability of Documents for Public Comment: The City of Pico Rivera encourages citizen participation in the planning process. The 30-day public review period for the FY 2023-2024 runs from Friday, March 24, 2023, through Tuesday, April 25, 2023. A copy of the draft Annual Action Plan will be made available for public review on the City of Pico Rivera's website, <https://www.pico-rivera.org/index.php/housing-services-division/>.

For more information, call Alfonso Rodriguez, CDBG Coordinator, Community & Economic Development Department at (562) 801-4025 or via e-mail at alfonso.rodriguez@pico-rivera.org

PERSONS INTERESTED IN THIS MATTER are invited to provide comments prior to the hearing via the email provided above. If you challenge the above referenced materials 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 Pico Rivera City Clerk at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Published: March 24, 2023
 Los Cerritos Newspaper

 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 Anna Jerome 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 in order that accommodations can be arranged.

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 3/24/23

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The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE. Trustor(s): WANDA L SANDER, A SINGLE WOMAN, AND CINDY BUSTILLOS, A SINGLE WOMAN, AS JOINT TENANTS Recorded: 8/4/2006 as Instrument No. 06 1731344 and modified as per Modification Agreement recorded 3/7/2014 as Instrument No. 20140236155 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of LOS ANGELES County, California; Date of Sale: 4/20/2023 at 9:00 AM Place of Sale: At the Doubletree Hotel Los Angeles-Norwalk, 13111 Sycamore Drive, Norwalk, CA 90650, in the Vineyard Ballroom Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$284,979.75 The purported property address is: 13938 DILWORTH STREET, LA MIRADA, CA 90638-2823 Assessor's Parcel No.: 8059-009-014 NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. 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 800-280-2832 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: CA-22-943342-BF. 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 website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: 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 property 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 800-280-2832, or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: CA-22-943342-BF 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 for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE OWNER-OCCUPANT: Any prospective owner-occupant as defined in Section 2924m of the California Civil Code who is the last and highest bidder at the trustee's sale shall provide the required affidavit or declaration of eligibility to the auctioneer at the trustee's sale or shall have it delivered to QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION by 5 p.m. on the next business day following the trustee's sale at the address set forth in the below signature block. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the Trustee is unable to convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustor, the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attorney. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holder's right's against the real property only. Date: QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION 2763 Camino Del Rio S San Diego, CA 92108 619-645-7711 For NON SALE information only Sale Line: 800-280-2832 Or Login to: <http://www.qualityloan.com> Reinstatement Line: (866) 645-7711 Ext 5318 QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION . TS No.: CA-22-943342-BF IDSPub #0184595 3/24/2023 3/31/2023 4/7/2023

CITY OF PICO RIVERA PLANNING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER A RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE APPROVAL OF ZONE CODE AMENDMENT NO. 193

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the City of Pico Rivera Planning Commission to consider a recommendation to the City Council for the approval Zone Code Amendment No. 193 updating sections to Title 5, Business License and Regulations and Title 18, Zoning, of the Pico Rivera Municipal Code.

WHEN: Monday, April 3, 2023
TIME: 6:00 P.M.
WHERE: City Hall Council Chambers
 6615 Passons Boulevard Pico Rivera, CA 90660

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 environmental 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.

Certain Provisions of the Brown Act are temporarily waived pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-25-20, N-29-20 and AB 361. **PERSONS INTERESTED IN THIS MATTER** wishing to observe the meeting may do so in the following ways:

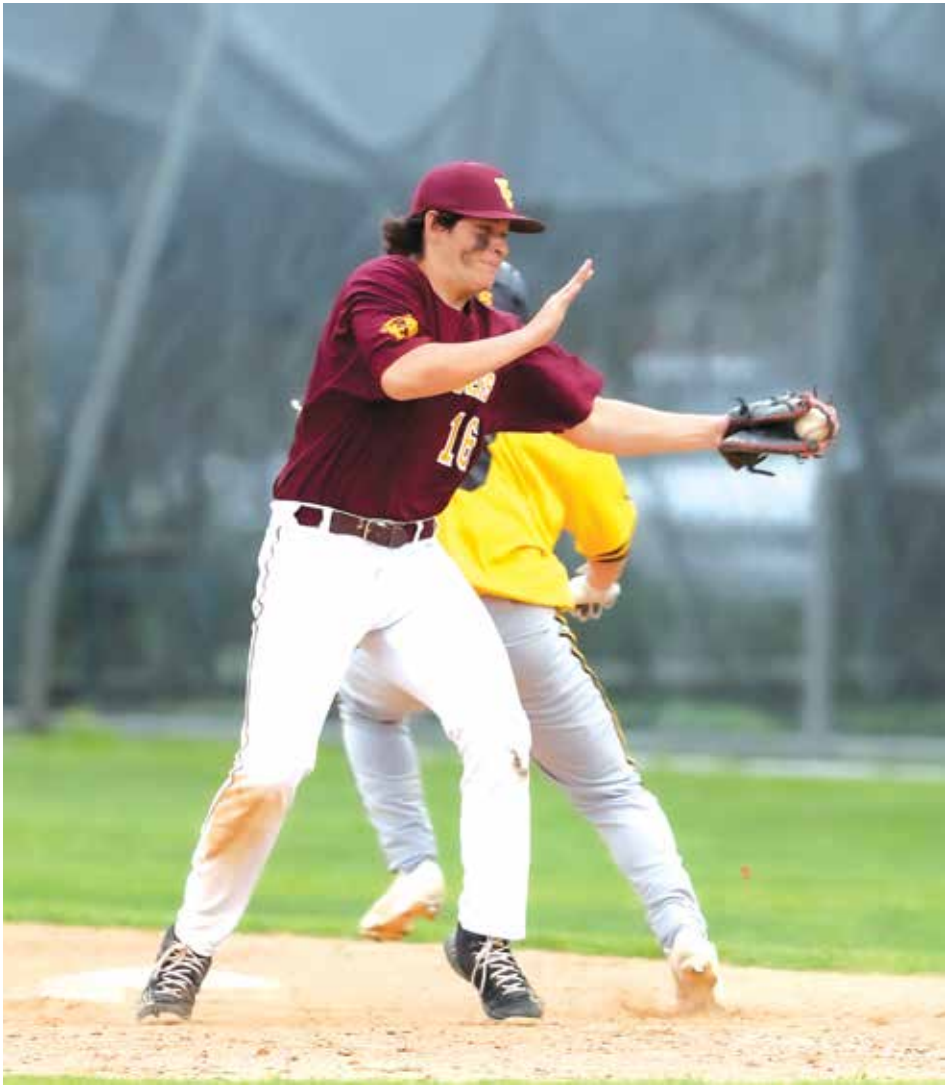
- (1) Turn your TV to Channel 3;
- (2) City's website at <https://bit.ly/picorivera-ctv3live> .
- (3) Email public comments to juliagonzalez@pico-rivera.org prior to 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting;
- (4) Attend the Public Hearing in person

Copies of all relevant material including project specifications are available to the public for review in the Community & Economic Development Department at City Hall, 6615 Passons Boulevard, Pico Rivera, California. Please contact Julia Gonzalez, Deputy Director at 562-801-4447 for additional questions.

If you challenge the consideration or adoption of the proposed applications in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or written correspondence delivered to the City of Pico Rivera City Clerk at, or prior to, the public hearing.

 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 Anna M. Jerome 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 in order that accommodations can be arranged.

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 3/24/23



CERRITOS HIGH junior third baseman Carter Chi (background) reaches safely on an infield hit to lead off the top of the fifth inning as Valley Christian High senior first baseman Kenny Hoogerheide is late with the tag. Cerritos blanked the Defenders 8-0 last Saturday evening.

BASEBALL

Chi, Sierra Homer as Cerritos Puts Away Valley Christian With Five-Run Fourth Inning

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on Twitter

The history of the non-league rivalry between Cerritos High and Valley Christian High has been interesting in that the games have either been blowouts, shutouts or contests decided by three runs or less. Since 2011, the two have played five doubleheaders with Cerritos coming away with 10-0 and 14-0 wins among its four wins while four V.C. victories have been by 4-0, 4-3, 9-7 and 12-3 decisions.

Last Saturday evening, the two met again at V.C. and on the first pitch of the game, sophomore shortstop Dalton Chi doubled to the left field gap. He would score on an error two batters later and the Dons used a five-run top of the fourth inning to blank the Defenders 8-0, leaving both teams with identical 5-5 records.

“We played a team game today,” said Cerritos first-year head coach Chris Masella. “Great defense, great pitching. We made some spectacular plays up the middle [and] we had a couple of guys go yard. We put together some good at-bats and we grinded. When we grind, we play really well, and that’s what the outcome is.”

Not only was the offense on fire, the pitching was stellar as senior starter Dylan Burton, senior Raymond Sierra

and junior Johann Gibbs combined for a four-hitter, struck out six and allowed one batter to reach second base.

The lead increased to 2-0 in the third when junior right fielder Noah Gapuz reached on an infield single, went to second on a passed ball and came home on a groundout from Gibbs. But in the next inning, the Dons sent nine batters to the plate and scored five runs with two outs. It began with a Sierra double with one out and was followed by an infield single from sophomore left fielder Braxton Reed.

After the second strikeout thrown by freshman Lucas Witt, he would walk Gapuz to load the bases before a single to left from junior pinch hitter Nathaniel Corrigan brought home Sierra and Reed. Then on an 0-2 count, Chi launched a home run to center to vault the advantage to 7-0.

The final run of the game came in the seventh inning when Sierra hot a one-out roundtripper.

“I think our guys were a little bit tired in [this] game,” said V.C. first-year head coach Tim Blume. “It was kind of a game to let some younger guys get some opportunities and I was real proud of our guys even though we didn’t do as well as we wanted, of course.”

The Defenders, who had routed
[See **CERRITOS** page 10]

GATEWAY LEAGUE BASEBALL

Alba Wins Pitching Battle in First Game of Doubleheader as Gahr Sweeps Downey

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on Twitter

Mother Nature has wreaked havoc on high school baseball teams for the past month, forcing almost every school to reschedule not just once with one team, but in many occasions, a second time. For Gahr High, it was to have opened Gateway League action on Mar. 14 with Downey High, but was rained out.

So, in a rare occasion for a league outing, the two played a doubleheader last Saturday at Gahr with the Gladiators being the home team both times. Gahr came away with a sweep, winning the first game 2-0 behind the stellar pitching of senior Jaden Alba, then getting a late run in the nightcap to edge the Vikings

3-2. The Gladiators, ranked third in the CIF-Southern Section Division 2 polls, improved to 6-2-1 overall.

The first game was a classic pitcher’s duel between Alba and Thomas Quinones, both of whom went the distance, combined for 24 strikeouts and two walks. And the game remained scoreless through the first four innings.

“It’s just a lot of unique circumstances obviously for everybody,” said Gahr head coach Gerardo Perez. “You haven’t gotten the rhythm of getting a lot of live at-bats, practice routines, Saturday morning, league play. There’s just a lot of layers that knock you a little bit outside the norm. It took us a little bit to settle in.”

“I thought our at-bats got better late,”

[See **GAHR** page 10]

NEWS AND NOTES FROM PRESS ROW

Artesia Softball Has Its Way Against Whitney in 605 League Opener

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on Twitter

Coming off last season’s 1-14 performance, the Whitney High softball team won four its first five games prior to its 605 League opener at Artesia High last Thursday. To some, a 4-1 start isn’t much to talk about, especially when you have outscored your fellow CIF-Southern Section Division 6 and 7 opponents 79-16.

But Artesia head coach El Blanck was concerned going in about what Whitney might look like against his team. As it turned out, it was Artesia who put on a pounding in a 12-1 rout that saw the Pioneers rough up sophomore pitcher Monica Manni for 13 hits.

“Yes, yes, most definitely,” said a concerned Blanck. “I even talked to [Whitney head coach] Stephanie [Machado] and said, ‘you’re doing an awesome job’. I was really impressed, and actually a little worried coming into the game. I didn’t know what to expect.”

Artesia scored three times in the bottom of the first inning, four more in the second, three in the third and twice in the fourth inning. Including a pair of make-up games last Saturday in the Santa Fe Tournament, it marked the third time this season Artesia had scored at least 10 runs and the fourth time it had allowed just one run. The 13 hits marked a season high and now, the Pioneers are sitting at 7-3 overall.

“Yes, finally,” exhaled Blanck of his team’s offensive burst. “[In] our preseason, our hitting wasn’t there, and then today, we concentrated on just hitting on the ground or line drives; not trying to hit home runs.”

Meanwhile, Machado admitted she was surprised of the score despite

the fact that the Wildcats have already doubled their win production of the last three seasons combined.

“I think a little bit,” said Machado. “I think in general, they were getting in their own heads, with the errors we were making and the weather...we haven’t been able to hit cages or anything like that. So, I think they were having trouble hitting off [junior pitcher Allisiah Valenzuela], too. But to me, the fielding is far from what we’re capable of. Hopefully it’s a wake-up call.”

“Many times what happens at a school like Whitney is every time the new season starts, they kind of regress because not everybody plays travel ball,” she later said. “I felt like when we started up, it wasn’t that much of a slide down. So, it was pretty nice. In practice, their fielding is clean; they’re catching balls they shouldn’t be. It’s really awesome. I think the 4-1 start is more representative of who we are than today.”

Artesia sent nine batters to the plate in each of the first two innings with sophomore center fielder Alea Medina getting a triple and a single while scoring twice and junior second baseman Maya Torres also getting a pair of hits and scoring twice. Junior catcher Arianna Franco scored twice and reached on an error in the first before collecting a single in the second.

In the third inning, Valenzuela capped off her game with a single to finish three for three with four runs driven in. Medina and Torres ended up with three hits each and Medina scored all four times she was up to the plate. In addition, the top six in the Artesia lineup combined to go 13 for 22 with all 12 runs scored and 10 RBI.

[See **NEWS AND NOTES** page 11]