

Did Councilmen Barrows, Solanki, and Mayor pro tem Chuong Vo Violate the Brown Act?

By Brian Hews

It's coming up on 20 years since this paper switched hands from founder Elizabeth Gadbois, and in that time, the majority City Council, which was 90% of the time Republican-dominated, didn't appreciate our investigative reporting.

They think the paper is one-sided; ask Cristina Garcia or other corrupt Democrats in L. A.

County if we are one-sided.

It did not matter; during those 20 years, they have slowly pulled city advertising out of LCCN abusing their power while in office.

Exhibit 1: The city did not congratulate Cerritos High on its 50th Anniversary, a special edition LCCN published last week. Yes... we asked.

Exhibit 2: Every year, up until 2012, this paper published

a four-page special for the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts highlighting the entire year, but after an investigative report, the Council pulled that.

Bruce Barrows was one of the main culprits; one year threatening to cut Skyknight, yes Cerritos residents Skyknight, if the city didn't "cut all the advertising in LCCN."

Exhibit 3: Since then, the Cerritos TV3 advertisement,

Shop Cerritos, and other advertising have been canceled in the city's only newspaper.

Exhibit 4: Then, the late Melinda Kimsey started her newsletter, and the Republican majority on the Council immediately gave half of LCCN's CCPA budget the first week it was published.

This was *after* LCCN's CCPA budget was cut by Barrows, yet somehow they managed to find

money for Kimsey.

It also did not matter that LCCN always accommodated the city, publishing press releases, events, community stories, and reporting on City Council.

Exhibit 5: LCCN, after a frantic phone call from CM Art Gallucci, rightfully defended the city in the case of the USA Today story about alleged cancer-

See **BROWN ACT** page 4

Rep. Linda Sanchez Secures \$10 Million for Area Cities, Cerritos Not on List

Norwalk, Pico Rivera, La Mirada, Bellflower, Whittier, Santa Fe Springs, and La Palma receive funds.

By Brian Hews

Congresswoman Linda Sanchez announced today \$10 million in federal funding for projects requested by community partners in the 38th district.

A quick breakdown of funding coming directly to the district:

La Mirada – \$475,000 for the Neff Park Revitalization.

La Mirada's Neff Park is beautiful and has historic meaning in our community. We need to preserve it for the next generation to enjoy, too. This funding would replace deteriorated walkways, improve lighting throughout the park, and extend wood rail fencing around the perimeter.

Bellflower – \$322,000 for the Constitution Park Revitalization.

Constitution Park is in the heart of Bellflower and has the potential to be an inviting shared space for the entire community. It just needs play equipment, sports courts, and a few other amenities. This funding would be used to bring all that and more to Constitution Park.

Norwalk – \$1.72 million to create Free Wi-Fi Zones.

Internet access is needed for almost everything today—from connecting with family to e-learning and applying for jobs. It should be accessible for everyone. This funding would be used to create free opt-in "Smart & Safe" Wi-Fi Zones within public parks and facilities so that the internet is more accessible to Norwalk students and residents.

Pico Rivera – \$2.5 million for the PFAS Groundwater Treatment Project.

Clean drinking water means healthy kids, healthy families,

and healthy communities. Unfortunately, past industrial activities have contaminated much of Southern California's water sources with so-called PFAS or "forever chemicals". This funding will ensure safe, clean drinking water for everyone in our communities.

La Palma – \$2 million for the Street Median Redesign Project.

Severe drought has put a strain on the environment. This funding would be used to redesign the medians and make them more resilient to climate change.

Whittier – \$450,000 for the Whittier Library Improvement.

This funding will be used to enhance the Children and Youth Services section in Whittier Central Library, including updated furniture, additional seating, technology stations, a children's story area, and special computers for early learners.

Whittier Narrows – \$1.5 million to create New Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure.

This funding would be used to construct protected bikeways and walkways along Rosemead Boulevard, which divides the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area and is a major north-south route for vehicular traffic.

Santa Fe Springs – \$500,000 for The Whole Child to Provide Safe Housing & Mental Health Services.

The COVID-19 pandemic only exacerbated an already existing housing crisis in our communities. This funding would be used toward construction of an interim housing facility and supportive services center in Santa Fe Springs. Interim housing units would provide six to nine months of safe temporary housing, a crucial first step away from homelessness, and supportive services would be available to help families solve issues that caused their homelessness and to locate permanent housing.

Car Show at Cerritos' Sheriff's Station Draws the Gamut



THIS STUNNING museum-worthy World War II display by Memorial Chapter 82nd Airborne Division Association complete with the original uniforms. Also featured were three police race cars from Ricky Schlick Racing and a 'El Morado,' a 1935 original five-window Ford Coupe.

Story and photos by Tammye McDuff

The Cerritos Sheriff Station held its annual Vintage Iron Car Show this past weekend, and it was a beautiful day for it.

A menagerie of hot rods, motorcycles and vintage cars rolled into Cerritos for the Vintage Iron Car Show. Hosted by the Cer-

ritos Sheriff's Station and held in the parking lot and parking structure, this show brought over 138 specialized and customized vehicles.

Some exciting cars were three featured police race cars from Ricky Schlick Racing and a stunning museum-worthy World War II display by Memorial Chapter 82nd Airborne Division

Association.

One of the most beautiful was the 1935 Ford, original five-window Ford Coupe. The 'El Morado' is a steel body, channeled three inches over the frame fenders. Running board molded to the body with added 'frenched' tail-lights, antenna and license plate.

See **SHOW** page 16

Gov. Newsom Urges Water Suppliers to Move to Level Two

By Jon Fyne

Gov. Gavin Newsom urged water suppliers up and down the state to ramp up their water conservation efforts by moving to Level 2 of their Water Shortage Contingency Plans.

Level 2 varies by provider. But in most cases, it requires limits on the number of days a week that residents can irrigate landscaping, and sets an overall water reduction target, usually in the 10% to 20% range.

"While we have made historic investments to protect our communities, economy and

See **WATER** page 13



EARTH DAY EVENT IN ARTESIA

EARTH DAY project at Padleford Park. Commissioner Dan Rocha (l) & Rameshor Bhandari (r) with Artesia Councilmember Ali Taj (center) cleaned up three different parks with dozens of volunteers.

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Sen. Archuleta Recognizes 2022 Women of Achievement for the 32nd Senate District

Staff Report

As Women's History Month comes to a close, Senator Bob Archuleta (D- Pico Rivera) hosted the 2022 Women of Achievement of the 32nd Senate District this past at the DoubleTree by Hilton Whittier.

This event, which is the first hosted by the senator's office in more than two years, celebrated the accomplishments of 11 women who have contributed to the well-being of their respective communities within the district.

"These women were nominated for their outstanding hard work and dedication to the district during the ongoing public health crisis," Senator Archuleta said. "Our district is fortunate to call home to a great number of women who make considerable contributions to their families, professions and individual communities, and we are honored to recognize these leaders for exemplifying the strength and abilities of all women in our Senate district."

The 2022 Women of Achievement:
Virginia "Ginny" Ball- nominated by City of Whittier Business Development Manager Katie Galvin-Surbatovic.

Ginny serves as a board member for a wide array of local non-profit organizations, including her ongoing work on behalf of Whittier First Day, a transitional living facility in Whittier. First Day serves approximately 2,300 individuals with critical social services, making them a beacon of hope for many who were displaced during the covid-19 pandemic. During her time on the Whittier Area Chamber Board of Directors, Ginny founded the Whittier Apartment Owners Association, which brings landlords and tenants together to better understand their rights.

Blanca Curiel, nominated by daughter Ockxana Vega.

Blanca enlisted in the United States Army in 1983 when she was just 17 years old, and rose through the ranks and became a Master Sergeant where she served as the Battalion First Sergeant, overseeing a battalion of 400 soldiers. After a 33-year military career serving her country, Blanca now works in the healthcare system. Her work was even more critical during the pandemic, as Blanca aided seniors with their daily care, & companionship.

Dr. Rosalba González, nominated by LAUSD Teacher James Ng

Rosalba exemplifies the American Dream, having immigrated from Mexico as a young adult, while overcame barriers and obstacles to become an educator. Her career in education includes being a teacher, a counselor, a vice principal, and is currently a principal at Hilda L. Solis



SENATOR BOB ARCHULETA (center) hosted the 2022 Women of Achievement of the 32nd Senate District at the DoubleTree in Whittier. The event celebrated the accomplishments of 11 women who have contributed to the well-being of their respective communities within the district.

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Learning Academy, where she is deeply committed to making a positive difference in the lives of her students. During the pandemic, Rosalba has made it a priority to continue focusing on a positive school culture, setting high expectations for administrators, teachers, and students, while engaging the community.

Cathy Houwen, nominated by Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority Executive Director Andrea Gullo.

During the pandemic, Cathy's work as a funeral director at Community Funeral Service in La Habra were filled with ensuring grieving families were treated with dignity as they said goodbye to their loved ones. She and her colleagues worked long hours to meet the demands of funeral services during the height of the pandemic. Cathy has volunteered her time on the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority's Community Advisory Committee for 10 years representing the city of La Habra Heights, serving as the Chair for 3 years.

Isis Huckins, nominated by Rose Hills Director of Community Relations & Communications Antoinette Lou.

Throughout her career, Isis has worked quietly behind the scenes while bringing loved ones into the Professional Service's care at Rose Hills. She and her team ensure each family's loved one is treated with the utmost respect and care. Over the past two years, Isis and her team were extremely challenged to meet the demands of the community during the pandemic. She and her team worked 24 hours a day to ensure every loved one was appropriately cared for and each family could proceed with a dignified funeral.

Shannon Kolbjornsen, nominated by Rose Hills Director of Community Relations & Communications Antoinette Lou.

Shannon has served families in the funeral industry for over 15 years. Throughout her career, she has assisted families in making funeral arrangements, and providing visitation/funeral services for their loved ones. Over the past couple of years, her team at Rose Hills, while adhering to the various covid requirements, continued to serve families to the best of their abilities. As our community required an increasing demand for funeral services, Shannon coached her team to meet the demands without lowering the honor or respect given to each family.

Michelle Lynch, nominated by La Mirada Mayor Ed Eng.

As Neighborhood Watch Block Captain since 2011, Michelle has led by example during the many challenges presented by the pandemic, showing the community that this is the time to come together and help each other. She has continued to play a pivotal role in keeping the community safe by hosting virtual Neighborhood Watch meetings and safe in-person meetings. She also hosted the La Mirada Heroes Dinner in appreciation of first responders' work through the pandemic.

Dr. Irella Perez, nominated by Education Activists Dr. James Vigil and Polly

Vigil.

Irella's journey from non-English speaking immigrant to school administrator, education advocate, environmentalist and children's book author, is an all-American story of self-reliance fueled by perseverance, passion and conviction. Irella has been one of many community leaders providing vital support to parents and students during the pandemic. Irella provided leadership, along with her colleagues on the Whittier City School Board, to ensure quality education and mental health services to students during remote learning.

Katrina Rodriguez, RN BSN, nominated by PIH Health Whittier Hospital Chief Nursing Officer Ramona Pratt.

Katrina serves as clinical director of PIH Health Whittier Hospital's general medicine/respiratory unit. Through her exemplary leadership, Katrina spearheaded the primary covid-19 unit through the last three pandemic surges, collaborating with multidisciplinary teams to ensure that patients' needs are always at the forefront of care. She led efforts to establish communication plans for PIH Health's primary covid-19 unit. The plan ensures families can keep in contact and are kept up to date regarding the condition of their loved ones through Zoom visiting and daily update calls to a designated patient representative.

Sarah Templeton, nominated by Biola University Vice President for Student Development Andre Stephens, Ph.D.

Sarah serves as the Director of the Biola University Student Health Center. During her 20-plus years at Biola, she has forged strong working relationships with those inside and outside of the university. As a member of Biola's covid-19 compliance team, she has kept the campus informed of the emerging data, research and changing protocols throughout the pandemic. Sarah put in place health and safety protocols for quarantining infected and exposed students, while working with county officials to manage outbreaks, obtain testing supplies and to help clarify protocols. When vaccines became available, Sarah was able to secure them and offer vaccine clinics on campus for students and employees.

Echo Tsai, nominated by Ven.Hui Dung.

Echo devotes a great deal of time volunteering at Fo Guang Shan Hsi Lai Temple since 1997 and Buddha's Light International Association (BLIA) since 2001. Echo's primary practice in life is to help others and serve the needs of the community by organizing and coordinating activities and events. They include senior programs, a student scholarship event, and the distribution of personal protective equipment to hospitals, law enforcement, fire stations, nursing homes, churches, schools, homeless shelters and non-profit organizations.

BA.2 Subvariant Now 30 Percent of Cases

Infections have gone from 6%, to 16.7%, to 32% in three weeks. Boosters are now available for 50+.

The BA.2 subvariant of COVID-19 is continuing to strengthen its presence in Los Angeles County, now accounting for nearly one-third of all virus cases that are screened for variants, the public health director said Thursday.

The spread of the highly infectious variant, however, has not translated into a rise in virus-related hospitalizations, likely attributable to relatively high numbers of people who are vaccinated.

For the week that ended March 12, 32% of COVID infections that underwent laboratory sequencing turned out to be the result of BA.2; during the week ending March 5, 16.7% of sequenced cases were found to be BA.2. The percentage was only 6.3% the previous week.

But as of Sunday, only about 3% of visits to hospital emergency departments in the county are COVID-related.

The county is beginning to see a lev-

eling off of the declines in COVID case numbers that have marked the past several weeks, with the county now averaging about 660 cases per day.

The slowing of the decline could be related to the recent lifting of COVID health measures, such as indoor masking requirements. The county on Friday, along with the state, will lift the vaccine or negative-test verification requirement at indoor mega-events.

The average daily rate of people testing positive for the virus was 1.1% as of Thursday, up slightly from the roughly 0.7% rate from the past few weeks. The rate was 0.9% on Wednesday.

The number of COVID-positive patients in county hospitals fell to 308 on Thursday, down from 325 on Wednesday.

Los Angeles County this week began offering second booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine, following approval. The additional boosters were authorized for people who are age 50+, with last shot at least four months ago.

Information about vaccination sites is available the sites is available online at VaccinateLACounty.com.

Su Casa Receives a \$54,000 Donation



BIG CHECK: Ulysses Gonzales, better known as Ugonzo in the NFT art world, with SC-EDV Interim Executive Director and Director of Development Dean Lockwood.

Su Casa – Ending Domestic Violence announced this week a donation of \$54,000 from artist Ulysses Gonzales, aka Ugonzo in the NFT art world.

Gonzales, who grew up in Long Beach, has seen the effects of domestic violence and wanted to make a donation to Su Casa to support survivors of domestic violence.

“We are so excited to work with Ulysses, his partners and community,” stat-

ed Dean Lockwood, director of development and community engagement for Su Casa.

For more information about Ulysses Gonzales and his art, please go to <https://www.ugonzoart.com/> and information about Su Casa – Ending Domestic Violence’s programs and services, please contact the administrative offices at 562-421-6537. Su Casa’s website can be found at www.sucasadv.org

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Letters to the Editor

BROWN ACT from page 4

Catherine Grant Wieder
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Re: Councilman Naresh Solanki Attack on Yokoyama

Dear Editor:

The following Concerned Cerritos Voters are proud to endorse Frank Yokoyama for re-election to Cerritos City Council in spite of the politically motivated allegations made publicly by Naresh Solanki during a recent March City Council meeting; allegations which were perfectly timed to the delivery of Cerritos voting ballots.

We stand by Frank Yokoyama because of his social justice values and compassionate actions: putting on multiple anti-Asian hate rallies, successfully facilitating a citizen initiative to ban the toxic Roundup weed killer from Cerritos public spaces, joining the ABC teachers and nurses rallies, joining the January 6, "Never Again" rally, bringing several Covid 19 testing/vaccination sites to Cerritos and supporting the Neighborhood Watch Seniors/Neighbors Pantry to name just a few of his many acts of service to the community he loves.

If Cerritos residents want a council member who knows the needs of Cerritos because of his 46 years residing, attending ABC schools and working in Cerritos, a council member who knows how to balance the City budget due to graduating from UC Berkeley Business School and who is a dedicated, transparent, ethical, bi-partisan leader, then join us in voting for Frank Yokoyama.

Thank you,
Mark E. Pulido, Mayor of Cerritos (Ret.) Cerritos

Al Barlevy, Cerritos City Commissioner (Ret.), Cerritos

Katherine George Chu Cerritos

Karen Cox Cerritos

Pam Crawley Cerritos

Chris and Elaine Duvali Cerritos

Andrea & Nguon Eartok Cerritos

Gerri Faris Cerritos

Leo Perez Cerritos

Manjula Ramanathan Cerritos

Matthew Scammahorn Cerritos

Mary Ann and Leland Tipton Cerritos

Anna Titus, Community Advocate

Norma and Alan Williamson Cerritos

Re: Councilman Naresh Solanki Attack on Yokoyama

Dear Editor:

The actions of Councilman Naresh Solanki at the Council Meeting were shameful at best disgusting at worst.

To sit there at a City Council meeting protected by the dias and hurl what turned out to be slanderous defamation at Yokoyama goes beyond the pale.

And let's not mince words, this is all about having all Republicans on what is a non-partisan body of elected officials.

Solanki wrongly accused Yokoyama of "running his campaign from City Hall," turns out Yokoyama paid for the color flyers he printed at the City Hall.

Solanki went off the rails on that accusation, wanted the sheriff's, D.A. and Merrick Garland (JK) to investigate.

And officials at City Hall approved all his other expenses, Solanki accused him of misspending.

Yes buying the beer on a city credit card was foolish but did Solanki conveniently forget when Republicans Barrows, Carol Chen, & Jim Edwards would go to conventions, as covered in this newspaper, and spend \$90 on halibut and \$110 on steak.... do you remember that Cerritos residents?

This paper even caught the Republican nominated Historical Commissioners going on expensive junkets to view... wait for it....art pieces.

Just recently this paper caught Solanki crony Chuong Vo sponging off taxpayers, taking cash for health he already has to the tune of \$780 per month.

And Solanki rants about Yokoyama?

So not only is Solanki weak, he's also hypocritical as is Chuong Vo and Bruce Barrows... who is about as worthless as a councilman can get.

T. Merat Cerritos

Re: What is going on at Cerritos High?

Dear Editor:

"A fight that broke out when a gang of kids ambushed a sophomore."

It was not a fight. Using the word fight paints my son as a troublemaker, a willing participant.

I assure you that he was NOT. Using the word fight also minimizes the severity of the crime, assault.

The way you have reported it makes it sound like another couple of delinquent high school kids at it again.

In this case, my son (a junior not sophomore) was assaulted by three individuals as he sat in his 4th period history class. The three assailants ran off campus.

I'm sure you can find a recording of ABCUSD's Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, in which I address the Board about safety concerns at Cerritos High School and shared details of the assault.

Thank you, Julia M.

causing companies in Cerritos.

And we always help residents fight City Hall, the latest reporting on the truck traffic going through Cerritos. Eventually, the Council voted to move the truck route to accommodate residents. That is the mission of this paper, to help others.

But the latest action, which can only be perpetrated by Barrows, Solanki and Vo, smacks of a Brown Act Violation.

Last year the CCPA advertised once with this paper to begin the delayed 2022 season, with management stating, "we will likely be running advertising twice a month, with a banner ad on the site." That, of course, did not materialize.

Meanwhile, the city spends over \$100,000 mailing CCPA brochures all over SoCal.

The mailing is necessary, but to completely cut off LCCN from all CCPA advertising is not; no one in Cerritos attends the CCPA?

Exhibit 6: A recent public records request for all CCPA print advertising showed that for December 2021 and January & February 2022, Cerritos spent over \$8,000 in the Los Angeles Times and \$10,000 in the OC Register. The city is still placing ads in the papers, likely spending even more.

LCCN? \$0, zip, zilch, nada.

Exhibit 7: City Manager Art Gallucci has always been fair to your LCCN; he knows our mission and has witnessed LCCN help the city first-hand.

To Gallucci, cutting the CCPA budget would be off the table, more trouble than it is worth, and he knows local residents read the paper.

That is unless three City Councilmembers, the number it takes to force him to retire, told him to cut the advertising off.

Two will not force the decision. This is the essence of the Brown Act.

The Ralph M. Brown Act is California's "sunshine" law for local government.. In a nutshell, it requires local government business to be conducted at open and public, if three or more members meet.

The Brown Act is based upon state policy that the people must be informed so they can keep control over their government, which is not the case in Cerritos.

Barrows, Solanki and Vo, who have been exposed by this newspaper several times; the latest with Vo pocketing \$780 monthly in cash from the city for health-care he already had.

So extreme is their hatred of this paper that the three likely went into Gallucci's office and told him to cut LCCN's CCPA budget.

In the middle of a pandemic while LCCN publishes information about local medical services, food banks, and stories of brave first responders.

Hedge funds are buying newspapers and cutting newsrooms while community newspapers are closing at an alarming rate, leaving cities without a local reporter and investigative reporting.

That's what they want; Barrows, Solanki, and Vo are trying to close your LCCN by taking away this paper's hard-earned revenue, and their actions are blatant and out in the open.

Several emails into the three have gone unanswered, no denial of the question, "Did you order Gallucci to cut LCCN's CCPA budget?"

*Let the Councilmembers know how you feel about the situation:
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Whitney High Club Donates Science Boxes to Juarez ES



9K HOMES at Whitney has been working on fundraisers that benefit the local community. For the past few months, they have raised \$2,000, designed and put together Science Discovery Boxes that was donated to low income students at Juarez ES. With them is (left) Cerritos Councilmember Frank Yokoyama and (right) Juarez Principal Ms. Balbuena and (2nd right) ABC Trustee Ernie Nishii.

By Brian Hews

Rachel Lee, president of the 9K Homes at Whitney HS was excited about the latest project, fundraising to put together Science Discovery Boxes for Juarez ES students.

They raised \$2,000 and made 148 boxes, giving them out last Friday. Each box included: 2 colors of Play-Doh; a

magnifying glass; a chisel; a brush; a break your own quartz geode; Nature Print® Sun-Sensitive Paper, and a Dinosaur Egg Excavation Kit.

"Our club is excited about this interschool outreach within the ABC UnifiedSchoolDistrict, said Lee, "we hope to be an example for future mentorship and collaboration opportunities between the schools in the district."

Opening of Roldan Futsal Pitch in Pico Rivera

Staff Report

The City of Pico Rivera invites local residents to the Grand Opening of the Roldan Futsal Pitch at Pico Park, 9528 Beverly Boulevard, on Tuesday, April 5 beginning at 5:00 p.m.

The Grand Opening marks an almost yearlong journey to bring a 5 on 5 mini-pitch soccer field, or Futsal pitch, to the City.

Beginning last year, City staff met with MLS Soccer star and resident, Cristian Roldan of the Seattle Sounders, to bring a Futsal pitch to the City. Since the initial meeting, City staff had been working with the U.S. Soccer Federation and Musco Lighting, along with Cristian and his brothers Cesar, and Alex, to make the Futsal pitch a reality.

During a City Council meeting held last June, the Council approved the development of a Futsal pitch at Pico Park, and soon after, City staff began the design of the color scheme of the pitch. Groundbreaking for the Futsal pitch took place last December.

In addition to the Futsal pitch, the City has reached an agreement with the Roldan family, and Xtratime, the marketing firm representing the Roldan brothers, for the naming rights to the pitch in exchange for an annual sponsorship fee of \$8,600 for the next eight years.

The sponsorship fees will be used solely for the maintenance and upkeep of the Roldan Futsal Pitch.

Along with the sponsorship and agreement, the Roldan brothers will participate in and promote four soccer clinics per year for local residents and budding soccer players.

The Grand Opening event is free and will feature a formal ribbon cutting of the new outdoor sports amenity at Pico Park, and other activities for entire family to enjoy. Recreation Futsal programming at the Roldan Futsal Pitch will begin on Monday, April 11.

For more information about this event, call the city's Parks and Recreation Department at 562.801.4430.

Pico Rivera Approves Formation of Veterans Commission

By Brian Hews

The Pico Rivera City Council, at its last meeting, approved an ordinance to establish the creation of a Veterans Commission within the city to serve as an advisory body to the City Council on matters important to veterans, families of veterans, and businesses in the city that are veteran-run or veteran-focused.

The members of the Commission can actively help identify and promote collaboration between the city and programs for veterans, service providers and other partner agencies in order to enhance the quality of life for the city's Military and Veteran community

members.

Similar to the establishment process of other city commissions, a resolution will be brought back to the Council determining the compensation and duties of the Veterans Commission.

Compensation is estimated to be \$75 per meeting with one meeting per month for a potential of \$4,500 in compensation payments. Additionally, an estimated \$27,000 for staff time is needed for legal counsel review, preparing minutes, serving as secretary to the Commission, researching and responding to inquiries, outreach, media and marketing team assignments, and implementing projects.

Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs Soroptimists Helps Women in Transition



DONATION: Pictured back row (l to r) is Toni Mosley, CCTRP Clinical Supervisor; Liliana Rivas, CCTRP Program Director; Jacqueline W; Soroptimist Afaf El-Annan; Zoila R; Tami J; Brenda Nickelson, CCTRP Assistant Director; Dimantria ; Judy A; Katherine L. Front row is Soroptimists' Marilee Stefenhagen and Dora Sandoval.

In celebration of Women's History Month, Soroptimist International of Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs donated \$140 for Custody to Community Transitional ReEntry Program (CCTRP) to fund General Educational Development, the alternative to a High School diploma (GED) testing.

Six women, Jacqueline, Zoila, Tami, Dimantria, Judy and Katherine, (pictured in photo) are CCTRP participants studying to take the GED test or who have successfully completed parts of their GED exam in pursuit of their educational goals.

CCTRP's mission is to help women in transition with employment, counseling, education, and other vital services. Soroptimist Vice President Marilee Stefenhagen said, "This donation is part of a continu-

ing partnership between Soroptimist and CCTRP, and we hope to fund many more GED exams in the future."

Soroptimist International of Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs has been serving the community for 70 years since 1952. Between 2021-2031, Soroptimists worldwide have set a Big Goal of investing in the dreams of half a million women and girls through access to education. This audacious goal will increase Soroptimist International's collective impact by helping women and girls facing obstacles to economic empowerment.

For information about Soroptimist membership, email sinorwalksanfatesprings@soroptimist.net. For more information about empowering women and girls, visit www.liveyourdream.org

'BOPOMOFO' Cafe Opens in Artesia



BO, PO, MO, AND FO are the Chinese "ABCs. The cafe boasts a large selection of teas and select food items including a Taiwanese Fried Chicken Sandwich. Located at 11632 South St Suite 105 in Artesia. At the opening was Artesia Mayor Melissa Romoso, Mayor Pro Tem Monica Manalo and Councilmember Rene Trevino.

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Bellflower Native Serves Aboard Ballistic Missile Submarine



BOOMERS- It has been more than 12 years since women were authorized to serve aboard submarines. These woman recently reached a milestone for all women who serve, completing a ballistic-missile submarine “boomer” deterrent patrol.

Staff Report

While women comprise nearly one-fourth of the Department of Defense’s total force, only a small fraction of women serve on submarines.

The 15 enlisted women serving aboard the ballistic-missile submarine USS Wyoming’s (SSBN 742) Blue Crew, recently reached a milestone accomplishment for all women who serve.

These submariners made history when they became the first enlisted female crew to complete a ballistic-missile submarine “boomer” deterrent patrol.

Enlisted women currently serve aboard four guided-missile submarines and one ballistic-missile submarine. The fleet has 70 active submarines.

“I personally never saw myself being in the submarine force,” said Chief Logistics Specialist Samantha Mincey, who began her naval career in the surface fleet serving aboard an aircraft carrier. “When I joined, women weren’t allowed on submarines. I never thought women would start being accepted on submarines while I was in the Navy.”

Mincey, a Bellflower native, joined the Navy 16 years ago, and is the senior enlisted female on the crew.

The entire mission of ballistic-missile submarines is to deter attacks by potential adversaries through strategic patrols.

On average, ballistic-missile submarines spend 77 days at sea, followed by 35 days in port for maintenance.

Cerritos Awarded \$4.4 Million Grant for New Electric Buses

The City of Cerritos has been awarded a \$4.4 million grant from the Federal Transportation Authority (FTA) as part of a Fiscal Year 2021 funding opportunity to help transit agencies purchase and rehabilitate buses, vans and related equipment, and build bus facilities. The City will use the funds to buy six new electric buses to replace the existing Cerritos on Wheels (COW) propane bus fleet, which has reached the end of its useful life.

“The City of Cerritos is proud to receive this FTA grant, which will allow us to continue to operate our fixed-route COW transit program,” said Cerritos Mayor Grace Hu. “These funds will ensure that the COW continues to be available to serve those in our community, while also reducing the City’s emissions and carbon footprint. The City appreciates the efforts of Congresswoman Linda Sánchez, SCAG, Gateway Cities COG and Metro to support this grant.”

For more than 25 years, the City has offered an efficient, timely and effective alternative mode of transportation through the COW for local community members in need of transportation services. In 2005, with the assistance of federal grant monies, the City purchased five liquefied propane buses to service the COW. In 2016, the City refurbished the buses in an effort to extend the vehicles’ lifespan, but the buses’ now aging condition and mechanical issues have surpassed the efforts of the City’s refurbishment. This new grant will allow the City to continue to provide a much needed public service in a safe, environmentally friendly and efficient manner.

efficient manner.

The FTA Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program makes federal resources available to recipients to replace, rehabilitate and purchase buses and related equipment and to construct bus-related facilities, including technological changes or innovations, to modify low or no emission vehicles or facilities.

Cerritos Library to Present Author Namrata Poddar

Staff Report

Namrata Poddar will read from her debut novel “Border Less” at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12 in the Cerritos Library Skyline Room. Seating is available on a first-come, first-seated basis. Attendees will be required to sign a COVID-19 waiver.

Divided into two sections, “Roots” and “Routes,” “Border Less” traces the migratory journey of Dia Mittel, an airline call agent who is searching for a better life. Poddar’s novel was a finalist for Feminist Press’s Meriwether First Book Award.

Poddar writes fiction and nonfiction, serves as Interviews Editor for “Kweli” and teaches literature and writing at UCLA. Her work has appeared in several publications, including “Poets & Writers,” “Literary Hub,” “Longreads,” “The Kenyon Review” and “The Best Asian Short Stories.”

Copies of “Border Less” will be available for purchase at Poddar’s presentation. The Cerritos Library is located at 18025 Bloomfield Avenue. For more information, call (562) 916-1342.

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Cerritos Teen Helped Others During COVID, Learned Crucial Skills

By Tammy McDuff

When Mayfair High Sophomore Asha Greenidge was told that school was no longer in session because of the pandemic, she was sad and would miss her friends, and her volleyball & track and field activities.

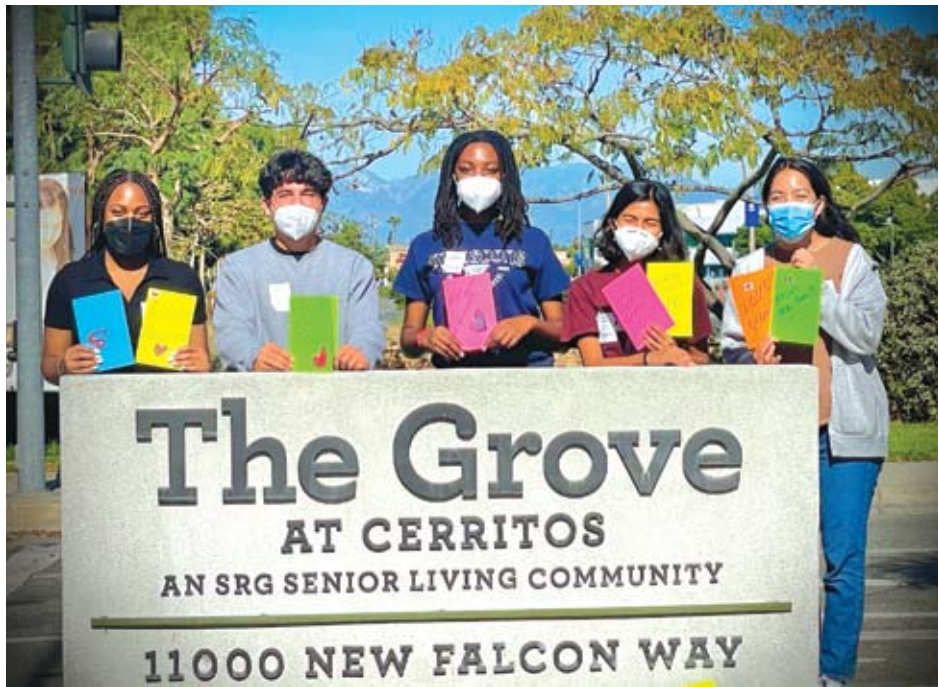
Watching the news about the virus and seeing what people were going through prompted Greenidge to want to do something positive. She and her sisters began to make cards with caring messages for those in the hospital.

The idea quickly caught on and soon Greenidge was including her neighbors, friends and team members in Project Caring Card. She and her team were always visiting area hospitals and assisted living facilities such as the Grove in Cerritos, to the delight of patients and residents.

Fast forward two years later and Greenidge will be graduating in June 2022 with honors from Mayfair High School.

Running Project Caring Cards allowed Greenidge to develop leadership skills that she would not have otherwise gained from other activities.

"I learned how to communicate with adults, mentors and those in authority. Whether in person or through email I believe I have gained more poise and understanding. Managing Project Caring Cards on top of a grueling school load and being a two-sport athlete has



ASHA GREENIDGE and her friends at The Grove in Cerritos Assisted Living facility prepare cards for Project Caring Cards for seniors.

helped develop my time management skills and the necessity of prioritizing important commitments."

Greenidge has lived her young life in Cerritos, benefitting from the many cultural programs the city has to offer.

Her ongoing participation in the city's Martin Luther King, Jr. program, for example, allowed her to increase her confidence, polish her public speaking skills, and be proud of her heritage.

She applied to 13 HBCUs because of each school's options; half of the schools because of their academic reputations and post grad pharmacy programs and to the other half because of their sports programs; Greenidge has been accepted to eleven.

Her college pursuit will be as an oncology pharmacist, her major will be in biology because she says it is an interesting field that studies the function of plants, animals, and humans. "It is also a great pathway for pursuing pharmacy school because it provides a background of how the human body works."

When asked why she chose such a study, Greenidge recalled the illness and death of an aunt. "My Auntie Jenny died from cancer, I was only ten years old. It was around that time I became interested in oncology My chemistry class, sophomore year, cemented my fascination with pharmacy and oncology. I've already begun reading all I can about the causes and treatments of cancer."

Cerritos Library Seeks Teen Volunteers

Volunteer applications are open to students at least 13 years old in grades 7 - 12.

The Cerritos Library Volunteer program is seeking dependable teen volunteers for a variety of tasks.

Applications for the 2022 summer session will be available on Monday, April 18.

The session runs from Monday, June 20, 2022 to Saturday, July 30, 2022.

Volunteer duties include shelving library materials, helping with arts and crafts projects, monitoring the children's computer workstations, operating the Friends Bookstore, assisting with birthday party packages and participating in the Child and Teen Read Aloud program.

Volunteer applications are open to students at least 13 years old in grades 7 through 12.

Applicants must have a Cerritos Library card in good standing and are required to successfully pass a criminal background assessment in accordance with City policy, which includes a live scan records check, prior to their start date.

Applications will be available at the Circulation Desk. For more information, call (562) 916-1338 or email volunteer@cerritos.us. Cerritos Library is open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Cerritos Marks 66th Anniversary

Cerritos was incorporated on April 24, 1956 as the City of Dairy Valley. The city's original name reflected the agricultural focus of the community. Dairy Valley had 32,000 cows on more than 400 dairies and 106,300 chickens on licensed poultry farms. The cows outnumbered the city's 3,439 residents by nine to one.

The city voted on February 17, 1959 to become a California chartered city.

During the early 1960s, rising land values and property taxes began to make dairy operations uneconomical. On March 2, 1965, in a special election, the citizens of Dairy Valley decided to permit the building of homes on less than five acres per residence to allow for normal residential development.

The name change to Cerritos was made official on January 10, 1967. Cerritos was a natural choice, since the area was located near land that was part of the original Spanish land grant Rancho Los Cerritos, which figured prominently in the history of this region before California became a state.

By 1970 the city had grown, quickly and inevitably, to a population of 15,856 because of rapid residential development. The city wanted to develop in a well-planned manner according to a policy of continual environmental improvement, with standards and goals which called for a park-like community with substantial amounts of open space for residential, commercial and industrial development.

On October 27, 1971, the first Cerritos General Plan was adopted to provide a positive program of controlled urban development. Administration of the Gen-

eral Plan guarantees attractive neighborhoods, location of services and shopping facilities near homes and a number of parks.

Almost 50% of the City's acreage is designed for residential living. By 1972, the population had grown to 37,738, making Cerritos the fastest growing city in California.

In 1978, Cerritos dedicated the nation's first solar-heated City Hall complex. In the early 1980s, the City developed the Cerritos Auto Square, which generates millions of dollars in sales tax revenue for the City annually, and in 1993, the world-class Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts first opened its doors. In 1997, the City opened the state-of-the-art Cerritos Sheriff's Station/Community Safety Center to provide public safety services to residents 24-hours-a-day, seven days a week.

In 2002, the 88,000-square-foot Cerritos Library was dedicated, featuring educational displays, an extensive art collection and conference center. A new 11,000-square-foot community center at Liberty Park was dedicated in 2005. The Cerritos Sculpture Garden, addition of a 5,000-square-foot fitness/wellness center at the Cerritos Senior Center at Pat Nixon Park and "Illuminations" sculpture by Terry Braunstein were dedicated in 2006 as 50th anniversary gifts to the community.

In 2008, Cerritos received the nation's oldest and most prestigious award, being named an All-America City by the National Civic League. In 2010, a 10,000-square-foot expansion and modernization of the Cerritos Sheriff's Station/Community Safety Center was dedicated. In 2013, the Cerritos Library Teen Studio opened, providing a 2,500-square-foot multi-purpose space with extensive technological equipment for teens.

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The Monarch Butterfly Needs Your Help

species list but are being reconsidered for listing in the next few years," said Executive Director Ann Baldrige and Agricultural Outreach Assistant Codi Hale. "Monarchs have gained a lot of attention and support over the last few years, with more awareness and work devoted to habitat creation and preservation."

Both Baldrige and Hale are with the Resource Conservation District (RCD) of Greater San Diego County, the founding member of the San Diego Pollinator Alliance (SDPA), a group of organizations and agencies working together to protect pollinators. Other members include the Earth Discovery Institute, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and their partners, including the Fish & Wildlife Program, the National Resources Conservation Service, Sky Mountain Permaculture and Butterfly Farms.

The RCD in San Diego helped organize the SoCal Pollinator Network in Fall of 2021 to link pollinator support efforts throughout San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles, and

POLLINATOR:

The monarch butterfly larva feeds upon native milkweed and needs it to grow and thrive.

Ventura counties. Across the state, the RCDs are working to protect or improve monarch's overwintering habitat, create spring, and summer breeding habitats, and raise awareness about what can be done to help the species and other pollinators.

Another individual working to help the monarchs is General Manager at Roger's Gardens Ron Vanderhoof, a member of the Southern California Pollinator Alliance and chair of the Plant Science for the California Native Plant Society - Orange County. He is also a science advisor for the California Invasive Plant Council, a Director of Calflora, and member of the Southern California Pollinator Alliance.

"How we respond to the plight of the monarch butterfly says a lot about how we might respond to many other challenges in the natural world," Vanderhoof explained. "In the instance of monarchs, they are icons of the natural world for many of us. They are also likely an indicator species of the overall health, or not, of our world."

Baldrige and Hale agree and say that the monarch's well-being is a reference point about the health of the broader ecosystem.

"Creating habitat along their migratory route is es-



essential to supporting their migration because without milkweed, the only host plant (energy/food source) for their larva, or nectar plants for the adults, they do not have the energy sources for the several generations it takes to sustain the full migration route," Baldrige and Hale explained.

Monarchs are pollinators and as such are food for other living organisms, who in turn feed on and perhaps regulate certain plants. They likely have many interactions with other organisms and their environment that we do not even understand and may never fully understand, according to Vanderhoof.

"Understanding and defining the role and importance

CRITICAL TIME:

The monarch butterfly species and numbers are of concern to many conservation groups in Southern California. Several are at work trying to increase their numbers and help them survive, hopefully preventing them from becoming endangered.

"overwinter," meaning that they stop and take rest through the cold months to conserve their energy for the spring. The Eastern monarchs overwinter in Oyamel fir trees of the Sierra Madres Mountains of Mexico, and Western monarchs overwinter in along the central coast of California in eucalyptus, Monterey cypress and Monterey pine trees, according to Baldrige and Hale.

"Overwintering sites are essential to the monarch migration and are a high priority for conservation efforts," they said.

In the spring of the year, the Eastern monarchs trek from Mexico back up through Texas along the Midwest, out to the East Coast and all the way to Canada. The Western monarchs head inland from the California coast to neighboring states like Oregon and Nevada for the spring. There is also a third population in Florida that is resident and non-migratory.

"It takes four to five generations of monarchs to make a full migration," Baldrige and Hale said. "Generation One is the offspring of the monarchs that overwintered, and it takes three to four generations to make it all the way back North from Mexico."

According to Vanderhoof, there are only two monarch populations, one of western North American population and the Eastern one.

"There is a bit of intermixing of the two, but not a lot," he added. "This mostly manifests itself in their migratory routes and overwintering locations. The Western monarchs spend their winter months essentially along the California coast, from Mendocino County south. About 400 historical sites are used year after year. This is very different from the Eastern population, which winters in central Mexico."

What is agreed upon is how monarchs vitally need native milkweed along their migratory routes to successfully grow.

"Milkweed is the host plant of the monarch butterfly, which means it the only plant they lay their eggs on," said Baldrige and Hale. "When their eggs hatch and they are in the larval stage, their larvae (caterpillars) eat the milkweed plant to develop into the pupal stage. In their pupal stage they

form a chrysalis, and finally emerge as a butterfly."

Milkweed is the only source of food for the larva (caterpillars), but adult butterflies can nectar on many flowers. It is also crucial in setting up habitats along their migratory routes.

"Native milkweed is absolutely and unquestionably tied to monarch butterflies," Vanderhoof explained. "It is their only foodplant. Without it, there are no monarchs. The importance of locally native milkweed species has taken on huge relevance. It is these native milkweed species that monarchs co-evolved with."

"I can say very proudly that in Orange County last year, Roger's Gardens added over 7,000 native milkweeds alone," he added. "So, let us just say, that there are at least 7,000 more little micro-monarch-habitats. We are hoping for 10,000 more this year."

"The timing of their emergence from dormancy each spring and their return to dormancy each fall is extremely relevant to monarch health and their natural behavior, including their migratory habits," he added. "Tropical, non-native milkweed was once thought to be a salvation for declining monarch numbers but has now become a significant issue and a conservation concern. It is now discouraged by nearly every monarch conservation organization and almost all monarch biologists."

In Southern California, west of the deserts there are only the native milkweed species, *Asclepias fascicularis*, *A. eriocarpa*, and *A. californica*. *Asclepias fascicularis*, also known sometimes as narrow-leaf milkweed is certainly the most common and the easiest to cultivate, according to Vanderhoof.

"Don't be fooled by other 'native' milkweeds," he said. "'Native' is a very misunderstood word. A 'California native' milkweed may not be native in your area. Beware and do your research from a reputable source, such as The California Native Plant Society, Calflora, etc."

The lifespan of the monarch is typically 2 to 6 weeks except for the overwintering generation that can live up to 8 or 9 months. They can do this by entering reproductive diapause, in which they go dormant and temporarily stop their reproductive process, ac-

fully grow.

What is agreed upon is how monarchs vitally need native milkweed along their migratory routes to successfully grow.

"Milkweed is the host plant of the monarch butterfly, which means it the only plant they lay their eggs on," said Baldrige and Hale. "When their eggs hatch and they are in the larval stage, their larvae (caterpillars) eat the milkweed plant to develop into the pupal stage. In their pupal stage they

form a chrysalis, and finally emerge as a butterfly."



AT HUNTINGTON BEACH Central Park, several monarch butterflies gather to rest while on their migratory path from Mexico to California's coast.

ording to Baldrige and Hale.

"There are several generations of adults monarch every year," Vanderhoof added.

"The generations of monarchs during the spring and summer probably average about four to six weeks of lifespan as they move through the West, mating, searching for milkweed, laying eggs, and feeding themselves on sweet nectar. This may be three to four generations, each one moving a little further afield than the previous."

"Once they reach the California coast, one of their historical overwintering destinations, these adults might live for three to four months or even longer," he explained. "Some have been known to live up to seven or eight months."

"How the great, great grandchildren of a monarch can find its way back to the same exact tree that its 5th generation ancestors started on is still very much a mystery and one of the great natural wonders of the world," Vanderhoof said. "The monarch migration is one of the longest of all animal migrations, sometimes covering as much as 1,500 to 2,000 miles. And all of this is accomplished by a delicate organism that weighs less than one-fourth of a penny."

According to Vanderhoof, the public can help the monarchs on their journey by helping to protect and conserve their 400 or so overwintering

sites. They can help in providing, restoring, and conserving native milkweed plants throughout the Western U.S. for them to feed upon and rear their future generations with, and avoid the use of pesticides both in urban gardens and especially in agriculture.

"Climate change and its impact on monarch conservation is still very much under study but has some very likely and complex impacts on all monarch populations," he added. "There are several other challenges, but those are a start."

"Grow native milkweed, not tropical milkweed!" Vanderhoof advocated. "This is crucial to supporting their natural migration timing, as native milkweed dies back in the winter. Grow your own pollinator garden, with native host and nectar plants. If you do not have your own, find a local pollinator garden to volunteer for! You can check out Monarch Watch's Monarch Waystation program to register your own garden, or search for one to support."

In Vanderhoof's opinion, the most important thing is to not only educate yourself about the monarchs and share what you have learned with others.

"One person will not solve the monarch issue, but in numbers the public sentiment will," he said. "Knowledge is power, and knowledge shared is super-power. Share."



PLANT MILKWEED

The monarchs have decreased in the last few years, but it is hoped with the establishment of local habitats (left) their numbers will increase and prevent them from becoming endangered.



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Softball Standouts: Cerritos High's Morinishi, Whitney High's Genera taking different collegiate playing paths

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on Twitter

Even though they were products of the Cerritos Girls Softball Association, Taylor Genera and Jennifer Morinishi never faced each other during their four years at Whitney High and Cerritos High, respectively. They finally renewed their talents against each other just days before the pandemic put the world on a temporary halt in 2020 when their respective NCAA Division II institutions squared off for in Honolulu.

As the pandemic was still causing havoc with the softball schedules in 2021, Genera and Morinishi met one last time last Friday and Saturday afternoons as Chaminade University visited Biola University. It marked the last time the two Cerritos friends will play against each other as Morinishi, listed as a redshirt junior, will graduate at the end of this school year while Genera still has one more year to display her talents.

But much more than their friendship is the different paths the two have taken throughout their collegiate career. Take the 5-9, 20-year old Genera, who was the big fish in a relatively medium-sized pond at Whitney. She came to the islands in 2020 and stepped in as one of two pitchers for the Silverswords, starting in six games and winning two of seven games before her season was shut down. She also had eight hits and drove in four runs as she was one of five players to have started all 12 games. But being in the middle of the Pacific Ocean with the uncertainties of the pandemic, Genera found herself in a tough situation.

"I guess it sucked feeling like, 'I guess the season is over now,'" said Genera. "We didn't know when we were coming back, and then it kind of killed the excitement of we're leaving on a road trip this next weekend and then we weren't. We found out on the Friday before we were leaving that Monday."

"Taylor is a huge factor for our team," said Chaminade head coach Kent Yamaguchi. "She came to me three years ago and then the season got cancelled and last year we had a pod season. Throughout the years with us, she's made PacWest Pitcher of the Week; she's been Freshman of the Week. We're very fortunate to have a girl like Taylor."

The irony to that season was Chaminade's last action was against Biola on Mar. 10 with a pair of games, Genera had lost to the Eagles 4-2 two days prior with Morinishi collecting two of the seven hits Genera had yielded. On Mar. 10, Genera again allowed seven hits, one going to Morinishi, in a 4-3 loss. In the

second game of the doubleheader, Morinishi went three for four while Genera had a hit in three at-bats.

"It's awesome; I love playing against people that I grew up with," said Morinishi. "Me and Taylor battled when we were super young. So, just being to watch her grow up and now play against her in college is special, and the same thing with everybody else that I used to play

could just tell that she really is attentive to the game as far as learning and adjusting."

Last season was even more strange as the pandemic was in full force. Chaminade was relegated to playing all 24 games on the islands and against Hawai'i Pacific University and University of Hawai'i, Hilo. The Silverswords went 12-12 and Genera went 6-3 with a 2.34 earned run average. She was also effective

establishing herself as one of the top pitchers the school has had and entering this past week, had a 4-4 mark with a 2.20 ERA. Finally getting to play a full season, something Morinishi had done as a freshman in 2019, was a welcome relief for Genera.

"It's been pretty interesting," said Genera. "With Covid and stuff, we haven't gotten to play as much as we probably would have liked to. But it was a good



FORMER WHITNEY HIGH standout Taylor Genera delivers a pitch against Biola University in the second game of a doubleheader last Saturday afternoon. Genera, who leads Chaminade University with a 2.20 ERA entering this past Monday, threw 38 pitches in three innings against the Eagles in a 5-3 loss. Genera allowed three hits, struck out a pair of batters and retired the final seven batters she faced. **PHOTO BY ARMANDO VARGAS, Contributing photographer**

with."

Biola would finish in first place in the PacWest Conference with a 13-3 mark as the two players flew home before all traveling to the mainland was halted because of the pandemic. But already, the two were leaving their marks in college, even though Morinishi had a step on Genera.

The path that Morinishi has taken is slightly different, but still as important as Genera's. Morinishi, who was primarily a pitcher throughout most of her days at Cerritos, was leading Biola with a .447 batting average, 34 hits and 14 doubles, all tops in the PacWest. She fell one double off the school record in a season in the NCAA era and was certain to smash that record had it not been for the pandemic. All that came off a brilliant freshman campaign in which she, among other notable feats, had a .292 batting average, scored 18 runs, drove in 15 and was the team's Freshman of the Year. She also pitched over 52 innings and was an All-PacWest Academic team.

"I was only a small part in the recruiting process; there were other coaches there," said Biola head coach Kristin Halte. "But I do remember seeing her because I was the pitching coach. I remember seeing this little thing and I think it was just her spunk. She has a great attitude, and you

at the plate, hitting .295 (fifth best on the team), with 23 hits and 14 RBI.

While Chaminade was playing in the Hawai'i pod, the Eagles were part of the Southern California pod, along with Concordia University and Azusa Pacific University where they went 14-10. But because Biola was on the mainland, it played more games, going 26-16 overall, and advanced to the 2021 NCAA Division II Softball Championships in Denver. Morinishi, who batted just under .300 with 36 hits, and the Eagles were seeded fifth and upset two teams higher before losing to West Texas A&M in a best of three series. She also landed a spot on the All-Tournament team while in the circle, holding hitters to a .234 average.

"It was just amazing," said Morinishi. "Seeing how hard our team worked and then just the result and the payoff...nobody believed in us. Everybody said we didn't deserve to be there and just going out and beating the top ranked teams and coming in second place in the entire nation was just incredible; to show people what a small, little Christian school could do that no one had heard of before that point."

But with things slowly getting better with Covid, the 2021 season would be the best for Genera and Morinishi. The former was



FORMER CERRITOS HIGH pitcher Jennifer Morinishi takes a swing against Chaminade University last Saturday afternoon. The Biola University senior outfielder/pitcher began this past week as the team's leading hitter with a .396 average and was tops in hits (38), runs scored (20) and doubles (six). **PHOTO BY ARMANDO VARGAS, Contributing photographer.**

season last year and we knew coming into this year, it was supposed to be really good.

"It was good to be able to play enough games to get a just of what it would feel like to have a season before actually having a season like this where we're playing our over 17 games in 17 days," she later said.

One of Genera's better games was on this California trip which will end with the Tournament of Champions in Turlock, came on Mar. 21 when she battled with the number two team in the nation, Concordia, for eight innings before losing 1-0, scattering five hits.

According to Genera, who is majoring in Biology, the only thing that has changed since she was pitching for Whitney is her confidence; knowing that her defense will back her up.

"I just recognized all her potential and it's not real, real important, but physics do help," said Yamaguchi. "With her height and with her legs...she's just gotten better every year. She's picked up a little velocity here and there. But her movement and her spin...we rely on her deception. And her mind; she's a smart girl on and off the field."

He added that his ace pitcher is equal to the six pitchers Concordia has and she took on the challenge of facing the second-

ranked team in the nation.

"I don't feel like I'm missing out on anything now as far as us playing," said Genera of playing more games than when she was a freshman "We do the workouts, we do the doubles a day; we get practice like that, and we spend a lot of time together."

As for Morinishi, she is going out with a bang to end her collegiate career. Entering this past week, she was leading the Eagles in average (.396), hits (36), runs (20) and doubles (six). She's been leading off in the batting order and is a left-handed hitter, making her more dangerous at the plate.

"Obviously, originally she was recruited for pitching, but the great thing with her is she can do both, and she's really stepped up in the outfield this year and really taken ownership of the outfield," said Halte. "It's something she really wanted to play, and she wanted centerfield and she worked her butt off to achieve it."

"I didn't even know I was leading [in batting average]," said Morinishi. "It's not something that I want to consciously think about. But it's a great honor to be leading. I think the biggest thing has been getting in the box and dominating my age group knowing that I am older than everybody and I can't redo it after this year. So, I might as well work my butt off and go as hard as I can, and hopefully good things will follow if I work hard."

Even though she is primarily an outfielder, she says she loves the pressure that comes with pitching, adding that it takes a unique person to be a pitcher. Usually when she pitches, she's coming in a clutch situation. But she admits she has so much fun in the outfield, especially when she sings and dances with the other outfielders. This past Tuesday against Hawai'i-Hilo, Morinishi pitched the final three and two-thirds innings and got the win as the Eagles scored the game's lone run in the bottom of the ninth. She went three for five and drove in Hailey Paull with a one out single to left center.

Last Friday, Genera was to have pitched against Biola in the second game of that doubleheader but injured her knee during warmups and was scratched from the game. The next day in the first of two against the Silverswords, Morinishi went two for four and drove in a run during an 8-0 contest. In the next game, Genera pitched three innings, giving up a pair of first inning runs, one scored by Morinishi who singled to left field on a 1-1 count as the Eagles completed the sweep with a 5-3 win.

"I love it; I love seeing [Morinishi] every time we're out here," said Genera. "It's just great to see her out her. I get to see people you grew up playing against when you were young. I get to have that little rivalry again.."

Morinishi said once she graduates, she will take a gap year and plans to apply to either Ph or medical school, then finish out her undergraduate and do some work experience as an EMT before applying.

NEWS AND NOTES FROM PRESS ROW

Artesia baseball comes out flat against Cerritos, intimidated by trio of pitchers

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on Twitter

During the first half in Artesia High's 605 League baseball opener at Cerritos High on Mar. 22, the Pioneers proved it can play with the big boys of the circuit, leading by a run after three innings before succumbing to the favorites. In the rematch last Friday on its own field, Artesia lacked the same confidence it had earlier in the week, and the body language wasn't there as the Dons posted their fifth shutout of the season in a 7-0 victory.

Cerritos put the game away early with a pair of runs in the top of the first inning and three more in the next inning, never allowing Artesia to get into the game. The Pioneers were held to four singles and had two runners reach second base.

"I think our offense was a little shy on their pitcher throwing a little bit harder than what we faced on Tuesday," said Artesia head coach Jose Serrano. "I think it was a struggle; we weren't in there today."

That offense was held in check by senior pitcher Evan Geppert, who bounced back from his first loss of the season to work four solid innings, striking out three, allowing one hit, and walking one. He retired the last eight batters and faced one over the minimum, throwing

58 pitches.

"The one thing with Evan we're trying to do is improve his fitness," said Cerritos first-year head coach Martin Rodriguez. "With El Rancho, he got tired early and couldn't figure it out after he got tired. He had a really good bullpen [session] and then a really good flat ground [session] this week. I think since Saturday, he's probably run four or five miles, which is something he never does."

With one out in the top of the first, senior designated hitter Owen Gott singled to left and after the second out, sophomore right fielder Johan Gibbs singled to right and went to second on a wild pitch. Two pitches later, junior center fielder Paul Kim doubled to left field. In the next inning, singles from junior catcher Max Meza, senior third baseman Ethan Vo and junior first baseman Dylan Burton loaded the bases. Following a fielder's choice, sophomore shortstop Carter Chi's sacrifice fly plated Vo and a single to center from Gott brought in Burton and freshman second baseman Dalton Chi. In all, the Dons collected 11 hits with Gott, Kim and Meza all getting a pair of them.

Cerritos would improve to 13-3 overall, 3-0 in league play after this past Tuesday's 12-1 win over Oxford Academy. The Dons will face the Patriots on the road today before playing Long Beach Poly High on Tuesday at Blair Field.

"We're in the spot we want to be in," said Rodriguez. "We have one more week [of league play] with Oxford [Academy], and then we get an off week with a big game with Poly kind of looming in the distance. We wanted to test

ourselves before we went into league. We wanted to show up against Artesia with some fatigue and to see how they would respond, and it worked out."

Senior center fielder Michael Loera, senior shortstop Juan Munoz, junior third baseman Reggie Steele and freshman designated hitter Alex Escobar were the only ones to get a hit off three Cerritos pitchers. The Pioneers, who then fell to Western High 11-3 last Saturday, bounced back with a 10-4 home win against John Glenn High this past Tuesday, improving to 8-7 overall, 2-1 in league.

"Starting with them was the best thing, because now we have three teams we can compete with," said Serrano. "Cerritos is the best team in the league, hands down. Everybody knows that. But being able to compete with them this year, for me, is a benefit. [From] 20-0 last year to 7-0 is a big difference. We're still there; I had four freshmen starting today. Our future is bright and that's what I'm looking forward to, our future."

The Pioneers already have the most wins in a season since going 10-16 in 2013 and with nine more games scheduled as of now in the regular season, beginning with today's road game at Glenn, they could get to the program's 2007 total of 16 victories. That was the last time Artesia reached the playoffs. The Pioneers also host Dominguez High on Saturday and will entertain Oxford Academy on Tuesday.

"If we ended up with a .500 record, I'll be happy with that," said Serrano. "But in the end, it's the playoffs. That's my ultimate goal. If we don't make the playoffs, I'll be disappointed with myself. That's what we're shooting for. Even if we end up under .500, as long as we make the playoffs, that's all I care [about]."

In other baseball action, Gahr High lost to Dana Hills High 9-4 last Friday to fall to 4-8. The Gladiators will be busy in the upcoming week, which began with a Mar. 31 game against Corona High at Great Park. Today, Gahr hosts Capistrano Valley High before taking part in the National Classic where it will face Las Vegas-based Desert Oasis High on Monday. The tournament runs through Thursday.

Glenn (0-8, 0-1) will visit Pioneer High while La Mirada High (12-4-1, 2-0 in the Suburban League) goes to Bellflower High today and hosts Mayfair High on Tuesday.

Norwalk High, ranked fourth in the CIF-Southern Section Division 6 poll, dropped a 6-1 decision to Paraclete High last Saturday to fall to 10-7. The Lancers travel to Mary Star of the Sea High on Saturday before hosting Firebaugh High on Tuesday.

Valley Christian High lost to Bishop Montgomery High 7-3 this past Tuesday and takes a 9-8 mark into its Monday home game against Bellflower.

SOFTBALL

Artesia was denied a home win against Cerritos last Thursday when sophomore right fielder Allisiah Valenzuela's would-be single to center with two on and two out was snagged by junior Camille Lara on a diving catch in a 7-6 loss. Artesia (4-10, 1-2) visits Pioneer today and hosts Glenn on Tuesday while Cerritos (8-1, 4-0) travels to Glenn today and is home to Oxford Academy on Tuesday before going to La Mirada on Thursday.

Gahr was doubled up by Los Alamitos High 4-2 this past Wednesday to fall to 9-7. The Gladiators faced Upland High on Mar. 31 in the first of five games of the Michelle Carew Classic and will also face Lynwood High on Tuesday and Warren High on Thursday.

Glenn knocked off Whitney High 5-2 last Friday to complete the season sweep over the Wildcats. Glenn moved to 10-8 overall and 2-1 in the 605 League as the Eagles hosted Montebello High on Mar. 30. Whitney (1-7, 0-3) hosts Oxford Academy today and Pioneer on Tuesday.

La Mirada improved to 11-6 overall, 4-0 in the Suburban League with a 19-1 win against Firebaugh this past Tuesday. The Matadores hosted Norwalk on Mar. 31 and will host Hillcrest High on Saturday in the first of two games in the La Mirada Classic.

Norwalk, ranked 10th in Division 5, defeated Firebaugh 6-1 last Friday to move to 13-5, 2-1. The Lancers will entertain Mayfair on Tuesday while V.C. (3-10-1, 1-0 in the Olympic League) is home to Heritage Christian High on Tuesday.

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A public service announcement by Los Cerritos Community News

Cerritos Recycling Pilot Program Starting

The City of Cerritos is launching an organic waste recycling pilot program in April within one residential section of the City.

Residents who live within the pilot program area will be notified and instructed to dispose of food scraps along with green waste in the green trash container.

The City will evaluate the pilot program and then implement a citywide organic waste recycling program later in 2022.

California state law (Senate Bill 1383) requires all jurisdictions in the state to mandate participation in organic waste recycling programs to recover and divert non-edible organic waste from reaching landfills.

Organic waste, which includes food waste, green waste and un-waxed food-soiled paper, emits greenhouse gas emissions when they decompose in landfills.

In 2021, the City Council adopted an ordinance establishing organic waste

recycling requirements in compliance with the state law.

The ordinance includes requirements for residential and commercial waste generators.

Certain businesses, such as grocery stores and large restaurants, will be required to arrange for the collection and distribution of unused edible food for human consumption.

The City will provide updates about the organic waste recycling program in future editions of "The Cerritos News" and on the City's website.

For more information, call the City's Public Works Department at (562) 916-1220.

RECYCLE: Residents inside the dotted will be notified and instructed to dispose of food scraps along with green waste in the green trash container.



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April Shows at CCPA

The Herb Alpert & Lani Hall concert on Friday, April 1 was canceled due to travel restrictions experienced by the performers, and all ticket buyers will be issued a full refund. If you have not been contacted by the Ticket Office regarding a refund, please call (562) 916-8500. "Beautiful - The Carole King Musical" on Monday, April 4 is sold out.

Enjoy "The Best of Doo-Wop Vol. VI" when the genre's icons unite at 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 9! Jam with Bob Miranda & The Happenings ("See You in September"); Ron Dante, the original lead singer of The Archies ("Sugar Sugar"); Dennis Tufano, the original lead singer of The Buckingham's ("Kind of a Drag"); Chris Montez ("Let's Dance"); The Capris ("Moon Out Tonight"); Larry Chance, the original lead singer of The Earls ("I Believe"); and Jimmy Gallagher, the original lead singer of The Passions ("Just to Be With You"). Classic Sounds will provide "a cappella" music. Ticket prices start at \$50.

As former lead guitarist of The Eagles, Don Felder co-wrote some of the band's biggest hits, including "Hotel California" and "Victim of Love." The Grammy-winning singer-songwriter, who was inducted into the Musicians Hall of Fame and Museum and the Florida Artists Hall of Fame, performs on Sunday, April 10 at 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$50 for the show, which is sponsored by the Cerritos Auto Square and East West Bank.

Get ready for a swingin' evening as composer Rob Kapilow and the CSUN A Band, directed by Tina Raymond, celebrate "The Great Big Bands of the Swing Era" on Wednesday, April 13 at 7:30 p.m. Together they delve into the works of famous bandleaders of the time - Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller and Artie Shaw. The show is sponsored by George & Bev Ray and tickets are \$55.

The Lea Salonga show on Saturday, April 16 is sold out.

Country music fans, this one's for you! Collin Raye, Aaron Tippin and Sammy Kershaw bring the "Roots & Boots Tour" to Cerritos on Sunday, April 24 at 7 p.m.

Award- Winning Author From Norwalk Will Speak at La Palma-Cerritos AAUW April Meeting

By Edna Ethington



Francine Rodriguez

The public is invited to come to the General Meeting of the La Palma-Cerritos Branch of the American Association University Women, on Thursday, April 21, 2022, at the Skyline Room of the Cerritos Library, 18025 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, CA. Social time at 6:30 p.m. will be followed by guest speaker, Norwalk resident and author, Francine Rodriguez, at 7:00-8:00 p.m., who will discuss her life and her award-winning anthology, *A Woman's Story*. The book depicts the lives of nine Latinas of varying ages and lifestyles living in contemporary Los Angeles who had experiences with violence, exploitation, sexism, racism, or inner rage, and conflicts with gender identity, family, or religion. Her book won the Silver Medal at the 2022 International Latino Book Awards.

Francine Rodriguez has an interesting story to tell about herself. She grew up in the Skid Row and Echo Park areas of Los Angeles and had different kinds of employment in her lifetime. She worked her way through college by driving a tractor trailer and delivering mail for the Postal Service. She received her B.A. degree in Sociology from UCLA, her Juris Doctor degree in Law from U.W.L.A.

With her academic education completed, Francine worked in the fields of law and psychology. She became a Civil Rights and Discrimination Investigator, DOJ Appeals and Litigation Specialist, Federal Mediator mediating Title VII and ADA complaints of discrimination, LA County Court Mediator, Attorney, substance abuse and HIV counselor, Proposition 36 lobbyist, SEIU (Service Employees International Union) Labor Grievance Representative. She is retired and is writing stories and books.

While working at all her past occupations, Francine successfully raised five children, who are now adults. She also is a proud grandmother of five grandchildren. Currently, she finds time to volunteer for animal rescue of dogs brought to the U.S. for their meat. She also runs an impromptu shelter for feral cats.

The community is welcome to come and meet Francine Rodriguez at the April 21st meeting of the La Palma-Cerritos AAUW and learn about her life and the lives of her Latina friends and neighbors that she depicted in her book, *A Woman's Story*. A limited number of her book will be available for purchase with a portion of the sales donated to the AAUW Fund.

A branch business meeting will follow the book presentation with Election of Officers for 2022-2023

For more information about the AAUW's future programs, contact Program Co-VP Karen Cox at 562-519-0596.

WATER from page 1

ecosystems from the worsening drought across the West, it is clear we need to do more," Newsom said in a statement. "Today, I am calling on local water agencies to implement more aggressive water conservation measures, including having the (state) Water Board evaluate a ban on watering ornamental grass on commercial properties, which will drive water use savings at this critical time. Amid climate-driven extremes in weather, we must all continue to do our part and make water conservation a way of life."

Newsom's executive order on Monday is in response to the state experiencing the driest first three months of any year in its recorded history.

"Our drought emergency shows no signs of lifting. Mandatory conservation, as called on by Gov. Newsom, is necessary to generate the increased level of water savings," said Adel Hagekhalil, general manager of the MWD, said Monday.

The board of MWD — the primary water wholesaler for Southern California water agencies — will consider additional actions to facilitate prompt conservation measures, Hagekhalil added.

Water suppliers are required to have customized water shortage contingency plans, and Level 2 is aimed at preparing for a water shortage level of up to 20%. The details of MWD's plan were not immediately available.

Newsom's order directing the State Water Resources Control Board to consider prohibiting watering decorative grass as businesses and institutions was praised by Hagekhalil as "taking steps to end the wasteful practice of watering

non-functional turf."

MWD offers a rebate of \$2 per square foot for people who replace their grass with water-efficient landscaping. Rebates are also available from other local water agencies.

The rebate program has helped remove 200 million square feet of grass, which has saved enough water to provide about 62,000 homes with water each year, officials said.

Water conservation rebates from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power were also increased last week, with residential customers able to now get \$500 rebates for high-efficiency clothes-washer purchases and \$250 for water-efficient toilet purchases.

The rebates were previously \$400 for high-efficiency washers, which use up to 55% less water than standard ones. According to the DWP, the more efficient appliances can reduce water use by more than 11,000 gallons per year.

DWP's rebates for water-efficient toilets were previously \$150. Rebate-eligible toilets use more than 30% less water than standard models.

DWP business customers can receive \$300 rebates for low-flush toilets, which used to have a rebate of \$250. Multi-family, commercial and industrial building owners who install large-scale water conservation systems can also receive a \$2 million incentive, which was increased earlier this year from \$250,000. The Technical Assistance Program incentive is available for pre-approved cooling towers, recirculation systems, recycling microfiltration systems and other upgrades that reduce potable water use by a minimum of 50,000 gallons over two years.

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CLASSIC CARS: The most original was the 1936 'BeerSter' (below) created by Mike Larkin and Milt Thomas for the movie the Great Race. One of the most beautiful was the 1935 Ford, (left) original five window Ford Coupe. The 'El Morado.' Tiny but mighty race cars from Ricky Schlick Racing (below left) along with a tricked out police-style Dodge Charger. Over 130 cars were entered for the event at the Cerritos' Sheriff's Station.

SHOW from page 1

The most original was the 1936 'BeerSter' created by Mike Larkin and Milt Thomas specifically for the 2007 Great Race, "Just think of driving a vintage car all the way across the United States and competing the whole way," said Thomas. The design principle was that the car had to look as if it were sired in a thoroughbred stable at the Churchill Downs facility in Kentucky. The design specification mandated that the components used on the BeerSter were made up of a variety of stock and rare mechanical parts typical in the running of the 1937 Indianapolis 500. Most of these components had to be created from scratch.

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 A large, colorful water slide with blue and yellow lanes is the main visual. The slide is set against a backdrop of palm trees and a clear sky.

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