

EXCLUSIVE

Central Basin Director Leticia Vasquez-Wilson Defamed General Manager and Staff

By Brian Hews

Central Basin Director Leticia Vasquez-Wilson (VW) will not give up trying to discredit the Commerce-based water agency she was elected to serve; the newest, and most shocking attempt hits a new low.

A video was posted by VW and her crony friend Rodolfo Cortez on April 18, 2022, and called into question the recent sale of CB's company building in Commerce, which netted the agency \$2 million.

VW was at every board meet-

ing that discussed the building and received all the paperwork, voting no twice on items related to the sale of the building.

Despite her votes, VW and Cortez posted a video on YouTube, maliciously defaming and slandering CB GM Dr. Alex Rojas and his staff, exposing the agency to a massive defamation lawsuit.

Everyone who has seen the video and knows the circumstances surrounding the sale of the building is shaking their heads in disbelief.

Cortez starts the video, "the building has been sold and there's a major problem. The district employee who executed the sale has refused to identify the buyer.

[See **VASQUEZ-WILSON** page 12]



FLAMBOYANT FLAMINGOS INVADE SOUTH COAST BOTANICAL

THE FLAMBOYANCE of seventy pink flamingos opened May 1 and has taken over the Amphitheater Lawn. The fantastic living sculptures are made from wire and peat moss, covered by pink flowering succulents. Also part of the exhibit is a pair of beautiful, oversized butterfly wings.

By Tammy McDuff

A few images or sounds may come to mind when you think of birds. The soaring, the sound of fluttering wings, hopping on the sand or the numerous bird tweets and chirps you hear throughout the day. There are birds that waddle and slide, quack, squawk or honk.

There's so much variety with birds. They can be as dark and ominous as a raven, as delicate and detailed as a hummingbird, or anywhere in between. I think you can call the 'Flamboyance of Flamingos' now at South Coast Botanic Gardens in-between.

South Coast Botanic Garden is 87 acres of masterpiece creative land reclamation and environmental improvements. It is a living testimonial to the fact that land reclamation offers a practical solution to refuse disposal problems and beautifies and improves land values at the same time.

The Garden has become a beautiful and refreshing urban oasis among the hustle and bustle of a major metropolitan area.

The Flamboyance of 70 pink flamingos opened May 1 and has taken over the Amphitheater Lawn. These fantastic living sculptures are made from wire and peat moss, covered by pink flowering succulents. As you

[See **FLAMINGOS** page 12]

Pico Rivera Moves Forward With Water Filtration Project

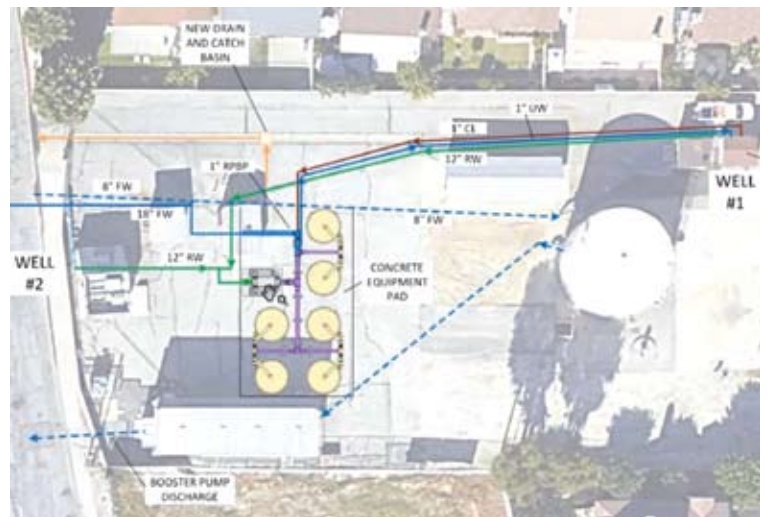
By Brian Hews

Pico Rivera is moving forward with its remedy to remove perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) chemicals, or "forever chemicals," from the city's water supply with the installation of special filtration systems.

The citywide PFAS proj-

plenishment District of Southern California (WRD).

In addition to the WRD funding, Congresswoman Linda T. Sánchez included \$2.5 million in the House Appropriations Committee's 2022 energy and water funding bill last Summer, to help the city fund this project. Funding for this project was signed



PLANT ONE at 8739 Gallatin Rd. in Pico Rivera. Citywide projects funding is coming from multiple sources, including \$5.8 million from WRD and \$2.5 million from Rep. Linda Sánchez.

ects will be made possible with funding coming from multiple sources, including a \$5.8 million grant secured from the Water Re-

into law on March 15 as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022. On Wednesday, [See **PICO RIVERA** page 6]

Commerce Councilman Mendoza Was Fired From His Job With Commerce for Dishonesty, Intimidation

HMG Staff Report

One week ago, Hews Media Group-Community News published a story concerning threatening emails sent from Commerce City Council candidate Leonard Mendoza to HMG-CN Publisher Brian Hews after Hews published a story about Mendoza's questionable campaign donations.

Turns out threatening and intimidating people who he does not like or agree with is a character trait of Mendoza's.

Several documents obtained by Hews Media Group-Community News show Mendoza was fired from his job at the city of Commerce for systematic harassment, intimidation, fighting, and ignoring safety policies that resulted in serious injuries to his crew.

A portion of the termination letter from Mendoza's boss outlining his "abusive and intimidating behavior, poor judgment, and dishonesty." Click to see larger image.

Mendoza's behavior was so abhorrent that the city was forced to hire outside attorney Sally Woolley; after she investigated, Woolley recommended the city fire Mendoza.

In 2014 Mendoza was fired with his boss writing, "You were demoted twice, we cut your pay twice and you still didn't change your behavior; we have to terminate you."

Mendoza appealed the decision twice with the final letter from the Commerce's Director of Safety and Community Services Matthew Rodriguez writing that the city "was basically fed up with Mendoza's chronic bad behavior."

Behavior Went Back Six Years to 2008

Mendoza was first disciplined in 2008 and received

[See **MENDOZA** page 8]

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Battling Invasive Disease Carrying Mosquito With Engineering

By Anna Maria Barry-Jester
Edited by HMG-CN

Bryan Ruiz moved his family into a newly built home in this Central Valley farming center seven months ago and almost immediately found they were under assault.

Mosquitoes bit and harassed them in broad daylight. He looked around, trying to find a water source where they were breeding. He found a pipe, grabbed a turkey baster, drew water, and found the larvae of *Aedes aegypti*, one of the greatest threats to humans on the planet.

Aedes aegypti is a mosquito capable of infecting humans with the deadly diseases of dengue, chikungunya, yellow fever, and Zika.

Since gaining a foothold in California less than a decade ago, *Aedes aegypti* has spread quickly across the state, its territory now ranging from the desert terrain of Imperial County at the U.S.-Mexico border to the city of Redding in woody Shasta County, about 750 miles north.

To combat *aegypti*, mosquito control districts rely on the same tools they were using decades ago — pesticides and rooting out water sources — even as the mosquitoes thrive in places previously uninhabitable.

But Tulare County officials hope the region will soon be a testing ground for a new generation of technology; a genetically modified mosquito.

The most immediate mosquito danger in Tulare County comes from a different genus, *Culex*, a type that typically bites at dawn and dusk and can carry West Nile virus, St. Louis encephalitis, and western equine encephalomyelitis virus, all of which can be fatal.

Aedes aegypti, however, is a growing concern, and much harder to combat.

To understand this fight, you first have to understand just how stealthy *Aedes aegypti* is. The mosquitoes can lay eggs in spaces as small as a bottle cap. Most other types eggs need water, but *Aedes aegypti*’s can lie dormant for months, springing to life when water eventually does come.

And one mosquito can bite many times over, snacking repeatedly on the same human or moving from one to the next.

Aedes aegypti mosquitoes in the area are also broadly resistant to the family of chemicals most frequently used to kill adult mosquitoes.

Which is why agencies are interested in a genetically modified mosquito. Their hope is that the engineered mosquitoes reduce the number of wild *Aedes aegypti* as they interbreed and produce short-lived offspring.

The engineered mosquito is made by a company called Oxitec. The company says its latest product releases only male mosquitoes which do not bite. They are genetically modified to carry a “self-limiting” gene that is passed on and theoretically prevents the offspring from surviving to adulthood.

Oxitec and the Delta mosquito district are waiting for permission from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation to launch the insects.

The goal is to build on the earlier research, which shows that the modified



AEDES AEGYPTI is a mosquito that can carry deadly diseases of dengue, chikungunya, yellow fever, and Zika. The mosquitoes can lay eggs in spaces as small as a bottle cap. Most other types eggs need water, but *Aedes aegypti*’s can lie dormant for months, springing to life when water eventually does come.

Aedes aegypti temporarily reduces the wild mosquito population but has left scientists with questions. Among the unknowns is whether the Oxitec mosquitoes are indeed incapable of producing viable offspring with wild females.

Experts hope California will independently track the experiment and not leave the analysis in the hands of a private company that stands to benefit. They say if an independent source and the company are in agreement when all the results are done, that has much more power and much more potential for the future.

A previous trial in Houston used MosquitoMate, which releases male mosquitoes infected with the bacteria *Wolbachia*. When the MosquitoMate mosquitoes breed, they produce eggs that do not hatch. Those mosquitoes were

also tested in Fresno County in 2018 and 2019 and led to a 95% reduction in female *Aedes aegypti*, according to a study on the trial.

Oxitec hopes its mosquitoes eventually will be sold to mosquito control districts in the U.S., and directly to American consumers. That option is already available in Brazil, via a consumer subscription service that costs \$10 to \$30 a month.

In the U.S. prototype, the mosquitoes would come in a hexagonal box decorated with playful insects. If all goes as planned, consumers would just add water, and the mosquitoes would spring to life.

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



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arts@ci.commerce.ca.us

The City of Commerce Art in Public Places Program is designed to reflect community spirits, enliven public space, as well as nurture community identity for a vibrant city. Artists are encouraged to enquire about the program.

Six ABC Schools Recognized for Pivot During COVID

The California Department of Education has recognized six ABCUSD schools through the California Pivotal Practice (CAPP) Program. Schools were chosen due to a pivotal practice they implemented during distance learning from at least one of the following categories: Student engagement; Distribution of technology; Nutrition services; Social emotional well-being of students

The six ABCUSD schools recognized by CAPP were Artesia High; Juarez Academy; Leal Elementary; Wittmann Elementary; Niemes Elementary and Nixon Academy.

Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon at La Mirada Splash!

The La Mirada Public Safety Team is participating in Norwalk Sheriff’s Station walk-a-thon on Saturday, May 21 from 8 to 11 a.m. at Splash! La Mirada Regional Aquatics Center to help raise money for the Special Olympics.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. All proceeds go to the Special Olympics of Southern California. Register online or donate at <https://sosc.org/letr>. Same day registration is also available.

For more information, contact Deputy Vivian Garcia at (562) 466-5454 or email vs_garcia@lasd.org.

Norwalk Teacher Receives Milken Educator Award

By Tammye McDuff

Angelica Gunderson is inspiring a new generation of young scientists in Southern California. She is a lead teacher at Los Alisos for Project Lead the Way, a three-year science program covering coding, robotics, green architecture, and technology while teaching bilingually.

Gunderson is the sole educator in California and among more than 60 teachers nationwide who received this prestigious award during the 2021-22 season. She is the first recipient of the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District. Gunderson's career received a boost when she was surprised Tuesday, May 10, with a National Milken Educator Award and a \$25,000 cash prize.

Milken Educator Awards Senior Program Director Greg Gallagher and California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond presented Gunderson with the prestigious recognition before cheering students, appreciative colleagues, and state and local dignitaries. In addition to today's festivities, Gunderson will join a national network of more than 2,800 Milken educators and leaders across the U.S.

Los Alisos was recognized by the California League of Schools as a "School to Watch" in 2020. Gunderson is a 'Femineer' and leads the 'Snap the Gap' programs; both focused on closing the gender gap in STEM careers.

She was one of the forces behind Los Alisos' adoption of Advancement via Individual Determination, an equity-focused college readiness program. Students visit colleges such as Stanford University and



CONGRATS! (l-r) California State Superintendent Tony Thurmond; Tania Magaña, Principal LAMS; Angelica Gunderson; Greg Gallagher, Milken Educator Awards senior program director, and John Lopez, NLMUSD Superintendent.

Cal Poly, and come back ready to major in engineering because of Gunderson's passion.

At Los Alisos, Gunderson sits on the site leadership and NGSS committees. She mentors new science teachers and leads NGSS training. The pandemic threw a wrench into Gunderson's highly collaborative Project Lead the Way video production class. Determined, she helped students produce, edit and distribute their weekly newscast, even as they all worked from home instead of a fully-equipped classroom.

Gunderson teaches pre-service and in-service science educators as a professor at California State University Long Beach. She models research-based approaches to teaching science and always thinks about

learning through the eyes of the children she teaches. She served as lead teacher at CSULB's Young Scientists Camp and attended Exploratorium's Institute for Inquiry. She has led professional development for the district and presented at the Computer Science Teachers Association on integrating Next Generation Science Standards and STEM instructional strategies for English learners.

No matter their background, students at Los Alisos STEM Magnet Middle School in Norwalk, California, can look to legendary scientists and see their future. That's because they have a powerful advocate, Angelica Gunderson, in their corner.

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WEAVE OF HOPE: (l-r) Devin McDuffee, Manager; Yeu Nguyen, Artist; Juliana Canty, STAY Programs Director and Gabriel Enamorado Co-Founder & Executive Director of STAY Gallery in front of the Hope Weave. Participants had the opportunity to create their own personal definition of what ‘Hope’ meant to them.

By Tammie McDuff

An interactive art installation, entitled ‘Hope’ was held outside of Porto’s Bakery for a one-day communal public art installation with Los Angeles based artist Yeu Q Nguyen.

Participants had the opportunity to create their own personal definition of what ‘Hope’ meant to them, which was added to a large-scale tapestry made from up-cycled materials.

A temporary public art project created by Los Angeles based artist Nguyen, ‘Weaving Hope’ has traveled to various cities throughout LA County on a mission to gather over one thousand personal definitions of hope to uplift community resilience and connection through art. The installation is half way to their goal, with just over 500 messages.

“When all the art venues were shut down and there was no way for people to safely interact with each other, I created this piece,” stated Nguyen, “It is specifically twelve feet wide so that people could safely distance.” The art piece was created during a particularly dark period, “With the news and social media focusing

on conflict and despair, I wanted to bring breathing space – something positive for people to express themselves, their vulnerabilities, while staying safe.”

The goal is to visit every city in Los Angeles County, to collect ‘feathers’. The feathers are pieces of paper shaped as feathers, where people can write a wish, a need, a hope, which are then attached to the larger installation. After a month long exhibition, a sculptural art piece will then be created from the feathers.

In December 2021, the project was awarded the 2021-22 Fall Grant from Eastside Arts Initiative to bring its message of hope to Southeast LA [SELA] communities, with Stay Gallery serving as the project’s fiscal sponsor. The SELA chapter of ‘Weaving Hope’ will culminate with a featured display of the tapestry as part of an art exhibition at Stay Gallery titled ‘The Resilience Project’ opening Friday, May 20 at Stay Gallery in Downey.

The first 50 participants to interact with the tapestry and/or post their personal definition on social media received a free pastry bag from Porto’s.

Natural History Museum's Bug Fair

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHM), is celebrating 36 years of Bug Fair! Join us back on-site for NHM's popular festival. Visit a variety of exhibitors and see everything from exotic insect collections to bug-related products. Come out to get crafty, experience up-close encounters with crawly creatures, learn all about the local bugs that call L.A. home, and more.

Activities include:

- Bug Fair Exhibitors selling bug-themed merchandise and live bugs
- Live animal presentations
- Bug-themed stage presentations
- Musical performances
- Hands-on activities
- Museum collection displays

Free for Museum members. Advance tickets required for the general public. For more information and tickets, visit NHM.ORG/bugfair.

Two ABCUSD Principals Considered for National Recognition



DR. EVELINE HUH, Principal at Willow Elementary School, and **Mr. John Briquelet**, Principal at Whitney High School, are being considered for national recognition. Courtesy ABCUSD.

Mr. Briquelet is nominated for the 2023 National Principal of the Year Award from the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

“It’s really no surprise that Dr. Huh and Mr. Briquelet are being considered for national recognition,” said Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu. “They have done extraordinary jobs as principals during the pandemic. Their commitment to their students and leadership skills helped bridge the gap from online learning to coming back to the classroom.”

Dr. Huh began her career in education 23 years ago. She has served as a teacher, assistant to the principal, and principal at two ABCUSD schools. She has been the principal at Willow Elementary School for six years. The Association for California School Administrators Region 14 named Dr. Huh as Elementary Principal of the Year in 2019.

Mr. Briquelet has been an educator for 33 years, beginning his career in South Los Angeles. He has served as a language arts and English teacher, football and wrestling coach, department chair, and assistant principal. He has been at Whitney High School, recently ranked as the top high school in California, for six years. Last year, Mr. Briquelet was named Secondary School Principal of the Year for the State of California by the Association for California School Administrators.

This fall, both principals should hear from the organizations determining their respective awards.

WUHS's New Pioneer High School Principal

WHITTIER – The Whittier Union High School District has selected Mary Chapman, as the school’s new principal.



Mary Chapman

Chapman, who has more than 15 years of experience as a teacher and administrator, began her career as a biology instructor and activities director at El Rancho High School in Pico Rivera.

Chapman came to Pioneer in 2016 as the assistant principal of guidance and counseling.

“I am excited, honored and humbled to shift into the role of principal at Pioneer High,” Chapman said. “Thank you to Whittier Union and the Board of Trustees for giving me this amazing opportunity. In six years at Pioneer, I have grown to love our community. I’d like to thank everyone at Pioneer High and especially Lilia Bozgian. I will do whatever it takes to guide the Titan family to the next level.”



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Lakewood's Pan American Association Awards Scholarships



SCHOLARSHIPRECIPIENTS: eight high school seniors were awarded scholarships this past week ranging from \$500 to \$1,000.

By Tammye McDuff

The Pan American Association in Lakewood honored eight high school seniors this past week with educational scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$1,000.

The program targets students who have demonstrated good citizenship and respect for human values; volunteered in their community; have a desire to complete post-high school education, and have excelled academically.

The funding for these scholarships is raised through Pan American fireworks booth and fundraisers.

The 2022 scholarship recipients are:

- Samuel Reeves (Valley Christian)
- Isabel Rivera (Artesia High)
- Margaret Pheifer (Valley Christian)

- Jackson Zylstra (Mayfair High)
 - Ryan Kiedrowski (Saint Anthony)
 - Kelly Melvin (Richard D. Browning)
 - Lauren Francisco (Saint Joseph)
 - Pareeya Jiyacharoen (Mayfair High)
- Scholarship winners serve as Pan American Ambassadors during Lakewood’s week-long celebration of Pan American friendship in May.

Founded in 1946 , the Lakewood Pan American Association is a civic organization that provides diverse cultural and educational opportunities for residents of Lakewood.

Since its creation, the scholarship program has awarded over \$225,000 to recipients to help with their higher education costs.

Quilts of Valor Given to Veterans



HAPPY VETERANS: from (l-r) Geno Cavidini, Roy Benstead, Robert Bilevich, Ed Bush, Richard Crowe, Harry Davies, Bob Keester, David Lauritsen, Richard Ramseyer, Dudley Vejsicky, and Sue Whited.

By Tammye McDuff

The Bellflower Quilts of Valor awarded twelve handmade quilts to veterans at the Good Shepard Church in Los Alamitos, this past Wednesday, May 11.

QOV member Esther Fairris stated, “Thanks to all of the veterans gathered here today for your service. The quilt will have the Veterans name on it along with those who worked on the quilt.”

Awardees were Geno Cavidini, Roy Benstead, Robert Bilevich, Ed Bush, Richard Crowe, Harry Davies, Bob Keester, David Lauritsen, Richard Ramseyer, Dudley Vejsicky, and Sue Whited.

Quilts of Valor Foundation began in 2003 with a dream, literally a dream. Founder Catherine Roberts’ son was deployed in Iraq, “The dream was as vivid as real life. I saw a young man sitting on the side of his bed in the middle of the night, hunched over. I saw him in the next scene wrapped in a quilt. His whole demeanor changed from despair to well-being.”

Volunteers donate their time and materials to make a quilt; one person pieces the top, and the other quilts it. Quilts of Valor was recognized this year for awarding 300,000 quilts.

PICO RIVERA from page 1

May 4, Congresswoman Sánchez formally delivered a ceremonial check to city officials for the advancement of the city’s PFOS and PFOA filtration projects.

Since 2019, the State Water Resources Control Board has been updating its guidelines for local water agencies to follow in detecting and reporting the presence of PFOS and PFOA in drinking water. These compounds are within the per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) family of chemicals that are used extensively in consumer products such as carpets, clothing, furniture fabric, food packaging, non-stick cookware and firefighting foams.

As the updated guidelines were announced, the city has been notifying affected customers of the presence of PFOS and PFOA in the drinking water but has not yet had to shut down any of the city’s wells due to the fact that the levels detected are still within the limits of safe deliverable water. As a result of the State guidelines, like many area Cities and Water agencies, city officials have been working to find solutions to eliminate this chemical in the city’s water supply.

Beginning in July 2020, the city adopted a Water Master Plan that would address the water quality and treatment needs including the treatment for PFOS and PFOA chemicals. Later in November 2020, the first major steps were taken when the design contract for a water treatment system was awarded for all of the city’s water treatment facilities. Since then, the city’s treatment facilities have undergone several improvements including electrical upgrades in order to accommodate the necessary equipment needed to filter out PFOS and PFOA chemicals from the drinking water supply.

“We are grateful for the support from Congresswoman Linda Sánchez in helping the city address this very critical issue,” said Mayor Dr. Monica Sánchez. “Our goal is to provide our residents with safe drinking water. It’s a goal that is shared with Congresswoman Sánchez, and it’s a goal that the City of Pico Rivera intends to accomplish.”

Construction of the first project is anticipated to begin in May of 2022.

Residents who have questions or concerns can contact the city’s Public Works Department at 562.801.4421.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN EFFECTING MEANINGFUL CHANGE TO THE NORWALK- LA MIRADA SCHOOL BOARD?

The Teachers Association of the Norwalk- La Mirada area is looking for interested residents to attend an informational meeting for potential School Board candidates. The meeting will be held Tuesday evening, May 24th at the TANLA Office from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (A light dinner will be served)

If you are interested in attending, please call TANLA at (562) 868-6251 to RSVP by May 23, 2022

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WRD Will Build Well to Inject Two Million Gallons Per Day Into Basin

By Tammye McDuff

The Water Replenishment District celebrated a groundbreaking and recognition of grants that will allow an Inland Injection Well Project at the Leo J. Vander Lans Advanced Water Treatment Facility in Long Beach, May 6.

The state of California is headed toward another hot season and a possible drought cycle. When the WRD Inland Injection Well Project is complete, it will yield up to two million gallons of purified recycled water per day injected into groundwater aquifers for storage and future use. By recycling local water sources and storing them in underground aquifers, the project will act as a buffer during droughts, reducing stress on imported water supplies.

WRD Board President John Allen noted that "Our job of protecting and replenishing our local groundwater resources are more important now than ever; the WRD Inland Injection Well Project will contribute to a drought-proof water supply for the four million residents that live in the WRD service area."

The project received two grants for funding: \$1.5M grant funding from PepsiCo as a part of their water sustainability initiative and \$1.5M grant funding from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

PepsiCo rolled out PepsiCo Positive, a sustainability branch of the company. Their goal is to replenish 100 percent of the water used in their manu-



GROUND BREAKING (l-r) WRD Board President John Allen, PepsiCo North America Sustainability Director Kathleen Niesen, WRD Board Director Joy Langford, WRD Board Treasurer Rob Katherman, PepsiCo West Division Sustainability Director Andy Wright, PepsiCo Government Affairs Manager Fidel Gomez, and WRD General Manager Stephan Tucker at the event in Long Beach.

facturing by 2025.

"Sustainability is at the heart of everything we do," said Johannes Evenblij, President of West Division at PepsiCo Beverages North America, "we have goals that aim to strategically transform the way we do business and to do what's best for our planet."

Funding from the United States Bureau of Reclamation of \$1.5M was secured with support from Congressman Alan Lowenthal. "For over a decade, I've proudly supported WRD's efforts to develop a reliable and sustainable local water supply. The inland injection well is a natural next step in our work

towards a drought-resilient region."

Construction of the project will be completed this summer.

WRD manages two of the nation's most utilized urban groundwater basins under south Los Angeles County. Nearly half of the water used by 4 million people in 43 south LA County cities comes from the groundwater in those basins. WRD's service area stretches from Exposition Park to Long Beach and from Whittier to the Pacific Ocean. WRD serves eleven percent of the state's population.

MENDOZA from page 1

a 5% reduction in pay finding that he "engaged in harassment, intimidation, abuse of authority, dishonesty, and creating a hostile work environment."

In 2012, he received a Notice to Demote but instead was hit with another 5% pay reduction for six months.

In 2013 he received another Notice to Demote for putting his paint crew in danger, and abuse of authority. As the city tried to intervene with safety programs, Mendoza did not change his abusive pattern of behavior.

One incident occurred in 2014, investigated by Woolley, finding Mendoza ordered his employee to use an inferior ladder to paint a ceiling.

The employee fell off the ladder, sustaining serious injuries.

In another incident, he challenged one of his employees to a fight; the incident was corroborated by two other employees.

When Mendoza testified, several witnesses later contradicted Mendoza's with the attorney ruling that Mendoza lied during the investigation.

"His testimony was not credible, [we found] Mendoza breaks the rules all the time when it comes to his other employees," wrote attorney Susan Wolley.

In another incident, Mendoza's crew had to move a large desk. They asked Mendoza's to help, he stated, "you do it."

The employee tried to move it and severely injured his elbow; out of work for nine months and filing a worker's compensation claim against the city.

The report stated that several of the witnesses involved in the investigation expressed concern about retaliation by Mendoza, that was the last straw, in mid-2014, the city terminated Mendoza.

We're on Kevin's level at the highest level.

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Ten New Brunch Hot Spots in Los Angeles

Eater Staff
Eater.com

Saturday and Sunday mornings are prime time for sipping something strong — be it a bloody mary, mimosa, or bellini — and settling in for some good food and even better company. Whether kicking off the weekend or reminiscing about the previous evening’s indiscretions, brunch really is the best time to unwind. Here now are 10 of the hottest new brunch spots in Los Angeles.

Agnes
40 W Green St
Pasadena, CA 91105
(626) 389-3839

Walk into Agnes on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to discover what’s cooking for brunch. On the menu at Vanessa Tilaka and Thomas Kalb’s restaurant in Old Pasadena are sticky toffee pancakes, French-style omelets filled with pimento cheese, crowd-pleasing cinnamon toast, and a whole lot more.



EGGS BENNY on cheddar biscuits with jalapeno hollandaise at Agnes.

Ardor
9040 Sunset Blvd
West Hollywood, CA 90069
(424) 310-1572

Breakfast is served Wednesday through Sunday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. at West Hollywood’s Ardor. Chef John Fraser’s morning menu is as vegetable-forward as its evening offerings and includes fresh juices, baked goods, and even french toast with fig jam and cream cheese.

Cafe Gratitude
639 N Larchmont Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90004
(323) 580-6383

For those looking for a plant-based brunch option, chef Seizan Dreux Ellis at Cafe Gratitude has you covered. And while the restaurant itself is not new, the chef has recently updated the menu to include vegan fried chicken and waffles, and even a Mexican machaca hash. Brunch is served at all Los Angeles locations (Venice, Larchmont, Art’s District) daily from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

De Buena Planta
2815 Sunset Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90026
(323) 426-9023



DE BUENA PLANTA serves a plant-based Mexican brunch menu.

It doesn’t get any more relaxing than the sun-dappled patio at De Buena Planta in Silver Lake. Settle in for a plant-based Mexican brunch on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The diverse menu runs the gamut, from huevos rancheros to pancakes and waffles with mushrooms. An espresso martini pairs well with just about everything. Weekend brunch is served at De Buena Planta in Silver Lake.

E.P. & L.P.
603 N La Cienega Blvd
West Hollywood, CA 90069
(310) 855-9955

The L.P. rooftop is open for brunch from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Reserve a table for daytime favorites from chefs Nick Russo and Monty Koludrovic, including a breakfast burrito, fried chicken and waffles, and all the cocktails you can handle.

Ella
9360 Wilshire Blvd
Beverly Hills, CA 90212

Head to Ella for a swanky Beverly Hills brunch on Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. From overnight oats to chilaquiles and avocado toast, Ella’s food selection is varied enough for a large group with different tastes. The festive drinks menu from Melrose Umbrella Co. never fails to set the mood just right.

A.O.C. Brentwood
11648 San Vicente Blvd



ELLA'S breakfast of bagels, pancakes and french toast.

Los Angeles, CA 90049
(310) 806-6464

What could be better than starting or ending the weekend with signature fare from chef Suzanne Goin, impeccable wines from Caroline Styne, and cocktails by barman Ignacio Murillo? Look for Spanish fried chicken served on a cornmeal waffle and brioche french toast on the crowd-pleasing menu. Brunch is served Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.



AOC'S Spanish fried chicken served on a cornmeal waffle.

Cabra
1060 S Broadway
Los Angeles, CA 90015
(213) 725-5858

Head to the rooftop of the Hoxton Hotel in downtown for a Peruvian-inspired brunch. Served from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday, the brunch menu includes quinoa sourdough french toast, quinoa granola, fruit ceviche with avocado cream, crab causa, and more.



CABRA at the Hoxton Hotel in downtown serves a Peruvian-inspired brunch.

Milo & Olive
2723 Wilshire Blvd
Santa Monica, CA 90403
(310) 453-6776

Santa Monica standby Milo & Olive recently revamped its weekend brunch hours — now 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. — and added a slew of new dishes from chefs

Erin Eastland and Connor Underwood, and head baker David Martinez. Try the wood-fired, cast-iron cinnamon roll and the prosciutto soft scramble on cheesy bread.



BREAKFAST PIZZA: prosciutto soft scramble on cheesy bread.

Sugar Palm
1819 Ocean Ave
Santa Monica, CA 90401
(310) 260-7500

Pups are welcome to brunch at Viceroy Santa Monica on weekends from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. On the dog-friendly menu is a salmon stir-fry, a spinach and chicken scramble, and even specialty drinks. Fit for human consumption are fresh oysters, a dutch baby with mixed berries, and tiramisu beignets.



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CIF-SS DIV. 5 SOFTBALL PLAYOFFS

Norwalk’s second inning offensive barrage backs up Banda’s pitching gem in second round rout

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on Twitter

In 2016, the Norwalk High softball team advanced to the CIF-Southern Section quarterfinals. Two years later, the Lancers got to that spot again and this season, thanks to a sophomore pitcher, a senior-ladened team and one big inning against Montclair High, Norwalk is back in the quarterfinals.

Jailynn Banda had one of her finest pitching performances of her brief high school career, retiring the first nine batters she faced and the final 11 batters of the game as the Lancers blanked the 10th ranked Cavaliers 7-0 this past Tuesday in a Division 5 second round game. Banda gave up a first-pitch single to Adriana Velasquez to begin the top of the fourth inning, then a base hit to Vivian Medinilla on an 0-2 count. A comebacker to Banda off the bat Annica Umana forced Velasquez at third and after that, no other Montclair hitter would reach base.

“Technically, I wasn’t supposed to come to Norwalk,” said Banda. “I was supposed to go to a private school. But you know what, this is my city that I want to represent. Last year we went to [the playoffs]; we made it to the first round and this time, we’re doing it better and we’re doing it harder than last year. We’re going to fight until we win [a championship].”

An emotional Banda added that she was doing this for the 11 seniors and for-

mer head coach Vic Juan, who passed away shortly before the season began.

“In the first three innings, I know she mixed her pitches,” said Norwalk first-year head coach Fred Perez. “But in the last four, when she was closing them out, she really felt comfortable. Everything was working for her. She was going with the pitches she felt most comfortable.”

In the first three innings, Banda got four batters to groundout, three of them to her, and she struck out three. In the last three frames, she struck out four, including the side in the seventh inning, and ended the game with eight strikeouts while throwing 81 pitches. She was up to 45 pitches entering the fourth inning and threw a first-pitch strike to 14 of the 23 batters she faced.

“I was scared because I have never seen this team,” said Banda. “We researched them for a good couple of days and [there was] nothing on them. So, I was looking nervous; I didn’t know what do. But I knew that me and my catcher and my defense were good and whatever happened, happened.

“I was thinking, ‘okay, we make mistakes at the end of the day’,” said Banda of losing the perfect game. “No one is ever going to be perfect. I was thinking just to keep going. We were up, so I was feeling relieved.”

Offensively, the Lancers did all their damage in the bottom of the second inning when they sent 11 batters to face Desirae Garcia. It started when senior first baseman Brianna Perez singled to right and Garcia walked junior left fielder Kasarey Lotts. Another walk to sophomore designated player Itzel Hernandez loaded the bases and with one out, junior second baseman Leilani Juan blooped a single to right field, scoring senior pinch runner Andrea Torres.

Senior catcher Aby Castro would follow with an infield knock back to Garcia,



PHOTO BY ARMANDO VARGAS, Contributing photographer

NORWALK HIGH senior right fielder/pinch runner Kazandra Gonzalez slides into home and scores her team’s third run in bottom of the second inning in this past Tuesday’s CIF-Southern Section Division 5 second round win against Montclair High. The Lancers would eliminate the Cavaliers 7-0 as all runs were scored in the inning.

whose throw home to get Lotts was not in time. Three pitches later, sophomore shortstop Kendall Nakano singled to center, plating senior pinch runner Kazandra Gonzalez and Juan. An infield single from junior third baseman Cerise Cervantes would load the bases again and after the second out, an error allowed Brianna Perez to reach first and clear the bases.

“They executed the squeeze perfectly in that inning, and then they made that one error...that opened the game for us,” said Fred Perez. “It gave Banda a little more breathing room to do what she does on that mound.”

Only four runners would reach base the rest of the game after the second in-

ning and even when the Cavaliers put the first two batters on base in the fourth inning, Fred Perez wasn’t feeling too comfortable.

“I told the girls regardless of what the score is, they’re not going to go out without fighting,” he said. “In [the fourth inning], they came back and had two people on base and that’s exactly what I expected them to do.”

Cervantes and Nakano each had a pair of hits as the Lancers (20-7), ranked seventh in the division, posted the program’s first 20-win season in at least 25 years. Before this season, the best season Norwalk has had since 1999 came in 2001 and 2007 when those teams finished 19-8. The Lancers, who finished in a tie for second place with Mayfair High in the Suburban League, traveled to second ranked El Toro High on May 12. A win over the second place representatives from the Sea View League would put Norwalk in the semifinals at either Fillmore High or Flintridge Sacred Heart High on Saturday. Both are unranked.

“That was our goal with Coach Vic, and what we all talked about was making noise in the playoffs,” said Fred Perez. “We remind every single girl, and our whole program, that Coach Vic’s main thing was look good, feel good and play good. He wanted us to make noise. I know he’s here and he’s celebrating with us.

“We just told the girls we’ve got to bring the same energy we have here at home...we have to take it on the road,” he later added. “That’s the main thing; the energy we bring helps us and carries our team.”

WONDERWORD

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.

Police Work

D	A	U	Q	S	D	E	F	T	R	E	E	R	A	C
T	E	A	M	U	N	I	C	I	P	A	L	V	O	O
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E	B	A	E	T	R	R	L	T	A	I	I	H	H	A
S	J	C	Y	I	A	O	V	G	I	O	E	O	E	B
I	S	U	E	T	E	G	U	E	N	L	M	S	R	L
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Badge, Bans, Career, Cars, Chase, Code, Colleagues, Constable, Crime, Dogs, Duties, Federal, Fires, Flight, Force, Friend, Help, Homicide, Investigate, Justice, Legal, Motorcycle, Municipal, National, Order, Pairs, Patrol, Politic, Ranks, Recruit, Roads, Save, Security, Send, Serve, Sheriff, Squad, Standards, Supervise, Teach, Team, Unit.

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NEWS AND NOTES FROM PRESS ROW

Cerritos baseball stymied by pitching of
Riverside Poly's Kian Polk in first round blowout loss

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on Twitter

When the Cerritos High baseball team hosted Riverside Poly High last Friday in the CIF-Southern Section Division 3 first round playoffs, first-hear head coach Martin Rodriguez knew what the Bears were going to do. In 2019, the Dons hosted the Bears in the first round and lost a heartbreaking 3-1, nine-inning contest.

This time around, the game was put away early as Poly touched up junior pitcher Dylan Burton for six runs within the first three innings and routed the 605 League champions 10-0. Rodriguez went as far as to say he thought Poly would try to ambush his team early.

"We've been down before and have been able to muster rallies," said Rodriguez. "I thought their pitcher did an excellent job of controlling the pace of the game. As hard as we tried slowing it down, he did a better job of really controlling the pace."

In the bottom of the first inning, senior catcher Owen Gott, who will be playing at Concordia University, singled but was stranded there. In the bottom of the third inning, freshman second baseman Dalton Chi led off with a ground rule double and moved to third on a ground out from senior third baseman Ethan Vo. But sophomore right fielder Johan Gibbs lined out to pitcher Kian Polk, who threw to the third baseman to double up Chi.

One inning later, sophomore shortstop Carter Chi doubled and went to third on a ground out from junior first baseman Raymond Sierra and in the last inning, the Dons left runners in scoring position.

"We kept trying to put the pressure on them, and that has worked for us all year," Rodriguez said. "Unfortunately for us today, the balls that were being hit hard were being hit right at guys who were making plays there."

It was the worst loss of the season for the Dons, who finished at 22-6. The 605 League champions had shutout losses of 9-0 to Paraclete High and 4-0 to Valley Christian High earlier in the season.

"For me, I look at the lineup I had today," said Rodriguez. "When we started the game, we had a senior behind the plate and a senior at third and that's it. I had two freshmen in the lineup, three sophomores and four juniors. I am extremely excited in moving forward with the core group of players we have."

"I grabbed Dylan right now and just put my arm around him and said, 'this is going to sting, and you need to hold onto this feeling until next year, and when we get out of the box and we open with our traditional doubleheader at Valley Christian, you need to just let it all out and carry it with you'," he continued. "He understands all eyes are going to be on him as the starting pitcher [next year]. He's obviously going to get the loss for today. What's forgotten is how well he pitched for us throughout the year."

Rodriguez went on to say that he wasn't sure what to expect in his rookie season as a head coach, but he's proud of just every milestone the team had. Of the 28 games that the Dons played, 14 of them were against playoff teams, whether from the [CIF] L.A. City Section or the Southern Section.

"That's a lot, and to have the record we have against those teams, there were some really tough losses and some fan-



tastic wins," Rodriguez said.

In other baseball action, Artesia High's dream season ended this past Tuesday as the Pioneers (15-12), fell to second-ranked Wiseburn-Da Vinci High 5-3 in a Division 7 second round game. In Division 1 action, seventh-ranked La Mirada High was blanked by 10th-ranked Harvard-Westlake High 9-0 to end its season at 22-7-1 while in Division 2 action, Gahr High (12-17) led Torrance High 4-0 heading into the bottom of the seventh inning before seeing the Tartars score five runs for the comeback win. And in Division 5 action, Norwalk High's season came to end with a 2-0 loss to Whittier Christian High last Thursday. The Lancers conclude the season at 14-13.

SOFTBALL

Artesia (10-13) dropped a 9-1 decision to Calvary Chapel Santa Ana High last Thursday in a Division 5 first round game while Cerritos (15-3) was doubled up by Heritage High 4-2 on the same day. After blanking Whittier Christian 1-0 in a Division 1 first round game, La Mirada (22-7) was blanked by third-ranked Roosevelt High 3-0 this past Tuesday.

SWIMMING

For the fourth time in school history, both Cerritos teams took home hardware as the boys won the Division 3 championship and the girls finished in second place to Flintridge Prep. The boys secured their sixth divisional championship, fourth since 2014 picking up 193 points in last Saturday's finals at the Marguerite Aquatics Complex in Mission Viejo. St. Francis High finished in second place with 173 points. Cerritos also won the Division IV championship in 2001 and 2002 and came in second place in 2008 and 2009.

Among the top performers were sophomore Kyle Ly winning the one meter diving competition with a Division 3 record score of 599.90 and the 200-yard medley relay team of seniors Chad Arceo, Parsa Hajipour and Jonathan Vet and junior Nathaniel D'Aloisio coming in fourth place with a time of 1:40.29.

Senior Gabriel Oliveira finished in third place in the 200-yard IM with a time of 1:54.78 and D'Aloisio was third in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 58.67.

The girls were nine points short of their fifth divisional championship as they picked up 181 points. It's the fourth time the girls have placed second, accomplishing the feat in 2005, 2006 and 2008. The girls have also won a divisional title in 2013, 2014 and 2016.

The 200-yard medley relay team of junior Sydney Romero, sophomore Calista Liu and freshmen Clemence Choy and Jasmine Koo finished in first with a time of 1:50.21. The 200-yard freestyle relay team of Koo, Liu, Romero and sophomore Cayla Oliveira came in

[See NEWS page 12]

CIF-SS DIV. 1 SOFTBALL PLAYOFFS

Gahr responds to mid game challenge,
erupts for big fifth inning to defeat Westlake

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on Twitter

When you're facing a hot-hitting team that batted .401 in the regular season and had eight starters eclipse the .340 batting average mark, you need all the motivation you can get to erase that from your mind. For the Gahr High softball team, which hosted Westlake High last Thursday in a CIF-Southern Section Division 1 first round game, it did not let a 1-0 deficit late in the game get to them.

The Gladiators, unranked in the division, erupted for seven runs in the bottom of the fifth inning and held on for a 7-3 victory. Coupled with a 7-5, eight-inning road game victory at La Serna High this past Tuesday, Gahr visited unranked Orange Lutheran High on May 12. The Lancers upset second-ranked Villa Park High this past Tuesday.

"First of all, that's a great team over there," said Gahr head coach Rey Sanchez. "They've got some great players and that pitcher is a good pitcher. That's a great team, so hat's off to them. Our at-bats weren't tough enough; we weren't tough enough early. And, when you're not competing from the onset, I think some swings and some pitches...they kind of let get to us a little bit, and I could see

it in our girls' demeanor. We challenged them; the coaching staff challenged them a little bit."

Early on, Gahr (22-8) was stymied by the pitching of Kaitlyn Bartlow, who had allowed just two hits through the first four innings, neither of whom advanced to second. But it all fell apart with one out in the fifth. Junior left fielder Hailey Sanchez doubled to right field and Bartlow was replaced by Linden McCarl. She was greeted by a run-scoring single from sophomore shortstop Rio Mendez, who went to third on an error. A base hit from junior right fielder Sophia Magcale plated Mendez and after a sacrifice from sophomore catcher Larissa Flores, senior second baseman Mika Huskey's single brought in Magcale to make it 3-1.

Bartlow returned to the circle as senior catcher Breanna Lucero and sophomore center fielder Natalia Hill were pumping up the crowd. The energy worked as junior third baseman Hayley Olivas blasted a two-run home run over the left center fence.

"I think what really started that inning was when [Westlake] head coach [Bob Creamer] got fired up because of an il-

[See GAHR page 12]





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VASQUEZ-WILSON from page 1

“Director Vasquez-Wilson called the sale an illegal activity and is calling on the community and law enforcement to investigate.”

VW is then seen on the screen with a fountain behind her sounding like she was in a bathroom; the first thirty seconds of her appearance was a campaign video.

“We’re here to call out the secret sale of the Central Basin building, very troubling very alarming, the general manager of Central Basin [Dr.] Alex Rojas has actually sold the building. The sale of the building has not been approved by the board, we were notified in January the building was sold.”

But documents obtained by HMG-CN contradict all of those allegations and, more alarming, VW was aware her statements were false.

The May 24, 2021 Board agenda contained a resolution under item 14 authorizing the sale of the building to a potential buyer. According to the minutes, VW was present and voted no on the sale, along with her crony board ally Martha Camacho-Rodriguez, but it passed by a majority vote.

An escrow was opened up with a potential buyer. The buyer had 90 days to perform due diligence, then another 30 days to close escrow.

On July 19, 2022, the agent sent a letter informing CB that the escrow fell through; CB returned the deposit.

The agent’s letter was included in Rojas’ Weekly Update to the Board, which all board members receive, including VW.

Despite the evidence, VW alleged on

the video that “Rojas has been very secretive and refuses to provide any documentation on the sale of the building or even if it was paid for by the buyer that he claims to exist.”

Two weeks later, in Rojas’ August 6 Weekly Update, he informed the board that they would be executing the deal with the backup buyer, and the resolution would be included in the August 23 board meeting agenda for approval. VW received that update.

The resolution appeared as item number 18 on the board agenda and was approved on a six to one vote. VW once again voted no.

But on the video Vasquez stated, “Since then the community has been very concerned, calling for information on the terms and sale of the building, how much, where are we moving and who is purchasing the building.”

Alleging a Brown Act violation by Rojas, VW maliciously slandered Rojas stating, “ he has failed to follow the law he has refused to make disclosures, he is a disgusting and appalling person who is totally lawless.”

After the building was sold, the board held a closed meeting and reported out all terms of the sale including the selling price.

What Was She Thinking?

VW’s unfounded allegations are, and can only be explained by the fact that her husband, Ron Wilson, is a questionable attorney who always defends his litigious wife, forgoing expensive legal fees.

Wilson constantly abuses the “special appearance” substitute in court and does not charge his wife fees.

He did that during the defamation lawsuit he lost against HMG-CN, saving

over \$100,000 in legal fees, a lawsuit the presiding judge slammed.

Several emails into Vasquez-Wilson and her husband remain unanswered.

All documents can be found online at loscerritosnews.net

GAHR from page 11

legal pitch that was called,” said Huskey. “That fired us up in the dugout, which I think also fired up [Hailey Sanchez] because we were all in it and we were all screaming. After that, the hits kept on stringing together and we kept scoring.”

“This girl is a rise ball pitcher,” said Rey Sanchez. “She had it going, and she was beating us early and we had prepared for that. I had talked to the team in the last two days of practice we had...we set up for rise balls. We were talking about staying committed to the ground and not rising up out of your legs and all and having that plate discipline.”

The inning continued with senior designated player Amanda Ta’amu doubling down the left field line, Bartlow walking sophomore pitcher Hayley Cortez and Hill to load the bases and Hailey Sanchez singling to center to wrap up Gahr’s scoring. The pitching change came somewhat as a surprise to many despite Bartlow having thrown 73 pitches before being replaced.

“At that point I was; I honestly was,” said the Gahr coach. “But obviously, that coach knows his players better. I was a little bit surprised because I thought that girl was doing a pretty good job. But I think he has enough trust in the lefty pitcher, who also is a very good pitcher.”

“Hayley has been our clutch hitter all year,” he later said of the home run. “She had two tough at-bats; they weren’t her best at-bats. She struck out looking and then got jammed. But this is what good hitters do. They make in-game adjustments, and that’s what Hayley did in that situation.”

But Westlake wasn’t about to go away that quickly. In the top of the sixth inning, Marian Elohim singled and Kaylee Clarkson homered over the right center fence. After that, Cortez settled down to retire five of the last six batters she faced and ended the game scattering seven hits while striking out two.

“Marley didn’t have enough pitches today,” said Rey Sanchez. “She struggled with some of her pitches, her changeup wasn’t close, and we’ve been trying to get that pitch down and she knows that. But the thing that Marley has is she’s got courage. She’s not afraid; she’ll get in there and she’s going to battle you no matter what. She’s been our girl all year long.”

“We have hitters on our team, and I don’t think we were really scared for them coming in knowing that their numbers were high, and knowing that they played good teams during league,” said Huskey. “I think the win against Warren put us in a good position here and it kept our energy going throughout this game.”

Flores, Huskey and Hailey Sanchez all had a pair of hits as the Gladiators, who won the San Gabriel Valley League, are in a familiar place from a few seasons back. The program reached the Division 1 championship game in 2018, advanced to the semifinals in 2015 and 2019 and the quarterfinals in 2016. Last season, Gahr went 14-7, finished in third place in the SGVL and was bounced out in the first round.

“I don’t know so much turnaround as...last year we did struggle a little bit in league and we lost a couple of games early,” said Rey Sanchez. “I love the fight that our girls came into this season with from the get-go. Early on, we were

swinging the bats well and we had a lot of compliments from [other] teams who said, ‘hey, you guys are swinging the bats really well’. But for the most part, I’m just proud of these girls.”

“I think this year, we have much better team chemistry than last year because of Covid, we were all online and we would only see each other at practice during the week,” said Huskey. “But I think being back in school and seeing each other 24/7, literally, has brought us so much closer together.”

With a win over Orange Lutheran, the Gladiators would face either sixth-ranked Pacifica High or third-ranked Roosevelt High on Saturday in the semifinals.

NEWS from page 11

second place with a time of 1:40.09 while Choy won the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:05.94

Liu was third in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 24.55

The 400-yard freestyle relay team of Liu, senior Jamie Rigor, sophomore Alexandria Dornoff and freshman Daphne Khong was fourth with a time of 3:45.08.

Also in Division 3, the Whitney High girls picked up 28 points while in Division 4, the Artesia and Gahr girls had 35 and 32 points respectively while for the boys, La Mirada racked up 56 points, Valley Christian High had 31 points and Artesia had nine points.

TRACK AND FIELD

A pair of area athletes have advanced to the CIF-SS divisional championships, which will take place on Saturday at Moorpark High. In Division 2, Gahr senior Natalyn Membreno will compete in the 800 meter run, slated for approximately 3:50 p.m. where she had a time of 2:19.99 in last Saturday’s preliminaries. V.C. senior Karon Warren, who has the best Division 4 time in the 400 meter run, will race at 2:55 p.m., then compete in the 200 meter dash nearly two hours later. Her preliminary time from last Saturday was 25.69, the eighth best time in the division.

FLAMINGOS from page 1

roam the gardens, you will spy a pack of dogs, a fluffle of rabbits, a troop of monkeys, a swarm of butterflies and a pod of dolphins. Flamboyance features more than 100 topiary animals presented in six groupings throughout the Garden. The largest of these groupings is the life-sized flamingos filled with begonias.

Also part of the exhibit is a pair of beautiful, oversized butterfly wings; visitors can snap a photo in front the marvelous exhibit. You won’t be able to miss them, but just in case, they will be located in front of the SOAR, the Tropical Butterflies exhibit. And while Flamboyance is free with Garden admission, there is a separate fee and reservation needed for the butterfly pavilion.

Your SOAR journey begins as you step into the host and nectar garden for an up-close view of the butterfly habitat and the emergence of new species. A guided tour brings you into the main pavilion with new tropical butterflies.

Some areas of Flamboyance might be impassable for wheelchairs or those with mobility issues. A select amount of accessibility tickets are available on Saturdays that include a 20-minute golf cart ride to see the topiaries. Tickets must be booked in advance by calling Guest Services at 424-452-0920. Flamboyance runs at the Garden from May 1 through July 31.

For tickets and more information, visit southcoastbotanicgarden.org.

Find our paper at these convenient locations:

AAA 18642 S. Gridley ABC Adult School 12254 Cuesta Dr. ABC District Office 16700 Norwalk Blvd. ABCFT 19444 Norwalk Blvd. Aikan Sushi 12155 South St All Cerritos Parks Amor Y Tacos 13333 South St Arte Café 12741 Towne Ctr. Dr. Artesia City Hall 18747 Clarkdale Ave. Artesia Library 18722 Clarkdale Artesia Cemetery 11142 Artesia Blvd. Artesia Christian Home 11614 183rd St, Artesia Ave. 3 12612 South Street Cassidy's Cafe 15010 La Mirada Blvd Cerritos Autosquare All Dealerships Cerritos Chamber 13259 South St. Cerritos College Cerritos City Hall Community Center Cerritos Library Cerritos Park East 18125 Bloomfield Ave Cerritos Medical Center Hahn's, office/ Dr. De Kriek 11911 Artesia Blvd. Cerritos Senior Center 12340 South St. Cevitas Coffee 14218 Rosecrans Ave CTA Travel	12750 Center Ct Dr S. ContunEM 6430 South St Don Knabe Park At the Tennis Center El Tepeyac 13926 Imperial Hwy Foggia Deli 5522 Del Amo Blvd. Grocery Outket 15745 Imperial Hwy, Grove at Cerritos 11000 New Falcon Way Goodyear Auto 19404 Norwalk Blvd. Gardens Casino 11871 E Carson St. Hawaiian Gardens City Hall, Rec. Center, Library 21815 Pioneer Holy Family Church, Artesia IHop 15140 La Mirada Blvd Imperial Healthcare Center 11926 La Mirada Blvd It's A Grind 13295 South St. Kindred Hospital 14900 Imperial Hwy. Knabe Park Kristens Beauty Salon 13952 Valley View Ave La Casa de Concinera 15711 Imperial Hwy, Lakewood Regional 3700 South St. La Mirada City Hall, Library, Resource Center, Sheriff's LA Nails 13239 South St La Palma City Hall La Palma Community Center La Palma Intercomm. Hospital Liberty Park 9211 Studebaker Rd,	Long Beach Memorial 2801 Atlantic Ave. Manila Sunset 13347 South St Massage and Stone 13247 South St. Medipost 13299 E South Street Norwalk Arts and Sports 13000 Clarkdale Norwalk Senior Center 14040 San Antonio Dr. Norwalk City Hall Offstreet Café 11020 Artesia Blvd. Olive Lawn 13926 La Mirada Blvd 11832 E Carson St Pico Rivera Chamber 5016 Passons Blvd Pico River City Hall and Sheriffs 6615 Passons Blvd Rosewoods 10769 South St. State Farm 12616 South St LAFD Station 30 Kindred Hospital 11103 183rd St Sophia Hair Salon 13243 South St. Splash! La Mirada Sukos Sushi 14156 Rosecrans Ave Tacos San Pedro 11832 E Carson St Tour Le Jour 13359 South St VI Pharmacy 12610 South Street WRD 4040 Paramount
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Upcoming Events at
OC Fair & Event Center

626 Night Market OC and Costa Mesa Speedway are both back at the OC Fairgrounds this month. The fairgrounds is also hosting several other events before we head into the summer for the annual OC Fair.

♦ 626 Night Market OC, May 13-15

The festival features 200+ food, merchandise, crafts, arts, games, music and entertainment attractions in an epic event that appeals to all ages.

May 13-15, June 17-19

Friday, 4-11 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday, 1-11 p.m.

On the fairgrounds: OC Promenade, Lot G and Lot I

How much: \$5 admission plus fees; free for children 3 and younger. Parking is \$10. Most vendors accept cash only;

626nightmarket.com/tickets-oc

♦ Gem Faire, May 13-15

Fine jewelry, precious and semi-precious gemstones, millions of beads, crystals, gold, silver, minerals and much more at manufacturer’s prices. Nearly 200 exhibitors from around the world. Jewelry repair, cleaning & ring sizing while you shop.

Friday, May 13, noon-6 p.m. Saturday, May 14, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday, May 15, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Costa Mesa Building and Santa Ana Pavilion, \$7 general admission; free for kids age 11 and younger. Parking is \$10.

Visit gemfaire.com

♦ O.C. Swap Meet, May 14

This event was created to provide a space for local small businesses and the community to come together in an outdoor setting. The swap meet showcases products and goods for all to buy and enjoy. Saturday, May 14, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Lot D Free admission. Parking is \$10.

Check instagram.com/ogocswap-meet, email ogswapmeet@gmail.com or call (949) 302-0355

♦ SOS Wild & Crazy Taco Night, May 19

Orange County’s most generous chefs will join Share Our Selves in an evening of fun, friendship and amazing tacos. In the spirit of friendly competition and to support a great cause, these chefs will create gourmet tacos you won’t find anywhere else Thursday, May 19, 2022, 5:30-7:30 p.m. (VIP pre-party begins at 4:30 p.m.) Plaza Pacifica

\$80 early-bird general admission (increases to \$90 on May 1); \$150 early-bird VIP (increases to \$170 on May 1). Tickets include all-you-can eat tacos, margaritas, beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages. All proceeds benefit SOS and the vital services they provide to address issues including food insecurity, housing insecurity and overall wellness for our low-income and homeless neighbors.

Visit shareourselves.org/event/29th-annual-wild-crazy-taco-night/

♦ Sand Sports Super SWAP, May 21

The Sand Sports Super Show is hosting a one-day opportunity for off-road enthusiasts to “swap” their sand toys and equipment. Sellers of new and used quads, dune buggies, motorcycles,

tires, engine parts, helmets and anything for the off-road enthusiast are welcome!

Saturday, May 21, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Lot Presale tickets (until May 20 online only) are \$5; day of show tickets are \$10; children 12 & younger are free. Parking is \$10.

More info: Visit sandsportssupershow.com

♦ Costa Mesa Speedway, May 21

Jack Milne Cup / Speedway / Side-cars / Juniors / Vintage Bike Show – Legends. Saturday, May 21, gates open at 5:30 p.m. / Qualifying 6 p.m. / First Race 7:30 p.m. Action Sports Arena.

\$20 general admission; \$10 for kids ages 3-12; free for kids 2 and younger. Parking is \$10.

More info: Visit costamesasspeedway.net

♦ Scottish Fest, May 28-29

Scottish Fest is Southern California’s largest Scottish, Celtic, American Festival. Experience two days of world class Celtic music, piping and drumming competitions, Highland dancing contests, Scottish heavy athletics, Scottish gifts and foods, Scottish clans and genealogy, a fantastic children’s glen and so much more!

Saturday, May 28, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. & Sunday, May 29, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. \$30 general one-day admission, \$26 seniors (62+), \$5 for children 12 & younger, free for children 5 & younger, free for military and first responders. Parking is \$10.

More info: Visit scottishfest.com

Rabies Clinics to
be Held in June and July

The City of Cerritos will hold two low-cost rabies clinics for dogs and cats in Shelter 1 at Cerritos Park East from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15 and Tuesday, July 12.

The clinics are sponsored by Long Beach Animal Care Services and Artesia Animal Hospital, in cooperation with the City of Cerritos Community Participation division. More information will be provided in the June and July issues of “The Cerritos News.”

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Catherine Grant Wieder
Probate, Wills, Living Trusts, Special Needs Trusts, Powers of Attorney & Advance Directives.
562-404-4039

ATTORNEY
THE LAW OFFICE of LEWIS & LEWIS
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562 293 4073 LewisLaw.info JOHN LEWIS, ESQ.
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NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINIS-TER ESTATE OF:
FRANK MEDINA
CASE NO. 22STPB03863
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contin-gent creditors, and persons who may other-wise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of FRANK MEDINA.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by FRANK MEDINA, JR. in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGE-LES.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that FRANK MEDINA, JR. be appointed as per-sonal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
THE PETITION requests authority to admin-ister the estate under the Independent Ad-ministration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court ap-proval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representa-tive will be required to give notice to inter-ested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an 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: 05/24/22 at 8:30AM in Dept. 11 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the peti-tion, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objec-tions with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowl-edgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate as-sets or of any petition or account as provid-ed in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for Petitioner
MICHAEL M. STEPHENSON - SBN 49801
STEPHENSON & STEPHENSON
29000 S. WESTERN AVENUE, SUITE 300
RANCHO PALOS VERDES CA 90275
4/29, 5/6, 5/13/22
CNS-3578243#
LA MIRADA LAMPLIGHTER

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property pursuant to Sections 21700–21716 of the CA Business and Professions Code, Section 2328 of CA Commercial Code, Sections 1812.600–1812.609, Section 1988 of CA Civil Code and Section 535 of the CA Penal Code.
The undersigned will be sold at public auction conducted on www.storagetreasures.com ending on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 10:00am. The personal property including: general household goods, electronics, tools, personal effects, and or miscellaneous items are stored at: Cerritos Self Storage, 16515 Valley View Ave., Cerritos, County of Los Angeles, State of California by the following:
Name Unit #
Jonathan Conoley F15
Purchases must be made in CASH ONLY and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Sale is subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party.
Dated this 6th and 13th day of May 2022.
Self Storage Management Company
Bond #: WL11254152

Published at LCCN 5/6 and 5/13

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
MICHAEL CHAVEZ
CASE NO. 22STPB04163
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of MICHAEL CHAVEZ.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by TONI I. CHAVEZ in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that TONI I. CHAVEZ be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act with limited author-ity. (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: 05/31/22 at 8:30AM in Dept. 11 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 knowledge-able 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
JOSEPH G. DAVIS - SBN 76197
1100 W. TOWN & COUNTRY ROAD,
SUITE 1250
ORANGE CA 92868
5/6, 5/13, 5/20/22
CNS-3581324#
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NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
ARMANDO FERREIRA
CASE NO. 22STPB02253
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of ARMANDO FERREIRA.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by NANCY FERREIRA MEJIA in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that NANCY FERREIRA MEJIA be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 05/27/22 at 8:30AM in Dept. 67 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 knowledge-able 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
PRISCILLA C. SOLARIO, ESQ.
SBN 259607, LAW OFFICES OF PRISCILLA C. SOLARIO
9431 HAVEN AVE., #108
RANCHO CUCAMONGA CA 91730
5/6, 5/13, 5/20/22
CNS-3581655#
LA MIRADA LAMPLIGHTER

CITY OF CERRITOS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR BIDS FOR
C5 WELL REHABILITATION SERVICES AND PILOT STUDY
PROJECT NO. 17197, RFB NO. 1466-22

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Cerritos, County of Los Angeles, State of California, hereby invites sealed bids for the following project: **Project Identification: C5 WELL REHABILITATION SERVICES AND PILOT STUDY, PROJECT NO. 17197, RFB NO. 1466-22. Project Description:** The work or improvement to be performed generally consists of all labor, material, tools, and equipment necessary for rehabilitation services and pilot study of the C5 Well, located at 20101 Cabrillo Lane. **Bids submission deadline: Wednesday, June 1, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. Place of bid receipt:** The bid submission must be received in the Office of the City Clerk, First Floor, 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90703. Bids must be marked: **“C5 WELL REHABILITATION SERVICES AND PILOT STUDY, PROJECT NO. 17197, RFB NO. 1466-22.”** It is the responsibility of the bidder to ensure that the bid is received in the appropriate location by the deadline. Bids not received in the Office of the City Clerk by the deadline provided will not be considered. All Bids shall be made on the form furnished by the City. The City will evaluate all bids and the City’s final selection criteria will be based on, but not limited to, the following analysis:

- Completeness of bid.
- Contractor’s demonstrated understanding of the scope of work.
- Contractor’s project team member’s experience in performing similar work.
- Feedback received from references listed on Reference Sheet.
- The total project proposal fee.

Obtaining Contract Documents: A set of Contract Documents, including plans and specifications may be purchased by contacting the City of Cerritos Engineering Division at (562) 916-1219. The cost of the bid documents is \$10.00 (\$15.00 if mailing is requested). There will be no refund for return of the documents and return is not required. Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid security referred to in the Contract Documents and by a list of proposed subcontractors. Evidence of insurance, Performance Bond, Labor and Material Payment Bond, and Warranty Bond, as specified in the Contract Documents, will be required prior to execution of the contract. In accordance with Public Contract Code Section 22300, the bidder who is awarded the contract may substitute securities for retention money withheld by a public agency to ensure performance under the contract. The procedure and requirements for substituting said securities are set forth in Public Contract Code Section 22300, which is incorporated by this reference as set forth herein. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or portions thereof, or to waive any informality or irregularity in a bid to the extent allowed by law. No bid will be accepted from a contractor who has not been licensed in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 9, Division III of the California Business and Professions Code. The contractor must possess a license of the following classification at the time the contract is awarded (and must maintain this license classification through completion of the project): **“A”** or **“C-57”**. The bidder’s attention is also directed to Section 7028.15 of the Business and Professions Code for further reference. Only a contractor or subcontractor who currently is registered with the California Department of Industrial Relations (“DIR”) to bid on public works contracts in California, pursuant to Labor Code Section 1725.5, shall be permitted to submit or be listed on a bid. No bid shall be accepted, nor any contract or subcontract entered into, without proof of the contractor or subcontractor’s current registration to perform public work pursuant to Labor Code Section 1725.5. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 1770, et seq., of the California Labor Code, the DIR has determined the general prevailing rate of wages and employer payments for health and welfare, vacations, pensions and similar proposes applicable to the work to be done. These rates shall be the minimum rates for this project. Copies of the prevailing wage rates are on file at City Hall, located at 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, California, 90703, and shall be available to any interested party upon request. In addition, rates may be obtained by visiting <http://www.dir.ca.gov/OPRL/pwd/>, calling the DIR, Division of Labor Statistics and Research’s Prevailing Wage Unit at (415) 703-4774, faxing the Prevailing Wage Unit at (415) 703-4771 or writing to DIR, Division of Labor Statistics and Research, Prevailing Wage Unit, P.O. Box 420603, San Francisco, CA, 94142. The contractor to whom the contract is awarded, and the subcontractors under him, must pay not less than these rates for this area to all workers employed in the execution of the contract. The bidder’s attention is further directed to Section 9204 of the Public Contract Code regarding the claims resolution process for all public works projects. Any dispute or claim against the City under a public works project shall be processed in accordance with Section 9204 of the Public Contract Code and any other applicable law. By order of the City of Cerritos.

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 5/13/22

T.S. No.: 2022-00135-CA
Property Address: 16624 SHENANDOAH AVENUE, CERRITOS, CA 90703
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
PURSUANT TO CIVIL CODE § 2923.3(a) and (d), THE SUMMARY OF INFORMATION REFERRED TO BELOW IS NOT ATTACHED TO THE RECORDED COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT BUT ONLY TO THE COPIES PROVIDED TO THE TRUSTOR.
NOTE: THERE IS A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT ATTACHED

NOTA: SE ADJUNTA UN RESUMEN DE LA INFORMACION DE ESTE DOCUMENTO
TALA MAYRONG BUOD NG IMPORMASYON SA DOCUMENTONG ITO NA NAKALAKIP
LƯU Ý: KÈM THEO ĐÂY LÀ BẢN TRÍCH BAY TÓM LƯỢC VỀ THÔNG TIN TRONG TÀI LIỆU NÀY

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:
YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 10/17/2005. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROP-ERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.
Trustor: JIMMY MCNABB
Duly Appointed Trustee: Western Progressive, LLC
Deed of Trust Recorded 11/08/2005 as Instrument No. 05 2698548 in book --, page-- and of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California,
Date of Sale: 06/16/2022 at 09:00 AM
Place of Sale: VINEYARD BALLROOM, DOUBLETREE HOTEL LOS ANGELES-NORWALK, 13111 SYCAMORE DRIVE, NORWALK, CA 90650
Estimated amount of unpaid balance, reasonably estimated costs and other charges: \$ 296,474.60
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
THE TRUSTEE WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK DRAWN ON A STATE OR NATIONAL BANK, A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, OR A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, A SAVINGS ASSOCIATION OR SAVINGS BANK SPECIFIED IN SECTION 5102 OF THE FINAN-CIAL CODE AND AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN THIS STATE:
All right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described as:
More fully described in said Deed of Trust.
Street Address or other common designation of real property: 16624 SHENANDOAH AVENUE, CERRITOS, CA 90703
A.P.N.: 7012-006-008
The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above.
The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is:
\$ 296,474.60.
Note: Because the Beneficiary reserves the right to bid less than the total debt owed, it is possible that at the time of the sale the opening bid may be less than the total debt.
If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder’s sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse.
The beneficiary of the Deed of Trust has executed and delivered to the undersigned a written request to commence foreclosure, and the under-signed caused a Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located.
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not auto-matically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder’s office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on this property.
NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficia-ry, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (866)-960-8299 or visit this Internet Web site <https://www.altisource.com/loginpage.aspx> using the file number assigned to this case 2022-00135-CA. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale.
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction, if conducted after January 1, 2021, pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an “eligible tenant buyer,” you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an “eligible bidder,” you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (855)-976-3916, or visit this internet website <https://tracker.auction.com/sb1079>, using the file number assigned to this case 2022-00135-CA to find the date on which the trustee’s sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee’s sale. Third, you must submit a bid, by remitting the funds and affidavit described in Section 2924m(c) of the Civil Code, so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee’s sale. If you think you may qualify as an “eligible tenant buyer” or “eligible bidder,” you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase.
Date: May 10, 2022 Western Progressive, LLC, as Trustee for beneficiary
C/o 1500 Palma Drive, Suite 238
Ventura, CA 93003
Sale Information Line: (866) 960-8299 <https://www.altisource.com/loginpage.aspx>
Trustee Sale Assistant
WESTERN PROGRESSIVE, LLC MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMA-TION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. LCCN 5/13, 5/20, 5/27/22

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La Mirada's
Special Memorial
Day Events
Staff Report

A special Memorial Day event honoring those who have served in our nation’s Armed Forces will be held on Monday, May 30 at 10 a.m. at Olive Lawn Memorial Park, located at 13926 La Mirada Boulevard.

The service will include vocal tributes, guest speakers, and recognition of Blue Star families.

There will also be a special tribute to fallen soldiers, and the placing of flower wreaths by the City Council, community organizations, and Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary.

The program is being provided by a partnership of the La Mirada Veterans Coordinating Council, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) post 9148, the City, and support from many local organizations.

Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, as seating is limited.

For additional information, call La Mirada VFW Post #9148 at (562) 903-1185 or the City at (562) 943-7277.

Prime Tacos Opens in Norwalk



WELCOME: Norwalk Mayor Rick Ramirez and Councilwoman Margarita Rios with the owners of Taqueria El Cortez Prime Tacos at the ribbon cutting.

By Tammye McDuff

Norwalk officially welcomed Taqueria El Cortez Prime Tacos with a grand opening and ribbon cutting in April.

This is one of the best taquerias in the area. What sets this place apart from others is in the quality of the meat. They have "prime grade" tacos on the menu from cuts of short rib and rib eye. When you order "Prime" they literally pull the cut from the fridge and cook it on the spot, the wait time is minimal. Tacos come full of meat,

add cilantro to go with their tasty salsa.

When you visit be sure to order the carne asada Mulita, carne asada, Al pastor with pineapple, tripa, lengua and prime rib eye tacos, this seems to be a customer favorite.

The customer service is excellent, but put your credit cards away. This establishment is cash only. Taqueria El Cortez Prime Tacos offers a Taco Tuesday every week and is located at 16220 Pioneer Boulevard in Norwalk.

REAL ID Federal
Enforcement Date
is One Year Away

Apply online to get a REAL ID now.

The deadline is May 3, 2023.

Staff Report

The REAL ID federal enforcement date is just one year away, and interested parties can beat the rush.

Starting May 3, 2023, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will require a valid passport or other federally approved identification.

Approved identification includes the REAL ID driver’s license or identification card in order to board flights within the United States and access secure federal facilities like military bases.

Those who want the ID can start the application online now and get REAL ID ready in three simple steps:

1. Gather all required identification documents
2. Complete the online application and upload the documents
3. Visit the DMV office to complete your REAL ID application

Visit dmv.ca.gov/realid for a complete list of acceptable documents and to begin your online application.

Question: What type of documents are required to apply for my REAL ID?

Answer: 1 original or certified proof of identity and 2 different printed proofs of California residency are required.

One original or certified proof of identity*

- Examples: valid passport, birth certificate, valid permanent resident card

**If your name on your proof of identity is different from the name on your other documents you will need a legal name change document (Examples: marriage certificate, adoption papers.)*

Two different printed proofs of California residency

- Examples: utility bill, bank statement, insurance documents, tax return, rental or lease agreement, school documents

Question: Do I have to wait for my current license or ID to expire before I get a REAL ID?

Answer: No, you can apply for the REAL ID before your current driver license or ID expires.

Be aware that your new REAL ID will hold the same expiration date as your current driver license or ID.

Keep in mind that as the enforcement date gets closer, wait times are estimated to get longer.

Don’t delay and apply today to beat the rush.

For more information, please visit dmv.ca.gov/realid

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