



## NEW SLIDE AT SPLASH! BUCCANEER BAY

**LOOK OUT BELOW!** La Mirada is debuting its new water slide. Due to the pandemic it took about nine months to finish. The city is hoping to open by summer, but that depends on L.A. County health orders.

## Pop Up Vaccine Clinic in Hawaiian Gardens Until Sunday April 4



**SUPERVISOR HAHN** with a representative from Cal Fire, & ABCUSD Board President Sophia Tse at the opening of the clinic.

The clinic, organized by Supervisor Hahn, can vaccinate up to 500 people per day.

**BY TAMMYE MCDUFF**

LA Supervisor Janice Hahn joined with Cal OES, FEMA, ABC Unified School District and the city of Hawaiian Gardens to host a four day pop up vaccine clinic at new Hope Community Church.

“With a five person volunteer call center already in operation, and two Spanish speaking volunteers, we hope to be able to reach the entire community in Hawaiian Gardens,” said Dandy DePaula, “our volunteers have been working nonstop since Monday.”

Starting April 1, all residents 50 years of age and older will be eligible for vaccinations in California. The total population of Hawaiian Gardens is just above 14,000 residents and the latest available data shows that residents have a vaccination rate of 21 percent, a rate that is lower than most other cities in the County.

Hahn reported from April 1 to April 4, they will be vaccinating about 500 people a day, a total of 2,000 people in Hawaiian Gardens. “People are excited about getting their vaccine,” she

See **CLINIC** page 12

## You Tube Video: Central Basin Director Vasquez Calls Downey’s Water ‘Undrinkable’

Many statements in the video were called false and defamatory in a letter to Vasquez from the city’s attorney.

**BY BRIAN HEWS**

In a shocking video shot by a blog the name of which HMG-CN will refrain from publishing, controversial Central Basin Director Leticia Vasquez was seen accusing the city of Downey and their city-owned water company of pumping “undrinkable water” to the city’s residents.

The March 22, 2021 YouTube video blogger introduces Leticia Vasquez Wilson as a “water director in Southeast L.A. giving a tour of Downey’s water facilities helping us to understand troubling patterns of water contamination.”

Vasquez then shows a Feb. 2021 memo saying, “let me go through some of this water contamination which is really troubling.”

The memo stated that the city’s water had exceed the Notification Levels of 5.1 parts per million for

PFOA and 6.5 ppt for PFOS.

The memo also stated that the city’s water had not exceeded the Response Levels of 10 ppt for PFOA and 40 ppt for PFOS.

Response Levels are measured on a rolling four-quarter basis, taking the last four quarters and dividing those numbers by four.

But the cities memo stated, “these are the first quarter (2021) numbers, since only the first quarter sampling has been completed the other three quarters are considered to have zero values.”

“It is strange that the city didn’t count the last three quarters of 2020,” said one observer.

According to the well numbers on the memo, the PFOA

See **WATER** page 5

## La Mirada to Replace SCE Streetlights With LED

The city will replace over 3,000 lights using the program from So. Cal. Edison.

**BY TAMMYE MCDUFF**

Southern California Edison has introduced a new program to help cities replace the fixtures on SCE-owned streetlights with LED’s.

The light emitting diode fixtures are brighter and more energy efficient, which makes streets safer while providing a cost savings for the City. SCE replaced 3,000 streetlights in Covina with LED fixtures. The LED is one of today’s most energy efficient and rapidly developing lighting technologies, lasting longer than normal light bulbs and offer better light quality.

SCE began rolling out the LED program LS-1 Option E Tariff, in 2016, thus far seven cities – Baldwin Park, Covina, Fontana, Laguna Woods, La Palma, Rosemead, and Walnut

See **LED** page 12

## Mural in Downey Causing Controversy



**KOBE BRYANT** and Nipsey Hussle mural at the Dirt Dog Cafe in Downey on Firestone Blvd.

**BY TAMMYE MCDUFF**

A mural at a new restaurant in Downey is creating a controversy within the city, the City Council, and businesses adjacent to the restaurant.

The mural, commissioned by the owners of Dirt Dog, portrays Kobe Bryant and Nipsey Hussle, along with a human heart and a gang sign.

Downey prides themselves

See **LAKEWOOD** page 12

## Cerritos Council Considers Spending \$555,000 on Artwork

**BY BRIAN HEWS**

The Cerritos City Council, at its regular meeting, considered placing a \$550,000 piece of art inside the Cerritos Library, a piece that was considered by the council in 2001.

The artwork was commissioned by Chihuly Studio and was called Confetti with one large and three small pieces hanging from the ceiling.

The piece was nearly 2,500 pounds which would trigger a charge of \$40,000 just to install the piece.

Grace Hu questioned if the art piece was out of date,

See **CERRITOS** page 12



### Disturbing Sign

Part One crimes up 42% in Cerritos.  
Page 2.



### Centenarian

Lakewood resident & WWII veteran going strong.  
Page 3.



### Partnership

Kaiser inks agreement with Special Olympics.  
Page 4.



### Online Programs

Visit the Los Angeles Zoo online.  
Page 8-9.

### FIND THE LA MIRADA SPHINX!



### Reward Offered

Find the Sphinx stolen in 1958 for Rand's Ranch.  
Page 7.

# EXCLUSIVE: MUSD Fires Superintendent Anthony J. Martinez

BY BRIAN HEWS

In a special meeting this week, the Montebello Unified School District Board of Trustees fired embattled MUSD Superintendent Anthony J. Martinez.



For some, the release of Martinez was overdue given his constant disdain for policy and procedure.

In mid-2018, MUSD Chief of Police Linh Dinh resigned, just a few months after Martinez was appointed Superintendent.

Under California School District Codes and MUSD policies and procedures, the MUSD Police Chief position should have been advertised and offered to “ensure a fair and transparent hiring process.”

California Government Code Section 1031 also governs all peace officer appointments in the state, mandating that candidates must possess mandatory minimum standards before they can be appointed to a peace officer position in California.

But Martinez did not think any of those standards applied to him.

Sometime after Dinh left in 2018, without a formal hiring process and absent any qualifications as a peace officer, Martinez appointed himself MUSD Chief of Police.

For weeks Martinez was walking around telling everyone he was chief, allowed to appoint himself given his superintendent position.

As soon as the MUSD Personnel Commission learned of the appointment, the commission, led by Chairperson Charlie Pell, Vice-Chair Yvette Fimbres and member Fernando Chacon called for a hearing.

HMG-LCCN obtained the June 2019 MUSD Personnel Commission hearing and order wherein the Commission slammed Martinez for violating the California Education Code, the California Merit System, the rules of the MUSD Personnel Commission, and California Government Code Section 1031 for appointing himself MUSD Chief of Police.

In September 2019, HMG-CN reported that the Securities and Exchange Commission filed a complaint against former Montebello Unified Chief Business Officer Ruben Rojas alleging fraud, misleading investigators, defrauding bond purchasers, mail fraud, and assisting the MUSD with the ongoing fraud in the sale of municipal bonds in 2016.

The SEC also filed an order against MUSD Superintendent Martinez.

Those documents stated that, “Martinez signed one of the misleading bond offering documents, a misleading letter to LACOE, and false closing certificates that were provided to bond and disclosure counsel and the underwriters in connection with the

offering.”

Martinez was ordered to “cease and desist” on any matters concerning securities and paid a \$10,000 penalty.

In October 2019 HMG-CN exclusively obtained a lurid Government Code Complaint filed by Walther Medina against Martinez alleging sexual harassment, bribery, sexual assault and intimidation.

In March 2020, HMG-CN obtained financial documents that showed the Montebello Unified School District funneling thousands to the Montebello Teachers Association under a one-page lease agreement for a conference and

meeting center in Montebello.

The lease did not specify what the MUSD would be using the room for, only stating “for the use of the premises.”

According to property records, the MTA owns the building which is located at 920 W. Whittier Blvd., on the corner of Whittier and 10th St., in Montebello.

The lease agreement was signed by MTA President Doug Patzkowski, Executive Director Kathy Schlotz and MUSD Superintendent Martinez.

According to sources, the MUSD will immediately begin a search for a new superintendent.

## Cerritos Part 1 Crime Average up 42%, Man Hit by Car in Cerritos ID'd

BY BRIAN HEWS

A 46-year-old pedestrian who sadly lost his life after being struck by a vehicle has been identified as Luis Elenes, the coroner’s office reported.

The collision occurred around 8:15 p.m. Friday on Southbound 605 Freeway at the 91 Freeway in Cerritos.

Investigators are still trying to figure out the exact circumstances surrounding the deadly crash and offered no information on the vehicle that struck the individual

### Cerritos Crime

According to the week tracking report from the Cerritos Sheriff’s Station, the part one crime averages for 2020 and 2021 were 27.8 and 39.7 respectively. That indicates a 42% year-over-year increase for part one crimes. Total miscellaneous crimes are up 7% while

alarms calls and calls for service are down.

### Aggravated Assault

16400 blk Holmes - victim and suspect are in a relationship. suspect became upset when victim woke him up. Suspect grabbed victim’s throat and strangled her for about 5 seconds. Suspect then punched her in the face several times. suspect fled and was later arrested.

2700 blk Towne Center knife- victim is a security guard at the locaton, victim observed suspect removing trash bags from the trash cans looking for food. suspect was throwing unwanted items into the fountain. victim approached suspect and asked him to stop. Suspect became angry and pointed a knife at victim. suspect was arrested.

See CRIME page 14



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## Lakewood WWII Veteran Celebrates 100th Birthday



**CASPER "CAP" SIMPSON** was born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He fought in World War II and moved to Lakewood with his wife Geraldine in 1960.

**BY TAMMYE MCDUFF**

Family and friends helped Lakewood resident Casper Francis Simpson (known as "Cap") celebrate his 100th birthday with balloons, a car parade and a City of Lakewood proclamation presented by Mayor Todd Rogers on behalf of the City Council.

Casper was born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He fought in World War II and moved to Lakewood with

his wife Geraldine in 1960. Casper and Geraldine were married for 73 years until her passing in 2012. In addition to his two children, Patricia and Michael, Casper has five grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren.

Casper remains very active and independent...he recently passed his DMV test, enjoys gardening, walking his rescue dog and maintaining his own home.

## La Mirada Property Values Jump Eight Percent

Property values in La Mirada have grown by more than 8 percent during the past year according to a recent report by the Los Angeles County Assessor's Office. La Mirada's assessed value increase between 2019-20 and 2020-21 was \$575 million, and total citywide assessed value reached \$7.6 billion.

The increase in value is attributed

primarily to the Assessor's adjustment pursuant to Proposition 13 and re-assessments of properties that were sold during the past year. The new figures were part of the 2020 Assessment Roll released by the Assessor's Office. For additional information, contact the City's Economic Development Team at (562) 943-0131.

## Lakewood Council Discusses Housing Density

**BY BRIAN HEWS**

At their Tuesday evening meeting, the Lakewood City Council reviewed and approved the city's annual Legislative Platform that serves as a guide to supporting or opposing legislation at the county, state and federal levels that can impact the quality of life in Lakewood.

One priority of continuing concern for Lakewood is proposed legislation at the state level that would remove local control over how dense housing can be in a city and where it can go.

Some continuing proposals in

Sacramento would enable developers to put multiple houses on a single existing lot, thereby adding to parking issues and crowding in traditional single-family neighborhoods. Other state draft legislation would force cities to put lots of housing in commercial areas but without compensation for the loss of sales tax revenue that a community relies on from that property.

Lakewood officials said they support the creation of more housing...and has approved several new large housing projects in recent years...but with a

See **HOUSING** page 14

## Apply for Rental Assistance in Los Angeles

Starting Tuesday, Los Angeles renters can apply for up to \$10,000 in rent relief through the city's \$259 million COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

Got to [hcidla.lacity.org/](http://hcidla.lacity.org/) for rental assistance application information or call the ERAP hotline 833-373-0587

People can apply for the program between Tuesday and April 30.

This second round of rental assistance, approved by the City Council unanimously on March 2, uses federal and state government funding to help about 64,000 families pay off their owed rent, with \$235 million earmarked for rent assistance and \$3 million for eviction defense.

"The nice thing about this (program) is it goes backwards, it's from April 1 of last year to March 31 of this year, so it's

not just about paying a month of rent or two forward. It's about erasing that debt that is stressing out families today that wonder whether or not they will be able to make their rent, not just this month's rent," Mayor Eric Garcetti said during the program's announcement on March 23.

"Nobody should lose their home because of a pandemic ... nobody should be forced to wonder what it would be to join the numbers of Angelenos who are unhoused," he said.

The first round of assistance provided 49,133 rent subsidies totaling \$98.26 million, to help households that could not pay their rents due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The second round will focus on paying off households' past rent, with a maximum grant of \$10,000.



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- Hawaii:** FREE two-category Hertz Car Rental upgrade<sup>4</sup>
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<sup>1</sup>Exclusive Spring Sale Offer: Valid on new bookings made 03/01/2021 - 04/25/2021 for travel 04/01/2021 - 06/30/2021. All offers require a minimum-night stay at a participating hotel or resort; minimum-night stay varies by destination (see below for more details). Certain restrictions apply. Roundtrip airfare also required for Caribbean, Mexico and Hawaii vacations.  
<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.



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BY BRIAN HEWS

Kaiser Permanente and Special Olympics Southern California (SOSC) last week announced a renewed three-year partnership in which physicians and medical support staff will provide high-quality health education, medical support, consulting, and when athletes return to competition, sideline care.

With March recognized as National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, the Special Olympics movement serves a critically important role as it transforms communities by inspiring people throughout the world to open their minds, as well as accept and include people with intellectual disabilities.

Through its partnership with SOSC, Kaiser Permanente is engaging employees, physicians, members and communities in a deeper understanding and respect for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, as it shares the vision to improve the health of communities across Southern California, where it serves 4.7 million members.

"People with intellectual disabilities are one of the largest and most medically underserved populations," said Julie Miller-Phipps, president, Kaiser Permanente Southern California and Hawaii, Health Plan and Hospitals. "We want to ensure that they have access to the services, education and resources needed to help them thrive during these trying times. We believe strongly in inclusiveness and want to shatter many of the disadvantages Special Olympics athletes face to help them achieve their dreams."

As part of the agreement, Kaiser Permanente will work closely with SOSC to help pave the way for a safe return to in-person activities.

Dr. Aaron Rubin will remain as

## Kaiser & So. Cal. Special Olympics Renew Partnership



Photo by Jason Refuerzo

**TEAM CERRITOS** at the Special Olympics Southern California 2019 Fall Games at the Fountain Valley Recreation Center & Sports Park, Fountain Valley.

SOSC's Chief Medical Officer. During the pandemic, he advised SOSC athletes on how to protect their health and educated their families on ways to stay safe. As part of the new three-year agreement, Dr. Rubin will oversee approximately 40 Southern California Permanente Medical Group physicians and medical support staff at SOSC competitions, providing ongoing sideline medical care to the athletes, and virtual health initiatives.

"Our physicians look forward to safeguarding these awe-inspiring Special Olympics athletes with the highest standard of medical expertise and sideline care," Dr. Rubin said. "We are committed to empowering these driven athletes to find new abilities, joy, and fulfillment,

along with inspiring people throughout the world to accept and include those with intellectual disabilities."

Dr. Ramin Davidoff, executive medical director of the Southern California Permanente Medical Group, said this agreement is another example of Kaiser Permanente's commitment to health equity, diversity and community involvement.

"We look forward to a continued fruitful relationship in which our doctors can support a very important population segment in our communities who deserve nothing but the best medical care we can provide," he said. "We view our continued relationship with SOSC as another example of our commitment to creating healthier communities across our region."

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## Vons Chicken Opens in La Mirada

BY BRIAN HEWS

Vons Chicken is a new popular chain restaurant that recently opened in La Mirada at 12740 La Mirada Blvd.

Vons is best known for its Korean style fried chicken and classic deep-fried chicken.

It also serves oven-baked chicken for those looking for a healthier alternative. According to manager Elenora Hwang, a couple of the favorites include the crispy fried chicken and the crispy yangnyum chicken.

Customers also enjoy trying the variety of styles and flavors the restaurant offers. Von's is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11 am to 8:30 p.m. Lunch specials are offered Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with generous portions for \$9.99.

## Free Paper Shred Day in La Palma

Neighbors and community members are welcome to join the free Paper Shred Day on Saturday, April 17, 2021, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at La Palma Intercommunity Hospital at 7901 Walker Street La Palma.

All services will be provided free of charge. Bring your confidential old documents to be shredded and disposed of safely and securely. Please remember to remove all paper clips, staples, and other bindings.

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# Downey Mayor's Corner : Downey Offers Continued COVID Relief

BY MAYOR CLAUDIA FROMETA

It is hard to believe we are at the end of the first quarter of 2021. The City is greatly encouraged by the downward trend in positive Covid-19 cases. According to the most current numbers provided by L.A. County Public Health as of March 12th, 22.13% of Downey's population has been vaccinated. The County reported there are over 633,000 appointment slots available, with enough doses for about 280,000 appointments. We are hopeful there will be an increase in the supply to allow for more vaccinations. For more information visit [www.VaccinateLACounty.com](http://www.VaccinateLACounty.com). Vaccinations are always free and open to eligible residents and workers regardless of immigration status.

The City of Downey joined SoCalGas Co., CEO Scott Drury, and Senator Bob Archuleta to make a historic announcement. The first H2 Hydrogen Home demonstration house in the nation will be built here in Downey. The City's motto is 'Future Unlimited' and with our history being rich in aviation and space exploration, Downey will be first city in the country to further the development of green hydrogen.

There have been alarming allegations claiming Downey is not transparent with its residents regarding water conditions. These statements are without evidence to support their claims. Currently, there are no federal or state standards regulating PFOA and PFOS. Recently, the State

Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water issued a general monitoring order requiring agencies to sample their drinking water. The purpose of this order is to collect data that will eventually be used to establish Public Health Goals and Maximum Contaminant Levels for these substances. Presently none of the city's wells have exceeded the response levels and they are being monitored on a quarterly basis.

Due to the increase in thefts, our Downey Police Department in partnership with Titan Tow will be holding a catalytic converter etching event. Free to Downey residents. The event is scheduled for Saturday, April 11, 2021 beginning at 8:00 a.m. at 11911 Woodruff Avenue. Advanced registration is required. Please contact Downey PD to register.

Mark your calendars, for our Virtual Town Hall scheduled for Thursday,

April 22, at 5:30 pm. More information and details will be forthcoming. As promised, the second food distribution for our community members impacted by Covid-19 will be held Friday, April 16, at the L.A. County Library grounds on Imperial Highway.

There has been much discussion regarding an LGBTQ Picnic, discussed at our last Council meeting. I want to make it clear that this is not a right vs. left issue. This is about spending residents' tax dollars on an event for a specific group. Many would point out to our Día De Los Muertos celebration or even the Havana Rooftop event as Downey highlighting a 'specific' group, and I would argue that these events have been city-wide events that have promoted the arts, music, and culture of a country/region, not a specific group. These events promoted the richness of culture, arts

and music, unifying our community. The City has supported various causes such as Cancer awareness; TLC's 5K Walk, the ARC Walk, Gangs Out of Downey Backpack giveaways, however, these events have not been paid for by the City of Downey.

Through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, the city has been able to facilitate rental assistance to those most affected by the pandemic. Funding has made it possible for our city to extend the emergency rental assistance program. There are pre-requisites to qualify for this financial aid. Applicants must live in the City of Downey; have suffered hardship due to Covid-19, the loss of a job, a reduction of hours in pay or furloughed. New applicants that qualify and go through the process will automatically receive three month's rental assistance. Please contact the Community Development office at 562.299.6706 or visit [www.downeyca.org](http://www.downeyca.org)

Repaving, resurfacing various segments and neighborhoods in our city will continue following the city's street management plan and budget allocations.

*Thank you for allowing me to serve you. Do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions at 562.904.7274 or email me at [CFrometa@Downeyca.org](mailto:CFrometa@Downeyca.org)*

## WATER from page 1

ppt's were above Response Levels of 10 ppt in almost every well; the PFOS were above Response Levels of 40 ppt in only a couple wells.

"We are working to bring attention to this particular issue, our citizens deserve to have clean safe water that is drinkable, and unfortunately it's not drinkable."

The video then showed pictures of the entire Downey City Council with Vasquez adding, "we demand our Mayor and City Councilmembers take action to clean up our local water supply."

Vasquez does not live in Downey and the question of why Vasquez, the elected director of a water agency that Downey buys water from, is running around Downey with a little known blogger calling Downey's water undrinkable is extremely irregular.

Although the numbers are alarming, the water is certainly not undrinkable with state law mandating the water agency notify the state and list actions it will take to correct the situation.

Downey lawyers felt the same way and fired off a letter to the blogger calling the video and statements false and defamatory.

The memo also called out Vasquez for implying she was a Downey water official, "the implication is that Ms. Vasquez Wilson works for a regulatory body that oversees Downey's water supply, anybody watching would believe Ms. Vasquez Wilson was speaking as a member of this "oversight" organization.

Furthermore, Ms. Vasquez Wilson was not giving a tour of Downey's water facilities. She was standing outside of locked gates, she was not authorized to enter the Downey facilities, and to state she was giving a "tour" was a false statement designed to mislead viewers, especially in conjunction with the implication that Ms. Vasquez Wilson is from a regulatory agency."

In regards to the response levels the California's Health Code states that when water PFOA and PFOS exceeds the Notification it does not pose a significant

health risk but warrants notification. Notification levels are established as precautionary measures.

Above Response level and the agency or city must take additional steps to reduce exposure, such as filtering.

But the Code makes clear that the water is not undrinkable.

"You have published false statements on your YouTube video stating that the City's water source contains PFOA and PFOS at levels that exceed State standards. By doing this, you are injuring the City in its ability to provide services to the City's residents and creating unnecessary panic and fear in residents."

The City's lawyers then asked for an immediate retraction and removal of the video.

Vasquez' actions were not condoned nor authorized by the Central Basin Board, and when the video was brought to the agency's attention by HMG-CN, Board President Art Chacon sent a statement to HMG-CN:

"We received notice that a video was published online by Leticia Vasquez-Wilson regarding the City of Downey and their water quality. We have asked our general counsel to review the video and want to state unequivocally that we do not condone, approve or support Ms. Vasquez-Wilson's decision to publish the video. We would like to state very clearly that the Central Basin Municipal Water District values the City of Downey as a customer and we believe they are in full compliance with the established state drinking water quality standards. The Central Basin Municipal Water District was established to protect groundwater resources by providing imported water as a source of replenishment and as a supplemental water resource for our service area. We are committed to work with our customers on local resource development, expansion of recycled water, improving imported water access across our service area and providing secondary support for groundwater treatment if/when necessary".

LOS CERRITOS

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## Additional Information on the Rental of Mulliken Bldg.

FROM CERRITOS

A few weeks ago, HMG-CN reported that the Mulliken building on 183rd was leased. The city provided additional information in the monthly newsletter.

The Cerritos City Council recently authorized leasing of the City-owned property located at 12616 183rd Street for general business purposes to Eminent Inc., DBA Revolve Clothing company. The property was purchased by the City in 2001.

PCN3, Inc. of Los Alamitos was awarded a \$7,498,156 contract to perform improvements on the site prior to occupancy of the property by Revolve Clothing.

The project consists of reconstructing the exterior of the existing 33,250-square-foot, two-story building as well as portions of its interior, including plumbing, mechanical, electrical, sheet rock, flooring, ceiling, paint and finishes, glazing and roof reconstruction and the design and construction of fire alarm and sprinkler systems.

The work also includes irrigation and landscape construction. Approximately \$6.3 million in one-time revenues from the sale of the City's former museum collection and insurance claim settlements will be used to offset the construction costs.

The City also reached a 25-year agreement with El Dorado Park Community Church, which owns the adjacent property at 18422 Bloomfield Avenue, regarding access easement and parking spaces.

## Downey Commemorates Vietnam War Veterans Day



MAYOR CLAUDIA FROMETA and the Downey City Council were joined by local veterans for the placement of floral wreaths at the Vietnam War Memorial.

### STAFF REPORT

The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017 was signed into law March of that same year, designating March 29th as National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

This day recognizes United States military veterans who served during the Vietnam War from November 1, 1955 to April 30, 1975. The Act calls upon our nation to observe this day with programs, ceremonies, or activities that commemorate the end of the Vietnam War.

Mayor Claudia Frometa and the Downey City Council were joined by local veterans for the placement of floral wreaths at the Vietnam War Memorial. "National Vietnam War Veterans Day is a day for us to remember and appreciate all of our Vietnam heroes and their families, who sacrificed their lives to serve our country and protect our freedoms."

The Downey Vietnam War Memorial, a

bronze sundial mounted on a pedestal and reinstalled recently at the Downey Civic Center, bears the names of 23 Downey residents who fought and lost their lives in Vietnam: Michael N. Andersen, Steven P. Barnett, Robert R. Bohler, Michael Cheroff, Ronald H. Chilcott, Pablo Duran, Daniel E. Eckenrode, Johnny L. Edwards, Juan Garay Garcia, Wayne C. Harmon, Neil E. Harvey, James C. Houghton, Charles W. Koontz, Jr., Charles Lauer, Durand G. Liggett, John E. Lortz III, Jon L. Messer, Donald M. Munden, Steven C. Patterson, Robert A. Thompson, James D. Valov, Danny E. Ward, Clifford L. Whipple.

Mayor Pro Tem Blanca Pacheco added, "Our veterans embody the values and ideals our nation was founded on, and it is important for us to come together to pay homage to each individual and the loved ones they left behind."

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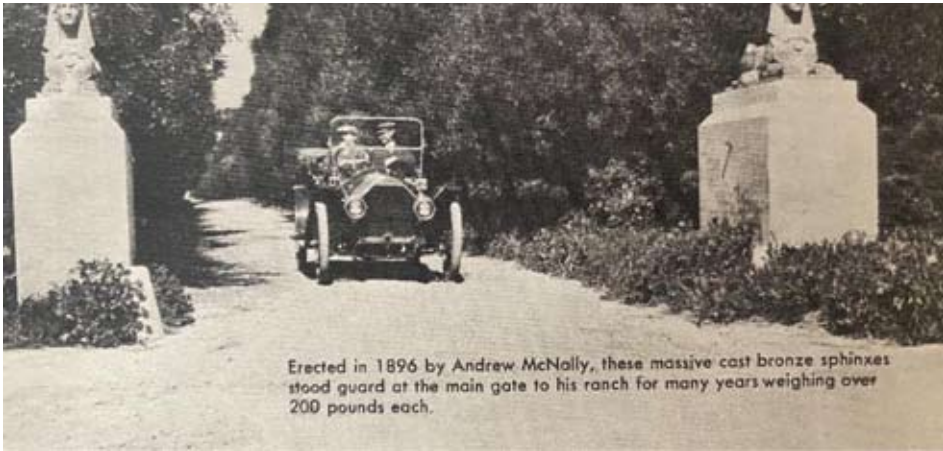
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<sup>2</sup>Using U.S. and imported parts.

## REWARD : FIND THE SPHINX AND WIN \$200!



Erected in 1896 by Andrew McNally, these massive cast bronze sphinxes stood guard at the main gate to his ranch for many years weighing over 200 pounds each.

**ERECTED IN 1896** two of the greatest landmarks the city treasured were stolen in Feb. 1958. The giant Sphinx guarded the gates of Andrew McNally's original ranch were stolen from their storage place in La Mirada. The La Mirada Lamplighter reported on the theft.

### BY TAMMYE MCDUFF

In February 1958, the La Mirada Lamplighter newspaper printed an article that two of the greatest landmarks the city treasured had gone missing. Two giant Sphinx, that guarded the gates of Andrew McNally's original ranch were stolen from their storage place in the office of the old Olive Factory on Stage Road.

Bill Neff who once owned them said he had no idea where they could have gone, "I sold the land rights to Harold Shaw, initial La Mirada developer and Charles Robinson." The two men were the owners of the La Mirada Water Company at the time, and they had made the decision for the Sphinx to be donated to the community.

Shaw and Robinson allegedly promised Neff that they would stay in the city and were to be stored for safe keeping.

The two giant bronze statues had been landmarks on the old Windemere Ranch since the late 1800's when they were used at the entrance to the ranch, a spot that is

now Biola Avenue and Stage Road.

The newspaper clipping stated Neff did not know how long they had been missing, "Jack George, caretaker of the Neff estate, reported them missing."

Fast forward to March 2021. With the launch of the official book 'History of La Mirada' being released this month, March 29, co-author Raymond Fernandez in a discussion with La Mirada Mayor John Lewis have hatched a plan...a Treasure Hunt.

No one knows for certain where these two bronze Sphinx, weighing 200 pounds each, have gone. Fernandez stated "Who knows where it could lead. I have a few ideas, it would be nice to have them back home and in their rightful place."

If anyone has clues or information leading to this hunt for irreplaceable treasure, contact La Mirada Lamplighter Online Editor Tammye McDuff or Raymond Fernandez at [FindTheSphinx2021@gmail.com](mailto:FindTheSphinx2021@gmail.com)

Let Hunt Begin!

## New Property Tax Laws Go Into Effect April 1

### STAFF REPORT

Proposition 19 was approved by California voters during the November 3rd election and makes significant changes to Constitutional provisions regarding property tax rules. Some of these changes have already gone into effect and others will go into effect April 1st.

Here's what you need to know:

#### Seniors & Disabled

Proposition 19 will allow those over the age of 55, the severely disabled, and victims of a natural disaster, such as a fire, flood or earthquake, to transfer their current property assessment and the property tax basis when they sell their home and buy a new one. Eligible homeowners can now purchase a new home of any value anywhere in the state and take their lower property tax basis with them. Further, it allows them to transfer their tax basis up to three times. For many seniors who were reluctant to move and risk higher property taxes, Prop. 19 will provide an opportunity to upgrade or downsize in the California community of choice.

#### Inheritance of Family Property

If you are to inherit a family property

from your parents, Prop. 19 limits some tax benefits that previously existed. Under the previous law, parents could pass-down a family property to their children and the assessed value for property tax purposes would remain unchanged. This translated to valuable property tax savings for many working and middle-income families.

Now, only a parent's principal residence may be transferred to their children, and that home must then become the child's principal residence within one-year of the transfer. If these conditions are not met, the home will be reassessed to market value and the property taxes may increase.

#### Legislation still needed

Prop. 19 still requires clarification by the State Legislature to clarify and address ambiguities in the new law in order to avoid confusion and uneven application of practices across the state. I am working to advance legislation to address these issues.

Senate Bill 539, authored by Senators Bob Hertzberg, Mike McGuire, and Ben Allen, aims to clarify several key points that are essential for the fair administration of the law, but the legislation only addresses a portion of what is needed to implement the entirety of Prop. 19 and additional legislation is still needed.

#### Have questions about Prop. 19?

Check out the assessor's website where you can find FAQs, a link to our recent informational webinar, factsheets, and more.



## Freedom Christian Center 1,000 Easter Baskets Give Away

Whittier ~ Freedom Christian Center will give away 1,000 baskets as part of its annual Kid's Easterland event. The free event will be held in Whittier and feature an egg hunt and a photo opportunity with the Easter Bunny.

"Freedom is excited to provide an environment where kids can enjoy the Easter festivities," said lead Pastor Jason Lozano. "We're delighted to be able to give away 1,000 Easter Baskets and to continue to serve families in the surrounding communities."

Additionally, Freedom's creative arts team will present The Hope of Glory, a live production focused on the life and crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

"We invite everyone to come check out Easter weekend at Freedom," said Pastor Jason.

The event will take place at Freedom Christian Center's Whittier Church located at 6355 Greenleaf Ave. in Whittier.

Kid's Easterland will take place on April 3 at 4 p.m and 6 p.m. and April 4 at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

The Hope of Glory live production will have a Good Friday showing on April 2 at 7 p.m., a Saturday night showing on April 3 at 4 p.m and 6 p.m., and Easter showings at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

For more information visit [go2freedom.org](http://go2freedom.org) or Freedom Christian Center's Instagram page @go2fcc.

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[Sucasadv.org](http://Sucasadv.org)



Funded in part by the City of Cerritos.

# Los Angeles Zoo's 'Walk for the Wild' virtual fundraiser on Earth Day, April 22

Photos by Jamie Pham

The virtual global fitness trek will take participants around the world where they will learn about some of the animals that reside at the L.A. Zoo.

BY LAURIE HANSON

**T**ake a walk on the wild side for animal conservation at the Los Angeles Zoo's "Walk for the Wild," virtual fundraiser from Earth Day, April 22 to Endangered Species Day, May 21.

"Conservation is at the core of what we do here at the L.A. Zoo, and we know the Los Angeles community is excited to

get moving for a worthy cause," said Tom Jacobson, president of the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association (GLAZA), who joined the organization in 2019.

"This virtual global fitness trek will take participants around the world where they will learn about some of the animals that reside at the L.A. Zoo, and [our] work to help save various species," he explained. "It is fun, educational, and you can do any fitness activity of your choosing to help propel you around the world to meet fundraising goals. Funds raised will support the L.A. Zoo conservation initiatives as well as provide key GLAZA program support for fundraising, membership, volunteer programs, marketing, and publications."

The L.A. Zoo and Botanical Gardens reopened to the public and GLAZA members on Feb. 16 after the statewide COVID-19 regional Stay at Home Order closed their gates on Dec. 7, 2020. They have taken several safety measures conforming with Los Angeles County Department of Public Health protocols including limiting guest capacity, timed-ticketed entry, closure of indoor and high-touch spaces,



es, required face coverings, set up hand sanitizing stations, and are providing social distancing with one-way walkways and signage throughout their grounds.

"With limited visitor capacity, our guests have plenty of room to spread out and maintain a safe and healthy distance while exploring [our] expansive grounds," Jacobson said.

The L.A. Zoo normally draws more than 1.8 million visitors a year. It is home to 1,400 animals who represent 270 different species, 58 of which are considered endangered. All the animals are at home on 133 acres of flourishing vegetative grounds that has a wide variety of plants from California and around the world with many considered rare and endangered.

Set in the heart of Griffith Park, the L.A. Zoo has more than 130 acres of land devoted to the

pleasure, observation and education of its animals and grounds. The L.A. Zoo works globally and with other organizations for animal welfare and conservation, helping endangered species such as the California Condor, the Asian Elephant, Western Lowland Gorillas, and Peninsula Pronghorn, to name but a few. The L.A. Zoo's conservation outreach efforts extend from the North, Central and South Americas overseas to parts of Europe, Africa, India, and Southeast Asia.

One conservation story which parallels that of the L.A. Zoo itself is that of the world's oldest known California Condor named "Topatopa" or "Topa". In 2016, the L.A. Zoo celebrated its 50th anniversary, the same year Topa turned 50 years old. The L.A. Zoo has been his home ever since he was discovered as a malnourished fledgling. Since around that time, California Condors

**BABY GORILLA**  
Angela, one of the endangered species the L.A. Zoo is working to save.

have been brought back from the brink of total extinction where only 22 were left remaining. But over the years, their population has grown up to more than 520, with most living in protected wilderness areas. With the help of L.A. Zoo partners such as the Ventana Wildlife Society in Monterey, their numbers continue to grow. The L.A. Zoo's California Condor Recovery Program also evolved alongside Topia, through the hands-on experience and shared knowledge they obtained alongside with other conservation organizations, according to [www.lazoo.org](http://www.lazoo.org).

Another example of organizational conservation cooperation is evident in how the L.A. Zoo brought back the Peninsula Pronghorn from the brink of extinction. With the combined efforts of the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens and San Diego Zoo Global, led by the Mexican NGO Espacios Naturales, the L.A. Zoo provided funding and acquired permits to transfer pronghorns from Mexico to the U.S. They also cared for them during their yearlong quarantine after the move. In 2000, there was only 28 pronghorns in existence. But

**A PENINSULA PRONGHORN**  
with its mom. Through efforts of the L.A. Zoo and Mexico, the pronghorn roams freely in areas not seen since before the endangered declaration.

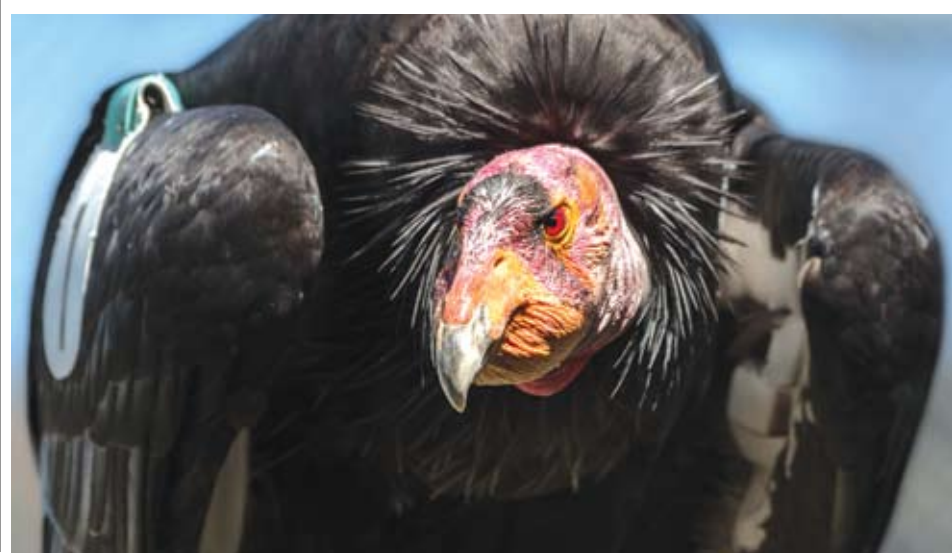
since then, their population has increased and they are now roaming areas that they have not been in decades, according to [www.lazoo.org](http://www.lazoo.org).

Half a world away, the L.A. Zoo is also now working with the Gorilla Rehabilitation and Education Center (GRACE) in the Democratic Republic of Congo in Africa to develop tracking devices following their release back into the wild. In yet another partnership, this time with the NGO Wildlife Protection Solutions, the L.A. Zoo is helping develop an anti-poaching volunteer program to protect the Asian Elephant, according to [www.lazoo.org](http://www.lazoo.org).

Closer to home and offered on their website to anyone from anywhere of any age is the L.A. Zoo's online educational opportunities. "Whether exploring the Zoo by way of virtual a fieldtrip, or spending some time observing the animals and their habitats, there are fun and engaging programs that the community can participate in from anywhere at any time," Ja-

cobson said. Looking to the future, the City of Los Angeles has a modernization project in mind that would include a comprehensive redesign and redevelopment of the L.A. Zoo to replace outdated buildings, infrastructure and upgrade animal care and guest amenities. Exhibit space and animal habitats would be improved as well as access roads, walkways, and paths with an enhance entryway and plaza with new parking facilities, according to the Los Angeles Vision Plan/Bureau of Engineering, [www.lacity.org](http://www.lacity.org).

The L.A. Zoo is supported by the private, nonprofit Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association (GLAZA) in partnership with the City of Los Angeles. For more information about the L.A. Zoo, how to become a member of GLAZA, to participate in Walk for the Wild or join their other virtual annual fundraiser, the "Beastly Ball," on for June 5, please visit online at [www.lazoo.org](http://www.lazoo.org).



**TOPA**, known as the world's oldest California Condor, is 55 years old and has been with the L.A. Zoo since it first opened.



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BY LOREN KOPFF

@LORENKOPFF ON TWITTER

The long and overdue wait for Cerritos High first-year head football coach Brad Carter was worth it, even if it was 13 unpredictable and unprecedented months. Carter was hired last February and had roughly a month to meet with his new team in person before conducting team activities online.

It is said that patience is a virtue and getting back on the gridiron paid off for Carter and Dons Nation as Cerritos blasted host John Glenn High 56-0 last Friday night in the season opener for both teams. The win snapped a 19-game league losing streak that dated back to Oct. 29, 2015 when the Dons defeated Glenn 22-16 at Excelsior Stadium. The 56-0 decision was the largest margin of victory for Cerritos in any league game since Nov. 7, 2003 when the Dons blanked Glenn 44-0.

"Yes, it was awesome," Carter said. "The kids played great; we're all very excited just how they showed up. It was a long wait but worth it."

Cerritos had previously hit the 50-point mark in league competition twice, but not since Nov. 14, 2003 in a 57-24 win at Artesia High. The other occurrence was a 51-6 decision against Glenn on Oct. 19, 2001. In addition, Cerritos had scored at least 55 points in four non-league games since 1999.

The Dons scored on all six of their first half possessions, including four in the first quarter on 16 plays. Junior running back Connor DeFrain rushed on all four plays of the opening possession for 45 yards, capped by a two-yard run less than two minutes into the game. Following a three and out, it took Cerritos three plays to make it 14-0 as junior quarterback David Sagun scored from nine yards out.

The sixth play of the game from Glenn turned into an interception by senior defensive back Nick De Giuseppe and four plays later, DeFrain scampered 47 yards for another touchdown. That would be the last time he touched the ball and led everyone with 92 yards on five carries.

The performance by DeFrain and the rest of the offense impressed Glenn first-year head coach David Cruz, who said Cerritos was bigger and stronger up front and that Glenn was inexperienced in its offensive line. He added that the blitzing of Cerritos also created havoc for Glenn's offense.

"The offensive line played fantastic," Carter said. "They really opened up some huge holes. Connor is a big, strong, fast running back. He's kind of a quiet kid but he is a strong dude and I think he'll be a name to remember for the next couple of years."

While the Dons were piling up 168



Photo by Armando Vargas, Contributing photographer

## 605 LEAGUE FOOTBALL

## Cerritos takes frustration of league futility out on John Glenn in rare shutout victory

yards in the first quarter alone, the Eagles were having problems just getting started, running 14 plays and gaining negative 14 yards. It didn't get much better in the second quarter, where the running clock began, as the Eagles punted on the first play of the stanza, then ran four plays going for three yards.

"They didn't get down on themselves; they didn't get totally discouraged," Cruz said. "You could see a little tension in their face at times. But for the most part, they kept the positive attitude, and that's something we can build on."

"We've only been practicing for three and a half weeks," he continued. "And we haven't put in a lot of plays, both offensively and defensively. The boys surprised me and stepped up and I was extremely proud of that. We're just lacking fundamentals because we didn't have time to work on those as much as we would like."

Cerritos needed only seven plays in two second quarter possessions to score two more touchdowns. First, senior running back Andrew Ramos snuck in from a yard out. Then after a bad snap on fourth down gave Cerritos the ball at the Glenn 29-yard line, junior Mateo Martinez ended the half with a 19-yard run and a 42-0 halftime lead. While the Dons were adding 74 yards to its offensive total, the Eagles crossed midfield once, aided by a personal foul penalty, but got only to the Cerritos 44-yard line. Glenn had three false start penalties, were called

offsides twice and had a delay of game infraction, all in the first half.

"As far as positives, most of it is the attitudes," Cruz said. "The guys are hungry to come back, they're hungry to get better, they're hungry to learn. But I wish we could get in the weight room. It doesn't help that they only lifted weights two days in the last year and a half and we only practiced the last month."

"We weren't overconfident," Carter said. "I think we knew the first game of the year there were going to be some mistakes, and there was on both sides. But I just thought the kids played great. They played hard and that's all we could ask for."

It wouldn't get much better for the Eagles in the second half, even when Cerritos was putting in its reserves. Glenn gained a yard on its opening drive, but its defense forced the Dons to punt for the first time. However, on Glenn's second possession of the half, Cerritos senior Moises Vargas returned a punt 30 yards for a touchdown. Another turnover would lead to the last score of the game, an 18-yard run from junior Erick Louie III.

"They played really fast," Carter said. "From offense to defense to special teams, they were just really fast. And obviously, inside the run box, [the] O-line [and] D-line looked really tough, which was exciting for us. But the speed really stood out. So that's exciting; we have a lot of speed on the team."

**CERRITOS HIGH** junior running back Connor DeFrain was a key force in his team's 56-0 opening-season victory over John Glenn High last Friday night. In the first quarter alone, DeFrain rushed for 92 yards on five carries and scored twice.

Cerritos used seven ball carriers to gain 239 yards on 20 carries and Sagun completed five of eight passes for 68 yards. Meanwhile, Glenn was able to get one yard on 14 rushes and senior quarterback Matthew Huxtable completed three passes for 18 yards.

"When you're in football long enough, you're in a lot of wins and a lot of losses," Carter said. "I've been on both sides. Obviously, Glenn has a bright future, and they have some really good young athletes over there. Covid has affected a lot of schools differently. So, I think they're going to finish the season strong. I know it's nice to be on this side of it, but we also have to be respectful because...don't get too cocky because the other side's not too far away. We have to stay humble."

However, the score wasn't the only issue for the Eagles. Cruz said that Huxtable bruised his knee and might not be able to play for Glenn's second game of the season, which was scheduled for Apr. 1 at Pioneer High. He added that junior center Gabriel Pasillas is going to be day to day, sophomore Manuel Sigala might be in concussion protocol and sophomore right cornerback Emanuel Enriquez got his hand stepped on and might have fractured a bone or two.

"I'm extremely concerned because we lost maybe three or four players for [the Pioneer] game and we suited up maybe 26 for today and we lose four of our quality players," Cruz said. "I have concerns about being able to participate next week."

"If we lose quality players, now I'm having to put freshmen in there and it could be like this again," Cruz later predicted. "And if I lose four more next week...I mean, it's not fair to those kids to put them in. But Pioneer and Artesia, I have heard that they have been struggling like we have and unable to practice. But I'm still really concerned because we're so small and we're so young."

Cerritos was scheduled to host Artesia on Apr. 1 and Pioneer on Apr. 9. After that, it's yet to be determined if the Dons will pick up a non-league game for the final week of the season, which is Apr. 15-17.

"It's going to be a short week, but I think these kids are ready for the challenge," Carter said. "605 League competition has not been good to Cerritos High School in the past, and they're very excited to change the narrative on that."



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We are grateful for those who have our back in this important time. The list is long, but we want to thank our first responders and front-line workers.

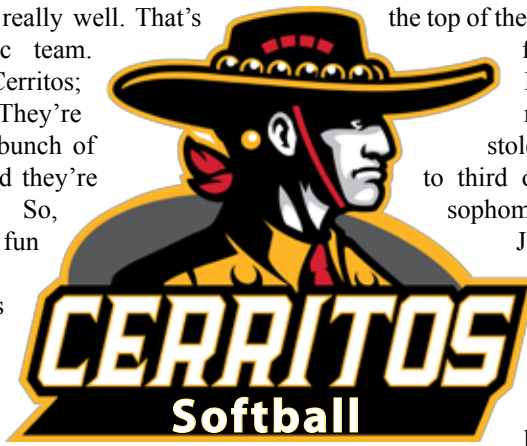
**Especially in critical times, newspapers have your back.** COVID-19 is a national story that is impacting you at home and at work. Your local newspaper is keeping you informed with current events in your neighborhood and is bringing communities together in these challenging times.

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 torments second straight opponent with stellar hitting, pitching

BY LOREN KOPFF  
@LORENKOPFF ON TWITTER



What a difference a year makes, even if last season was only a few weeks old. When Cerritos High hosted Norwalk High on Thursday, Mar. 5, 2020, the Lady Dons were staring at an 0-5 mark. That didn't last as they knocked off the previously 6-2 Lady Lancers by a 3-1 count with solo tallies in the bottom of the fourth, fifth and sixth innings.

Norwalk wouldn't play again, and Cerritos would play one more game before the pandemic forced everything to stop. Fast forward to this season and while there will be a season with league games to come, it's Cerritos which is off to a good start, albeit two games, while Norwalk is facing the prospects of a challenging season with a young, inexperienced squad. It showed this past Tuesday afternoon as the Lady Dons shutout their former Suburban League rivals 10-0 behind a no-hitter from junior Erin Gibbs.

"Literally, we've had three weeks of real practice with two games in there," said Cerritos first-year head coach Todd Denhart. "I've watched these kids play for the last couple of years, but I don't know them. I've just watched from the other side of the fence. We've got a good group of kids. They work hard and I only see us getting better."

"That actually made everything really exciting," said Norwalk head coach David Gonzalez on facing Cerritos almost 13 months since the last meeting. "That was a fun game to play in last year even though we lost. That pitcher has given us a lot of problems over these last couple of years and she's just impressive to watch. And

our girls played really well. That's a super athletic team. It's fun to play Cerritos; it always is. They're chock full of a bunch of good athletes and they're always scrappy. So, it's always a fun game."

Cerritos (2-0) went to work early with four runs in the bottom of the first inning.

Junior shortstop Jadya Nielsen walked, stole second and scored on a two-out single from senior first baseman Samiya Jones. Two pitches later and after Jones had advanced on a wild pitch, she came home on a single from junior third baseman MaKayla Sur. Gibbs would follow with a base hit, which plated Sur and on a full count, senior center fielder Lauren Lejano doubled to drive in Gibbs.

That would be more than enough for Gibbs, who allowed two hits the previous week at Valley Christian High.

Gibbs retired the first five batters she faced before hitting junior designated player Brianna Perez on the first pitch. In

the top of the third inning, Norwalk freshman first baseman Itzel Hernandez reached on an error, stole second and moved to third on a groundout from sophomore shortstop Leilani Juan. After working a perfect top of the fourth inning, Gibbs would allow four baserunners, none of whom got past first base.

"She's throwing strikes; she's getting ahead in the count early and what we always talk about is when you get ahead in the count, the plate gets wider," Denhart said. "When you get behind in the count, the plate shrinks as far as the hitter is concerned. She's getting ground balls and for the most part, we're fielding them. That's exactly how I drew it up six months ago."

Offensively, Cerritos continued to batter a trio of Norwalk pitchers the same way it did the two V.C. pitchers. In that game, the Lady Dons collected 14 hits and against Norwalk, they produced another 13 with Lejano, Nielsen and Sur all getting a pair of hits. Cerritos would score twice in the

bottom of the third on a double from Lejano, one in the fourth on an infield single from junior second baseman Katelyn Caneda, one in the fifth when Nielsen scored on a two-out error and the final two in the sixth when Nielsen was walked with the bases loaded, which scored senior pinch hitter Rachel Aragon and freshman pinch hitter Kylee Manibusan's first strike base hit to center, plating senior pinch hitter Leilani Pina.

"I know two of those pitchers were freshmen kids for Norwalk, which bodes well for them for the next three years after this year," Denhart said. "Obviously, it was better pitching than our first game than we faced. But I thought we took some good swings up and down the lineup."

Cerritos hosted Cajon High on April 1 and will be off until entertaining St. Joseph High on Apr. 13 while the Lady Lancers, who dropped to 1-3 and have been outscored 30-1 in their losses, visited city rival John Glenn High on Apr. 1 before taking the next 12 days off until travelling to Schurr High.

"We're really taking the non-league schedule as a time to see what rotation pieces we have; what roles people can fill, and that's something we're able to do," Gonzalez said. "We got some innings from our primary shortstop, Leilani Juan. She pitched some innings there. That's a good team there, so for somebody that doesn't get regular pitching time is not going to be the easiest situation. But she gave us some good innings there."

## Cerritos cross country girls come out on top again in final 605 League cluster meet

BY LOREN KOPFF  
@LORENKOPFF ON TWITTER

The 605 League may not officially crown any team champions this season, but that still doesn't change the fact that the Cerritos High girls cross country still reigns supreme for the short season. Including the time trials, the Lady Dons won for the third consecutive time in as many Saturdays, picking up 15 points in the final cluster meet of the season.

As was the case with the previous two races, senior Sofia Vasquez and sophomore Sydney Romero were the two fastest runners with times of 19:41 and 21:47 respectively, both season highs. Senior Samantha Chang was fifth at 22:23 while sophomore Sofia Padilla finished two spots later at 23:34. The final two Cerritos runners, who came in 11th and 15th respectively, were juniors Tara Wang (24:40) and Kailah Usi (28:59).

The other five league schools combined to have nine girls' runners, four of them coming from Whitney High. Senior Julianna Lee was Whitney's top runner and came in sixth place at 23:22. Two positions later was sophomore Layla Lacorte (23:35) while sophomore Kayla Hamakawa (24:57) and senior Kritika Pantha (25:06) were 12th and 13th respectively.

Oxford Academy had three runners while Artesia High had a pair of runners. Junior Lizabeth Ortega finished in 10th place at 24:05 while senior Marissa Hernandez was 14th with a time of 26:56. John Glenn High and Pioneer High did not have a girls runner.

The Cerritos boys were edged by Oxford Academy 32-30 and Whitney picked up 72 points as those three schools fielded seven runners on the boys side. Artesia, Glenn and Pioneer combined to have eight boys'

runners.

After Oxford Academy claimed the top two spots, Cerritos junior Michael Rafael finished in third place with a time of 16:48. Two spots later came senior Anrei

Giordano (17:11) while the seventh, eighth and ninth positions went to juniors Bryce Hojo (17:26), Andrew Hwang (17:35) and senior Rythwick Salhotra (17:41). The other two Dons were junior Kevin Hamakawa (13th, 18:20) and senior Chris Amaro (19th, 19:20).

Whitney junior Lorenzo Rodriguez-Boix was tied with Rafael for third at 16:48 while the next Whitney runner was senior Jeffrey Fernandez (16th, 19:06). The top Artesia runner was junior Jareth Navarro, who finished in 18th with a time of 19:18 while Glenn's top runner was sophomore Javier Reynoso, who finished just ahead of Navarro at 19:08.

### FOOTBALL

While the 605 League played its two games on Apr. 1, Gahr High will host Bellflower High tonight at Rants Stadium. The Gladiators kicked off their season last Thursday with a 27-0 loss to Dominguez High.

La Mirada High, which fell to El Toro High 28-15 last Thursday, faced Mayfair High on Apr. 1 while Norwalk High picked up its first victory of the season, a 37-25 decision over Bellflower last Friday. The Lancers host Chaffey High tonight.

### BASEBALL

Artesia will begin its season on Monday with a home game against La Quinta High while Cerritos travels to Mary Star of the Sea High on Tuesday.

After an opening-season loss, Gahr picked up its first win, a 6-5 decision against Bishop Amat High this past Tuesday. The Gladiators hosted Ayala High on Apr. 1 and will face Cypress High today, Servite High on Sat., St. John Bosco High on Tuesday and Corona Del Mar High on Thursday.

Glenn will begin its season on Wednesday against Desert Christian High



HMG-CN Sports Editor  
Loren Kopff

## NEWS & NOTES FROM PRESS ROW

while La Mirada ended a two-game losing skid with a 7-4 win at Mission Viejo High this past Tuesday. The Matadores (4-3) visited Ayala High on Apr. 1 and will face Lakewood on Tuesday for a doubleheader.

Norwalk began its season this past Monday and was blanked by El Rancho High 6-0. The Lancers are not scheduled to play until Apr. 20 while Valley Christian High edged Mayfair 1-0 last Friday, fell to Bellflower 5-0 this past Monday and defeated Bellflower 9-5 this past Wednesday. The Defenders will face St. Paul High on Thursday in a Newport Elks Tournament game.

### SOFTBALL

After COVID-19 issues delayed the start of its season, Gahr played its first game this past Tuesday and lost a 13-12 slugfest to La Mirada. The two played again on Apr. 1 before the Gladiators travel to Millikan on Tuesday.

Glenn kicked off its season on Apr. 1 with a home game against city rival Norwalk and will visit Cantwell Sacred Heart of Mary High on Wednesday while La Mirada went to 4-1 after its win against Gahr. After the second game with Gahr, La Mirada is not scheduled to play until Apr. 13.

V.C. is winless in six games following a 16-0 loss to Warren High last Friday and an 8-1 decision to Mira Costa High last Saturday. The Lady Defenders will face Oxford Academy on Thursday.

Whitney began its season on Apr. 1 against Southlands Christian but is not scheduled to play again until Apr. 16.

### BOYS SOCCER

Artesia, which fell to Buena Park High 2-0 last Thursday, opened 605 League play this past Tuesday with a 3-1 win against Cerritos. The Pioneers were scheduled to host Kennedy High on Apr. 1 and will visit Whitney on Tuesday.

Cerritos hosted Whitney on Apr. 1 before taking the next 12 days off while opens San Gabriel Valley League action

on Tuesday at Downey High before entertaining Dominguez on Thursday.

Glenn was blanked by Whitney 4-0 this past Tuesday and hosted Pioneer on Apr. 1 while La Mirada got past La Serna High 2-1 this past Tuesday and played Bellflower on Apr. 1 to begin Suburban League action.

Norwalk defeated Bell Gardens High 2-1 this past Wednesday and will host Schurr today before facing Mayfair on Tuesday while V.C. lost to Troy 3-2 last Friday to fall to 5-1-1. The Defenders will host Sage Hill High on Monday and open Olympic League action the next day against Heritage Christian High.

After its win against Glenn, Whitney faced Cerritos on Apr. 1 and will be off until Apr. 13.

### GIRLS SOCCER

Artesia lost to Buena Park 5-1 last Thursday and Cerritos 5-0 this past Tuesday to drop to 1-2. The Lady Pioneers hosted Oxford Academy on Apr. 1 and will entertain Western High on Tuesday.

Cerritos traveled to Gahr on Apr. 1 in its last game until Apr. 13 while Gahr nipped Norwalk 3-2 last Thursday. The Lady Gladiators will also host Downey on Tues. and visit Dominguez on Thursday.

Glenn began its season on Apr. 1 with a road game at Pioneer while La Mirada played to a scoreless draw at Sunny Hills High this past Tuesday. La Mirada travelled to Troy High on Apr. 1.

Norwalk was slammed by Mayfair 10-0 and will be idle until Apr. 13 while V.C. defeated Crean Lutheran High 5-2 last Thursday and blanked California High 2-0 this past Tuesday to improve to 4-0-2. The Lady Defenders will travel to Sage Hill on Mon. and Heritage Christian on Tuesday.

### BASKETBALL

V.C. is the only area team to start its season and the boys have won their first two games. The Defenders defeated Pacifica Christian High 72-71 last Saturday and Calvary Chapel Downey High 86-24 this past Wednesday. V.C. will host St. Margaret's High on Thursday.

The Lady Defenders fell to Orange Lutheran High 63-40 this past Tuesday and will host Northview High on Tuesday and Pacifica Christian High on Thursday.

**CLINIC** from page 1

stated, "there are many folks who have not been able to get the vaccine and this is the one-and-done dose, so it is much easier to register."

According to Greg Renick, Information Officer for the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, as of April 1 Cal OES has administered 277 doses at their main sight at Cal State LA and through the mobile vaccination programs. More than 36,500 doses have been administered through mobile vaccination clinics alone. "We have made a very conscious effort to distribute the vaccine in an efficient, effective and equitable manner and the numbers bear that out," he further stated that more than 67 percent of the adults in California have been vaccinated through Cal OES in the most at risk and underserved communities. "We do a lot of planning and logistical homework; we have a mobile sight, a walk site as well as a shuttle service for those who don't drive."

ABC USD Board President Sophia Tse added, "It is so important for our residents here in Hawaiian Gardens to get vaccinated. We want to be able to offer this to all family members. To me as a health provider it is so important to protect our students and their families. We are protecting our residents and everyone around us. You never know what will happen and we should all be prepared."

Everyone vaccinated through this clinic must pre-register. The vaccine available at this site is the Johnson & Johnson, one-dose. New Hope Community church is located at 21209 Claretta Avenue, in Hawaiian Gardens just across from Melbourne Elementary School. For more information please contact 213.379.6301

**MURAL** from page 1

on being the home of Gangs Out Of Downey or G.O.O.D. The mission of the organization is to keep gangs out of the city. To accomplish this, their focus is to prevent youth from joining gangs and help to provide the necessary resources and funding to keep Downey gang free.

The community outreach efforts are focused on breaking the gang cycle in the family unit and dissuade at-risk youth from joining stating "If we can make a difference in one person's life we can have a generational impact on that individual as well as the family."

Historically, Downey has partnered with the business community in the creation of artistic expression through murals. It is important for businesses to notify the City of their plans for public art displays.

Dirt Dog did not notify the city, and when it was completed, officials were inundated with complaints.

A statement from the restaurant's owners: "L.A.!! We need your support again. March of 2019, we lost Nipsey Hussle and in January of 2020, we lost Kobe Bryant. These losses were devastating... especially for Los Angeles. Before we opened our doors in our new Downey location, we knew in our hearts that we had to pay tribute to both gentlemen by creating a memorial mural of these greats that we lost much too soon. Working with sloe\_motions, an amazing and passionate L.A. artist, he created a beautiful memorial of Kobe and Nipsey while also paying tribute to the great City of Los Angeles.

The bad and sad news is recently, we were asked to remove this mural due to complaints the City of Downey has received. We love the city and the residents of Downey. They have been nothing short of amazing and supportive of us even as we

opened our doors in the midst of CoVID. We are asking for the City of Downey to continue being supportive and tolerant of the L.A. culture that we seek to honor."

"The City of Downey would like to clarify the following with regard to the Kobe Bryant and

Nipsey Hussle mural, located at Dirt Dog restaurant," stated Downey Mayor Claudia Frometa. "The City has not asked for the removal of this mural. The City contacted the owner of Dirt Dog due to a number of complaints received by other businesses about the mural. While Downey embraces art in public places, the City asks businesses to partner and communicate with the City on any mural plans. There are no plans to have the mural removed. The City values its open communication with businesses and restaurant owners, and ensuring the success of our business community is a top priority."

The new controversial site can be found at 9414 Firestone Boulevard in Downey or visit their site at www.DirtDogLA.com

**CERRITOS** from page 1

she thought it was out of style and also thought the artwork was too expensive.

Councilman Barrows said that the city "negotiated concessions, and if we wait we won't get as good of a deal. This was the showpiece for the library, you won't get a better piece."

Hu asked Barrows if he thought the artwork was worth it Barrows responded, "I am aware of other cities spend millions on one piece."

Vo commented that he did not have any questions but "did not like the artwork." Mayor Solanki had no questions.

City Clerk Vida Barone then read comments from the public, only one person wrote in and said they wanted

public input for the art piece; callers into the meeting expressed the same and recommended other pieces.

The council voted to send it back to Fine Arts Commission for more choices of artwork on a 4-1 line, with Barrows voting no.

When commissioned, the funding of the piece will come from the Arts in Public Place Fund which currently has a balance of \$1.39 million.

In other news, council considered selling the plot of land used by B & B Stables to the Buehl Family Trust.

Since 1992 the land has been leased to the family and renews every five years; the Alex Beanam Memorial Arena is located on the property which was funded in part by the city.

Now the family wants to buy the property and give the city the right of first refusal if B & B Stables closes or goes out of business.

Council voted to retain an appraiser for the value before further action is taken.

**LED** from page 1

were the first to receive the new light fixtures. This program allows SCE to replace HPSV street lights with more efficient LED street lights with no out of pocket cost to cities.

The city of La Mirada will join these cities, converting 3,885 city streetlights to LED beginning May of 2021. SCE plans to replace about 70,000 streetlights with LED's each year.

Under the program, SCE provides a turnkey replacement effort for existing streetlights while continuing to own, maintain and operate the street lights and poles. The initial installation cost of the LED's is paid back over 20 years through a special rate established for the program. The light fixtures are expected to last between 12 to 20 years and will be replaced as needed by SCE.

"The streetlight bill is often a city's single largest item on its energy bill," said John King, and SCE Senior Project Manager who oversees the streetlight program, "Local government officials are seeing immediate savings with these LED fixtures while enjoying vastly improved light quality."

Widespread use of LED lighting has the greatest potential impact on energy savings in the United States. By 2027 use of LED's could save about 348 TWh of electricity, this is the equivalent annual electrical output of 44 large electric power plants and a total savings of more than \$30 billion nationwide.

The program also helps SCE meet its commitment to help the state achieve its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emission by 40 percent by 2030 and 80 percent by 2050.

"We have charted a path to help California get to that clean energy future and Edison is leading the way," said Pedro Pizarro, Edison International president and CEO.

**WONDERWORD**

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



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**BREAKING NEWS**

Los Cerritos Community Newspaper

THE DINING ROOM at Ospero commands terrific views of Los Angeles.

# Wolfgang Puck opens two new restaurants in West Hollywood



Located at the Pendry West Hollywood, the former site of the Sunset Strip House of Blues, you can have you Puck Pizza and more.  
**Edited by Brian Hews**

**W**olfgang Puck is at it again after ten years. Ever since Puck became the beloved chef to the stars with Ma Maison and Spago back in the 1970s and 80s, the loquacious chef doesn't have time to think about the he has had impact on Los Angeles and California dining. His flagship Spago recently debuted a newly designed outdoor dining area to counter months of reduced sales. The 71-year-old chef, who has become a household name due has been making pizza for a very long time. Best known for creating the smoked salmon pizza at Spago, on of the first wood-fired ovens in L.A., Puck is contemplating a new signature pizza at his new

daytime hotel cafe Ospero located in West Hollywood. The restaurants are located at the massive new Pendry West Hollywood. The 140 room hotel, and its 40 units of private residences, is set to open this week. Built on the plot of the Sunset Strip House of Blues the hotel took three years to build. Ospero has a modern cafe feel, with a glass-covered counter up front with tables and a cocktail bar toward the back. Going farther is a balcony overlooking the basin of Los Angeles below. Puck's 26-year-old son, Byron Lazaroff-Puck, a veteran of fine dining establishments, will oversee the Ospero and Merois. But that doesn't stop the elder Puck from showing him the ropes.

The fare at Ospero falls in line with Puck's California-Italian. You will find cacio e pepe, burrata with pea shoots, ricotta gnocchi with oxtail ragu, and and his grandmother's Austrian cheese ravioli with brown butter and hazelnuts. And of course, wood-fired pizzas from the oven that commands the ground floor restaurant. Upstairs, however, is a new crown jewel for Puck's empire, Merois. Patrons will enjoy unfettered views of Los Angeles and will be offered colorful vegan sushi tray; crisp fried black sea bass with vegetable fried rice; Squid noodles with a ginger-garlic clam sauce; Kona kampachi with a meyer lemon ponzu. The dining room will likely be

a see-and-be-seen type of place where the food will appeal to a wide audience. Puck's food hasn't been revolutionary or ground-breaking for some time, not that it has needed to. The chef knows what sells and what his legions of fans will appreciate, and with a flashy new opening at his former stomping grounds, it's what the recipe calls for. At this point, after months of anxious closures and reopenings, the dining public will just be happy to sit down and get a good meal. *Ospero opens April 2 with service from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (until 11 p.m. on weekends). Merois opens on April 2 to hotel guests and private club members from lunch to dinner, and eventually to the public.*

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## Long Beach Native Serving on Guided Missile Destroyer



**SEAMAN ANJULI WEEENG**, from Long Beach, Calif., uses an alidade on a bridge wing of the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59) March 7, 2021. Russell, part of the Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group, is on a scheduled deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations. As the U.S. Navy’s largest forward-deployed fleet, 7th Fleet routinely operates and interacts with 35 maritime nations while conducting missions to preserve and protect a free and open Indo-Pacific. (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Wade Costin)

## Local Resident and Crew Save Fisherman in Hawaii



**HEROES:** (l-r) LT Kevin Lois, pilot, HSM-37, LT Michael Dilenschneider, pilot, HSM-37, AWR3 Christopher Ashenfelder, HSM-37, Senior Operator/Rescue Swimmer, AWR2 Bruce Estaya, HSM-37, Sensor Operator/Rescue Swimmer.

HONOLULU – Petty Officer 2nd Class Bruce Estaya, a native of Lakewood, California, assisted in the rescue of an overdue boater in the waters off Oahu, Hawaii Friday.

According to a Navy news release, “The ‘EasyRiders’ of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 37 (HSM-37) provided search and rescue support to Coast Guard aircrew and surface vessels after a fishing vessel and the embarked personnel were reported overdue the evening of March 25.”

Naval aircrew located the boater following an overnight search and transported him to a local civilian medical center to receive treatment.”

“It has always been my dream to conduct Rescue Operations for the Navy; since joining I’ve always wanted to be the one to help people,” said Estaya. “Since joining HSM-37, I have been granted many opportunities to do so and I will continue my efforts to help those in need as an aircrewman.”

“I am extremely proud of the way my sailors and the entire ‘EasyRider’ team worked together to render aid during this search and rescue,” said Navy Cmdr. Matthew Martin, HSM-37’s commanding officer. “Working side-by-side with the Coast Guard was key in our ability to locate and rescue the fisherman.”

## Scholarship Opportunity for High School Seniors

Norwalk, CA – The City of Norwalk, in collaboration with Athens Services, is hosting the annual Environmental Awareness Scholarship, which recognizes local high school seniors who are active in their community and show an interest in environmental issues. Five \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to be used towards reimbursement of registration or tuition fees at any college, university or trade school.

To be eligible, students:

- Must be a senior in a public or private high school
- Reside in the City of Norwalk
- Have a minimum 2.0 GPA

The Norwalk Education Alliance Committee will review applications and recommend candidates to the Norwalk City Council, who will decide on the top five entries. Selections will be based on GPA, essay, volunteer work and extracurricular activities. Scholarship recipients will receive notification in June.

Applications are available on the recycling webpage on [norwalk.org](http://norwalk.org). Completed applications and requested materials must be submitted at [recycling@norwalkca.gov](mailto:recycling@norwalkca.gov) by Thursday, April 29 at 6 p.m. For additional information, please call 562-929-5964.

## Norwalk to Award Scholarships for Career & Technical Training

### STAFF REPORT

The City of Norwalk is currently offering scholarships to residents for career and technical training at Norwalk-La Mirada Adult School (NLMAS). Funding for this program is through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

The scholarships, ranging from \$1,050 to \$2,600, will assist with tuition for occupational training in health sciences, medical technology or welding/metal fabrication. Students are responsible for

costs associated with their books, exam supplies and uniforms.

To qualify, the applicant must be a Norwalk resident (proof of residency is required), must be 18 years of age or older, and meet income qualifications.

Applications are available online at [www.norwalk.org/city-hall/departments/community-development/norwalk-la-mirada-adult-school-scholarships](http://www.norwalk.org/city-hall/departments/community-development/norwalk-la-mirada-adult-school-scholarships). The deadline to apply is Friday, May 7 at 4:00 p.m. Applications must be dropped off in person at City Hall and applicant must call in advance to schedule an appointment.

The Summer Training programs are scheduled to begin at NLMAS on June 1, 2021. For more information on the training programs, please call NLMAS at 562-210-3990.

For more information on the Scholarship Program or to make an appointment to drop off an application, please contact the Housing Division at 562-929-5951.

## Paper Shredding, E-Waste Collection, and Mulch Distribution Event

The City has partnered with EDCO to offer La Mirada residents free paper shredding, e-waste collection, and mulch distribution. The event will take place Saturday, April 24 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the La Mirada Community Gymnasium parking lot, located at 15105 Alicante Road. Residents will have an opportunity to shred up to three banker boxes of personal information and have unwanted electronics collected on site. Household hazardous waste will not be accepted.

The mulch distribution will be a self-loading service. Residents must bring their own cans/bags and shovel, and there will be a limit of three cans/bags per vehicle. Participants are requested to bring a tarp to cover material if bringing an open truck or trailer.

This event is limited to La Mirada residents only. Proof of residency (i.e. driver’s license or utility bill) will be required. Safety measures, including social distancing and wearing of masks, will be observed.

For additional information, contact the Public Works Department at (562) 902-2385.

### HOUSING from page 3

careful review of parking and how the new housing will impact existing residents and neighborhoods. State proposals would remove or greatly limit that local oversight.

The City Council moved on to discuss the national rise in hate crimes against Asians, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

“We stand in solidarity with the members of those communities, and those facing discrimination, hate incidents, fear and intimidation,” said Mayor Todd Rogers.

Lakewood is a very diverse community and residents are proud of that diversity...including the substantial number of Asians, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who call Lakewood home and who are friends and colleagues.

“Over the past year, we have started something we call the Community Dialogue here in Lakewood to discuss issues of racial equity and public safety,” says Rogers, “With the goal of building on all the good in our community and making Lakewood the safest and most welcoming place it can be, for everyone, means speaking out against hate and bigotry...and speaking up for friendliness, good neighborliness and safety for everyone.”

If anyone is ever a victim of violent hate crime, or has been witness to one, please call 9-1-1 immediately to report it to the Sheriff’s Department, If you are anyone you know has been targeted in some way due to ethnicity, please call the Lakewood Sheriff’s Station 24-hour business line at 562.623.3500.

### CRIME from page 2

#### Residential Burglary

18800 blk De Voss rear sliding door shattered

12500 blk Felson St., front door kicked in

#### Grand Theft

3300 blk South St. store, large quantity of energy drinks, misc meds stolen.

12700 blk Towne Center catalytic converter stolen

12800 blk Moore St., catalytic converter

10800 blk College Pl., hospital, catalytic converter

12500 blk Cuesta Ln., catalytic converter

#### Grand Theft Auto

18600 blk Gridley Rd.; 16300 blk Arthur St.; 12900 blk Andy Dr.; 13100 blk Alondra Bl.; 17300 blk Edwards Rd.

#### Vehicle Burglary

16000 blk Arthur St., business camper shell latch/forced open, generator, vacuum, misc tools

Claretta Ave at Miles St., Mercedes rear passenger window/shattered gym bag

18500 blk Clydepark Ave., front driver window/shattered misc. items stolen.

17200 blk Edwards Rd., business, front driver door keyhole/punched, sweater, sunglasses.



**SUMMONS  
(CITACION JUDICIAL)**

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

**NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS:  
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):**  
ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE MATTER OF THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF PENSION OBLIGATION BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFUNDING CERTAIN PENSION OBLIGATIONS OWED BY THE CITY OF COMMERCE TO THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM UNDER THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT LAW AND ALL PROCEEDINGS LEADING THERETO, INCLUDING THE ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION THAT AUTHORIZES ISSUANCE OF PENSION OBLIGATION BONDS, THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A TRUST AGREEMENT AND PURCHASE CONTRACT, AND THE SALE OF SUCH BONDS  
**YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:  
(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):**  
CITY OF COMMERCE  
Case No. 21STCV02639  
Hon. Judge William F. Fahey  
Dept. 69  
Complaint filed: January 22, 2021  
*NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond by May 3, 2021. Read the information below.*  
*AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde antes de Mayo 3, 2021, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.*  
ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE VALIDATION OF: all proceedings of the City of Commerce and the City Council of the City of Commerce relating to: (i) the adoption of the Resolution; (ii) the issuance by the City of its City of Commerce 2021 Taxable Pension Obligation Bonds (the "Bonds"); (iii) the approval of a Trust Agreement in connection with the Bonds; (iv) the approval of a Purchase Contract; (v) the authorization to issue, from time to time, additional bonds of the City for the purpose of refunding the City's obligations related to the California Public Employees' Retirement System (the "Additional Bonds"); and (vi) any other related contracts or agreements approved by the Resolution or contemplated by the City Council of the City in connection with the issuance of the Bonds and Additional Bonds have until **May 3, 2021** to appear and file a written answer to the complaint at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose your rights, default will be entered against you upon application by the plaintiff, and the plaintiff may apply to the court for the relief demanded in the complaint. Contesting the legality or validity of this matter will **not** subject you to punitive action, such as wage garnishment or seizure of your real or personal property.  
**You may seek the advice of an attorney in any matter connected with the complaint or this summons. Such an attorney should be consulted promptly so that your pleading may be filed or entered within the time required by this summons.** If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. The City of Commerce has brought this action for the purpose of obtaining a judgment validating, among other things, the issuance of bonds of the City for the purpose of (A) refinancing the obligations of the City, evidenced by the City's written agreement (the "PERS Contract") with the California Public Employees' Retirement System (the "Retirement System"), to pay certain outstanding obligations owed to the Retirement System, and (B) the authorization to issue, from time to time, the Additional Bonds of the City for the purpose of refunding the obligations of the City related to PERS and/or to refund outstanding Bonds.  
**(EN ESPAÑOL)**  
PARA TODAS LAS PERSONAS INTERESADAS EN LA VALIDACIÓN DE: todos los procedimientos de la Ciudad de Commerce y el Concejo Municipal de la Ciudad de Commerce relacionados con: (i) la adopción de la Resolución; (ii) la emisión de la Ciudad de su Ciudad de Commerce de las Obligaciones por Pensiones de Reembolso de Bonos (los "Bonos"); (iii) la aprobación de un Contrato de Fideicomiso en relación con los Bonos; (iv) la aprobación de un Contrato de Compra; (v) la autorización para emitir, de vez en cuando, bonos adicionales de la Ciudad con el propósito de reembolsar las obligaciones de la Ciudad relacionadas con PERS (los "Bonos Adicionales"); y (vi) cualquier otro contrato o acuerdo relacionado aprobado por la Resolución o contemplado por el Concejo Municipal de la Ciudad en relación con la emisión de los Bonos y Bonos Adicionales tienen hasta **Mayo 3, 2021** para comparecer y presentar una respuesta escrita con esta Corte y entregar/servir una copia al demandante. Una carta o llamada telefónica no te protegerá. Su respuesta por escrito debe estar en la forma legal adecuada si desea que la Corte escuche su caso. Puede haber una forma de la Corte que puede usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estas formas judiciales y más información en el Centro de ayuda de las Cortes de California ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), también en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o la Corte más cercano. Si no puede pagar la tarifa de presentación, pídale la Corte una Forma de exención de tarifa. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder sus derechos, el demandante entrará en incumplimiento contra usted cuando lo solicite el demandante, y el demandante puede solicitar la Corte el alivio que se solicita en la demanda. Impugnado de la legalidad o la validez de este asunto **no** lo someterá a acciones punitivas, como el embargo de salario o la confiscación de su propiedad real o personal.  
**Puede solicitar el consejo de un abogado en cualquier asunto relacionado con la demanda o la citación. Dicho abogado debe ser consultado con prontitud para que su declaración pueda ser presentada o presentada dentro del tiempo requerido por esta citación.** Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de referencia de abogados. Si no puede pagar un abogado, puede ser elegible para recibir servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede localizar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de Servicios Legales de California ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), en el Centro de ayuda de las Cortes de California ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), o contactando a la Asociación de Abogados del Condado. NOTA: La Corte tiene un derecho de retención legal para los honorarios exentos y los costos de cualquier acuerdo de resolución o arbitraje de \$10,000 o más en un caso civil. El gravamen de la corte debe ser pagado antes de que la corte pueda desear el caso. La Ciudad de Commerce ha presentado esta acción con el propósito de obtener una validación de juicio, entre otras cosas, la emisión de bonos de la Ciudad con el propósito de (A) refinanciar las obligaciones de la Ciudad, evidenciadas por el acuerdo escrito de la Ciudad (el "Contrato de PERS") con el Sistema de Retiro de los Empleados Públicos de California (el "Sistema de Retiro"), para pagar ciertas obligaciones pendientes con el Sistema de Retiro y (B) la autorización para emitir, ocasionalmente, los Bonos Adicionales de la Ciudad con el fin de reembolsar las obligaciones de la Ciudad relacionadas con el PERS y/o para reembolsar los Bonos pendientes.

**CASE INFORMATION  
(INFORMACIÓN DE CASO)**

- The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es):  
  
Superior Court of the State of California  
County of Los Angeles  
111 N. Hill Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012
- The Court Department is (La corte y el departamento es): Department 69, the Honorable Judge William F. Fahey presiding
- The case number is (el número de caso): 21STCV02639
- The name, address and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, es):  
Brian P. Forbath  
Allison E. Burns  
STRADLING YOCCA CARLSON & RAUTH  
A Professional Corporation  
660 Newport Center Drive, Suite 1600  
Newport Beach, California 92660  
Telephone: (949) 725-4000

DATE (Fecha): 03/19/2021  
Sherril R. Carter Executive Officer / Clerk of Court  
Clerk of the Court (Deputy): J. Tang, Deputy (Delegado)

**JUDICIAL** NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served:  
1  by publication pursuant to court order  
2  by mail pursuant to court order

Published at Commerce Community News 3/26, 4/2, 4/9/21

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:  
JUDY C. DOWNEN, aka JUDY DOWNEN  
CASE NO. 21STPB02127**  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of JUDY C. DOWNEN, aka JUDY DOWNEN  
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by GREGORY ROYSTON in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.  
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that GREGORY ROYSTON be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.  
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
A HEARING on the petition will be held on **APRIL 21, 2021 at 8:30 A.M. in Dept.: "79"** located at: 111 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA Central District  
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.  
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.  
OTHER CALIFORNIA statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.  
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a formal Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.  
PETER A. SAHIN, ESQ., SB# 222207  
**Attorney for Petitioner  
VELASCO LAW GROUP, APC  
300 W. Broadway, Suite #100  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
PNSB# 107255  
Published in: La Mirada Lamplighter  
Pub Dates: March 19, 26, April 2, 2021**

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:  
HARMON D. VINSON, JR.  
CASE NO. 21STPB02109**  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of HARMON D. VINSON, JR..  
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by KATHLEEN VINSON in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.  
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that KATHLEEN VINSON be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.  
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: **04/27/21 at 8:30AM in Dept. 2D** located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012  
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.  
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.  
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.  
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.  
**Attorney for Petitioner  
STUART L. WALLACH, ESQ. SBN 89731, LAW OFFICE OF STUART L. WALLACH  
34 EXECUTIVE PARK, STE. 210  
IRVINE CA 92614  
BSC 219575  
3/19, 3/26, 4/2/21  
CNS-3450360#  
LA MIRADA LAMPLIGHTER**

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINIS-TER ESTATE OF:  
FREDERIK KOUTTJIE  
CASE NO. 20STPB06093**  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contin-gent creditors, and persons who may other-wise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of FREDERIK KOUTTJIE.  
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by CHRISTIAN KOUTTJIE in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGE-LES.  
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that CHRISTIAN KOUTTJIE be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.  
THE PETITION requests authority to admin-ister the estate under the Independent Ad-ministration of Estates Act with limited authority. (This authority will allow the per-sonal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, how-ever, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consent-ed to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objec-tion to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 04/23/21 at 8:30AM in Dept. 9 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGE-LES, CA 90012  
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the peti-tion, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objec-tions with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.  
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the per-sonal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.  
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowl-edgeable in California law.  
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Spec-ial Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate as-sets or of any petition or account as provid-ed in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.  
**Attorney for Petitioner  
JILL BROUSARD - SBN 183024  
THE BROUSARD LAW FIRM  
3711 LONG BEACH BLVD., SUITE 719  
LONG BEACH CA 90807  
BSC 219602  
3/26, 4/2, 4/9/21  
CNS-3451954#  
LA MIRADA LAMPLIGHTER**

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:  
ANDREW ST. ANN JR.  
CASE NO. 20STPB03144**  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the lost WILL or estate, or both of ANDREW ST. ANN JR.  
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by JILL DENISE MOSQUEDA in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.  
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that JILL DENISE MOSQUEDA be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.  
THE PETITION requests the decedent's lost WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The lost WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.  
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act with limited authority. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 04/19/21 at 9:30AM in Dept. 2D located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012  
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.  
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.  
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.  
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.  
**Attorney for Petitioner  
DAVID S. CHON - SBN 238274, THE LEGACY LAWYERS, PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION  
10221 SLATER AVENUE, SUITE 106  
FOUNTAIN VALLEY CA 92708  
BSC 219660  
4/2, 4/9, 4/16/21  
CNS-3454957#  
LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS**

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