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## LCCN EXCLUSIVE

### Executive Dir. of California Cardrooms-JPA Handing Out Big Money No-Bid Contracts

Former Bellflower Mayor and Central Basin Director Juan Garza is handing out the contracts to his friends with little oversight.

By Brian Hews

A Los Cerritos Community News investigation has found that Juan Garza, Executive Director of California Cities for Self-Reliance (CSR), a joint powers authority that advocates for Southern California Cardrooms, is handing out



Juan Garza

lucrative no-bid CSR contracts without sending out Requests for Proposals and at least one board member was unaware of Garza's actions.

Garza's actions are similar to some of the same issues found after the 2015 Central Basin audit that the District has since corrected.

Garza is the current District Four Director at Central Basin and is unabashedly leading the charge with Directors Leticia Vasquez, Martha Rodriguez and Michael Gulateri to remove Central Basin GM Alex Rojas for the same acts Garza has overtly committed; but the four directors have not produced proof of their Rojas' allegations.

[ See GARZA, page 6 ]

### Officials Announce a \$298 Million Rehabilitation for 605 Freeway



**BIG FIXES:** State Senator Bob Archuleta, 2nd from right, with Caltrans and CHP officials at the 605 rehabilitation ground-breaking.

By Brian Hews

Drivers will receive a major upgrade to their commute as a \$298 million project to rehabilitate the 605 Freeway is set to begin.

The construction will span nearly 200 "lane miles" of the freeway beginning from the San Gabriel Valley all the way down to Long Beach, according to Caltrans.

[ See FREEWAY, page 12 ]



### SUP. HAHN HOLDS GUN BUYBACK IN BELLFLOWER

**OFF THE STREETS:** far left, Bellflower Mayor Sonny Santa Ines, Los Angeles County Assistant Sheriff Myron Johnson (left of Sup. Hahn), Sup. Hahn, and Bellflower Council member Victor Sanchez (far right) join the press conference at the event.

By Brian Hews

A gun buyback sponsored by Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn in partnership with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department last Saturday collected 142 guns, including eight assault rifles and four ghost guns, a term used to describe unserialized and untraceable firearms that can be bought online and assembled at home.

The event was held in a parking lot at Simms Park.

Residents exchanged any unwanted gun for gift cards, no questions asked and without leaving their vehicle.

"Over and over again at these events, we hear from people that they didn't know what else to do with guns they had in their homes and didn't want anymore. We actually had to open this event earlier than planned this morning because the line of cars was so long. People want a safe, easy way to get these weapons out of their homes and away from their families and these buybacks provide that," said Hahn. "There are 142 fewer guns out there now, that won't be stolen

[ See BUYBACK, page 13 ]

### L.A. County Could Pay Your Medical Debt

The funds come from Biden's American Rescue Plan. \$12 million can retire \$1 billion in debt.

By Brian Hews

A report from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health in June found that county residents had more than \$2.6 billion in outstanding medical debt as of 2021.

This week, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a motion authored by Board Chair Janice Hahn and co-authored by Supervisor Holly Mitchell aimed at reducing the burden of medical debt on county residents.

Strategies the County will pursue include requiring hospitals to share debt-collection and financial assistance data with the County and the public, new policies to reduce debt accumulation, and exploring an innovative proposal to purchase residents' debt for a small fraction of its value and retire it.

In July 2022, Cook County, Ill., became the first municipality to put together a medical debt relief plan, announcing it was aiming to relieve more than \$1 billion in debt in a partnership with RIP Medical Debt.

Cook created the Cook County Medical Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) with funding from Biden's American Rescue Plan.

Cook County partnered with RIP Medical Debt - a national nonprofit. According to RIP, the retirement of \$100 of medical debt costs an average of \$1. The Department of Public Health estimates that an investment of \$24 million could retire \$2 billion in medical debt for LA County residents.

RIP has erased debt for more than 3.6 million individuals and families in Cook County so far. With just \$12 million in federal funds, they have the potential to negotiate the purchase of up to \$1 billion in medical debt for Cook County residents and cancel it.

"Medical debt is something

[ See DEBT, page 13 ]

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# Her Son Had Chronic Pain for Years, Mom Found Diagnosis Using ChatGPT

ChatGPT helped a mother determine what was causing her son's debilitating pain that had been ongoing for three years. They visited 17 doctors in a period of 3 years.

By Jessica Cohen

**C**ourtney, who chose not to reveal her last name, said her son Alex started experiencing difficult symptoms when he was four years old during the Covid-19 lockdown.

The family's nanny "started telling me, 'I have to give him Motrin every day, or he has these gigantic meltdowns,'" Courtney said. The painkillers helped to subdue her child's pain, but other worrisome symptoms started popping up.

Alex began chewing on objects, which caused his family to wonder if he had a cavity.

A dentist examined him and didn't find anything wrong; Alex was then referred to an orthodontist who found

his palate was too small. This can cause trouble sleeping, and Alex's family thought this might be part of why he hadn't been feeling well.

The orthodontist treated Alex by placing an expander in his palate, which temporarily put his family at ease. "Everything was better for a little bit. We thought we were in the home stretch," Courtney said.

But Alex continued to suffer and Courtney soon noticed her son had stopped growing, and that he wasn't walking the way he should have been.

"He would lead with his right foot and just bring his left foot along for the ride," she said. "He was also experiencing severe headaches and exhaustion."

Courtney's family saw a shocking number of experts to try to figure out what was wrong with Alex, including a paediatrician, a neurologist, an ear nose and throat (ENT) specialist, and more.

All told, Courtney said they consulted 17 doctors, but they were left frustrated and without answers. None of the recommended treatments solved the problem.

After three years of doctors' appointments, Courtney turned to ChatGPT for answers. The chatbot, created by a

company called OpenAI and released in 2022, was made to dialogue with people in a conversational way.

"I went line by line of everything that was in his [MRI notes] and plugged it into ChatGPT," Courtney said. "I put the note in there about how he wouldn't sit crisscrossed, to me, that was a huge trigger that a structural thing could be wrong."

Trying ChatGPT led Courtney to discover tethered cord syndrome, which is a complication of spina bifida. She made an appointment with a new neurosurgeon who confirmed that Alex did have a tethered spinal cord as a result of spina bifida occulta, a birth defect that causes issues with spinal cord development. This is the mildest form of spina bifida, per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which states the condition is sometimes called "hidden" spina bifida and that it's often not discovered until later in a child's life.

"The new doctors said point blank, here is the occulta spina bifida, and here is where the spine is tethered," Courtney recalled. She subsequently said she felt "every emotion in the book, relief, validated, excitement for his future".

Researchers are already looking into the effects of ChatGPT on medicine. A paper published in May in *Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence* stated that the technology does have both benefits and drawbacks for the field.

"The potential applications of ChatGPT in the medical field range from identifying potential research topics to assisting professionals in clinical and laboratory diagnosis," the paper said.

However, "despite its potential applications, the use of ChatGPT and other AI tools in medical writing also poses ethical and legal concerns".

Experts agree that ChatGPT could potentially help certain people navigate the healthcare system, but that it's not there yet.

As Jesse M. Ehrenfeld, MD, MPH, president of the American Medical Association said in a statement, "While AI products show tremendous promise in helping alleviate physician administrative burdens and may ultimately be successfully utilized in direct patient care, OpenAI's ChatGPT and other generative AI products currently have known issues and are not error free".

He explained that AI can produce fabrications, inaccuracies, or errors that "can harm patients".

For her part, Courtney said the technology helped her family provide the best possible care for her son, "There's nobody that connects the dots for you. You have to be your kid's advocate."

## Fallstivities PUMPKIN Patch at Los Cerritos Center

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### Mixed-Use Development Opens in Downtown Bellflower



**NEW HOUSING:** (l-r) Jason Tolleson, Bellflower Mayor Sonny R. Santa Ines, Dan Mahoney, Mayor Pro Tem Dan Koops, and Council Members Victor A. Sanchez and Ray Dunton. Jason Tolleson and Dan Mahoney are from Serrano Development Group.

By Brian Hews

Downtown Bellflower welcomed Edgeway Downtown Bellflower, a new mixed-use project consisting of new luxury apartment buildings and premium commercial spaces.

Edgeway is located between 16411 Bellflower Blvd. and 9735 Oak Street. It replaces a parking lot and demolished retail building along Bellflower Boulevard in the heart of the historic Downtown Bellflower district.

The new residential building includes 91 one- and two-bedroom units equipped with in-unit tech and work areas, private balconies overlooking the downtown area, quartz countertops, wood-style flooring, tile backsplashes, and stainless-steel appliances. Residents

enjoy an amenity package, including a resort-style pool and spa, numerous outdoor living and activity areas, a spacious fitness center, a co-working lounge, a DIY room, and a welcoming clubroom.

Along with high-quality residential living, the project includes approximately 15,000 square feet of commercial space for retail, restaurants, and entertainment.

The project's commercial component will also include an exterior public plaza, contemporary signage, and a significant public art component to welcome residents, guests, and visitors to Downtown Bellflower. Construction of the retail and plaza space is underway and is slated to be completed in Spring 2024.

### Teamsters Endorse Sen. Bob Archuleta for Congress

Staff Report

Senator and 82nd Airborne Division Army Veteran Bob Archuleta announced the endorsement from Teamsters Joint Council 42. Teamsters Joint Council 42 is the home to 23 Local Unions representing a community of 200,000 members.

Teamsters President Chris Griswold expressed his support, saying, "Senator Archuleta's dedication to our members and all Californians, coupled with his lifelong track record of service, make him the right choice for Congress. We believe in his commitment to representing the interests of working families and supporting policies that strengthen our labor force."

Senator Archuleta, a distinguished former Army paratrooper and Chair of the California Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, is the first Latino to be appointed by President Barack Obama to serve on the Board that oversees Westpoint, where he had the honor of serving.

He was appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom to the Governor's Military Council in August 2019.

He was one of only 16 state senators in 2021 to achieve a remarkable 100 percent Voter Record rating by the California Labor Federation.

The endorsement from Teamsters Joint Council 42 comes at the heels of the endorsement by Congresswoman Grace Napolitano giving her commitment and support to Senator Bob Archuleta for Congress.

### Cerritos Library Presents Annular Solar Eclipse Events

The event, willl features a presentation by Angel Zhu of the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory Exoplanet Exploration Program.

In preparation for the upcoming annular solar eclipse on Saturday, October 14, the Cerritos Library will be hosting two events featuring various activities and hands-on learning dedicated to the science of solar eclipses.

Family Solar Eclipse Science Night takes place on Thursday, October 12.

The event, which features a presentation by Angel Zhu of the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory Exoplanet Exploration Program, starts at 6 p.m. and is free for all ages. Zhu's presentation will begin at 6:30 p.m. Zhu worked on JPL's flagship mission, Europa Clipper (finding life on Jupiter's icy moon).

All library patrons are invited to the Annular Solar Eclipse Program on Saturday, October 14. Meet near the "Tsunami" sculpture in front of the Library to view the early-morning annular eclipse as part of the library's participation in the Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries (SEAL) program.

Special solar-viewing glasses will be distributed to the first 200 participants beginning at 8 a.m. Participants can also view the eclipse through a telescope that has a special solar filter. There will be a variety of hands-on eclipse-related activities available in the Skyline Room.

The Cerritos Library is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is located at 18025 Bloomfield Avenue in Cerritos.

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## Downey Mayor's Corner - October 2023

Greetings!

Last Friday our city joined eleven other cities in a lawsuit against LA County's new zero-bail schedule. We are urging the courts to reexamine its zero-bail schedule



**Mayor Claudia Frometa**

and develop protocols that consider the safety of our communities. In fact, in the two days since the law took effect, Downey PD made two felony arrests: one for vandalism and the other for bringing narcotics into a jail facility. Both suspects were released on a citation on accordance with the new bail policy.

Downey, like many other cities across LA County has seen an increase in lower-level crimes. Under this new law, individuals arrested for a variety of misdemeanor and non-violent felonies may now be cited in the field and released with a notice to appear in court with zero individual assessment of the risk to public safety. The appearance in court could take weeks.

Offenses considered "greater risk to the public" but still listed as non-serious /non-violent crimes include offenses involving guns, sexual battery, crimes against children, contact with minors with intent to commit a sexual offense and conspiracy to commit murder fall under what are termed as MR crimes meaning they go out for "Magistrate Review". I find this law alarming and troubling.

Policies like this zero-bail, demoralize our law enforcement agencies, embolden criminals as there are no consequences for their brazen crimes sending a message of impunity, and further erode the public's trust in those voted to represent their best interests. Stay tuned on new developments regarding this lawsuit.

**Community Engagement in October:**

There are many activities this month for our community residents and their families to enjoy. First, we are commemorating **Downey's 150th Birthday!** We have week-long activities planned starting this Sunday, October 8th, culminating with a celebration on Saturday, October 14th at our civic center from 5pm-8pm. For more information and detail of activities, please visit [www.downeyca.org/d150](http://www.downeyca.org/d150)

Thanks to our Downey Chamber of Commerce, I will be providing the annual **State of The City** report on Thursday, October 19 starting at 11am at the Rio Hondo Event Center. Please contact the chamber to reserve your spot at 562-923-2191 or email [Sarah@downeychamber.com](mailto:Sarah@downeychamber.com)

**Regional Job Fair in Downey:**

The SELACO Workforce Development Board will be hosting a regional job fair

in Downey on Friday, October 20th from 10am-2pm at Apollo Park. Bring your resumes and dress for onsite interviews. For more information and/or to pre-register call (562) 273-9919 ext. 1402

We are also looking forward to celebrating the Downey Mayor's Corner October 2023

scheduled for Sunday October 29th outside our Civic Center, our library and theatre. If you would like to participate in the Community Altar, visit [www.ddlm.downeytheatre.org](http://www.ddlm.downeytheatre.org) or call 562-861-8211.

**Transient Activity, Public Safety & Quality of Life:**

Clean ups will continue in coordination with LA County Dept., of Mental Health, LA Homeless Services Authority PATH and Downey PD. To assist us, please visit [www.la-hop.org](http://www.la-hop.org) to dispatch a homeless services outreach team to your area and, if you know of someone that needs shelter, visit [www.lahsa.org/get-help](http://www.lahsa.org/get-help)

**Public Works/Citations for RVs**

A special thank you to our Public Works for their continued work throughout our city. Year-to-date, approximately 14 miles of streets have been paved.

Public Works staff picked up approximately 200 tons of illegally dumped items from July – September. Let us continue doing our part to keep our city clean.

There are bi-weekly clean-ups of the San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo bike paths.

I have received emails and calls regarding illegally parked RVs in neighborhoods and other areas in our city. Code enforcement and PD are aware, will continue to monitor and enforce our city ordinance. Please be patient as there is an enforcement process with citations.

**On Business Development:**

The **Honda World** expansion on Studebaker and Florence continues, some of the permits are ready to be issued. A new location for **Raising Canes** at 9000 Telegraph was submitted for review. **Shake Shack** on 8300 Firestone Blvd., the demolition permits are ready to be issued to get the site ready for construction. **In-N-Out**, new location at 9454 Imperial, concept plans were submitted for review. A new **Coffee Bean** at Kaiser Hospital at 9333 Imperial is coming. Permits have been issued for the site work.

**Keep Downey Beautiful Cleanups**

Neighborhood Watch group in your neighborhood. This is a wonderful way to connect with neighbors and watch for suspicious activities. throughout our city. To find out more information or to apply, please contact Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Stephanie Arroyo at (562) 904-2374 or [sarroyo@downeyca.org](mailto:sarroyo@downeyca.org)

*Thank you!*

*Claudia M. Frometa*

*Mayor*

## Supervisor Hahn Secures \$1.2 Million for Artesia Parks

Los Angeles County Fourth District Supervisor Janice Hahn has secured \$1.2 million for improvements to Artesia city parks, providing crucial infrastructure support for A.J. Padelford and Artesia Parks.

At A.J. Padelford Park, repairs will be made to the roof at the Teen Center so it can open and be used by the Artesia Leaders Teen Program.

Other monies will be used to install additional outdoor lighting to create a brighter, safer park, install new outdoor restrooms, and purchase computers for the youth and teen afterschool programs.

At Artesia Park, repairs will be made

to the outdoor restrooms including painting, lighting upgrades and improvements to the stall partitions.

Artesia Park is a heavily used facility that houses the city's youth and adult sports programs and major special events, so the refurbishment of the outdoor restrooms will benefit all the patrons of these programs by providing enhanced facilities.

"I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Supervisor Hahn and her dedicated staff for their unwavering advocacy on behalf of the City Council, City Staff, and the residents of the city of Artesia," said Artesia Mayor, Monica Manalo.

"Their successful efforts in securing these funds will greatly improve our city parks and enhance the quality of life for our residents and those visiting our wonderful parks."

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## ABCUSD's Carver ES Named a National Blue Ribbon School

The U.S. Department of Education has recognized outstanding schools through the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program for 40 years. The program named Carver Elementary School a National Blue Ribbon School this year.

"We are so proud of Carver Elementary School for earning this well-deserved recognition," said ABC Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Gina Zietlow. "I congratulate Principal Berlyn, along with her team of educators and staff, for earning this prestigious designation."

Carver Elementary School received recognition in the Exemplary High Performing Schools category, meaning the school is among the state's highest-performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests. This year's National Blue Ribbon Schools award is Carver Elementary School's first. However, the State of California has previously recognized Carver Elementary as a Distinguished School, Gold Ribbon School, and the

school received the Title I Academic Achievement Award.

Carver Elementary School is a Title I school serving students from low-income families or underserved communities. Carver is the first Title I elementary school in ABCUSD to earn the National Blue Ribbon School designation.

"Earning a National Blue Ribbon designation is a huge honor," said Carver Principal Deborah Berlyn.

"This recognition reflects the high quality of instruction we give our students and the ongoing support of our students' families."

This year, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes schools for their overall academic performance and for closing the achievement gap. Only 353 schools were recognized as National Blue Ribbon Schools nationwide, with 33 schools in California. The National Blue Ribbon Schools award affirms the hard work of educators, families, and communities in creating school environments where students are challenged and engaged.



## Help Recognize La Mirada Veterans

The City will honor local veterans with special recognition on the City's marquee located in front of City Hall from November 7 through November 14.

Residents are encouraged to submit the name of a family member who has served our country and resides in La Mirada.

The names and service branch of local veterans will be rotated along with other messages and city information.

To participate, please submit the name, service branch, proof of La Mirada residency, and proof of veteran status.

All entries must be submitted via email to Community Services Analyst Valeria Andrade at [vandrade@cityoflamirada.org](mailto:vandrade@cityoflamirada.org) by Friday, October 27.

*For additional information, contact (562) 943-7277.*

## ABCUSD Clerk Accepts API Award

By Linda J. Hernández

The California Latino School Boards (CLSB) Unity Conference at the Hyatt Regency in Long Beach was recently postponed due to a labor dispute.

With over 300 registered participants, scheduled speakers were Tony Thurmond, California Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Sylvia Méndez from the Méndez vs. Westminster School District Lawsuit, which paved the way for the Brown v. Board of Education desegregation case; and Dolores Huerta, United Farm Workers co-founder with César Chávez.

On Friday, September 29, at the Queen Mary, which was not subject to the job action, the California Asian Pacific Islander School Board Association, through ABC School Board Clerk Ernie Nishii, accepted the Equity Champion Award from CLSB.

ABC Unified School District representatives, including AHS Principal Sergio Garcia, Board Member Dr. Olga Rios, Superintendent Dr. Gina Zietlow and Nishii, then presented the Artesia High School success story entitled Igniting and Elevating Multilingual Learners at Artesia High School.

The team discussed how Artesia High School beat the odds regarding academic success and created a school that has a



**CIVIL RIGHTS** icon Dolores Huerta with ABC School Board Clerk Ernie Nishii as he accepts Equity Champion Award for the Asian Pacific Islander School Board Association.

100% college application rate.

Congratulations to the hard-working AHS staff and students for making this level of academic achievement possible.

## Dive Into the Floating Pumpkin Patch at Splash!

Swimmers of all ages are invited to join a one-of-a-kind Halloween experience, the Floating Pumpkin Patch at Splash! La Mirada Regional Aquatics

Center on Sun., Oct. 29 from 12 to 3 p.m.

Participants can jump into the pool and choose a pumpkin to take home or decorate at Splash!. Children will enjoy festive crafts and ghostly delights to add to the Halloween excitement.

Registration is required and costs \$10 per participant.

*For more information or to register, call (562) 902-3191 or visit [splashlamirada.com](http://splashlamirada.com).*

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## Cerritos Library Receives Sustainable California Libraries Grant

### Staff Report

The Cerritos Library has received a \$10,240 Sustainable California Libraries grant for a "Planted: Cerritos Seed" Library program.

The grant provides libraries the opportunity to design programming and educational opportunities focused on sustainability and climate resilience, by collaborating with project partners, community connections, and community members.

The program will provide library patrons and the local community with a new Seed Library and a series of educational

activities related to preserving natural resources, gardening and sustainability.

"Winter Planting in Southern California" with Yvonne Savio is set for 6 p.m. on Monday, October 16 in the Skyline Room.

Savio specializes in drought-tolerant techniques for growing fruits, vegetables, perennials, roses and succulents.

She will discuss the many edibles and ornamentals to plant and enjoy during cooler seasons.

All ages are welcome to attend this free program.

In April 2024, the program will celebrate Earth Month with the introduction of the new Seed Library.

The Seed Library will allow patrons to check out seeds for native California plants such as wildflowers, sunflowers and a pollinator mix of flowers.

Seeds for vegetables such as spinach, kale and bok choy will also be available.

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## Facts on Fentanyl Forum

By Rosemary Lewallen

A 14-year-old boy took a pill which he thought was OxyContin. He purchased it off social media and it was delivered to his home.

The pill actually contained Fentanyl, a cheap, highly addictive and lethal alternative. The boy died that night.

This horror story is not a Halloween tale. It is how Alexander Hastings Neville died on June 23, 2020.

Residents are invited to attend the "Facts on Fentanyl Forum" on Wednesday, October 25th from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at St. Irenaeus Parish Hall at 5201 Evergreen Ave., Cypress, CA 90630.

The speaker is Amy Neville, Alexander's mother and Founder of the Alexander Neville Foundation.

She will give information about the dangers of Fentanyl, and talk about how we can protect our kids, friends and associates from Fentanyl poisoning.

This free forum is sponsored by St. Irenaeus' Faith Community Nurse, Jennifer Dagarag, as part of Health Ministry. Refreshments will be offered.

We invite parents and students to



**THE SPEAKER** is Amy Neville, she lost her son Alex after he took a pill he thought was OxyContin purchased off social media.

come to this important forum. Fentanyl has caused the recent death of a toddler in a New York City daycare plus the sickness of two other children who were revived by Narcan after playing on a mat where Fentanyl had been placed hours earlier.

This deadly substance is a threat to everyone. Learn how you can save a life.

*Call Nurse Jennifer if you have any questions at 714-826-0760.*

## Downtown Long Beach's Art Walk Series Returns

The Downtown Long Beach Alliance (DLBA) announced the return of the Downtown Art Walk.

The first Art Walk in this series will take place on Saturday, Oct. 14 from noon to 6 PM. This will be the first in a new quarterly series, with the next events already scheduled.

The Art Walk will have three activation hubs, including at Mosaic (the Promenade between 3rd and 4th streets), the Long Beach Museum of Art Downtown (on the corner of 3rd Street and Elm Avenue), and the East Village Arts Park (located on Elm Avenue between Broadway and 1st Street).

Attendees are encouraged to support local artists, stop by the hubs and participating Downtown businesses, as well as the following exhibits:

The Downtown Long Beach Art Walk is an initiative to build on the energy of the monthly 2nd Saturday Art Walk in the East Village with a larger quarterly event that bridges and pulls together the entire Downtown and surrounding area.

*For more information visit [downtownlongbeach.org/event/art-walk-2/](http://downtownlongbeach.org/event/art-walk-2/)*

## GARZA from page 1

A joint powers agreement such as CSR is a formal, legal agreement between two or more public agencies that share a common power and want to implement programs, build facilities, or deliver services jointly; the "authority" is subject to the same laws as other public agencies.

CSR's public agency-cities include Commerce, Cudahy, Compton and Hawaiian Gardens, and Bell Gardens.

LCCN confirmed last week that Garza has not sent out a bid for CSR's current lobbyist contract for at least two years; the contract is worth \$80,000 annually. The overall budget of the CSR is \$235,000.

The CSR's lobbying contract information was obtained via a public records email, a request that Garza took 24 days to respond, subsequently writing, "...there are no documents responsive to your request."

The contract is with the Sacramento-based California Advocacy, LLC, the same firm Garza tried to illegally coerce Central Basin GM Rojas to retain.

In July of this year, GM Rojas went on the record with LCCN, confirming Garza's illegal maneuver to force the hiring of California Advocacy as CB's lobbying firm.

Rojas told LCCN, "Garza called a meeting and demanded we fire Lucien Partners, our current lobbying firm, and replace them with California Advocacy; there was another board member at the meeting."

### Garza Doing His CSR Job?

After learning of the no-bid California Advocacy contract, LCCN began digging into the financial information on CSR's website for additional agreements.

The research found that Garza has yet to post CSR's agendas dating back to May of this year, the site missing four months of meeting minutes, and corresponding financial information.

In addition, only agendas from Nov. 2021 to May 2023 are posted, and some are missing the financial information - including all of 2023.

The remaining financial information shows two companies receiving monthly payments from Nov. 2021 to May 2023; the law firm of Olivarez-Madruga and a website management company called CampaignRep.

An examination of payments shows that Olivarez has received over \$24,000 from Dec. 2021 to Nov. 2022 and that CampaignRep was hired in November 2021 and paid \$10,200 to Jul. 2022, receiving a 40% increase in Aug. 2022 to \$14,400 annually.

LCCN sent another records request to Garza asking for bids sent out for CSR's law firm; once again, Garza is taking 24 days to answer.

The lack of transparency by Garza is not only troubling - given the way Central Basin Directors Vasquez, Rodriguez and Gulateri and Garza are vilifying CB GM Rojas for his alleged wrongdoing - but Garza's no-bid handouts are a violation of California's Public Contract Code Section 20162.

Section 20162 states that when an expenditure required for a public project exceeds \$5,000, the agency must post a bid describing the services needed in three public places or in a newspaper of general circulation newspaper and then award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder.

Garza is well aware of the bidding process; he was elected as a Bellflower City Councilman and dealt with assessing and awarding public contracts for years and was known as a budget hawk.

Texts into Garza went unanswered.

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## Public Invited: Shuttle Solid Rocket Motors Arrive in L.A.



**GO FOR STACK:** the complex is a multi-phase process of moving and lifting each of the space shuttle components into place for Endeavour's upcoming 20-story vertical display. The components will make up the world's only authentic, "ready-to-launch" 20-story space shuttle stack.

### Staff Report

Exactly eleven years after Space Shuttle Endeavour made its 12-mile journey across the streets of Los Angeles and Inglewood, the California Science Center invites the public to come out and watch the arrival of two large Solid Rocket Motors (SRMs), the next phase of Go for Stack—the complex, multi-phase process of moving and lifting each of the space shuttle components into place for Endeavour's upcoming awe-inspiring 20-story vertical display.

The SRMs will be transported by freeway until the last leg of their journey to the California Science Center. After exiting the 110 freeway the morning of October 11, the motors will travel northbound along Figueroa Street beginning at 7:30 a.m. from 43rd Place to Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. At 8:00 a.m. the SRMs will pause at Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard before a ceremonial "finish line" at 39th Street at 8:45 a.m. The public is invited to gather along Figueroa Street from 43rd Place to 39th Street to join the celebration and watch the momentous arrival until 9:00 a.m. Although spectators are encouraged to utilize public transportation, parking will be available in the California Science Center visitor parking at the Blue Structure. Guests should enter the parking structure via Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and Hoover Street. This will be the best opportunity for the public to witness any stage of Go for Stack in person, due to safety precautions and space constraints around the Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center construction site.

The SRMs, donated by Northrop Grumman, have been stored at the Mojave Air and Space Port, and are the final elements of the space shuttle system to arrive at the California Science Center.

The components that will make up the world's only authentic, "ready-to-launch" space shuttle stack include the orbiter Endeavour, two Solid Rocket Boosters, and an External Tank.

The SRMs comprise the largest part of the Solid Rocket Boosters (SRBs).

"Eleven years after Endeavour's memorable crosstown journey, we're delighted to invite the public to join us once again to be a part of this next historic arrival," said Jeffrey Rudolph, President and CEO of the California Science Center. "The arrival of the SRMs will propel us one step closer to the completion of the future Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center, which will serve as a launchpad for creativity and innovation and will inspire future generations of scientists, engineers, and explorers."

The California Science Center will open an hour early at 9:00 a.m. on October 11 as part of a Solid Rocket Motor Arrival Celebration. Guests may explore Space Shuttle Endeavour and the three

flown capsules from the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo space programs; learn from expert aerospace volunteers and experience hands-on educational demonstrations; and enjoy the café and gift shop.

The roughly six-month Go for Stack process began in July with the installation of the Solid Rocket Booster Aft Skirts.

Next the Solid Rocket Motors and forward assemblies will be stacked to form the Solid Rocket Boosters. This will be followed by the move and lift of the External Tank, ET-94; then, Space Shuttle Endeavour's final move across Exposition Park and lift into place by a large crane; and finally, the intricate mating of the orbiter with the rest of the space shuttle stack.

Once finished, Endeavour will be in a vertical configuration towering 200-feet tall. The Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center building will be completed around the full shuttle stack.

December 31, 2023, will be the last chance to see Endeavour on exhibit for several years until the Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center opens to the public.

While Endeavour is off exhibit, the California Science Center remains one of the largest science centers in the nation, with multiple hands-on exhibit galleries, special exhibitions, and IMAX movies for guests to experience.

The Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center is a 200,000 square foot expansion that will double the Science Center's educational exhibit space, adding an impressive collection of 100 authentic artifacts integrated with 100 new hands-on exhibits.

Guests of all ages will be encouraged to investigate scientific and engineering principles of atmospheric flight and the exploration of the universe in three major galleries – the Aviation, Shuttle, and Space Galleries.

As the third phase of the California Science Center's three-phase, three-decade master plan to develop one of the world's leading science learning centers, the Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center will provide a one-of-a-kind educational opportunity for our Los Angeles community and guests from around the globe, general admission free. Construction is underway and the building is expected to be completed in 2025, with artifacts and exhibit installations to follow.

The California Science Center Foundation is actively fundraising to complete this ambitious project with \$50 million left to raise toward the \$400 million EndeavourLA Campaign goal.

Everyone can help realize this exciting vision for the future Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center, and donations at any level are welcomed. To contribute or learn more, go to EndeavourLA.org.

**More information about the SRM arrival:** [californiasciencecenter.org/goforstack](http://californiasciencecenter.org/goforstack).

## Artesia Cemetery Holds Open House



**WELCOME:** The Artesia Cemetery held its annual open house with over 100 area residents attending and learning about future plans and what's new at the facility. The facility has enjoyed a rebirth under new management and board of directors after languishing for years under its old management. Artesia Mayor Monica Manalo attended and spoke at the event.

## Lakewood's 'Fest-Of-All' Multicultural Food and Music Event

Lakewood's Fest-Of-All, the third annual multicultural food and music festival returns on Saturday, Oct. 14 from 2 to 8 p.m. at Lakewood Center in the large parking area south of El Torito and west of Target.

Representing the wide variety of cultures which Lakewood is proud to have in the community, Lakewood's Fest-Of-All will include the following fun features:

Two entertainment stages—with a wide variety of musical and dance acts.

Family Fun Zone with inflatable attractions will include a craft village, a children's cultural booth, an art and poetry showcase.

A multicultural food court with the following vendors:

- Big C BBQ (American BBQ &

Brazilian)

- Smiles Jamaican Grill (Jamaican)
- Crazy Delights La Michoacana (Mexican Treats)
- Stinkin Crawfish of Lakewood (Cajun)
- The Berlin Truck (German)
- Cali Sweets Dessert Truck (French Fusion)
- Rice Balls of Fire (Korean/Hawaiian Fusion)
- Scooter's Italian Ice (Italian)
- Smile Hot Dogs (Korean style street food)

with more to be added.

Free shuttle service runs every 15 minutes from 1:30 to 8:30 p.m. from Lakewood City Hall (Clark/Del Amo) east parking lot to the Fest-Of-All entrance.

**Next stop: new rail to Southeast LA County.**

**WEST SANTA ANA BRANCH TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT**

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Metro's plan for better transit includes a new light rail transit line to southeast LA County, connecting Artesia, Cerritos, Bellflower, Paramount, Downey, South Gate, Cudahy, Bell, Huntington Park, Vernon, unincorporated Florence-Firestone and downtown Los Angeles.

A renaming contest is in progress to identify a project name that reflects the communities' character, culture and experience of the people who live, work and play in the cities this new line will serve.

Submit Your Name Recommendations by **Friday, October 13, 2023**. Visit [RenameWSAB.com](http://RenameWSAB.com) or call the project helpline at 213.922.6262.



**CONTACT US**

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# I Got Cancer and I Rang the Bell

By Laurie Hanson  
LCCN Journalist

It's a dream come true to reach our goals in life, and such is true with cancer when ringing the final bell of treatment completion.

When my cancer journey began over a year and a half ago, I longed, hoped, and prayed for the day I would see the other side of it all. Finally, that day arrived at the City of Hope Lennar Cancer Foundation in Irvine.

It all started with UCI discovering and surgically treating my endometrial cancer. Not long after, I found out I also had breast cancer. To battle it, I had surgery, a partial lumpectomy, then underwent both chemotherapy and radiation therapy.

With three months and four rounds of chemotherapy followed by a month of daily radiation therapy, I wondered if I would ever survive, to see the other side of all this and be given back my life.

But survive, I did, and back to my life I am.

Having had cancer twice in a year does change one's perspective on life. I came away with a deep sense of gratitude and knowing I was given a second, possibly a third chance to do my life better. You see, I also have battled bipolar disorder, and in a way both are related to one another.

For over 35 years, I've taken powerful medications to control my mental illness that eventually gave me a better chance at a "normal" life but caused morbid obesity. My endometrial and breast cancers were not genetically based, but relatively caused by high estrogen levels stored in adipose

(fat) tissue.

With ringing the bell that my cancer treatment is complete, it is but a beginning in so many ways ...

I will now take medication to block the estrogen in my body to keep cancer from coming back. I'll also be taking a new neuroleptic, Lybalvi, to help not only my bipolar but my weight loss as well.

It will help reduce my chances of getting "metabolic syndrome" caused by years of neuroleptic meds, thus saving my life again. Metabolic Syndrome is a group of conditions that include high blood sugars, high blood pressure and high lipids in the bloodstream, all of which can hasten one's life prematurely by 15 to 25 years.

And, I have plans to be on the planet a very long time ...

Besides battling all this for myself, I did it for the next generation of my family, to see my great nephew and niece grown. It was a year ago this month, I traveled back to Lynchburg, Virginia to celebrate my great nephew's 3rd birthday, meeting him for the first time along with his baby sister.

They are the closest to me having my own children, and I want to always be their beloved auntie who is near and dear to them as I watch them grow up.

In all my health struggles, they and their parents became my inspiration, getting me through tough, long nights of chemo reactions and arduous days of getting back and forth for daily radiation treatments. And get me through, they did!

I think every cancer survivor needs to keep their eyes on the bell, that day when they ring out to the world that, "It is finished!" I did that exactly, especially for Ollie and Opal, but also for myself and others who might find themselves on a similar path with both mental illness and cancer.

It is not rare or uncommon to have both bipolar and breast cancer. In fact, it is becoming more known that both can occur together at the same time, with bi-



LCCN JOURNALIST Laurie Hanson with her blue engineers hat ringing the bell upon completion of all her cancer treatments including chemo and radiation therapies. With her is the Radiation Oncology personnel at City of Hope in Irvine.

polar treatments (especially neuroleptics) and their associated weight gain leading to cancer.

In all this, I hope the world will learn that the mind and body are connected. I have thought that bipolar disorder, with its symptoms also affecting one physically with their energy levels, sleep, and appetite will one day be classified as a neurological disorder.

In my 38 years of having it, we've come a long way and yet we have farther to go. Thank goodness, we are all now talking about mental health concerns in our society, hopefully reducing the stigma that was once associated with them.

In desiring to see my great nephew and niece raised, I hope they live in a society and world that is more educated, less prejudiced, and has greater tolerance for what is different. Someday, when they are grown, I hope they will understand how they became my inspiration to "fight the good fight" in having both bipolar disorder and cancer. In another 30 years, I know our world will come even farther with understanding both. I will keep that hope alive for them as their auntie.

And, for it being more than all but a dream, I will keep that hope alive for myself as well for others.

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## WEEK SIX FOOTBALL

## CERRITOS HAS THE OFFENSIVE NUMBERS TO LEAVE WITH A WIN, BUT DONS FALL TO CHINO

By Loren Kopff  
@LorenKopff on Twitter

When looking at film of Chino High leading up to its non-league contest last Thursday night, Cerritos High first-year head coach Demel Franklin knew the Dons had to hold quarterback Diego Ogata in check with his rushing yardage. Ogata was the leading ground gainer for the Cowboys, averaging over 130 yards a game.

Cerritos managed to do that, as he rushed for 39 yards on four carries. But it was his arm, and the running of Nathan Blanco, plus some defensive plays, that proved to be the difference as Chino doubled up the Dons 42-21. The loss dropped Cerritos' record to 2-4 as it prepares for its city rivalry game against Gahr High on Friday.

"If we could stop him from running and making a throw, we had a better shot," said Franklin of Ogata. "But then we're giving up stuff over the top which is mind boggling."

Blanco carried the ball six times in Chino's opening drive the game, scoring from a yard out nearly midway through the stanza. The Dons would respond by holding the ball the rest of the quarter on a combination of nine running plays and five passing plays totaling 58 yards. But on the first play of the second quarter, Nathan Sena picked off a pass thrown by sophomore quarterback Justin Sagun in the end zone. The Cowboys took advantage and went the other way on 13 plays, taking nearly 10 minutes off the clock as Blanco's second touchdown made it 14-0.

To add insult to injury, Cerritos went three and out when it got the ball back, but Andrew Fernandez blocked a punt and recovered the ball in the end zone to make it 21-0 with 40 seconds left before halftime. The Dons had the ball for just 8:40 of the half, but gained 142 yards, which was 21 yards fewer than the Cowboys.

"I felt we had a good game plan going in," said Franklin. "You saw we were able to move



**CERRITOS HIGH** senior running back Josh Park finds some space to run though against Chino High in last Thursday night's 42-21 non-league loss. Park gained 120 yards on nine carries and caught a pair of passes for 14 yards. PHOTO BY ROXY LIGORRIA.

the ball all the way to the 10-yard line, then we had a negative play. We tried to throw the ball and instead of throwing it away, we throw it right to [Sena]. It was like déjà vu. It seems like each week we get into that position and we turn the ball over. We cannot do that; we have to learn from that."

Cerritos came out with a bang in the third quarter, taking the opening kickoff 80 yards in 11 plays and holding the ball for 6:33 before senior running back Josh Park scored from nine yards out. But Sebastian Alvarado's long kickoff return put the Cowboys in business at the Cerritos eight-yard line where Blanco's third score of the night made it 28-7.

Still, the Dons weren't about to go down without a fight as junior running back Josiah Ungos gained seven yards, then senior quarterback Julian Morales

tossed a 24-yard pass to junior wide receiver Ruben Castro and Park scampered for a 49-yard touchdown run to make it 28-14 with 2:45 left in the third quarter. However, the momentum went away 16 seconds later when Ogata found Alvarado for a 70-yard score.

After that, Cerritos ran seven plays on its next three possessions in a combined 3:20 with Alvarado intercepting Morales on consecutive plays in the fourth quarter, the second leading to a 12-yard touchdown connection from Adam Avalos to Brody Quinzon. The final score of the game came from Ungos, whose one-yard score ended a long 13-play, 75-yard drive that took 6:27.

Morales took over for Sagun and completed his first six passes for 98 yards before an incomplete pass and the two interceptions. Sagun went six of 11 for 60 yards and a pick.

"We went with [Morales] because I'm just looking at my other young quarterback, Sagun, and he felt like the moment was big for him," said Franklin. "So, I said let's go with the veteran and see what he could do."

Cerritos ended the game with 385 yards with Park rushing for 120 yards on nine carries, junior running back Dikshanta Adhikari 43 yards on six carries and Ungos another 38 yards on half a dozen touches. Castro caught six passes for 112 yards and on defense, sophomore linebacker Tyler Ky had 11 tackles while senior linebacker Moises Mendoza added seven tackles.

"I feel like we had some positives, and we have to build off that," said Franklin. "So, it gives our O-Line confidence, and this is the best game they've played all year. I made sure I told them that. I wanted to ride them and get [a touchdown] in running the ball because that makes them feel good. That's why we stuck with it because that's what was working for us."

"We still have to figure out a way to make our 21 a 42 and their 42 a 21," he later added. "We're going in the right direction. Going into Gahr week...it's good that we put up 21 points. I'm happy with that part."

Cerritos will be the visiting team when it plays Gahr on Friday for rights to own the Silver Milk Barrel. This rivalry began in 1972, originally called the Dairy Bowl, but the teams have not played continuously since then. In fact, one year later, all three ABC Unified School District schools played for shiny ensemble, but again, there were breaks in the action.

Last season, the Dons and Gladiators met at Artesia High for the first time since 2017 and Cerritos ended a 13-game losing streak to its northside rivals

with a 21-6 victory. Since 1972, Cerritos owns a 23-22 advantage, but the teams did not face each other, or there was no result available in 1975, 1981 and from 2018-2021.

"We're separated by three miles; all these kids know each other and we know the coaches on the other side," said Franklin. "Six of my players are on that team from the Cerritos Steelers [Pop Warner] team. So, we know each other. We know what each other does and it's going to be a hell of a game."

Gahr enters the contest with a 3-3 mark, but has lost the last two games, including a 44-21 decision to Bellflower High last Friday in the Mid-Cities League opener. The Gladiators have scored 28 points in the last two games after averaging close to 40 points during their 3-1 start to the season. The heart and soul of the team is senior running back Kalen Montgomery, who has rushed for 807 yards on 131 carries and found the end zone 16 times. The rest of the team has combined for 272 yards and three touchdowns while the passing combination of senior Frank Williams and sophomore Roman Acosta has thrown for 619 yards and seven touchdowns.

Gahr will be without the services of senior wide receiver Evan Spurlin-Renfroe (torn ACL) but junior Markell Slaughter, who has caught 25 passes for 381 yards, and Montgomery have to pick up the slack. But as good as Gahr's offense is, the defense has allowed over 40 points in half its games.

"If we can't control him, then we're going to have a long night," said Franklin of Montgomery. "But we have a few tricks up our sleeve and hopefully we can contain him."



**CERRITOS HIGH** senior linebacker Jeremiah Bagaygay (left) and junior linebacker Nathaniel Crawford team up to tackle Aiden Estrada of Chino High after one of his three catches in last Thursday night's 42-21 loss to the Cowboys. PHOTO BY ROXY LIGORRIA.

## GATEWAY LEAGUE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

### LA MIRADA, OJEISEKHOBIA BOUNCE BACK FROM SLOW START, TURN UP ENERGY IN DEFEATING GAHR

By Loren Kopff  
@LorenKopff on Twitter

It was a Gateway League tilt between CIF-Southern Section Division 6 rivals when No. 5 La Mirada High went to No. 6 Gahr High last Thursday as the second round of league play began. While La Mirada was comfortably sitting in second place, the Gladiators were hoping to get back into the win column to stay close to the upper half of the circuit.

Gahr began the match with the energy needed to win, leading by nine points in the first rotation, then later by 11 points to ease towards the opening set win. But the Matadores flipped the light switch, and the next three sets were completely different as the visitors pulled off a 16-25, 25-11, 25-12, 25-11 victory. The win pushed La Mirada's mark to 17-8 overall, 4-1 in league at the time.

"I don't know, I think maybe the vibe of the gym," said La Mirada head coach Kimberly Mahan. "It's like super dark in here [and] it's pretty hot. We came in super flat and not ready to play, almost like we were scared. And I told them that in this round, Gahr was going to be coming for us. We have to play hard, and we have to keep our momentum up. The first game was not a good game. They served us off the court."

Gahr junior libero Minerva Rodriguez served five straight points, including a pair of aces, to hold a 7-2 lead and the Gladiators never looked back. An ace from junior opposite hitter Kyla Jones made it 12-3, then later in the set, senior setter Cassandra Zoellers had consecutive aces and a kill from senior outside hitter Mariah Robinson made it 20-9.

Whatever Mahan said between the first and second sets seemed to work as it was La Mirada that raced to leads of 6-2, 9-3 and 15-4 and the defending Mid-Cities League champions maintained that momentum the remainder of the match. Not only did the Matadores struggle in the opening set, so did big hitter junior middle blocker Natalie Ojeisekhoba. She had one kill in the first set but would collect five in the second.

"I told them we need to come out and start serving hard because they were not serving hard to take them out of serve receive," said Mahan. "We needed to throw them out of rotation. And then I was telling my hitters, 'we need to kill the ball, we cannot play safe and just do these little tips.'"

"It's been a trend with this team this season where we'll come out really strong and do everything right and then it's almost like a curse where we kind of take our foot off the gas pedal and the other team starts to gain some momentum and things kind of go downhill from there," said Gahr assistant coach Alex Quan-Madrid.

Gahr was still within string range in the second set, trailing 15-10 before La Mirada senior outside hitter Alyssa Meraz had a kill before senior opposite hitter Natalie Peter began the second rotation by serving an ace, followed by consecutive kills from Ojeisekhoba and another ace from Peter. Junior defensive specialist Angelyna Conde served the final three points, including an ace.

The Matadores led 5-1 to begin the third set, but Gahr (14-10, 1-4) bounced

right back and trailed 6-5 after Rodriguez had consecutive aces. Then with the score 13-9, a service error put the ball in the hands of Peter, where she three straight aces. After three straight kills, another ace from Peter made it 21-9. Peter ended the match with 10 aces and three kills.

"Natalie Peter has been amazing for us [with] her serving and she puts up a big block," said Mahan. "She doesn't get to hit as much, but her serving is amazing.

She has a lot of aces on our team and she's very consistent. She doesn't make very many errors."

Peter served to begin the fourth set and of the six straight points La Mirada gained, she had two more aces while Ojeisekhoba added three more kills. With the score 15-7 after the first rotation, Ojeisekhoba

began the second rotation with back to back kills, then an ace from Peter.

"The energy was really off in the first set and their energy was really, really high," said Ojeisekhoba. "So, we were all talking out and we came to the conclusion that we should get our energy up, and it just went up from there.

"[Our coach] just said to keep our energy up and I took that and I brought the energy up," she later added. "I really just wanted to step it up with myself too, and bring the team up, too."

"I think that's always going to be a factor in games like this; in matchups like this," said Quan-Madrid. "But I feel like this team in general, there's something with our mental preparation for the game where I think we need to assess how to stay focused."

Jones paced the Gladiators with 15 kills and four aces but had four kills in the second and third sets combined. Robinson added seven kills while senior outside hitter Isabela Torres chipped in with five kills. After getting 15 kills in the opening set, Gahr combined for 20 kills the rest of the match.

"She definitely has a certain fearlessness that she plays with that brings that energy to the team," said Quan-Madrid of Jones. "She plays hard from the first point to the last point. As a coach, what more could you ask for?"

"It's hard because she's a lefty," said Mahan. "She's a great player; an all-around great player. She picks up all the balls and she's a hard hitter. And we don't see that many lefties, so it kind of is hard. Your defense has to read her arm and her shoulder, and she hits it down the line. She's a smart hitter."

Ojeisekhoba, one of the best players in the league, had a match-high 19 kills while Meraz had 11 kills and three aces, junior middle blocker Maleah Diaz seven kills and junior setter Kiersten Mahan five kills and two aces. The Matadores collected 49 kills and 21 aces. This match was different from the first meeting on Sept. 12, which was the league opener. In that contest, La Mirada had to win the final two sets to pick up a five-set victory.

"I think we played harder today," said Mahan. "We've been working a lot on serve receive, which is what hurt us a lot in the first time we played them, and our defense covering. I think we did a lot better covering today and hitting the ball hard."

"I think [Ojeisekhoba] did a great job," said Quan-Madrid. "She had a really nice hit at point and then tipped everyone

[ See LA MIRADA, page 12 ]



## GATEWAY LEAGUE FOOTBALL

### NORWALK PUTS UP FIGHT IN FIRST HALF BEFORE DOWNEY, RIOS CRUISE TO LEAGUE-OPENING WIN

By Loren Kopff  
@LorenKopff on Twitter

For nearly 22 minutes, Norwalk High stayed right with Downey High, the defending CIF-Southern Section Division 4 champions last Friday night. In fact, the host Lancers were owning the time of possession despite trailing by four points.

But a late touchdown to end the half was the beginning of 21 straight points and the Vikings ran away with a 35-10 victory in the Gateway League opener. It was also the first Gateway League contest for Norwalk, which came over from the Mid-Cities League where it shared last season's crown with Bellflower High and Gahr High.

"We were right there with them," said Norwalk head coach Ruben Guerrero. "We put [together] a nice, long drive. That's what we thought we needed to do to be successful today. We took a

nice, long drive in the first quarter [and] we punched it in. That first quarter, we thought we were in there."

The 10 points is a season low for a team that had been averaging nearly 44 points through its first five games.

Downey began the game by driving 70 yards in 2:25 and scoring the game's first touchdown when quarterback Oscar Rios, who is

double trouble with his arm and legs, tossed a 31-yard pass to Dante Sams. That would be the only time the Vikings would touch the ball in the quarter because Norwalk (3-3, 0-1) rode the legs of senior running back Caleb Mitchell and junior running back Ezra Mueller, who combined to rush 11 times for 33 yards. Junior fullback Papo Lieataua added three carries for 13 yards as the stanza came to an end at 7-0.

But on the first play of the second

[ See NORWALK, page 12 ]



## NEWS AND NOTES FROM PRESS ROW

### ARTESIA GIRLS VOLLEYBALL OUTLASTS WHITNEY IN FIVE-SET THRILLER, TIGHTENS 605 LEAGUE PLAYOFF RACE

By Loren Kopff  
@LorenKopff on Twitter

When the Artesia High girls volleyball team hosted Whitney High this past Tuesday, it knew that a loss to the Wildcats would almost certainly cost the team a shot at second place in the 605 League. And for a brief moment, it looked as if Whitney would all but clinch second place in the circuit.

But the Pioneers made a courageous rally in the fourth set, coming back from an 11-6 deficit to win by three, force a fifth set and again, rally from a 12-9 hole to get past the visiting Wildcats in a 25-23, 14-25, 23-25, 25-22, 16-14 thrilling victory that lasted nearly two and a half hours. The win pushed the Pioneers to 9-7 overall and 5-3 in the league

while the Wildcats dropped to 9-14, 5-3. Also tied for second place is Oxford Academy as the regular season comes to an end on Tuesday.

In the deciding fifth set, Whitney had a 7-3 lead before a serve into the net gave the ball to senior defensive specialist Arlene Ramos, who put down two straight aces. A kill would tie the set before Whitney regained a pair of three-point advantages. Early in the second rotation, a kill from senior outside hitter Jocelyn Villarreal tied the set at 14-14. Then junior outside hitter Rylee Asumbrado spiked a pair of kills to cap off the rally.

Serving would be the story in the first set as both teams combined for a

dozen serves into the net, wide or long. The teams would also combine for 12 aces as the Pioneers were limited to eight kills in the two-point win. It was all Whitney in the second set, never trailing and pulling away after leading 15-12. Senior Meera Parikh reeled off six straight points to put the set out of reach at 22-12.

Down two sets to one and trailing 11-7 in the third set, Artesia junior opposite hitter Rebecca Gooden had four straight aces to begin an eight-point rally. Later in the set, a kill from Villarreal put the hosts in front and sophomore setter Isabella Cruz served three points, including an ace to make it 23-19.

Villarreal led everyone with 19 kills and five aces while Asumbrado added 13 kills and

four aces. Gooden

chipped in with five kills and seven aces as the Pioneers will end the regular season with road matches against Pioneer High on Friday and Oxford Academy on Tuesday.

Whitney was paced by junior middle blocker Chiugo Anyama (12 kills, five aces), sophomore middle blocker Olachi Anyama (11 kills) and junior outside hitter Rachel Moyher (nine kills, five aces) as the Wildcats host Oxford Academy on Friday and league champion Cerritos High on Tuesday.

In other girls volleyball action, Cerritos (17-4, 8-0) swept Pioneer this past Tuesday to win its fifth straight 605 League title and will wrap up its

[ See NEWS AND NOTES, page 12 ]



**NORWALK** from page 11

quarter, Mueller went in from a yard out to tie the game. The Vikings (5-1, 1-0) responded on the ensuing drive and regained the lead when Victor Morales scored on a 12-yard run with 8:45 left in the half. Norwalk then put together another long drive, this one lasting 6:02 and ending when senior Jese Lopez booted a 32-yard field goal with under three minutes left.

Mitchell and Mueller, plus a couple of Downey penalties, had put the Lancers at the nine-yard line. But a key holding penalty on second down, and a fumble prevented the hosts from getting closer to the end zone.

"We stalled there in the second quarter, so we went for three," said Guerrero. "We were like, 'hey, we're in this game guys. We were hanging with them; nobody thought we would be where we're at right now, so you have nothing to lose. Let's just give them as much hell as we can'. And we did; we did for as long as we could. Then we saw a little bit of separation in the caliber of team that they are and us. But that one touchdown put us in a position where we had to start thinking and we had to start functioning, even under duress. That's kind of what rattled us."

After that, it was all Downey in the scoring department while the Lancers continued to own the clock but with nothing to show for. Rios connected with Jesse Albidrez for a 55-yard scoring play with 1:46 left in the half. Then after Norwalk had to punt after a seven play, 31-yard drive in the first 5:22 of the second half, Rios iced the game with an 80-yard touchdown run on the first play following the punt.

That would be the only score of the third quarter as Downey ran three plays in the stanza. While Norwalk would run 28 plays in the second half, gaining 108 yards on the ground, it had drives ending in two punts, one on downs and the game. In fact, the Lancers had the ball for 36:14 and gained 249 yards. Mueller rushed for 106 yards on 26 carries while Mitchell added 60 yards on 15 touches. Junior backup quarterback Nicolas Barera completed a pair of first half passes for 61 yards. Sophomore Rylee Sosa, the starting quarterback all season, had a bum shoulder, according to Guerrero. On defense, Mitchell had three tackles while senior lineman Jonathan Anguiano had a pair of tackles.

But in the end, Norwalk was just overwhelmed by Rios, who was 10 of 16 for 208 yards and rushed four times for 119 yards. Morales added 35 yards on five carries while three other players combined for 45 yards on six carries.

"Because of what they do, he's really able to show off the capability of that offense," Guerrero said of Rios. "He can throw it, he can run it, he can read it, he makes good decisions. We think he's one of their better athletes on that team. He did a real good job tonight of finding the spots in the defense to be successful."

It only gets tougher for the Lancers, who host defending league champion Warren High on Friday. The Bears are 4-2 and roughed up Mayfair High 49-14 last Friday in the league opener for both teams. Freshman Kelton Strickland rushed for 169 yards on 24 carries and scored twice and leads the team with close to 800 yards on the ground. Lynn-den Hodge is next with 255 yards on 36 carries and a touchdown while Madden Iamaleava and Kimani Tuitasi have combined to complete 51 passes in 91 attempts for 959 yards and 10 touchdowns.

As a team, Warren has averaged

350 yards a game but 33 points a game. Defensively, the Bears have yielded 151 points as their two losses have been to Serra High, 27-0, and Woodford County High out of Versailles, KY, 40-39.

"Once we got to league this week, the kids really elevated their practice," said Guerrero. "They really elevated their mental approach. You know what, I think they're ready. Like I said earlier, we're going to go give them as much hell as we can. We're Norwalk football and we're just going to go and give them everything we've got. We're going to let the chips fall where they may."

**NEWS AND NOTES** from page 11

regular season home schedule against John Glenn High on Friday. The Eagles (4-11, 0-8) were swept by Oxford Academy this past Tuesday and will end the season at Pioneer on Tuesday.

Norwalk High visited Mayfair High this past Tuesday with the Mid-Cities League title on the line and stunned the Monsoons 25-6, 26-24, 25-17 to improve to 19-10, 6-1. Ranked second in the CIF-Southern Section Division 7 poll, the Lancers hosted third place Firebaugh High on Oct. 5 and will entertain Dominguez High on Tuesday before going to Gahr High on Wednesday and Lynwood High on Thursday.

In the Olympic League, Valley Christian High swept Maranatha High this past Tuesday, improving to 13-9 overall, 4-1 in the Olympic League. The Defenders went to league-leading Village Christian High this past Wednesday and will end the regular season hosting Whittier Christian High on Monday before going to Heritage Christian High on Wednesday.

**FOOTBALL****Artesia (4-2) @ Garey High (1-5)-**

This game was played on Oct. 5. Artesia was blanked by Viewpoint High 12-0 last Friday to see its brief two-game winning streak stopped. The Pioneers are still an explosive team as junior quarterback Charlie Lopez has rushed for 1,060 yards on 79 carries and scored 13 times while passing for 198 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Sophomore running back Josue Flores has gained 606 yards on 91 carries with seven touchdowns while on defense, senior cornerback Pablo Cruz has four interceptions and senior safety Joshua Campbell has three interceptions.

On paper, this should be an easy contest for the Pioneers as the Vikings have scored two more points than Artesia has allowed. Garey defeated Ocean View High 26-7 last Friday, a team that the Pioneers beat by three points on Sept. 8. Alex Vaca leads the ground game with 562 yards on 84 touches and three touchdowns while Miguel Pascual has gained 346 yards on 74 carries and has three sacks on defense. This game bodes well for the Pioneers heading into 605 League action on Thursday at Pioneer.

**Prediction: Artesia 42, Garey 14**

**Cerritos (2-4) @ Gahr (3-3)-See Chino High/Cerritos game story.**

**Prediction: Cerritos 31, Gahr 28**

**Mayfair (4-2, 0-1) @ La Mirada High (2-4, 1-0)-**

This game will be played at Glenn as the Matadores opened Gateway League action in fine fashion, defeating Dominguez 21-14 last Friday for their second straight win. La Mirada scored all its points in the fourth quarter as senior running back Martin Aguilera scored on a 65-yard run and returned a fumble

75 yards for another score. Sophomore quarterback Santino Garcia was 12 of 26 for 137 yards and threw a 16-yard touchdown pass to junior wide receiver Max Rankin.

This contest proves to be a tough one as the Matadores have not fared too well with their old Suburban League rivals. They have lost six straight games to Mayfair, though last season, it was a 16-14 contest. In 2021 it was a 15-10 affair and in 2019, Mayfair squeaked by 14-13. Before that, La Mirada had taken seven of eight from the Monsoons from 2009-2016.

After winning four straight games, Mayfair fell to Warren High 49-14 last Friday as quarterback Jeremiah Calvin was 16 of 28 for 172 yards and a touchdown and running back Louis Johnson gained 64 yards on seven carries and the other touchdown. Calvin has passed for 1,277 yards and nine touchdowns while Johnson has 172 yards and seven touchdowns.

**Prediction: Mayfair 28, La Mirada 14**

**Warren (4-2, 1-0) @ Norwalk (3-3, 0-1)-See Downey/Norwalk game story.**

**Prediction: Warren 31, Norwalk 21**

**Valley Christian (2-4, 1-0) @ Ontario Christian High (5-1, 1-0)-**

Valley Christian stunned Heritage Christian 22-21 last Friday for its second straight win. During that time, the Defenders have scored 60 points, but in the four losses, they managed 26 points. Senior quarterback Joe DeYoung was five of 10 for 101 yards and a touchdown while senior running back Dylan Sawai carried the ball nine times for 55 yards and a touchdown. He also added a fumble return for a score.

Ontario Christian has won three of the last four meetings with V.C. including last season's 40-18 contest. Winners of four straight games, the Knights are a scoring machine and have averaged just over 43 points a game, including the last three games of at least 50 points. The Knights slammed Big Bear High 58-0 last Saturday and quarterback Hayden Slegers has passed for 1,337 yards and 16 touchdowns while gaining 250 yards on the ground with six more touchdowns. Running back Zander Lewis has picked up 436 yards on 51 carries with four touchdowns while the top wide receiver is Marquis Bradley (685 yards, 37 receptions, eight touchdowns). He also has three interceptions on defense.

**Prediction: Ontario Christian 42, Valley Christian 17**

**Last week's predictions: 4-3  
Season to date: 32-9**

**LA MIRADA** from page 11

after that. What can we do? We were expecting that big hit again and then she just knew that she had us on her heels. Give her credit where credit is due."

Gahr, which swept Downey High two days after losing to La Mirada in the first round, hosted the Vikings this past Tuesday and rallied for an 18-25, 20-25, 25-14, 29-27, 15-12 win, then went 3-1 in the Gabrielino Tournament last Saturday to improve to 18-10 overall, 2-4 in league. The win allowed Gahr to tie Downey for third place in the standings as the Gladiators went to league-leading Warren High on Oct. 5 and will host last place Paramount High on Tuesday to conclude the regular season.

"We have less paths to the playoffs, but we definitely have some options available to us," said Quan-Madrid. "We're

trying to keep all options open and still trying to play hard. I think we still have a pretty good shot of taking third place in league, so that's what we're aiming for. If we end up as an at-large, we'll just take care of that one game at a time."

La Mirada, which was off this past Tuesday, went to Downey on Oct. 5 and will host Warren on Tuesday before going to Paramount on Thursday.

"I knew [the Gateway League] was going to be more competitive," said Mahan. "Last year, we did very well, and I was hoping we would still do very well. I've been telling them the whole time we needed to be ready because it was going to be hard. We played beach volleyball this [past] summer to try to get ready and we've just been working very hard. It is everything I thought it was going to be."

**FREEWAY** from page 1

trans.

The \$298.3 million is funded with \$273.2 million from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), and more than \$23.2 million from Senate Bill (SB) 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, and \$1.98 million from SHOPP.

"Caltrans is aggressively upgrading and rebuilding our infrastructure in California, including pavement rehabilitation on major interstate routes that transport goods and connect local communities," said Caltrans Director Tony Tavares. "The department and our federal partners are making a significant investment to rebuild and maintain our state transportation system."

Segment 1 construction will run from Katella Avenue in Los Alamitos-Long Beach to Telegraph Road in Santa Fe Springs, beginning soon.2023:

This project was allocated a total of \$72.7 million

Improvements include replacing distressed pavement and concrete slabs. Construction will include rehabilitating 96 lane miles of pavement, upgrading curb ramps, replacing signage and striping, and applying treatment to ramps and connectors to enhance skid resistance on the road surface, and an in-roadway warning light system where the offramps from southbound I-605 meet the Spring St. bridge bicycle lanes. Anticipated completion in early 2028.

Segment 2 construction will run from I-10 freeway to the I-605 terminus north of I-210, beginning in the fall of 2023. Construction is estimated to be \$19.4 million.

Improvements include rehabilitating pavement and concrete slabs, pedestrian upgrades at on- and off-ramps, including curb ramps and pedestrian accessible signals, and upgrades to six traffic signals. Construction will also include eight new vehicle maintenance pullouts, more than 12,000 linear feet of guardrail and the replacement of 27 overhead sign structures. Anticipated completion in fall 2026.

Segment 3 construction will run from Telegraph Road in Santa Fe Springs to I-10 freeway scheduled for the spring 2024. Construction is estimated to be \$181.6 million.

Improvements include rehabilitating pavement and concrete slabs. Construction will include 93 lane miles of new pavement, upgrading more than 16,000 linear feet of guardrail and replacing 16 overhead sign structures. In addition, the project includes 53 acres of landscaping and stormwater improvements to help prevent trash and other pollutants from draining into the San Gabriel River. Anticipated completion in early 2030.

**DEBT** from page 1

that is largely out of people’s control, but it is devastating families here in LA County,” said Supervisor Janice Hahn. “It is contributing to poverty and homelessness and forcing too many people to delay medical care or avoid filling prescriptions. Helping families with the burden of medical debt would pay dividends.”

The motion also directs the development of a new ordinance that will require hospitals within Los Angeles County to provide data related to debt-collection and financial assistance which will be shared publicly in a new online dashboard for patients. County departments will also study and recommend new policies and practices to reduce residents’ medical debt including improving access to financial and legal assistance.

“Medical debt prevents people from seeking medical care and prescriptions and contributes to food and housing insecurity,” said Western Center on Law and Poverty Executive Director Crystal Crawford and Senior Attorney Helen Tran in a letter of support for the motion. “These health and financial harms can be avoided and corrected with the right policies. That is why we support this motion and the County’s willingness to take affirmative steps to reduce medical debt at a population health level.”

“Medical debt remains a public health emergency in Los Angeles County and serves as a consequential deterrent and social determinant when it comes to patients seeking appropriate and timely medical care. The physicians on Los Angeles County stand in solidarity and support with the LA County Board of Supervisors, the Department of Public Health, and many others to address this crisis,” said Dr. Jerry P Abraham, President of the Los Angeles County Medical Association.

Those who are recipients of this program will no longer owe the specific medical debt(s) erased through MDRI and will not have to pay taxes on this one-time donation toward the purchase of their medical debt.

Through today’s motion, the Board will receive a report in 90 days on the feasibility of purchasing and retiring County residents’ medical debt as well as potential County, State, Federal, and philanthropic funding sources to support this endeavor.

**BUYBACK** from page 1

and used in a crime, or won’t fall into the hands of a child or someone considering suicide. That makes all of our time and effort more than worth it.”

This was Hahn’s seventh gun buyback event since last May. Altogether, she and her partners in law enforcement have collected over 1,286 unwanted guns from events in Long Beach, Artesia, Lynwood, Hawaiian Gardens, and Wilmington. Each event is funded by Supervisor Hahn’s office, with the Sheriff’s Department providing deputies to staff the event and collect and destroy weapons.

Los Angeles County Assistant Sheriff Myron Johnson, Bellflower Mayor Sonny Santa Ines, and Bellflower Councilmember Victor Sanchez joined Hahn for a press conference at the event.

“This is not about vilifying responsible gun owners, it’s not about infringing upon one’s Second Amendment rights, it’s about promoting safety, responsibility, and reducing the chance of accidental or intentional harm these guns will cause in our communities,” said Assistant Sheriff Johnson during the press conference.

Hahn is planning another buyback event in Pico Rivera in December.

**CITY OF CERRITOS, STATE OF CALIFORNIA. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR CERRITOS CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS MARKETING ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT, RFP NO. 1531-23.** The City of Cerritos seeks by this Request for Proposal (“RFP”) a qualified marketing consultant (referred to as the “Service Provider”) for a Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts marketing analysis. Sealed proposals for these services will be received at City Hall in the Office of the City Clerk, located at 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, First Floor, Bloomfield Avenue at 183rd Street, Cerritos, California, 90703. 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. Proposals must be received no later than **11 a.m., on Wednesday, November 1, 2023.** Proposals must be addressed to the City Clerk, City of Cerritos, 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, First Floor, Bloomfield Avenue at 183rd Street, Cerritos, California, 90703, marked “**Proposal for Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts Marketing Analysis and Assessment, RFP No. 1531-23**”. No proposal will be accepted unless it has the proposal number and project name clearly identified on the outside label. The City of Cerritos (“City”) reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or portions of any and all proposals, or waive the informality in a proposal not affected by law. A copy of the General Descriptions and Conditions and Agreement can be obtained by calling the City of Cerritos Communications Division at (562) 916-1320. Notifications, updates and addenda will be posted on the City’s bid page at: [www.cerritos.us/BUSINESSES/bid\\_and\\_contract\\_opportunities/bid\\_listings.php](http://www.cerritos.us/BUSINESSES/bid_and_contract_opportunities/bid_listings.php) Proposed Service Providers (referred to as “Proposers”) shall be responsible for monitoring the site to obtain information regarding this solicitation. Failure to respond to required updates may result in a determination of a nonresponsive proposal.

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**CITY OF CERRITOS, STATE OF CALIFORNIA. NOTICE TO BIDDERS FOR PARTS AND SERVICES TO REPAIR HERMAN MILLER CLASSIC AERON CHAIRS AT THE CERRITOS LIBRARY, BID NO. 1527-23.** Sealed bids will be received at the Office of the City Clerk of the City of Cerritos, 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, First Floor, Bloomfield Avenue at 183rd Street, Cerritos, California, 90703, **until 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 25, 2023** for Parts and Services to Repair Herman Miller Classic Aeron Chairs at the Cerritos Library. The bid submission must be received in the Office of the City Clerk, 1st Floor, 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90703. 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. Bids will be publicly opened at Cerritos City Hall at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, October 25, 2023. Bids must be made on the form provided for this purpose, addressed to the City Clerk, City of Cerritos, 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, First Floor, Bloomfield Avenue at 183rd Street, Cerritos, California, 90703, marked “**Parts and Services to Repair Herman Miller Classic Aeron Chairs at the Cerritos Library, Bid No. 1527-23**”. No bid will be accepted unless it is made on a proposal form furnished by the City and has the bid number and project name clearly identified on the outside label. The City of Cerritos reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or portions of any and all bids or waive the informality in a bid not affected by law. Bid specifications are available by contacting Carrie Kurata at (562) 916-1349.

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**CITY OF CERRITOS. NOTICE TO BIDDERS. Project Identification: ANNUAL ON-CALL MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR SERVICES FOR WATER WELLS, BOOSTER PUMP ASSEMBLIES, AND GEAR DRIVES FOR THE CITY OF CERRITOS, BID NO. 1528-23.**  
**Project Description:** The work or improvement to be performed consists of providing all labor, services, tools, equipment, materials, appurtenances, and incidentals necessary for performing repairs and services for water wells, booster pump assemblies, and gear drives for the City of Cerritos. Typical tasks to be included, but are not limited to, pump rehabilitation; well rehabilitation; gear drive rehabilitation; and other similar tasks. The contractor shall have a minimum of ten (10) years of experience performing similar tasks. The term of the proposed contract is one (1) year with a provision of up to four (4) one-year extensions. **Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference: 10:00 a.m., Monday, October 16, 2023.** City of Cerritos Corporate Yard, 16540 Marquardt Avenue, Cerritos, California. **Bids will be opened: 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, October 25, 2023. 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. 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. **Bids must be marked: “BID – ANNUAL ON-CALL MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR SERVICES FOR WATER WELLS, BOOSTER PUMP ASSEMBLIES, AND GEAR DRIVES FOR THE CITY OF CERRITOS, BID NO. 1528-23– DO NOT OPEN.”** All bids shall be made on the form furnished by the City and shall be opened and publicly read aloud at the above-stated time in the Office of the City Clerk of the City of Cerritos, City Hall. Any requests for information regarding opened bids shall be directed to the Office of the City Clerk via a formal Public Records Act request. The City has determined that opened bids are confidential and therefore the negotiations process outweighs the public interest in prematurely disclosing such records. (Gov. Code § 6255). Obtaining Contract Documents: A set of Contract Documents, including plans and specifications, can be obtained by contacting Cerritos Engineering Division at (562) 916-1219. The cost of the bid documents is \$10.00 (\$15.00 if mailing is requested), only if a printed copy of plans and specifications is requested. There will be no refund for return of the Contract Documents. Return of such documents is not required. The City’s final selection criteria for the award of the contract will be based on, but not limited to the following analysis: City’s evaluation of the Contractor’s Qualification Statement; experience in the repair and service of water wells, booster pump assemblies, and gear drives; and proof of State Contractor’s Licenses; Commitment by the contractor to supply necessary services, expertise, and equipment to fulfill the contract specifications; experience with completing a particular type of work; and other relevant factors; Availability of resources; The best economic value of the proposal; Contractor’s ability to provide the required insurance certificate(s) and satisfactory references. The City reserves the right to reject 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 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 during the life of the contract): **“A” and/or a “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 registered with the California Department of Industrial Relations (“DIR”) to bid on public works contracts in California shall be permitted to submit a bid. Furthermore, only subcontractors registered with the DIR to bid on public works contracts in California shall be permitted to perform work or labor or render service under subcontract to the subject contractor. 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 purposes 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. On March 4, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-6-22 (EO) regarding sanctions in response to Russian aggression in Ukraine. The EO is located at <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/3.4.22-Russia-Ukraine-Executive-Order.pdf>. All contractors shall comply with economic sanctions imposed in response to Russia’s actions in Ukraine, per this order and other federal executive orders identified by the U.S. Department of Treasury. Failure to comply with these orders shall result in the termination of contract. By order of the City of Cerritos.

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**CITY OF CERRITOS. NOTICE TO BIDDERS. Project Identification: ANNUAL WATER MAINS AND APPURTENANCES FOR REPAIRS AND SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF CERRITOS, BID NO. 1529-23.** **Project Description:** The City of Cerritos is seeking qualified contractors to provide all labor, services, tools, equipment, materials, appurtenances, and incidentals necessary for performing repairs and services on the water mains and appurtenances for the City of Cerritos Potable and Recycled Water Distribution Systems. These services include response to requests for repairs on an as-needed and emergency basis. The selected contractors shall work closely with the Department of Water & Power, who will administer the contract to ensure that costs are minimized while maintaining quality, ensuring that schedules and deadlines are met, and pricing is competitive. **Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference: 10:00 a.m., Friday, October 13, 2023.** City Hall, 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, California. **Bids will be opened: 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, October 25, 2023. 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. 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. **Bids must be marked: “BID – ANNUAL WATER MAINS AND APPURTENANCES FOR REPAIRS AND SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF CERRITOS BID NO. 1529-23 – DO NOT OPEN.”** All bids shall be made on the form furnished by the City and shall be opened and publicly read aloud at the above-stated time in the Office of the City Clerk of the City of Cerritos, City Hall. Any requests for information regarding opened bids shall be directed to the Office of the City Clerk via a formal Public Records Act request. The City has determined that opened bids are confidential and therefore the negotiations process outweighs the public interest in prematurely disclosing such records. (Gov. Code § 6255). Obtaining Contract Documents: A set of Contract Documents, including plans and specifications, can be obtained by contacting Cerritos Engineering Division at (562) 916-1219. The cost of the bid documents is \$10.00 (\$15.00 if mailing is requested), only if a printed copy of plans and specifications is requested. There will be no refund for return of the Contract Documents. Return of such documents is not required. The City’s final selection criteria will be based on, but not limited to, the following analysis: City’s evaluation of the Contractor’s Qualification Statement, experience in the repair and service for water main and appurtenances, and proof of State Contractor’s Licenses; Commitment by contractor to supply necessary services and equipment to fulfill the contract specifications, experience with completing a particular type of work, and other relevant factors; No bid will be considered if the contractor’s maintenance yard is more than fifteen (15) vehicle travel miles from the City of Cerritos City Hall. During an emergency, the time it takes to respond can be a critical factor in how extensive the damage to a facility or infrastructure will be; The best economic value of the bid; Contractor’s ability to provide the required insurance certificate(s) and satisfactory references; 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 Business and Professions Code of the State of California. The contractor must possess a license of the following classification at the time the contract is awarded and must maintain the licenses during the life of the contract: **A and/or C34.** The contractor’s attention is also directed to Section 7028-15 of the Business and Professions Code. 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. On March 4, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-6-22 (EO) regarding sanctions in response to Russian aggression in Ukraine. The EO is located at <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/3.4.22-Russia-Ukraine-Executive-Order.pdf>. All contractors shall comply with economic sanctions imposed in response to Russia’s actions in Ukraine, per this order and other federal executive orders identified by the U.S. Department of Treasury. Failure to comply with these orders shall result in the termination of contract. By order of the City of Cerritos.

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 10/6/23



**CITY OF COMMERCE  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 23-09  
6687 Flotilla Street**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Planning Commission of the City of Commerce will conduct a public hearing on a request from Rexford Industrial Realty, LLC for a Conditional Use Permit to allow loading and unloading operations to continue 24 hours a day at an existing industrial facility, located at 6687 Flotilla Street, Commerce, CA 90040. Pursuant to Chapter 19.21.130 (J), Loading and Unloading Requirements, a Conditional Use Permit is required for any activity related to loading and unloading within 300 Feet of any R-1 and R-2 Residential Zones, if the activity occurs after the hour of 7:00PM, or before the hour of 7:00AM, seven days a week. Said public hearing will be held before the Planning Commission of the City of Commerce in the Council Chambers, 5655 Jillson Street, Commerce, CA, 90040, on Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 6:30 p.m., at which time proponents and opponents of the proposed Conditional Use Permit will be heard.

Per Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge this Conditional Use Permit in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission at, or prior to, the public hearing.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION  
Viviana M. Esparza

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 10/6/23

**CITY OF BELLFLOWER  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
REGARDING DEVELOPMENT REVIEW CASE NO. DR 3-22-12900  
SITE DESIGN REVIEW CASE NO. SDR 23-02 AND  
TENTATIVE MAP NO. PM 83796**

**TAKE NOTICE** that the Bellflower Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, October 16, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at 16600 Civic Center Drive, Bellflower, CA 90706 to consider a Development Review, a Site Design Review, and a Tentative Map to allow for the construction of three attached, two-story, residential condominiums; to exceed the "2/3rds Rule" – a requirement that the second floor not exceed two-thirds (2/3) the size in total floor area of the first floor; and subdivide an existing 8,625-square foot lot for condominium purposes within the R-3 (Multiple Residential) Zone on property located at 8524 Park Street. Pursuant to the authority and criteria of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), an environmental assessment was conducted for this project. This project was determined to be Categorically Exempt (Section 15303, Class 3 – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures) from the provisions of CEQA because the proposed project includes the construction of three dwelling units in an urbanized area.

The City of Bellflower invites members of the public to review and comment on this item. Copies of the staff report and supporting documents regarding this matter may be inspected by the public on the City's website at [www.bellflower.org](http://www.bellflower.org), or by appointment in the Planning Division's Office at Bellflower City Hall, 16600 Civic Center Drive, Bellflower, California; telephone number (562) 804-1424, extension 2248. All written comments concerning this may be submitted to Jason P. Clarke at 16600 Civic Center Drive, Bellflower, CA 90706; or by email at [jclarke@bellflower.org](mailto:jclarke@bellflower.org).

If you wish to challenge this item in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City at or before the Public Hearing.

**ELIZABETH C. OBA  
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES**

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 10/6/23

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF  
BUN HEANG NY  
CASE NO. 23STPB09915**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: BUN HEANG NY  
A Petition for Probate/Letters of Administration has been filed by PHIBUN NY in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

The Petition for Probate/Letters of Administration requests that PHIBUN NY be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

The Petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court on NOVEMBER 17, 2023 at 8:30 AM in Dept. 11 located at 111 North Hill Street Los Angeles, CA 90012/ Stanley Mosk.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

OTHER CALIFORNIA STATUTES and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner: Saman Behnam, Esq. 354 West Ocean Boulevard Long Beach, CA 90802, Telephone: 562.436.1500  
10/6, 10/13, 10/20/23  
CNS-3743455#

LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS

**Notice of Self Storage Sale**

Please take notice US Storage Centers - Commerce – Olympic located at 5415 E. Olympic Blvd. Commerce CA 90022 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via [www.storage-treasures.com](http://www.storage-treasures.com) on 10/19/2023 at 10:00AM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Andres Tristin Nieves; Norma Ysela Carrillo-Salinas; Benjamin Felix Soto; Nora Guadalupe Reaves; Saul Ismael Melendrez; Andres E Bautista; Kate Ashley Rubio; David Arthur Williams; Elizabeth Bernal Guzman; Adriana Revelez; Adeline Christlieb; Menecces Lorenzo Antonio; Maria de Los Angeles Mendez; Victor Hernandez; Jorge de Jesus Marcial Cordova/DISTRIBUIDORA 3 HERMANOS LLC. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

Published at LCCN 9/29 and 10/6/23

**CITY OF ARTESIA  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Planning Commission of the City of Artesia will hold a Regular Planning Commission Meeting in the City Council Chambers of Artesia City Hall located at 18747 Clarkdale Avenue, Artesia, California at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, October 17, 2023 to conduct a **Public Hearing** to consider the following item:

**Project Description: Case No. 2023-16:** The Planning Commission will consider adopting Resolution No. 2023-15P, which recommends the City Council adopt Ordinance No. 23-947. The Ordinance amends Article 12 of Chapter 2 of Title 9 of the Artesia Municipal Code to identify and conditionally permit the use of a converted digital advertising display sign, subject to approval of a development agreement and making a determination of categorical exemption under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

**Project Location:** Citywide.

Members from the public who would like to address the Planning Commission may appear at the public hearing during the consideration of this item and state their opinion. If you have written comments that you wish to submit, please deliver them to the Community Development Department, 18747 Clarkdale Avenue, Artesia, CA, or by email: [pkann@cityofartesia.us](mailto:pkann@cityofartesia.us) prior to the start of the public hearing. If you have questions about this notice or the proposed action, please contact the Artesia Community Development Department at (562) 865-6262 or by the email above.

If you challenge any action related to this public hearing in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered at, or prior to, the public hearing.

**PUBLISHED:** October 6, 2023

Peter Kann,  
Planning Manager

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 10/6/23

**CITY OF ARTESIA  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Planning Commission of the City of Artesia will hold a Regular Planning Commission Meeting in the City Council Chambers of Artesia City Hall located at 18747 Clarkdale Avenue, Artesia, California at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, October 17, 2023 to conduct a **Public Hearing** to consider the following item:

**Project Description: Case No. 2023-16:** The Planning Commission will consider adopting Resolution No. 2023-16P, which recommends the City Council adopt Ordinance No. 23-948. The Ordinance amends Article 13.5 of Chapter 2 of Title 9 of the Artesia Municipal Code to amend certain regulations for incidental outdoor uses and incidental outdoor seating and making a determination of categorical exemption under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

**Project Location:** Citywide.

Members from the public who would like to address the Planning Commission may appear at the public hearing during the consideration of this item and state their opinion. If you have written comments that you wish to submit, please deliver them to the Community Development Department, 18747 Clarkdale Avenue, Artesia, CA, or by email: [pkann@cityofartesia.us](mailto:pkann@cityofartesia.us) prior to the start of the public hearing. If you have questions about this notice or the proposed action, please contact the Artesia Community Development Department at (562) 865-6262 or by the email above.

If you challenge any action related to this public hearing in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered at, or prior to, the public hearing.

**PUBLISHED:** October 6, 2023

Peter Kann,  
Planning Manager

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 10/6/23

**CITY OF COMMERCE  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 23-07  
2057 S. Atlantic Boulevard**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Planning Commission of the City of Commerce will conduct a public hearing on a request from Women In Non Traditional Employment Roles for a Conditional Use Permit to allow the establishment and operation of a job and employment training facility at an existing commercial building, located at 2057 S. Atlantic Boulevard, Commerce, CA 90040. Pursuant to Chapter 19.11, of the Commerce Municipal Code, a Conditional Use Permit is required for job-training establishments and vocational schools located within the C/M-1 Zoning Designation.

Said public hearing will be held before the Planning Commission of the City of Commerce in the Council Chambers, 5655 Jillson Street, Commerce, CA, 90040, on Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 6:30 p.m., at which time proponents and opponents of the proposed Conditional Use Permit will be heard.

Per Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge this Conditional Use Permit in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission at, or prior to, the public hearing.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION  
Viviana M. Esparza

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 10/6/23

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS  
GABRIEL ANGEL MAGANA filed a petition with this court for a decree changing name as follows: GABRIEL ANGEL MAGANA TO GABRIEL ANGEL GARCIA. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant a petition without a hearing. Court date 11/16/2023, at the SUPERIOR COURT COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 200 W COMPTON BLVD., COMPTON CA 90220. A HEARING will be held NOVEMBER 16, 2023 at 8:30 am, Dept B. ROOM 906. Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 10/6/23 Case number 23CMCP00168



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\*Only schools authorized by the IB Organization can offer any of its four academic programmes: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), the Diploma Programme, or the Career-related Programme (CP). Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted. For further information about the IB and its programmes, visit [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)

**562.800.0249**

**admission@auracademy.org**

**www.auracademy.org**