



## HYDROGEN FACILITY BREAKS GROUND

**SENATOR BOB ARCHULETA** (right) joined SoCalGas CEO Scott Drury and Downey Mayor Claudia Frometa at the groundbreaking event this past Tuesday at the SoCalGas Energy Center in Downey.

## Pacific Gardens Medical Center Reopens in Hawaiian Gardens



**PACIFIC GARDENS** is reopening, to the delight of Hawaiian Gardens residents and first responders in the area.

137 general care beds;  
16 ICU beds; dedicated  
unit of 44 beds for  
COVID patients

**BY TAMMYE MCDUFF**

Pacific Gardens Medical Center, formerly the Gardens Regional Hospital and Medical Center and prior to that Tri-City Regional Medical Center has reopened their facilities after four long years.

Gardens Regional Hospital began shutting down January 2017 after its proposed sale to Riverside-based Strategic Global Management fell through. According to reports Strategic global was unable to meet the charity care provisions required by the state Attorney General as a condition of the sale.

Tim Clark CEO of Pacific Gardens Medical Center sat down with Hews Media Group for a look into the new facility. "The original facility closed due to financial troubles and Dr. Manpreet Singh stepped in to purchase the facility as Chief of Operations." Singh currently oversees four other facilities.

"We are looking forward to supporting the Hawaiian Gardens Community," said Clark, "Not just for healthcare but we are looking to hire about

See **LAKWOOD** page 12

See **PACIFIC GARDENS** page 12

## La Mirada Adds Preferential Parking District

It wasn't just homeowners requesting; it was patrons of the commercial center and residents of an apartment complex.

**BY TAMMYE MCDUFF**

In August 2003, the La Mirada City Council established a Preferential Parking district [PPD] program. The Ordinance created a petition program by residents for a parking permit, while also outlining guidelines and enforcement authority. Since its creation the City has established six PPD areas.

In November 2020, the City received another petition from residents in the 11000 block of Armsdale Avenue, 12808 Leffingwell Road, 14600 block of Richvale Drive and two blocks on Rimrock Drive.

There have been reported concerns of inadequate parking from local apartments and commercial buildings.

Due to that severe shortage, along with excessive noise, littering and blocking of driveways, thirty homeowners have requested the addition of

a new PPD. Of those current homeowners, 28 signed the new petition, with two residents expressing their opposition.

During the January 28, 2021 Public Safety Commission, the PPD was unanimously approved and recommended that city Council adopt the resolution for a new PPD.

It wasn't just homeowners requesting a PPD; it was patrons of the commercial center and the apartment complex.

City Clerk Anne Haraskin added that their study did not include car counts and that staff did visit the area on a few occasions. Each council member

See **PPD** page 13

## Bellflower Breaks Ground on Belle Fluer Retail Center

Located at Bellflower and Cedar, the development will boast a Starbucks and a Smokehouse eatery.

**BY TAMMYE MCDUFF**

The new Belle Fleur Centre officially broke ground in Bellflower, Thursday, March 25, 2021. Their new commercial center named Belle Fleur Centre will feature a food hall concept with outdoor dining.

The private event was held on site at the corner of Bellflower Boulevard and Cedar Avenue. Michelle Connolly Buie flew in from Chicago to help dedicate the site and give a bit of Bellflower 'herstory'.

Buie is the granddaughter of Anna E. Smith who became the owner of the property in the 1940's. Smith was born and raised in Indiana, and when she was about 28 years old she announced to her parents that she no longer wished to live in the cold, she was moving to Florida or California. Smith packed up with her sister and ended up in Long Beach where she met and married. Smith opened up a

See **CENTER** page 7

## CERRITOS? Lakewood to Move to District Voting

Voting by district will begin in 2022, city will hold public forums April 13 and 27.

**BY TAMMYE MCDUFF**

Many cities in the Southland are switching from 'at-large' City Council elections to 'by-district' Council elections, and the city of Lakewood is joining the trend.

Beginning in 2022, Lakewood City Council Members will be elected based on districts, each representing a portion of the city, instead of having each council member elected by the entire city.

The California Voting rights

Act strongly encourages cities to create district seats, and in recent years over 250 California cities and school districts have transitioned from at-large to district elections.

To define the new districts, the City council must undertake a district formation mapping process, led by a demographer and legal team to ensure the maps meet all legal and regulatory criteria. The City of Lakewood is committed to transparency and encourages residents and stake holders to participate. The entire process is expected to take at least six months to finalize the new district maps.

Introduced by Assembly members in 2015, AB 182

See **LAKWOOD** page 12



**Griffith Park Online**  
The observatory offers live views of events..  
**Page 2.**



**Time for Fun!**  
The O.C. Fair will open this year to limited attendees.  
**Page 3.**



**La Mirada Easter**  
The city will hold a drive-thru event.  
**Page 7.**



**Women of the Year**  
Sen. Archuleta's 2021 list includes Dorothy Owen.  
**Page 8-9.**



**High School Sports are Back**  
Norwalk vs. Downey and kids are glad to be back playing.  
**Page 10.**





# Ponder BIG questions online visiting the Los Angeles observatory

The observatory offers live broadcasts of significant astronomical events, including the Great Conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in December 2020.

BY LAURIE HANSON



It is a place where people come to observe and understand the sky. It is a place where people stop and ponder BIG questions about who we are, why we are here and why the universe is the way it is.

Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles is all these things, according to Deputy Director Mark Pine, who has been in his current role there since 2006. In love with how the building inspires others, Pine started as a volunteer board member in 1997, and has been hooked ever since.

“[It] inspires people to be observers, whether of the horizon and world around them, of the night sky, or of the universe,” he said. “We believe observing prompts people to stop and ponder the BIG questions. Those are the kinds of questions that NASA and other space agencies are trying to answer when they explore.”

“Griffith Observatory welcomes

**GREAT ENGAGEMENT SPOT**

Did you know the observatory welcomes weddings?

**TELESCOPE HOME**

Griffith is home to several distinct telescopes.

everyone,” said Pine. “Griffith Observatory is the most-visited public observatory in the world.”

“The intent for Griffith Observatory was always [to be] a place where the public could observe,” he added. “It was not designed to be a research facility, though some limited research has been done here over the years.”

Before closing in March 2020 due to the pandemic, their attendance was roughly 1.6 million people per year. Their visitors come from every part of Los Angeles, from across California, the United States and beyond from all around the world. Though they don't know when they will reopen, Pine said they are encouraged by the decline in coronavirus cases and increase in vaccinations.

In the meanwhile, the Observatory uses their website and social media to provide sky charts, viewing guides, and imagery that enables the public to observe the sky from home. Their popular live monthly astronomy and space update, All Space Considered, is offered online on the first Friday of each month.

“We offer live broadcasts of significant astronomical events, including the Great Conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in December 2020,” Pine said. “We will have a similar broadcast for the total lunar eclipse this May. We are currently working on transforming our in-person 5th grade school program into a live, online experience for teachers and students.”

Inspiration for Griffith Observatory and for Griffith Park came around the turn of the 20th Century from benefactor Griffith J. Griffith. He developed precise specifications for the new idea of what a “public observatory” should be including what it would house. When the Griffith Observatory first opened in 1935, it was

only one of three in the United States, and the only one on the Pacific Rim. In 2002 to 2006, the building was renovated and expanded with its theater transformed into the Samuel Oschin Planetarium.

Larger audiences were reached both in-person and online, including in media and film. Space travel and innovations in special effects were made possible with the Zeiss Mark II star projector. It can reproduce the night sky on a state-of-the-art 75-foot diameter plaster dome, one of the largest in the world, according to [www.griffithobservatory.org](http://www.griffithobservatory.org).

The Griffith Observatory is home to several distinct telescopes. The 12-inch Zeiss refracting telescope, located in the roof-top dome of the building’s east end, has been used more than any other telescope on earth to make observations of Halley’s Comet, and the comets of Hale-Bopp and Hyakutake. Three other telescopes give views of the Sun and are located near the west rotunda of the Ahmanson Hall of the Sky. On clear days, viewers can observe both sunspots and solar flares.

“We look forward to welcoming people back to the inside of the building, to the telescopes, and to the Samuel Oschin Planetarium,” said Pine.

In 2020, the Griffith Observatory celebrated its 85th anniversary. Owned and operated by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, the entire grounds, building, and telescopes are normally open to the public for free thanks to City of Los Angeles taxpayers. It receives funding and support from the Griffith Observatory Foundation, a nonprofit partner.

The mission of the Griffith Observatory Foundation is to support and promote Griffith Observatory, “as a home for science literacy, education, and public astronomy through resource development and advocacy in partnership with the community.” For more information on how you can become a member, to volunteer or donate, please visit online at [www.griffithobservatory.org/support](http://www.griffithobservatory.org/support).

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# OC Fair to Open July 16 - August 15



**LIMITED ATTENDANCE:** advance ticket sales will be required and limited capacity will give fairgoers more elbow room.

BY BRIAN HEWS

Yesterday, the OC Fair announced dates for the much-anticipated annual event - July 16- Aug. 15.

The theme is "Time for Fun," celebrating the joy of the return of Southern California's favorite summer festival.

"We are grateful to plan for an exciting, and safe, OC Fair this year," said OC Fair Board Chair Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia.

"This milestone will allow the community to come together to celebrate the future and generate much-needed opportunities for economic development and growth in Orange County."

OC Fair officials have been working closely with public health agencies to develop protocols to keep fairgoers safe while bringing back carnival rides, fair food, entertainment, competitions, animals and more to fair fans.

The plans for the 2021 OC Fair are based on health agency projections for the summer, but could change if warranted by public health conditions. Advance ticket sales will be required and limited capacity will give fairgoers more elbow room. The number of concessions, rides

and shopping vendors will be reduced and spaced out to provide more distance between each. Admission tickets will go on sale May 1 on ocfair.com. "We have worked through many different scenarios for the 2021 OC Fair and we are so excited to move forward with this plan because it means that we really can bring back the fun, and that's why I love this year's theme," said Michele Richards, OC Fair & Event Center CEO. "We want everyone to continue to follow health guidelines and get vaccinated so we can finally celebrate summer together again." The Fair Board voted to keep ticket prices at the 2019 OC Fair rates, \$12 general admission and \$7 for children and seniors on weekdays (Wednesday, Thursday), and \$14 general admission and \$7 for children and seniors on weekends (Friday, Saturday and Sunday). The current plan is for the fair to be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays, as it traditionally has been. There is a change to move Friday into weekend pricing and OC Fair will absorb the online ticket sale fees. Announcements regarding concerts in Pacific Amphitheatre and The Hangar will be coming soon. For more information, visit ocfair.com.

# Downey Council Considered \$4,500 Council Junket to Ensenada

BY BRIAN HEWS

This past Tuesday, HMG-CN published an article concerning the Downey City Council's questionable agenda item to spend \$4,500+ for transportation, food and lodging for a two night, three day "special ceremony" visit to its sister city of Ensenada.

Armando Ayala, the Mayor of Ensenada, wanted to have the council visit because of the two decommissioned ambulances the city delivered in October 2020.

HMG-CN also pointed out that the charges also included "travel mileage," it is 192 miles to from Downey to Ensenada, the current IRS rate is 57 cents per mile, so each councilmember would have earned

\$218 for taking the trip. The four members wanted to travel in the next few weeks, but decided to wait until May or June according to the agenda. The agenda was stamped "approved by the city manager," who is Gilbert Livas. Apparently, during public comment residents voiced their concern about the expense. Like many other cities, individuals can submit their public comment to be read into the record at a City Council meeting. The reaction to the HMG-CN article was so strong that the City Council voted to cancel the trip. The vote was 3-2 against the funding with Mayor Frometa and Mario Trujillo voting yes to fund.



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<sup>2</sup>Exclusive Caribbean \$150 OFF per booking Offer: Minimum 5-night stay and roundtrip airfare required. Savings is per booking and taken at time of booking.

<sup>3</sup>Exclusive Mexico \$100 OFF per booking Offer: Minimum 3-night stay and roundtrip airfare required. Savings is per booking and taken at time of booking.

<sup>4</sup>Exclusive Hawaii Two-Category Hertz Car Rental Upgrade Offer: Minimum 5-night stay and roundtrip airfare required. Age restrictions apply for car rental. Upgrade is from Midsize to Convertible, Jeep, Luxury or SUV for five days.

<sup>5</sup>Continental USA FREE 3-Day Midsize Hertz Car Rental Offer: Minimum one (1) night's hotel accommodation at any resort in our portfolio for the Continental USA required; offer not valid for Hawaii. Bookings receive a one-day FREE midsize hertz car rental for each night booked for up to a maximum of three (3) days; additional car rental days may be added at additional rate. Value of 3-day midsize car rental may be applied to upgraded car classes. Age restrictions may apply for car rental.

<sup>6</sup>USA River Cruises Offer: Valid on all American Cruise Lines itineraries.

<sup>7</sup>AAA Member benefits do not apply to air/car only bookings. \$25 discount for Continental USA vacations is per booking and taken at time of booking. Unless otherwise indicated: Rates quoted are accurate at time of publication & are per person, based on double occupancy. Airfare, taxes, fees, surcharges, gratuities, transfers & excursions are additional. Advertised rates do not include any applicable daily resort or facility fees payable directly to the hotel at check-out; such fee amounts will be advised at the time of booking. Rates, terms, conditions, availability, itinerary, taxes, fees, surcharges, deposit, payment, cancellation terms/conditions & policies subject to change without notice at any time. Cruise rates capacity controlled. Advance reservations through AAA Travel required to obtain Member Benefits & savings which may vary based on departure date. Rates may be subject to increase after full payment for increases in government-imposed taxes or fees & supplier-imposed fees. Blackout dates & other restrictions may apply. Not responsible for errors or omissions. Your local AAA club acts as an agent for cruise & tour providers listed. CST 1016202-60. To learn how we collect and use your information, visit the privacy link at AAA.com. ©2021 Auto Club Services, LLC. All Rights Reserved.

AAA Travel Alert: Many travel destinations have implemented COVID-19-related restrictions. Before making travel plans, check to see if hotels, attractions, cruise lines, tour operators, restaurants and local authorities have issued health and safety-related restrictions or entry requirements. The local tourism board is a good resource for updated information.

# Cerritos can receive notifications about code enforcement

The community can now sign up to receive notifications about the City of Cerritos' new online permit portal that will be introduced this year. The portal will be available through the City's website and will offer:

- Online Code Enforcement service requests and case tracking
- Automated building permit, business license and planning application and approval processes

- Automated Engineering encroachment permit applications
  - Real time applications status
  - Streamlined approvals and inspections
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## CEU to Begin Accepting Applications for Residential Service

The Cerritos Electric Utility (CEU) will begin accepting applications for residential service in April. Qualifying Cerritos residents who sign up for the service have the opportunity to lower their current electricity costs with a 5 percent discount on generation charges. Transmission charges from SCE will remain the same for CEU customers and will not be discounted. For example, a resident that currently receives an invoice of \$200 per month from SCE will save approximately \$5 monthly upon signing up to receive electricity from CEU. It should be noted that residents who are currently receiving discounts on their electricity from SCE or other entities might not benefit from the CEU discount. CEU residential service is expected to start in summer 2021.

Applications will be accepted as follows: April 1: Qualifying low-income senior or low-income disabled residents on a first-come, first-served basis; May 1: Qualifying low-income or disabled residents on a first-come, first-served basis; June 1: Residents on a first-come, first-served basis

The CEU has limited generation capacity, so only approximately 7,000 residential customers can be served. A waiting list will be created.

More information for the electric service have been included in the Feb/Mar water bills. CEU residential customers will receive two separate bills: one from CEU for generation charges and one from SCE for delivery charges. Payments to the CEU can only be made by check at this time.



**STUDENTS** hold their certificates on the steps of City Hall. Twelve students from La Mirada High School participated in the award-winning program.

### STAFF REPORT

The City of La Mirada's Youth in Government students concluded this year's program on March 23, 2021. While the presentations are normally part of a regular City Council meeting, this year's presentation was slightly different to meet social distancing protocols.

Presentations took place prior to the City Council meeting in front of a small audience of City Council members, family and friends of the students. Twelve students from La Mirada High School participated in the award-winning program. The students proposed two different projects, including an Energy Efficiency Initiative and an Art Education Program.

The Energy Efficiency Initiative, student's researched areas in which the City could make better use of resources including energy audits, xeriscaping, upgrading insulation and solar power improvements.

The second proposed project was to establish an Art Education Program that

partners students in the community with the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts. Students would have an opportunity to shadow professionals in the field, put on productions of their own, and learn about the performing arts as a career.

Previous Youth in Government project proposals that have been approved by City officials include the creation of the La Mirada Community Gymnasium and Splash!

La Mirada Regional Aquatics Center and the College Banner Program that celebrates students that want to further their education beyond high school. The program is sponsored by the City of La Mirada and the La Mirada Ebell service club.

For additional information, contact the City of La Mirada at (562) 943-0131.

Due to County health guidelines, this year's program was modified compared to prior years.

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## Cerritos Resident Merrell Eugene Williams' 100th birthday

The Cerritos City Council recognized Cerritos resident Merrell Eugene Williams, who turned 100 years old on March 11.

Born in Minco, Oklahoma, Williams has been a resident of Cerritos since 1974.

He and his wife Jo Helen Dewey married in 1947 and have three children, seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Williams, who was a bi-vocational pastor for more than 25 years, founded the Central Baptist Church in Inglewood.

He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and worked as a boilermaker at National Tank Manufacturing for more than 20 years.

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# Study Shows Readers Have High Confidence in Local Media During Pandemic

BY CINDY LONG

“The COVID-19 Societal Impact Project,” a study conducted by The Whitman Insight Strategies Initiative and Creative Circle Media Solutions, examined how the global pandemic has affected the feelings and emotions of local media consumers.

Respondents conveyed they have a higher trust in local news for information about COVID-19 compared to national cable news and social media channels.

“People are starved for content and connections,” said Bernard Whitman, president and founder of Whitman Insight Strategies, a strategic consulting firm that conducts polls and market research to advise corporations, political leaders

and issue-advocacy organizations. “That’s why community media have so much to gain. You are already part of the community and people feel like they know you or they should know you.”

Additional findings show readers are fearful, leading them to crave credible, local information to stay connected with their communities.

“The good news about our research is that local and community media are trusted at a much higher level than national media,” said Bill Ostendorf, president and founder of Creative Circle Media Solutions. “We keep seeing polls that give media a low ranking. In this survey, ‘the media’ got a 52% trust rating but local media earned a trust rating of 82%.

The study shows 63% of respondents feel afraid. In some cases, they are afraid for the health and safety of themselves and their loved ones. Others are worried about their careers and job security. These reasons, and more, are why consumers seek reliable information from local media.

To fill voids for local publishers, Family Features offered a vast amount of content on our editors site. A special section for COVID-19 content was added early in the pandemic with topics including wearing masks, working from home, going back to school safely and more. Editors also sought our eye-catching food and recipe content to give their readers tips for cooking at home. As the pandemic progressed over time,

travel articles have started to come back showing readers how to travel safely or simply enjoy staycations. Even pets have been addressed with content showing how to adopt or live with your pet during a pandemic.

“We have an opportunity to provide new kinds of content,” Ostendorf said. “Better content. If we create more engaging content now, we can change the way they view newspapers and how they value us.”

*Cindy Long is Family Features’ Media Relations Manager. She works with a network of more than 10,000 editors to help fill the food, lifestyle and home and garden sections of their newspapers, magazines and websites.*

## Letters to the Editor

**California Businesses are Targets for ADA Lawsuit Abuse**  
**Dear Editor:**

California is a hub for excessive amounts of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) lawsuits filed. It’s a true shame to see a law like the ADA – which was enacted for the noble purpose of ensuring access for the disabled to public accommodations – turn into the lawsuit-pumping machine it is today.

California’s ADA laws allow businesses to be sued over any minor or technical infraction that does nothing to impede accessibility. For example, if a recycling bin sits too close to the doorway, this is grounds for a lawsuit – a lawsuit that could easily shut a business down for good.

Further, in California, lawyers are being financially incentivized to bring these sorts of suits against our businesses, as our state offers much higher fines than other states’ ADA laws, plus attorneys’ fees. Businesses aren’t even given the opportunity to fix issues before having to pay hefty settlements to the lawyers who targeted us.

My family and I own a chain of restaurants here in LA County. Through our businesses, we have lived the American dream—but all of that became threatened when we were targeted by a frivolous ADA lawsuit last year.

I am frustrated by our lawmakers’ failure to recognize the damage that their inaction has done to our state’s businesses and to address the problems with California’s ADA laws.

As we all recover from COVID-19 and evaluate ways to support struggling small businesses in our community, I encourage our state lawmakers to take action to curb ADA lawsuit abuse.

*Edward Medina*  
*Owner of the Ramona’s*  
*Mexican Food Chain*

**Re: DC Statehood**  
**Dear Editor:**

No taxation without representation. It’s one of the key reasons why America fought for its independence. So why do we continue to tax Washington, D.C. residents without

giving them proper representation in Congress?

The population of D.C. is comparable to the populations of entire states like Alaska, Wyoming, North Dakota, and Vermont. Each of those states gets two senators apiece and a voting House member to advocate for their needs in Congress. But because of its status as a district, D.C. has no senators and its one representative in the House is prevented from voting. Yet, residents of the District still live, work, serve in the military and on juries -- and yes, pay federal taxes.

Denying hundreds of thousands of Americans a voice in our democracy goes against what this country claims it stands for. But we can easily change this by making Washington, D.C. the 51st state. And it’s not as difficult to do as it sounds! Statehood for the District can become a reality by making its way through Congress like any other bill.

Adding D.C. as the 51st state in the union would be a huge win in giving full congressional representation to hundreds of thousands of Americans. That’s why I’m urging my senators and my community to support D.C. statehood.

*Hai-Ching Cheah*  
*Lakewood*

**Tree Not Cut in Granada Park**  
**Dear Editor:**

I need your help! I am a Cerritos resident since 1977. I live on the 12000 block of Peppercreek Lane. I am a member of the Granada Park HOA since '77. I have a problem with the GPHOA. Three trees, 2 Magnolia Trees and 1 Eucalyptus Tree need to be cut down to 7 feet high. These are 40 years old trees. Recently a big branch fell on the roof of my house. A picture of the tree branch on my roof was sent to me by a concerned neighbor. I have written GPHOA 3 times about these trees on the Greenbelt close to my house and talked to the President and Representative of the Management Company but they just turned deaf ears to my complaints. I have 3 return notices from the USPS to show that my letters were received but no replies were made. They have COMPLETELY IGNORED my complaints! I called the City of Cerritos Community Dev. & Planning to ask a permit to cut down these 3 trees to 7 feet but I was informed that the GPHOA could only make this request. Is there a way to help me with

my problem with GPHOA? I would appreciate it very much, thank you very much!

**Editor's note:** Relying that this was a legitimate email, HMG-CN emailed the city and was told, " Some of the trees in the Granada Park community are parkway street trees that are maintained by the City (Public Works); others in the

HOA's greenbelt are privately maintained by the HOA (overseen by Community Development). The resident can call the Department of Community Development at (562) 916-1201 and provide a description of the tree's location, and staff can direct her further on next steps." The email was forwarded to the resident.

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BY TAMMYE MCDUFF

Senator Bob Archuleta, D-Pico Rivera, joined Southern California Gas Company and city of Downey officials at the groundbreaking of the first hydrogen home in California, marking the company’s major climate commitment.

SoCalGas’ H2 Hydrogen Home – a cutting-edge research and demonstration home – corresponds with Sen. Archuleta’s legislative agenda regarding clean, affordable energy.

“SoCalGas’ bold climate pledge demonstrates their commitment to helping California reach its goal of carbon neutrality,” Archuleta said. “I’ve fought for investments in hydrogen and other clean fuel technologies because I know that gas infrastructure will be needed to provide reliable energy in a net zero carbon economy. I’m thrilled SoCalGas is leading the nation in these innovations, and that they’re beginning here in the 32nd Senate District.”


Last year, Governor Newsom signed the Archuleta authored SB 895, which allows the state Energy Commission to provide more funding for fuel cell electric trucks, helping to clean the air surrounding the state’s transportation corridors and improving the health of those living in nearby communities.

There are three hydrogen-related bills – SB 1379, SB 662 and SB 643 – currently making their way through the legislature.

SoCalGas, the nation’s largest gas utility, announced the company’s bold commitment to achieve net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in its operations and delivery of energy by 2045.

This commitment makes SoCalGas the largest gas distribution utility in North America to set a net zero target.

So Cal Gas' Hydrogen Facility Breaks Ground in Downey



LAST YEAR, Governor Newsom signed the Archuleta authored SB 895, which allows the state Energy Commission to provide more funding for fuel cell electric trucks.

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Beginning Apr. 1, the LACS Parking Enforcement Detail will again enforce all parking violations and reinstate the issuance of street sweeping citations, expired registration citations, as well as, towing vehicles that have been warned via a “Red Tag” or any other vehicle in violation of the parking laws of the State of California as well as the County of Los Angeles.

To avoid receiving a parking citation or having a vehicle towed, we urge drivers to be mindful of this change.

Resumed enforcement will include:

Street sweeping: All streets with posted signs for street sweeping.

Expired registration: Vehicles with expired registration will be cited.

Indigent Payment Plan: Anyone in need of financial assistance to pay citations can make arrangements through the following: Phone: (866) 561-9744; online: [www.lasheriffparking.com](#); mail: Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department P.O. Box 30629 Los Angeles, CA 90030-0629.

Red tag warnings: Red tag warnings will be issued to vehicles parked within the public right-of-way not displaying signs of movement, such as excessive dirt, spider webs, and debris underneath and around the tires, flat tires, missing parts, and vandalism.

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<sup>2</sup>Using U.S. and imported parts.



## Tacos Gavilan Opens in Norwalk



**NORWALK MAYOR** Jennifer Perez (2nd from right), City Manager Jesus Gomez (far right) and the Norwalk Chamber officially welcomed Tacos Gavilan to the community.

BY TAMMYE MCDUFF

The newest member of the Tacos Gavilan chain officially opened February 25, 2021. Currently orders are available for drive-thru, delivery or pick up.

For a small LA based chain, Tacos El Gavilan has tons of fans. With more than 32,000 FB fans, El Gavilan has acquired taco addicted enthusiasts than any other privately owned taco bar.

Guests have a choice of well fried corn or flour tortillas with your choice of healthy portion of meat, tomatoes, lettuce, guacamole and of course rice and beans. They have numerous protein options including carnitas, chorizo, al pastor, buche and cabeza with an excellent salsa bar. A multitude of salsas such as smoky chipotle and fiery roja will certainly liven up your palette, and don't forget to add the pickled jalapenos.

The restaurant has good Mexican food for a decent price, a quick spot to grab a bite. Mayor Jennifer Perez “The tacos are amazing! The nachos are superb! Whatever you want they have it here! Come by and visit their newest addition in our city.”

Tacos El Gavilan initiated operations in the year of 1992 in the city of Los Angeles, on the corner of Gage and Main. Their only objective was to bring the community authentic Mexican flavor. Offering customers a variety of Mexican Classics in the field of fast food highlighting our beef, chicken, hot sauce and “Frijoles de la Hoya”.

Now with 12 locations and a fleet of lunch trucks in Los Angeles County they remain true to their word of always being close at hand to the community.

The location can be found on the corner of Rosecrans and Studebaker at 10968 Rosecrans Avenue, Norwalk.

## Two Young Women Killed in Lakewood

STAFF REPORT

Best friends Christine Yan and Isabelle Zhang, both 24 years old, were walking in a Lakewood crosswalk on March 12 when they were hit by a car and killed.

“They wanted to bring food and clothes for my cousin, who’s expecting,” Yan’s cousin and roommate, Elizabeth Hong, said.

Hong rushed to the scene near Bloomfield Avenue and Lemming Street after getting a devastating call.

“Me and my two aunts, we just collapsed to the ground. We just fell on the grass,” she said. “Some of the stuff that Christine and Isabelle were carrying, it was just scattered all over the street.”

Both Yan and Zhang were only children and immigrated to the United States from China to attend college. The recent graduates were planning to work together at an accounting firm, Hong said, adding that it was Yan’s goal to provide for her parents.

“That was always her dream. When she got her citizenship last year, that just

made her so happy,” Hong said.

Isabelle’s sister-in-law, Emily Fu, said her brother and Isabelle were very much in love.

“Isabelle was someone that was loved by our entire family,” Fu said. “This Sunday they would’ve been celebrating their six-year anniversary of being together. But now we’re spending that time planning her funeral.”

Hong says they’re still in the dark about what caused the crash. It remains under investigation.

The families went to the site of the collision to set up a memorial. They say residents in the area came up to them and said they have started a petition to make a change.

“When we were standing at that intersection, people that lived in the neighborhood walked up to us and told us that that intersection was incredibly dangerous, that they had been asking the city for years,” Fu said.

According to a city statement, there’s been two accidents in the past five years at that intersection. The city says it’s analyzing traffic patterns and lighting to determine if there are unsafe conditions and improvements can be made.

Yan’s family has sent up a GoFundMe page for her funeral expenses.

## La Mirada Catalytic Converter Etching Event

La Mirada is partnering with Big O Tires on a Catalytic Converter Etching Event. The event will be held on Friday, April 9 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Big O Tires located at 13920 Valley View.

During the event, members of Big O Tires will etch catalytic converters with

a unique identifying number. This will provide law enforcement with valuable information should it be stolen and later located during subsequent investigations.

This event is open to La Mirada residents and is being provided at no cost to participants. Appointments are required and space is limited. To schedule an appointment, contact Safety Education Officer Mary Cipres at (562) 902-2986 or [mcipres@cityoflamirada.org](mailto:mcipres@cityoflamirada.org).

## La Mirada Will Hold Easter Egg Drive-Thru

The City of La Mirada will host an Easter Egg Drive-Thru event on Saturday, April 3. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the La Mirada Civic Center parking lot.

The event will feature drive-thru stations that will allow participants to pull-up in a safe and socially distanced manner. At the stations, children will receive a craft kit, a goodie bag filled with Easter trinkets, and a bag filled with Easter eggs and candy. The Easter bunny will also be present to greet all those who attend.

Safety measures, including social distancing and wearing masks, will be observed. For additional information, call the La Mirada’s Community Services Department at (562) 943-7277.

CENTER from page 1

finance company in Bellflower which ran though the 1970’s. Smith passed away in 1994, and handed down her holdings to her children and grandchildren.

The Belle Fleur Centre will be 14,500 square feet of restaurants and retail shopping. Among some of the restaurants to be found will be a Starbucks, Smoke & Fire Social Eatery and The Orchard, a communal and private dining and eating establishment with outdoor patio spaces.

“We are very happy to get this started,” said Mayor Dan Koops, “it will provide a great economic impact to the city.”

# Su Casa - Ending Domestic Violence

Su Casa is a nonprofit community-based organization dedicated to the philosophy that every individual has the right to live free from violence or the threat of violence.

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Su Casa  
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# State Senator Bob Archuleta's 2021 Women of the Year

The 2021 Women of Achievement in the 32nd District

Buena Park: Nominated by Buena Park City Manager, Aaron France, Ellen Ahn and her team at the KCS Health Center have been on the frontline during this pandemic, providing essential health care to the community. They conducted COVID-19 testing, sometimes at little to notice, to the entire community. Buena Park officials called Ahn and her team a significant partner, not only to the city, but all of Orange County.

Norwalk: Nominated by El Camino Children & Family Services CEO Jorge Gutierrez, Diana Gonzales, the program director and wife of Pastor Hector Gonzales of Church of New Hope in Norwalk, made it her mission to be available to parishioners through Zoom or telephone calls on a daily basis.

She created a postcard ministry for those who lost loved ones to COVID-19, sending messages of condolence. Diana continued parenting classes, virtually, for those going through the family court system to reunite with their children.



**Diana Gonzales  
Norwalk**

Even during a pandemic, the country pauses to acknowledge the contributions women make to their families, professions and communities.

Senator Bob Archuleta, D-Pico Rivera, is proud to announce the 32nd Senate District's 2021 Women of Achievement, and recognize them for their outstanding hard work and dedication to their respective communities during the time of COVID-19.

"Each one of the honorees has contributed, in meaningful ways, to the health and well-being of our district as we came together to support one another during this unprecedented public health crisis," Archuleta said. "Each woman was chosen based on her service, and as a district, we pay tribute to these remarkable women."



**Ellen Ahn  
Buena Park**

Bellflower: Nominated by Bellflower Councilman, Patricia Jacquez, through her work with the nonprofit, Hope 4 Everyone Foundation, and in partnership with the Bellflower Kiwanis Club, mobilized volunteers to conduct weekly food distributions during the pandemic.

Since March of 2020, hundreds of families and individuals from Bellflower, Downey, Lakewood and Norwalk have benefited from the food giveaways. She also volunteers at the Bellflower chapter of the Salvation Army, which has also provided support during the public health crisis.

Norwalk: Nominated by Norwalk Chamber of Commerce Director Caren Spilsbur, Cynthia Lizarraga, as the owner of an essential business, the Grocery Outlet in Norwalk, has donated food, but also personal protective equipment (PPE) to the community during the pandemic.

She teamed with the city to provide food for meals at the senior center and, as an independent grocer, she was able to order bulk food items for local food pantries that were unable to do so at other stores.

In the early days of the pandemic when PPE was scarce, Cynthia contacted Borrayas Plastics in Santa



**Patricia Vasquez  
Bellflower**

Fe Springs to secure the face shields and other items for area medical offices.

She personally sewed cloth masks to provide to employees, and ensured her store was safe for employees and customers alike, with it being cleaned hourly and equipped with sanitizing stations.

Cerritos: Nominated by Bellflower City Councilman Victor Sanchez, Irma Macia's role in community outreach at Community Family Guidance Center (CFG) in Cerritos greatly increased this past year as people looked for guidance during the pandemic.



**Irma Macias  
Cerritos**

There was a greater need than ever before, especially for food assistance and mental health support. Irma helped at food giveaways and conducted outreach to families at the events.

She facilitated a toy drive and food voucher program during the holidays that benefited more than 350 families in the communities of Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens, Norwalk and Whittier.

Irma, who her supervisor called compassionate and caring, helped with the higher volume of calls asking for assistance.

Lakewood: Nominated by Lakewood Mayor Todd Rogers, Linda Manis has served her community by making more than 4,000 cloth masks for several local organizations and facilities, including Leisure World, Candlewood Senior Housing Apartments, Pathways Hospice, and Project Shephard.

Additionally, she continues to participate with Lakewood's Pan Am Association by coordinating restaurant fundraisers and



**Cynthia Lizarraga  
Norwalk**



**Linda Manis  
Lakewood**

is active with the Neighborhood Watch Program on her block.

Linda and her three grandsons have been delivering meals to Project Shepherd recipient families who were not able to pick them up due to, first the Safer at Home Order, and subsequent restrictions.

Hawaiian Gardens: Nominated by Hawaiian Gardens Recreation Supervisor Juan Serrano, Josefina Mendoza, in her role as a member of the city of Hawaiian Gardens Volunteer Program, has continued to serve the community despite the pandemic. The commitment and compassion of the city's volunteers has not diminished in the time of COVID-19, officials said, and Josefina is an example of that attitude.

She has taken a leading role in providing the care and support that has only grown greater this past year.

Josefina volunteered more than 100 hours aiding the community through its food distribution event, and the curbside cleanup and senior nutritional programs.

Whittier: Nominated by CEO and President of PIH Health James West, Sarah Merkle, RN, MSN, has been an extraordinary patient advocate and leader in PIH Health Whittier Hospital's fight against COVID-19. She joined the organization in 2005 and currently serves as Administrative Director of Medical and Surgical Services. Sarah has spent the past year engaged in ensuring that COVID-19 patients have access to outstanding care, while protecting their families, the staff and the community.



**Josefina Mendoza  
Hawaiian Gardens**



**Sarah Merkle,  
RN, MSN  
Whittier**

A year ago, she created educational materials focusing on how patients could protect themselves, detailing which patients should continue with ongoing treatments without compromising their health.

Sarah, a fifth-generation nurse, was instrumental in developing strategic plans that enabled PIH Health to provide quality care to record numbers of patients during the third COVID-19 surge.

PIH Health officials said her contributions to its COVID-19 efforts have been instrumental in returning our community to health.

Cerritos: Nominated by Cerritos Mayor Naresh Solanki, Dorothy Owen, a community volunteer in the city of Cerritos, is a board member at Su Casa, a nonprofit that provides long-term help to those involved in domestic violence. During the pandemic, she helped ensure that the Su Casa continued to support those affected by domestic abuse. Staff and residents were provided with both safe and sanitary living and working spaces.



**Dorothy Owen  
Cerritos**

Because counseling and other critical appointments were conducted through video conferences, Su Casa's board provided guidance to upgrade the facility's computer network system.

Dorothy also continued her work as liaison between the city and the Marines of the 1st Combat Engineer Battalion through phone calls.

La Mirada: Nominated by City of La Mirada Senior Administrative Analyst Jorge Orozco, Amanda Paez, a Navy veteran and co-owner of La Mirada Grocery Outlet, brought her leadership skills to



**Amanda Paez  
La Mirada**

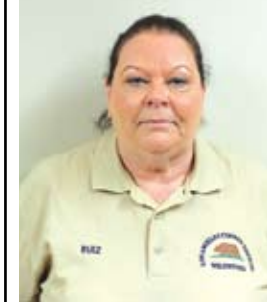
serve the community during the pandemic.

She and her team assembled hundreds of bags filled with groceries for seniors and those who were unable to leave their homes. This was especially critical during the initial Stay at Home order.

Currently, Amanda donates plants to retirement homes to help lift create comforting environments for staff and residents.

She continues to provide food assistance to community pantries.

Pico Rivera: Nominated by Pico Rivera Sheriff's Station Supervisor Jodi L. Hutak, Marion Ruiz, a long-time volunteer at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Pico Rivera Station, aided the community as public facilities were closed during the pandemic.



**Marion Ruiz  
Pico Rivera**

However, the services provided by the center to seniors, involving their social, physical and emotional needs, were still in high demand.

Marion, despite dangers of COVID-19 and personal commitments, never wavered from her commitment to the community.

She assisted in delivering about 2,500 meals to the city's seniors, as she continued volunteering hours at the Pico Rivera



**Irene Segura  
Montebello**

Station.

Montebello: Nominated by Labor Political Organizer Sergio Barahona, Irene Segura, a board member of SEIU Local 2015, has been very supportive of In-House Supportive Services (IHSS) providers in her community and their consumers.

She personally helped providers navigate the new reporting process of hours, which is now done online.

Irene also helped the providers shop safely for groceries on behalf of their consumers.

Cerritos: Nominated by Cerritos City Councilman Frank Yokoyama, Karen Wilson, an Army veteran, created a Neighborhood Donation Food Pantry for seniors at her Cerritos home.



**Karen Wilson  
Cerritos**

She organized her neighbors, who are part of the Neighborhood Watch program, to gather the groceries. With the pandemic lasting longer than anticipated, Karen began providing food to any neighbors in need, and started to deliver to those who were unable to leave their homes.

About 1,000 families and individuals have been helped by the neighborhood pantry, receiving personalized food baskets.



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BY LOREN KOPFF  
@LORENKOPFF ON TWITTER

DOWNEY ~ When last the Norwalk High football team took the gridiron in a regular season game, it was on the losing end of a 34-0 decision at La Mirada High in the 2019 finale. The Lancers had just completed a 3-7 season in which it had lost five straight games, scoring 27 points in those games.

Norwalk was to have started the 2020 season on Aug. 21 at Savanna High, but the entire fall season was scrapped due to the global pandemic. Now, 210 days since that game was to have been played, the Lancers finally kicked off the new and shortened season. Norwalk was whitewashed by Downey High 47-0 last Friday night at Allen Layne Stadium. But no one cared too much about the score or who won or lost. After all, there won't be any playoffs from the 2020 fall sports and the overall team records won't mean much.

"It was a win for all of us tonight," said Norwalk head coach Dean Gray said. "It's a win for all the schools; all the kids playing tonight and I'm very proud of my kids. It's been a tough year. It's been a tough year for our community, the country and the world. To see our kids out here playing football and having the parents in the stands is a win for all of us."

"All safety protocols were put in place and we have our little bubble at practice," he continued. "The kids are doing everything with social distancing the best they can after practice, washing our hands and doing everything right and we were able to play football tonight. And good for Downey too. We just hope that every week, the numbers keep going down and the vaccinations keep going up."

Downey scored on all five of its possessions in a game in which the



## WEEK TWO FOOTBALL

# Norwalk's loss to Downey is a win for everyone as Lancers get back on the field

running clock was utilized in the fourth quarter. The Vikings had 181 yards of total offense in the first half and were aided by quarterback Chris Hernandez, who ran for a pair of first quarter scores.

Meanwhile, the Lancers were limited to 56 yards in the first half, had four first downs and did not cross midfield until five minutes were left in the half. That came as a result of a 52-yard kickoff return from sophomore David Herrera after a Jacob Skobis touchdown made it 27-0. However, time ran out on Norwalk as it got to the 20-yard line before the half ended.

Three plays into the second half, a 21-

yard touchdown pass from Hernandez to Tryse Redford increased the margin to 34-0. Norwalk was driving and was in good shape, getting to the Downey 29-yard line. But a fumbled snap on fourth and one was scooped up by Redford, who returned it 71 yards the other way for another Downey touchdown. Keion Andrew would finish off the game with a 40-yard score as the Lancers were limited to 121 yards in the game, turned the ball over three times and punted twice. They also ran 15 plays in the second half.

"The score tonight... we knew we were playing a great program," Gray said. "You

NORWALK HIGH senior running back Milton Roman takes a pitch from sophomore quarterback Caden Barnhill in last Friday night's opener. Roman gained 24 yards on five carries in Norwalk's 47-0 loss. PHOTO BY ARMANDO VARGAS, Contributing photographer.

could see we only had 23 kids dressed tonight and those 23 have come out and the last two to three weeks worked very hard on getting back into football shape and like I said, that's a win for all of us. Next week, we get ready for Bellflower and the next four games... it's a win for Bellflower; it's a win for all of us. Every time we play, it's a good thing.

"Those are going to happen in the first game," Gray later said of the turnovers. "We've only been practicing for two and a half to three weeks. Usually, you have months and months to prepare. It's been a whole year, literally a whole year until three weeks ago that we've touched the football. So again, [it's] a win-win for all of us. Some of those things are going to happen and the joy of tonight was seeing kids run up and down the football field for both teams."

Herrera led Norwalk's rushing attack with 52 yards on eight carries while senior running back Davin Portillo added 24 yards on a dozen carries. Senior running back Milton Roman picked up 24 yards on five touches and sophomore quarterback Caden Barnhill, who completed one pass for negative yardage, added another 23 yards on eight rushes. Norwalk will visit Suburban League rival Bellflower High tonight for the second of five games.

"We all know that Covid is still out there and that we're doing everything to protect our kids at all times," Gray cautioned. "We also know that there are a lot of concerns out there still at all times."

## BASEBALL

# Cerritos romps Valley Christian to salvage doubleheader split in season opener for both

BY LOREN KOPFF  
@LORENKOPFF ON TWITTER

The season-opening doubleheader between host Valley Christian High and Cerritos High was easily a tale of two different games and in fact, the Dons were a strike away from leaving with a sweep. But a hit batter with the bases loaded and a balk two pitches later gave the hosts the victory in the first game.

The nightcap was completely one-sided as consecutive triples from senior shortstop Jared Pugar and senior center fielder Nick Toney set the tone for what would be a 10-0 victory. The Dons put the game away with six runs in the top of the fourth inning and had nine hits seven players.

"I think it took a game for them to kind of get the cobwebs out," said Cerritos assistant coach Martin Rodriguez. "We were talking about it right now in our end of game meeting; it's been a year and 13 days since we were

at Downey High School. We had a win that day, then we had a game rained out and the next thing you know, two weeks turned into two months turned into a year. And it took them some time. We started late; we've had only a week of practice and for them to kind of shake everything out of their system and come back in that second game is what we expected from them."

"Oh man, I don't even know what to say," said V.C. head coach Matt Dahlenburg. "I was kind of nervous today. It's been a little over a year actually, I want to say, since we've played and [we're] itching to get back at it. It just feels good to be back out here."

After Cerritos scored just the one run in the first inning, it added three more in the next inning, highlighted by sophomore right fielder Raymond Sierra's two-run double, which plated senior second

baseman Edgar Lorenzo and sophomore left fielder Paul Kim, who began the inning with a double and a single, respectively.

Cerritos would send 11 batters to the plate in the fourth, collecting three hits while having V.C. pitchers walk five. Not only did the Dons tee off on the first three of five pitchers the Defenders used in the second game, but they also got a brilliant performance from senior pitcher Jude Alfaro, who worked into the fifth inning, allowed one hit, walked one and struck out five. The lone hit came from senior right fielder Connor Gerdes with two outs in the third inning. In fact, none of the three V.C. baserunners in the game got past first base.

"He was incredible," Rodriguez said of Alfaro. "We knew going in that we could stretch him out a little bit. He was one of the many kids in Southern

See CERRITOS page 11



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From the actions your local government is taking, to lists of local stores that are delivering and tips on what to do while you're at home, your local newspaper is committed to bringing you the news you need, when you need it.

# WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER



CERRITOS from page 10

California playing travel ball. So, he was on a routine unit and he stayed strong and we knew we didn’t have to limit him to 20 to 30 pitches out of the gate because he’d been throwing.”

The lone bright spot for the Defenders in the game came from junior pitcher Ryan Zamarippa, who pitched two and two-thirds inning, allowed one hit and struck out five.

“Ryan has come a long way since his first year,” Dahlenburg said. “His first year, he had arm problems with us and pretty much played defense and hit a little bit. Last year, he got back on the mound for a little bit, but obviously it was a shortened season. He’s going to be one of our guys out of the bullpen that we’re going to rely on a lot.”

In the first game, in which the hosts to scratch out a 4-3 victory, Cerritos grabbed a 1-0 lead in the third inning when Toney, who was batting ninth, was hit by a pitch and scored two outs later on a base hit from junior catcher Owen Gott. The Defenders tied the game in their half of the inning when senior shortstop Austin Horio singled, stole second and came home on an error.

Cerritos regained the lead in the next inning when freshman second baseman Carter Chi doubled, moved to third on a sacrifice fly from freshman right fielder Johann Gibbs and scored on a Toney single. But V.C. knotted the game at 2-2 in the fifth when sophomore pinch hitter Nolan Lynott was walked, moved to second on an error and to third on a balk before coming home on a sacrifice fly

from junior second baseman Ben Carter. In the top of the seventh, sophomore Evan Sawai walked Pugrad, who moved to second on a sacrifice from Kim and scored on an error. Then in the bottom of the seventh, Chi, who replaced senior Maxwell Shea on the mound in the fifth inning, walked Gerdes and Horio before striking out Carter. After a balk advanced the runners and a pop-up to senior catcher Matt Bean, Chi walked junior third baseman Carson Slager to load the bases. He then hit Zamarippa on an 0-2 count, allowing Gerdes to tie the game. After a 2-0 count to sophomore first baseman Jacob Smith, a balk was called to bring in Horio for the game winner. “Since I’ve been here, our M.O. has been pitch and play defense and get runs any way we can,” Dahlenburg said. “That’s why doing the job is bunting guys over, [sacrifice] flies, being aggressive on the bases on passed balls and all the good stuff. It just showed in the first game; we only had one hit, but we pitched and played defense really well and that’s what saved us.”

“We wanted to stay with the youngster; we had a freshman on the mound,” Rodriguez said of Chi. “We wanted to see if he could handle the pressure, to be honest with you. The balk that was called on him was something that is rarely called. It’s unfortunate that the game ended that way. The true testament to Carter Chi was that when we gave him a chance the next game with the bases loaded, he came back up and hit a hard ball up the middle for an RBI. He put that first game behind him. For a 14-year old to do that was incredible.”



**VALLEY CHRISTIAN HIGH** junior pitcher Austin Wilkinson delivers the season's first pitch to Cerritos senior shortstop Jared Pugrad last Saturday afternoon in the first game of a doubleheader. V.C. won the first game 4-3 while Cerritos took the second game 10-0. **PHOTO BY LOREN KOPFF.**

Even though the Defenders got one hit, the two Cerritos pitchers combined to walk seven batters, three others reached on a fielder’s choice, two were hit by a pitch and one was safe on an error. Junior Austin Wilkinson worked into the fourth inning, giving up four hits, two runs, walked three and struck out five. “He’s going to be one of our guys this year,” Dahlenburg said. “It’s his first year with us and his first year with me, so it’s a lot of learning curves with that. To be honest with you, most of the guys out here, it’s mental stuff. I tell them every

single day, we’re going to give up runs, we’re going to walk guys, we’re going to hit guys [and] our guys are going to make some errors and how we come back on the mound is going to determine how good we’re going to be.” V.C. will host Mayfair High this evening and visit Bellflower High on Monday before hosting the Buccaneers on Wednesday while Cerritos will next be in action on Apr. 6 at Mary Star of the Sea High.

# Cerritos Cross Country Dominates in First 605 League Cluster Meet of Season

**BY LOREN KOPFF**  
**@LORENKOPFF ON TWITTER**

First there was a time trial race on Mar. 13 on the athletic fields of Cerritos High for the cross country runners of the 605 League. But the first cluster meet took place last Saturday, again at Cerritos, and the host school was in a league of its own as its boys and girls teams each picked up team victories. The other five league teams had a combined 11 girls’ runners as the Lady Dons earned the minimum 15 points with senior Sofia Vasquez and sophomore Sydney Romero picking up the two best times at 19:44 and 21:52 respectively. The fourth and fifth best times were locked down by sophomore Sofia Padilla (22:48) and senior Samantha Chang (22:54) while the other two Cerritos runners were juniors Kailah Usi (25:10) and Tara Wang (25:29), who had the 12th and 13th best times. Whitney High senior Julianna Lee finished in seventh place at 23:27 while sophomore Layla Lacorte had the 10th best time at 24:28. Sophomore Kayla Hamakawa (25:57) and senior Kritika Pantha (26:31) were the other Whitney runners. Artesia High had a pair of runners-junior Lizabeth Ortega (24:13) and senior Marissa Hernandez (28:31) and John Glenn High senior Kaitlyn Martinez ran 26:47. The Cerritos boys were one of three schools to field enough runners for official scoring and came away with 30 points, narrowing defeating Oxford Academy, which had 34 points. Whitney picked up 66 points while Artesia,



HMG-CN Sports Editor  
*Loren Kopff*

**NEWS & NOTES FROM PRESS ROW**

Glenn and Pioneer combined to have eight runners. Cerritos junior Michael Rafael finished in third place with a time of 16:29 while Whitney junior Lorenzo Rodriguez-Boix was right behind him at 17:09. The next three spots went to Cerritos senior Anrei Giordano (17:24) and juniors Andrew Hwang (17:28) and Zachary Huang (17:37). The ninth and 10th runners to cross the line were Artesia juniors Jareth Navarro (17:53) and Angel Buenrostro (18:02) before the final two Cerritos runners, junior Kevin Hamakawa (18:02) and Chris Amaro (18:05), finished the race. The top Glenn runner was sophomore Javier Reynoso, who had a time of 19:46 and was the 18th of 26 runners to cross the finish line. The third and final cluster meet of the season will be on Saturday at Cerritos High. This time, the schools will go in reverse order with Whitney racing at 8:00 a.m. followed by Pioneer about an hour later, then Oxford Academy, Glenn, Cerritos and Artesia. **SOFTBALL** Cerritos went to work early and often in its season opener as the Lady Dons blanked host Valley Christian High 17-0 this past Tuesday afternoon. Cerritos scored 12 times in the top of the first inning with the first five in the batting order all scoring twice. Senior center fielder Lauren Lejano and senior first baseman Samiya Jones each had a pair of hits, scored twice and drove in a pair in the inning while junior third baseman Makayla Sur had two hits, scored twice and drove in three runs in the inning.

In all, the Lady Dons recorded eight of their 14 hits in the first inning and eight starters had at least one hit in the game. Junior Erin Gibbs pitched three innings, allowed two hits, walked one and struck out half a dozen. Those two hits came from senior catcher Quinn Livesay in the bottom of the second inning and junior third baseman Chelsea Azevedo in the third inning. Cerritos is scheduled to host Norwalk High on Tuesday and Etiwanda High on Thursday while the Lady Defenders, who also lost to Ontario Christian High 6-2 this past Wednesday, is scheduled to host Warren High today and Mira Costa High on Saturday. In other softball action, Gahr High is scheduled to visit La Mirada High on Tuesday before hosting the Matadores on Thursday. La Mirada has won its first two games of the season, 7-5 in eight innings at South Hills High last Saturday and 12-2 against California High this past Tuesday. The team was scheduled to face Santa Fe High on Mar. 25 and South Torrance High on Saturday. Glenn is scheduled to host Norwalk on Thursday in the season opener for both while Whitney is scheduled to visit Long Beach Cabrillo High Monday before hosting Southlands Christian High on Thursday.

**BASEBALL** Gahr, which fell to Santa Margarita High 3-2 last Saturday, is scheduled to face Bishop Amat High on Tuesday and host Ayala High on Thursday while La Mirada has won two straight games over Lakewood High (5-4) and La Serna High (9-2) this past Tuesday and Wednesday respectively. The Matadores are scheduled to play Corona Del Mar High on Saturday, South Hills on Monday and Mission Viejo High on Tuesday. **BOYS SOCCER** Artesia defeated Paramount High 4-3 this past Tuesday to improve to 1-1 and is scheduled to host Buena Park High

on Mar. 25, Cerritos on Wednesday and Kennedy High on Thursday. Cerritos was blasted by North Torrance High 11-0 last Thursday in its season opener and was scheduled to host Firebaugh High on Mar. 25 while Gahr was blanked by Valley Christian 5-0 last Thursday. Glenn is scheduled to kick off its season at Whitney on Tuesday and before hosting Pioneer on Thursday while La Mirada, which has posted shutouts against Troy High (1-0) and Buena Park High (3-0) was scheduled to visit Sonora High on Mar. 25 and is to host La Serna on Tuesday and Bellflower on Thursday. Norwalk began its season with a 1-0 loss to Sonora this past Tuesday and is scheduled to host Bell Gardens High on Wednesday while V.C., which edged Mayfair High 4-3 this past Wednesday, is scheduled to host Troy today. **GIRLS SOCCER** Artesia opened its season by blanking Firebaugh 2-0 this past Tuesday and is scheduled to face Buena Park on Mar. 25 before visiting Cerritos on Wednesday and hosting Oxford Academy on Tuesday. Cerritos was scheduled to host Fullerton High on Mar. 25 while was scheduled to visit Norwalk on Mar. 25. Glenn is scheduled to host Whitney on Tuesday and travel to Pioneer on Thursday while La Mirada, coming off a scoreless tie at La Serna last Thursday and a 3-0 win at Warren this past Tuesday, was scheduled to travel to La Habra High on Mar. 25 and Sunny Hills High on Tuesday before going to Troy on Thursday. Norwalk slammed Bell Gardens 12-0 last Friday and is scheduled to host Mayfair on Tuesday while V.C. tied Mayfair 2-2 this past Tuesday and is scheduled to entertain California on Tuesday.



LAKEWOOD from page 1

prohibits the use of an at-large election in a political subdivision if it would impair the ability of a protected class, as defined to elect candidates of its choice to influence the outcome of an election. The Bill states:

This bill would prohibit the use of a district-based election in a political subdivision if it would impair the ability of a protected class, as defined, to elect candidates of its choice. The bill would require a court to implement specified remedies upon a finding that a district-based election was imposed or applied in a manner that impaired the ability of a protected class to elect candidates of its choice.

The Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2019 responds to current conditions in voting by restoring the full protections of the original bipartisan Voting Rights Act of 1965, which was reauthorized by Congress.

In at- large elections candidates run jurisdiction wide, not in single winner districts. At-large elections are mostly multi-seat contests. Voters elect several candidates at once to the same office like a city council or school board. All at-large elections are the most problematic with the potential for one voting block to win not just their proportionate share.

The advantage of by-district elections makes it easier for both voters and candidates. Voters are more likely to meet the candidates in person and have access to their neighborhood based representative. For candidates the campaigns cost less, more time is spent closer to home and there is more chance to meet the people they seek to represent. The drawback is that district lines can be arranged to favor one group over another.

The public is invited to an online

public hearing to hear about the process, meet the demographer and comment on the composition of potential Council election districts, including identifying neighborhoods and other communities of interest.

The online public hearings will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 13th and again on Tuesday, April 27th. The two hearing will cover the same content. The public hearings will be hosted by the City council, which will ultimately choose the final maps.

For more information and to get the link for the online Zoom meeting, visit [www.lakewoodcity.org/DistrictElections](http://www.lakewoodcity.org/DistrictElections) or call the Lakewood City Clerk’s office at 562.866.9771, extension 2200.

PACIFIC GARDENS from page 1

hundred more employees. This is a great time and we know the hospital is needed in the area.”

When Clark decided to join the Center’s team he was looking for areas that have been chronically underserved and Hawaiian Gardens met that criteria. “This is our opportunity to get it right the first time,” he said.

Clarke is also a registered nurse for the last 30 years, and considers this the chance to do right by the residents. “I keep up to date with my training and license, so that if I am needed in an emergency situation, I would be able to do what might be necessary.”

Director of Nursing Management Services, Bettina Celifih, chose the Center for its unparalleled commitment and focus “The hospital really believes in the team effort approach to patient care and found that admirable.”

With an onsite pharmacy and

laboratory, results and medication can be accessed by patients almost immediately. Gabriel Arellano, Lab Director was able to give full demonstrations of the numerous instruments / equipment that make swift diagnosis possible “We take specimens from head to foot; we test every chemistry panel that is possible, releasing the results sometimes in less than ten minutes. We are a patient care institute. We want the patients in, healed and home as quickly as possible.”

In terms of the renovation of the building, the Center is licensed for a 137 general acute care beds, 16 ICU beds, and have one dedicated unit for CoVID patients with 44 beds.

VACCINE from page 1

“With vaccine supply increasing and by expanding eligibility to more Californians, the light at the end of the tunnel continues to get brighter,” said Governor Newsom. “We remain focused on equity as we extend vaccine eligibility to those 50 and over starting April 1, and those 16 and older starting April 15. This is possible thanks to the leadership of the Biden-Harris Administration and the countless public health officials across the state who have stepped up to get shots into arms.”


Based on the current estimates, California expects to be allocated approximately 2.5 million first and second doses per week in the first half of April, and more than 3 million doses in the second half of April. California currently receives about 1.8 million doses per week. These estimates may be adjusted as time goes on. The state has the capacity to administer more than 3 million vaccines per week, and

is building the capacity to administer 4 million vaccines weekly by the end of April.

“We are even closer to putting this pandemic behind us with today’s announcement and with vaccine supplies expected to increase dramatically in the months ahead,” said California Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly. “However, we are not there yet. It will take time to vaccinate all eligible Californians. During this time, we must not let our guard down. It is important that we remain vigilant, continue to wear masks and follow public health guidance.”

In addition to increased allocations of vaccines to providers serving the hardest hit communities, the state has embarked on a series of initiatives to vaccinate those populations that have faced the highest rates of COVID infections before vaccines become available to the entire 16+ population. These efforts include:

- Provider funding for programs to reach and vaccinate communities facing the biggest health disparities
  - Working with organized labor to reach essential workers
  - Partnering with agricultural organizations and community-based organizations to vaccinate agricultural workers
  - Allowing providers to target by ZIP code via My Turn with single-use codes (scheduled to launch at the end of March)
  - Supporting a subset of community-based organizations currently partnering with the state on COVID-19 education to provide direct vaccination appointment assistance
  - Prioritizing currently eligible populations and allowing providers the discretion to vaccinate those who live in high-impact areas (County Healthy Places Index Quartiles 1 and 2), including families
- Even with expanded vaccine supplies, it is expected to take several months for willing Californians to be vaccinated. Based on public information shared by vaccine manufacturers and the federal government, California expects to receive several million vaccine doses per week starting sometime in April.
- Along with the expanded eligibility and to align with upcoming federal guidance, California will update its vaccine allocation methodology. This will transition over four weeks, beginning with the March 22 allocation (delivered to providers the following week), from one based on the distribution of the 65+ population, workers in the agriculture and food, education and child care, and emergency services sectors to one based on the distribution of the 16+ population across California. This will be done in conjunction with completion of the shift to the state directly allocating vaccines to providers. The state will continue to double the amount of vaccine allocated to the lowest Healthy Places Index (HPI) quartile as announced on March 4.



By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** First, read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. 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. To see the answer use the link below the puzzle.

**Colorful Colors**

Y	E	L	A	O	C	R	A	N	B	E	R	R	Y	T
E	N	C	H	E	R	R	Y	U	L	R	E	O	A	C
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W	M	A	R	I	P	O	M	U	R	M	E	N	O	T
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V	A	E	N	A	P	R	P	U	T	E	L	T	U	R
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R	Y	D	N	U	G	R	U	B	S	U	G	A	R	K

Almond, Aquamarine, Auburn, Beige, Black, Blond, Blush, Brown, Burgundy, Champagne, Cherry, Chestnut, Chocolate, Coal, Cranberry, Dark, Ebony, Eggplant, Flame, Ginger, Gold, Grape, Hazel, Ivory, Khaki, Lavender, Lemon, Lime, Magenta, Mauve, Neon, Pewter, Pink, Purple, Rose, Ruby, Rust, Silver, Sugar, Tangerine, Teak, Tomato, Turquoise, Yellow.

**Solution: 10 letters**



LA MIRADA from page 1

had conflicted opinions from a PPD not being necessary to questions regarding the crime criteria.

City Council decided that this was a quality of life issue with 28 out of 30 residents requesting a preferential parking district.

PPD 7 is in the following area: east side of Armsdale Avenue from Leffingwell Road to Telegraph Road; north side of Richvale Drive from Armsdale Avenue to Ronald Drive; south side of Richvale Drive from Armsdale Avenue; Rimrock

Drive cul-de-sac north of Richvale Drive; east side of Rimrock Drive from Richvale Drive and the west side of Rimrock Drive from Richvale Drive.

With the adoption of this resolution it would be unlawful for any person to park any vehicle within PPD 7 unless they have been issued a parking permit with no more than four annual permits being issued per single family residence.

The vote to approve was 3-1 with Mayor pro tem Ed Eng opposing and Councilman Anthony Otero being absent.

CITY OF COMMERCE  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
COMMERCIAL CANNABIS PERMIT APPLICATION  
DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT 718 AMENDMENT

Pursuant to California Government Code §§ 65867, 65090, and 6061, **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A PUBLIC HEARING** to be held on April 6, 2021 before the City Council of the City of Commerce for the consideration of a First Reading of an Uncodified Ordinance Approving a First Amendment of a Development Agreement by and between the City of Commerce and New Earth, LLC, Commercial Cannabis Permit (CCP) **Development Agreement 718**, to 1) change the ownership of the business, 2) change the approved location of the business, and 3) adoption of a Notice of Exemption pursuant California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15301 (Existing Facilities).

**Project Description:** The proposed project includes a request to amend an existing Development Agreement that allows Commercial Cannabis Activities in order to: 1) change the ownership of the business, and 2) change the approved location of the business. The existing approved Development Agreement for this business allows Manufacturing, Cultivation, Non-Storefront Retail Delivery, and Distribution of commercial cannabis at 4220 East Washington Blvd., Commerce, CA 90040.

**Proposed Site Location:** 2827 Supply Ave., Commerce, California 90040

**Environmental Determination:** The proposed project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines Section 15301. The proposed project does not include any new construction beyond interior or exterior alterations involving such things as interior partitions, plumbing, and electrical conveyances, in accordance with CEQA Section 15301(a).

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF COMMERCE CITY COUNCIL

SAID PUBLIC HEARING MEETING: A virtual meeting will be held via Teleconference during a regular City Council hearing on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., at which time proponents and opponents of the amendment to Development Agreement 715 will be heard.

Further, in the interest of maintaining appropriate social distancing, and restricting gatherings of over ten (10) people, due to the health risks associated with COVID-19 pursuant to Federal, State and County orders, directives and/or guidelines, this meeting is closed to the public and will instead be streamed live, accessible at [www.ci.commerce.ca.us](http://www.ci.commerce.ca.us). Members of the public may participate telephonically by calling and submitting their comments at 323-887-4442, or may submit written comments through email at [cityclerk@ci.commerce.ca.us](mailto:cityclerk@ci.commerce.ca.us).

On March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency in California as a result of the threat of COVID-19. On March 17, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20 (superseding the Brown Act-related provisions of Executive Order N-25-20 issued on March 12, 2020), which allows a local legislative body to hold public meetings via teleconferencing and to make public meetings accessible telephonically or otherwise electronically to all members of the public seeking to observe and to address the local legislative body.

Per Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge the above-listed item in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing meeting and during the comment period described in this notice in written correspondence delivered to the city office, at, or prior to, the public hearing.

City Manager  
Edgar Cisneros

Published at Commerce Community News 3/26/21

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