

LAUSD ADDS MOBILE LAUNDRY SERVICE FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS

HELPING OUT: Representatives from The Laundry Truck LA launched their second trailer this week. Laundry Truck LA partners with LAUSD to help kids get clean clothes. Visit thelaundrytruckla.com.

Won't Close Schools: ABC Declining Enrollment Committee Just Says No

In a surprise move, Leticia Mendoza calls for no school closures which passed unanimously.

By Brian Hews

At Wednesday's town hall meeting, the ABCUSD Declining Enrollment Committee, with a motion from former ABCUSD Board Member Leticia Mendoza, voted not to close any schools in the district.

In December 2023, Los Cerritos Community News obtained an internal letter from ABCUSD to district employees and staff outlining the School Facilities and Declining Enrollment Capacities Ad-Hoc Committee proposal to consolidate six schools in the ABCUSD.

The schools were Aloha ES, Furgeson ES, Hawaiian ES, Juarez Academy, Kennedy STEM, and Willow ES.

An uproar of families and staff of the targeted school ensued, with the ABCUSD calling town hall meetings to discuss the

{See **Schools** pg. 13}

Young California Innovators Take Top 2024 Westly Prize Awards



INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY: The Westly Foundation Award winners for 2024 with co-founders of the Westly Prize, Steve Westly, and Anita Yu. These young men and women were awarded for their innovations that improve the lives of others both locally and around the world. Photo courtesy the Wesley Foundation.

Editor's note: this is the second of three stories about the award winners.

By Laurie Hanson

With today's community and global challenges, young people are striving to find innovative solutions that are being recognized by organizations such as the Westley Foundation in Silicon

Valley.

This year, three teams were recently awarded \$40,000 each as part of the 2024 Westly Prize for Young Social Innovators in California. All members were in their 20's.

Co-founders of the Westly Prize, Steve Westly, and Anita Yu, noted that this year's Westly Prize teams are ones that equal-

{See **Innovators** pg. 7}

Cerritos Council to Consider Additional Pickleball Courts in the City

Liberty Park could get two dedicated courts, council might also look at Frontier Park for courts.

By Brian Hews

During its regular meeting in April 2023, the Cerritos City Council directed staff to study converting two tennis courts at Liberty Park into dual-use courts for tennis and Pickleball and initiate a discussion to develop Pickleball courts at Gahr High School.

The city council considered the Pickleball study at it Feb 22, 2024 meeting.

The Liberty Park discussion is ongoing while the ABCUSD told the city that the Gahr High

Pickleball courts on the northeast corner of Artesia Boulevard and Studebaker Road were already being considered for a different use.

Currently, there are over 230 Pickleball courts near Cerritos: some of them include Bellflower's Thompson Park, which has four; Cypress Park with six; Cypress College with ten; Downey's Independence Park with four; La Mirada Regional Park with four; the La Mirada Community Gym with two; Lakewood's Bolivar and Mayfair Parks with four each; the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex with three.

In Cerritos, there are a total of thirteen dedicated Pickleball courts. Ten courts are located at Don Knabe Regional Park, while three Pickleball courts are located

{See **Pickleball** pg. 6}

Eco-Eternity: Californians are Ditching Coffins for Human Composting

By Brian Hews

This one caught my interest.... Human composting, also known as natural organic reduction or recomposition, is a process that turns human remains into soil.

This environmentally friendly alternative to traditional burial or cremation involves placing the deceased body in a vessel with organic materials such as wood chips, straw, and other plant matter. Over several weeks, micro-organisms break down the body into soil through the natural process of decomposition.

The resulting soil can then be used for various purposes, such as nourishing plants or trees, essentially allowing the deceased to contribute to the cycle of life in a sustainable way.

Human composting offers several potential benefits, including conservation of land, reduction of carbon emissions associat-

ed with cremation, and fostering a deeper connection to the natural world.

Several companies and organizations have begun offering human composting services, and some jurisdictions have legalized it as an option for handling human remains.

The trend towards environmentally conscious funeral options is on the rise as awareness spreads. A recent survey among 6,000 people to gauge preferences for non-traditional burial methods, were quite revealing, highlighting a growing interest in eco-friendly funeral alternatives.

#1 Human Composting

In first place came Natural Organic Reduction, the Human Composting previously mentioned. Cost is from \$2,000-\$5,000.

#2 Green Burials

The 2nd most popular option among Californians was Green {See **Composting** pg. 5}



Fedde Academy Honored at Hawaiian Gardens-

Hawaiian Gardens City Council recognized Fedde Academy for being designated as a State and National School to Watch. **Page 3.**



Tech Scams on the Rise-

The scammers try to get remote access to your computer to install malware and steal personal information. **Page 9.**



Cerritos High Boys/Girls Into Championship-

The boys team celebrates after its 68-61 win. The boys and girls teams play this Saturday, 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. at Edison High. **Page 11.**

WHAT IS CERRITOS HIDING?

City Declines a LCCN Public Records Request

Cerritos Will Not Reveal Individual CCPA Show Ticket Sales

The City Spends \$\$\$\$ With Other Newspapers

Advertising Spending

'23-'24 Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts

L A Times

\$68,000

OCR-Press Telegram

\$41,000

Others

\$23,000

Los Cerritos Community News

\$0.00



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LCCN delivers 75% more papers in the area
than the LAT or the PT at 50% less cost.

Certain Cerritos City Council members have told City management not to
advertise in LCCN, not to support your hometown newspaper.

Why else would the CCPA not advertise in LCCN?

La Mirada Theater advertises in LCCN and had a record year.

'23-24 CCPA ticket sales will be close to lowest in history.

Nominations Open for Lakewood Beautiful through March 21



THE ANNUAL LAKEWOOD BEAUTIFUL program is on now until nomination deadline on March 21, 2024.

The Lakewood Beautiful program is ready to recognize Lakewood residents who take extra care to keep their homes and yards (and local neighborhoods) looking great!

Residents can help honor those Lakewood homeowners who go “above and beyond” to keep their home and yards looking beautiful by submitting a nomination form by March 21, 2024.

There are four ways to honor a home or a neighbor’s home in the Lakewood Beautiful program:

- **Beautiful Home Award.** This is the city’s most traditional award, which has honored hundreds of Lakewood homes over three decades. This award recognizes the front facing exterior and landscaping of a home, displaying exceptional care and pride of ownership.
- **Jackie Rynerson “Transformation Award.”** This will honor

homeowners who have remodeled the front-facing exterior and landscaping of their property within the past three years.

- **Neat and Tidy Award.** This newest category was added to recognize homeowners who are consistent with maintaining their landscaping and a clean home exterior.
- **Water-Wise Award.** This honors beautiful homes nominated in one of the first three categories that deserve extra recognition for landscaping that utilizes water-conserving irrigation devices and plantings.

Residents can nominate your property or that of a neighbor online using a form online at lakewoodcity.org/Home; by phone -- call City Hall at 562-866-9771, extension 3123 and by mail - use the form in city utility bills over the course of February and March.

Fedde Academy Recognized by Hawaiian Gardens City Council



THE HAWAIIAN GARDENS City Council and ABCUSD honored Fedde at its February 15 meeting. Fedde Principal Denise Macias accepted the certificate.

At its February 15 meeting, the Hawaiian Gardens City Council recognized Fedde Academy for being designated as a State and National School to Watch.

This now puts all ABCUSD Middle Schools on the prestigious list.

Principal Denise Macías accepted the certificate. Ms. Macías is a product of Hawaiian Gardens Schools including Furgeson Elementary and Fedde Middle

School. She is also a proud Artesia High School graduate. Among the many school district and city officials gathered, were ABCUSD School Board President Sophia Tse and Clerk Francisco Noyola. Mr. Noyola also attended local schools and is the Trustee for Area 7 on the Board, which includes Hawaiian Gardens. Submitted by Linda J. Hernández

I-605 Lane & Ramp Closures Scheduled in Cerritos

Caltrans announces scheduled lane and ramp closures on north and south I-605 this weekend. **FROM FRI., FEB. 23 INTO SAT., FEB. 24:** North I-605 between South St. & the SR-91 up to four lanes closed from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. All on- and off- ramps will be closed, but the ramps will be closed sequentially. The north I-605 connector to east & west SR-91 closed 11:59 p.m. to 7 a.m. North I-605 between Alondra Blvd. & Rosecrans

Ave. up to four lanes closed from 11:59 p.m. to 8 a.m. North I-605 connector to west I-105 closed from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. **FROM SAT., FEB. 24 INTO SUN., FEB. 25:** North I-605 between South St. & SR-91 up to four lanes closed from 11 p.m. to 8 a.m. North I-605 connector to east & west SR-91 closed from 11:59 p.m. 7 a.m. South I-605 from SR-91 to South St. up to four lanes closed from 1 a.m. Sunday morning to 8 a.m. Sunday morning. East SR-91 connector to south I-605 closed from 11:59 p.m. to 10 a.m.

Detour signs will be in place. Lanes will re-open each morning

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Area City’s Crime Summary-February 12-18, 2024

Notable Arrests

• Three suspects were arrested throughout La Mirada for various warrants and narcotics violations. One suspect was arrested for burglary; One suspect was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon; One suspect was arrested for fraud; One suspect was arrested for grand theft auto; One suspect was arrested for grand theft.

Robbery

• A daytime robbery occurred on the 14800 block of Telegraph Rd. One suspect was arrested during the incident.

Aggravated Assault

• An assault was reported on the 14500 block of Stage Rd. One suspect was arrested, and the incident is still under investigation.

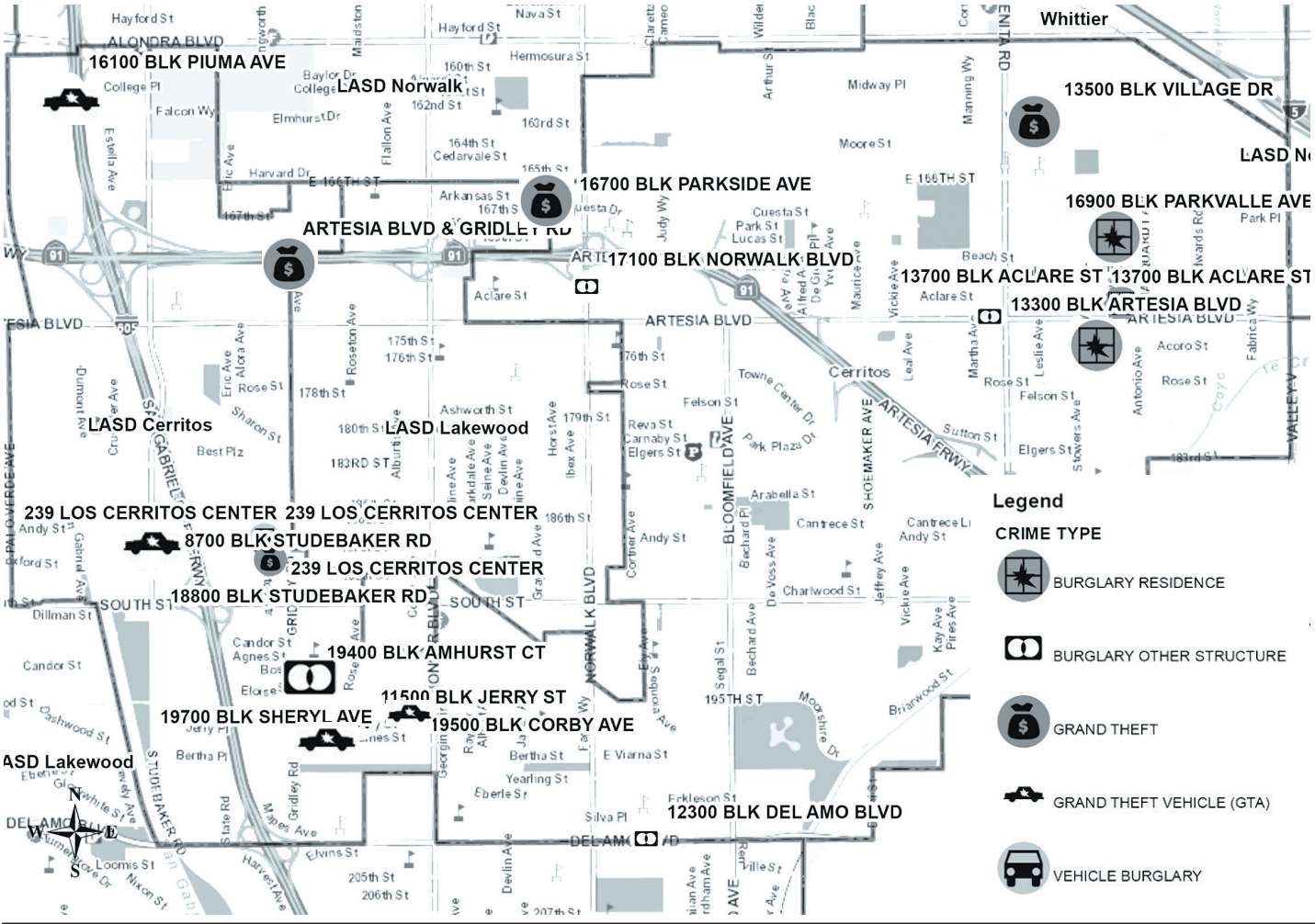
Other Structure Burglary

• An overnight burglary occurred on the 14700 block of Beach Blvd.
• Two burglaries were reported on the 15700 block of Imperial Hwy.
• An early morning burglary occurred on the 12800 block of La Mirada Blvd.
• An overnight burglary was reported on the 15900 block of Glazebrook Dr.
• A burglary was reported on the 13900 block of Valley View Ave.

Vehicle Burglary

• An early morning vehicle burglary occurred on the 15900 block of San Antonio.
• A vehicle burglary was reported on the 14500 block of San Esteban Dr.
• A window smash vehicle burglary occurred on the 14500 block of Rio Blanco Dr.
• A vehicle burglary was reported on the 14700 block of San Esteban Dr.
• A window smash vehicle burglary occurred on the 14800 block of Turlock.
• A vehicle burglary occurred on the 13200 block of Crete Dr.

Grand Theft



• A theft was reported on the 14700 block of Firestone Blvd.
• An overnight catalytic converter theft was reported on the 15500 block of La Barca
• A tailgate was reported stolen on the 14600 block of Bora Dr.
• A theft was reported on the 15700 block of Harshaw Pl.
Grand Theft Auto
• A sedan was reported stolen on the 15900 block of Glazebrook Dr.

Find our paper at these convenient locations:

AAA 18642 S. Gridley	18125 Bloomfield Ave Cerritos Medical Center Dr. De Kriek	Center La Palma Intercomm.
ABC Adult School 12254 Cuesta Dr.	11911 Artesia Blvd.	Hospital
ABC District Office 16700 Norwalk Blvd.	Cerritos Senior Center 12340 South St.	Liberty Park 9211 Studebaker Rd,
ABCFT 19444 Norwalk Blvd.	Cevitas Coffee 14218 Rosecrans Ave	Long Beach
Aikan Sushi 12155 South St	CTA Travel 12750 Center Ct Dr S.	Memorial 2801 Atlantic Ave.
All Cerritos Parks	ContunEM 6430 South St	Manila Sunset 13347 South St
Amor Y Tacos 13333 South St	Don Knabe Park At the Tennis Center	Massage and
Arte Café 12741 Towne Ctr. Dr.	El Tepeyac 13926 Imperial Hwy	Stone 13247 South St.
Artesia City Hall 18747 Clarkdale Ave.	Foggia Deli 5522 Del Amo Blvd.	Medipost 13299 E South St.
Artesia Library 18722 Clarkdale	Grocery Outket 15745 Imperial Hwy,	Norwalk Arts and
Artesia Cemetery 11142 Artesia Blvd.	Grove at Cerritos 11000 New Falcon Way	Sports 13000 Clarkdale
Artesia Christian Home 11614 183rd St, Artesia	Goodyear Auto 19404 Norwalk Blvd.	Norwalk Senior
Artesia Senior Apts 10427 Artesia, Bellflower	Gardens Casino 11871 E Carson St.	Center 14040 San Antonio Dr.
Ave. 3 12612 South St.	Hawaiian Gardens City	Norwalk City Hall
Bellflower City Hall	Hall,	Offstreet Café 11020 Artesia Blvd.
Bellflower Terrace	Rec. Center, Library 21815 Pioneer	Olive Lawn 13926 La Mirada Blvd
Apts. 9920 Flora Vista	Holy Family Church, Artesia	11832 E Carson St
Belmont Place Apts. 9830 Belmont St.,	iHop 15140 La Mirada Blvd	Pico Rivera Chamber 5016 Passons Blvd
Bellflower	Imperial Healthcare Center 11926 La Mirada Blvd	Pico River City Hall
Ramona Senior Ctr. 9843 Ramona St.	It's A Grind 13295 South St.	and Sheriffs 6615 Passons Blvd
Bellflower	Kindred Hospital 14900 Imperial Hwy.	Rosewoods 10769 South St.
Bellflower Friendship	Knabe Park	State Farm 12616 South St
Manor 9550 Oak St.	Kristens Beauty Salon 13952 Valley View Ave	LAFD Station 30
Cassidy's Cafe 15010 La Mirada Blvd	La Casa de Concinera 15711 Imperial Hwy,	Silverlake Ramen 11103 183rd St
Cerritos Autosquare All Dealerships	Lakewood Regional 3700 South St.	Sophia Hair Salon 13243 South St.
Cerritos Chamber 13259 South St.	La Mirada City Hall, Library,	Splash! La Mirada
Cerritos College	Resource Center, Sheriff's	Sukos Sushi 14156 Rosecrans
Cerritos City Hall	LA Nails 13239 South St	Tacos San Pedro 11832 E Carson St
Sheriff's/Community	La Palma City Hall	Tour Le Jour 13359 South St
Center	La Palma Community	VI Pharmacy 12610 South St.
Cerritos Library		WRD 4040 Paramount
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Cerritos Journalism School Lands Big Grant



HAPPY JOURNALISTS: The Cerritos College Foundation was awarded a grant of \$20,000 to support the College’s Journalism and Media Studies Department. Awarded by the Golden Globe Foundation, the grant will give the journalism students access to opportunities including internships and conferences.

Household Hazard Waste Event Feb. 24th in Bellflower

Staff Report

Bellflower will be holding a Household Hazardous Waste Collection and E-Waste Drive-Thru Collection Event on Saturday, February 24, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Rio Hondo College Fire Training Academy located at 11400 Greenstone Ave. in Santa Fe Springs.

It is a legal and cost free way for county residents to dispose of unwanted household chemicals and wanted electronics that cannot be disposed of in the regular trash.

Bring motor oil, antifreeze, paint, paint thinner, turpentine, cleaners with

acids or lye, pesticides and herbicides, car or household batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, old computers and television sets, sharps or used needles, expired pharmaceuticals and mercury thermometers.

Explosives, ammunition or radioactive materials, waste from businesses will NOT be accepted, trash or old tires, white goods such as washers, stoves, refrigerators or air conditioners..

Carefully secure items in your trunk pick-up bed. Do not mix products together. For more details visit www.lacsd.org.

Sponsored jointly by the Sanitation Districts and the LA County Department of Public Works.

Composting from page 1

Burials. This method skips the embalming process and uses biodegradable caskets or shrouds. The aim is to allow the body to decompose naturally and return to the earth. Cost starts at \$2,000.

#3 Tree Pod Burials

A surprising choice emerged as the 3rd most popular for Golden State residents: Tree Pod Burials. The body is placed in a biodegradable pod that is then buried in the ground. A tree is planted above the pod, and as the body decomposes, it nourishes the tree. Cost starts at \$500.

#4 Memorial Reefs

Memorial Reefs was the 4th most popular pick. This involves creating artificial coral reefs using remains mixed into an environmentally safe cement. These reefs provide habitats for marine life and help restore endangered coral ecosystems. Cost

range from \$2,000 to \$10,000

#5 Mushroom Suits

This involves a biodegradable burial suit or shroud embedded with mushroom spores. The mushrooms decompose the body and neutralize toxins that are released during decomposition. Cost starts at \$1,000.

#6 Aquamation

Aquamation, aka Alkaline Hydrolysis, was the 6th most sought after method. Also known as water cremation, this process uses water and lye to break down the body. It’s more eco-friendly than traditional cremation since it uses less energy and releases fewer emissions. Cost starts at \$1,500.

#7 Space Burials

Space Burials, which came in 7th place, is an avant-garde choice that involves sending ashes into orbit, didn’t place as the top pick, likely due to environmental concerns about space debris. Cost range from \$2,500 to \$12,000.

Friends of the Cerritos Library to Hosts Writer’s Festival

A don’t-miss for bookworms and aspiring writers, the first-ever Writer’s Festival to celebrate the magic of storytelling will be presented by the Friends of the Cerritos Library on **Saturday, March 30**. The festival will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Cerritos Library Skyline Room. The event is for ages 18 and older.

Hosted by the Friends, the festival will include a luncheon, entertainment, and a six-author panel discussion followed by a book-signing.

The registration cost for the festival is \$60 for the Friends of the Cerritos Library members and \$70 for non-members. Guests can register online at cerritoslibrary.eventbrite.com or by mailing a check to Friends of the City of Cerritos Library, P.O. Box 3876, Cerritos, CA, 90703.

Featured authors include Diane Marie Brown, who penned the novel “Black Candle Women”; Melissa Chadburn, who wrote the acclaimed “A Tiny Upward Shove”; Carolyn Huynh, whose “The Fortunes of Jade Women” was a “Good Morning America” book club pick; New York Times bestselling author Alka Joshi of “The Henna Artist”; Zara Raheem, who scribed “The Retreat” and “The Marriage Clock”; and Belinda Huijuan Tang of “Map for the Missing.”

Proceeds from the event will support the Friends of the Cerritos Library in its mission to raise funds for library programs and services.

The Cerritos Library is located at 18025 Bloomfield Avenue. For more details on the event, call (562) 916-1342.

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Pickleball from page 1

ed inside the grass area of the walking track. The courts do not have gates surrounding them; therefore, they are free of charge and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

In its study, City Staff looked at possible dual-use tennis/Pickleball courts at Liberty Park, which has six tennis

courts available to Cerritos residents at no charge.

Four Pickleball courts can be put on one tennis court, but the court surface needs to be at least 120 feet long by 60 feet wide and needs to be restriped.

Some say the restriping for Pickleball can cause “line confusion,” but only among hard-core tennis players who mainly complain about stripes that are

tape, which can cause strange bounces, not painted-on stripes. According to the city, it costs \$3,000 to restripe a court.

Temporary nets are used for the Pickleball courts.

In its study, the city found the amount of play at Liberty by tennis enthusiasts was most popular between 10 a.m. to noon and from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The courts are sparsely utilized in the afternoon from noon to 5 p.m. very similar to the use of the dedicated Pickleball courts.

Staff also identified an area at Liberty Park for council consideration that was a picnic shelter removed in 2012; two dedicated Pickleball courts could be built on the site at an estimated cost of \$80,000; the existing tennis courts would remain intact.

If the courts are approved, the city would save \$20,000 because the city council has already approved \$100,000 for the restoration of the former picnic area.

At its January 2024 meeting, the city council directed staff to look at parks in the east of the city for Pickleball courts.

Potential locations included Brookhaven Park, Cerritos Park East, El Rancho Verde Park, Friendship Park, Frontier Park, Gonsalves Park, Heritage Park, Loma Park, Pat Nixon Park, Saddleback Park, Satellite Park, and Sunshine Park.

The city considered several factors, including parking, lighting, availability of restrooms, noise, and proximity to homes. After evaluating all parks, tstaff is recommending that Frontier Park would be suitable to accommodate new, dedicated Pickleball courts.

But the park is in a residential area, and the new courts could result in more noise from rowdy Pickleballers. The city council met last night on this issue after press time for LCCN; the decision will be published online by Monday at loscerritosnews.net.

Developer to Hold Meeting on Five-Story Mixed-Use Project in Artesia

Developer Pioneer Rock Properties, LLC is inviting the public to attend a community meeting discussing a proposed 5-story mixed-use development located at 11746 South Street, just west of South St and Pioneer.

The meeting will occur Monday, February 26 at the Artesia Park Community center located at 18 750 Clarkdale and Artesia at 6:30 PM.

Lakewood Run March 2

Rain or shine, the Lakewood Run, “Running with Heart, Rocking with Soul,” returns on Saturday, March 2, 2024.

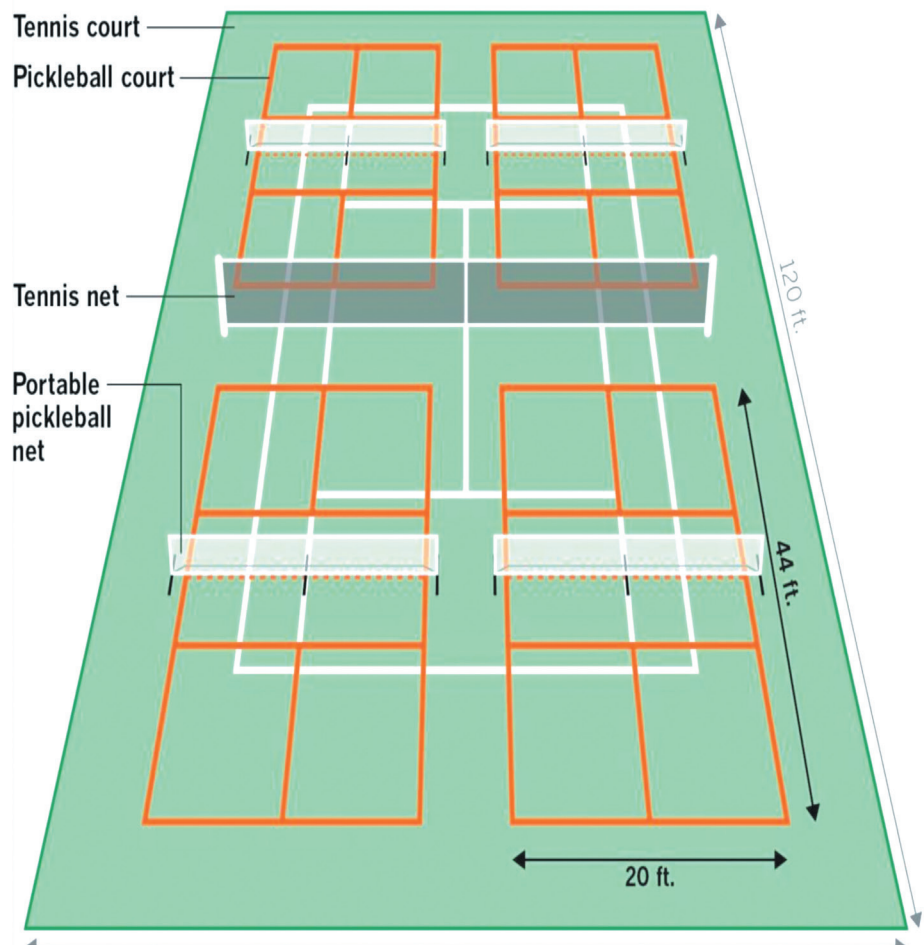
Deputy Sheriffs, recreational runners, families and kids will gather at the starting line in front of the Lakewood Sheriff’s Station to walk, roll, ruck or run the event’s 5K Run/Walk/Ruck or the 10K Run course for time.

Rucking is the action of walking with a weighted rucksack (backpack) on your back. Rucking is a low-impact exercise based on military training workouts. Please bring your own ruck and weight; equipment is not included.

Check out the Lakewood Run website at www.lakewoodrun.com and register online now.

Artesia Youth Baseball & Softball Opening Day

The opening day will occur Saturday, March 2, 2024 from 9:30 a.m. - 1p.m. Pancake breakfast starting at 9:30 a.m. Opening Ceremony 11a.m. A pitch, hit, & run competition will follow the festivities.



CONVERSION: A tennis court converted into four Pickleball courts. The surface of the tennis court in this case is 120 ft. x 60 ft. Pickleball courts are 44 ft. x 20 ft. with much different stripes compared to a tennis court. The stripes can cause confusion but most people only complain if the stripes are tape which can cause funny bounces.

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La Mirada Symphony Presents Winter Concert

By Hannah Larson

On Sunday, Feb. 18, the La Mirada Symphony held its winter concert, “The Great Germans,” at the La Mirada Theatre. David Derks, the president of the La Mirada Symphony Association, welcomed the audience and introduced Alan Mautner, the music director and conductor. The audience stood and sang as the symphony played its opening piece, “The Star-Span-gled Banner.”

After playing the national anthem, the symphony transitioned to the overture to “Oberon,” a peaceful strings melody by composer Carl Maria von Weber. Then, the musicians played Johannes Brahms’ “Hungarian Dances,” beginning with the No. 1 Allegro molto arrangement, which included repeated trills and a flowing melody. Brahms’ No. 3 Allegretto followed, which began with the sound of plucked strings and then moved to a brass-dominant melody. Next, the orchestra performed Brahms’ powerful No. 6 Vivace, where a heavy drumbeat accompanied the final three notes.

Ellie Choate and David Holben, who played the harp and tuba, respectively, came on the stage to perform the Divertimento for Tuba, Harp and Orchestra, a three-movement piece by composer Willi Marz. According to Mautner, Choate and Holben’s performance was the North American premiere of Marz’s composition.

After tickets were drawn and raffle winners were announced during intermission, the orchestra returned to the stage to play Ludwig van Beethoven’s Symphony No. 4, a four-movement piece which had not been performed at the La Mirada Theatre before, according to Mautner. The first movement, “Adagio-Allegro Vivace,” featured thunderous notes accented by short pauses as well as a strings melody that sounded like buzzing bees in a hive.

The second movement, “Adagio,” included many changes in dynamics as the strings’ volume rose and fell; the third movement, “Scherzo-trio: Allegro vivace,” featured a call-and-response arrangement with the brass and strings. The fourth movement, “Allegro ma non troppo,” was played at a quick tempo and included high, fluttering notes interspersed with faster-paced notes of a lower pitch.

The La Mirada Symphony will hold its next performance, a pops concert titled “Music from the Cinema,” on Sunday, May 19 at 3 p.m. at the La Mirada Theatre. The concert is free and includes a pre-concert lecture at the theater which begins at 2:15 p.m.

Innovators from page 1

ly encompassed strong technical skill and have a mission-driven impact.

“After running the competition for more than a decade, we have enjoyed seeing the social entrepreneurs come up with transformative innovations impacting the world at large,” said Yu. “We hope that the work we do here is instrumental in keeping them going. Perhaps someday, 10 to 20 years down the road, we can watch their success flourish and say, ‘We had a hand in that.’”

The innovators were awarded for their early-stage, novel solutions to some of today’s most confounding challenges affecting society locally and around the world.

The three award-winning teams are Beamlink, building compact cell towers for rural communities, Birth By Us, a maternal health platform for women of color, and Mida, a cutting-edge translation app.

Last week LCCN focused on Beamlink, this week LCCN will highlight Birth by Us.

Birth By Us is a maternal health platform for women of color by the team of Ijeoma Uche, age 24, of Lawrenceville, GA, a current medical student at U.C. Davis, and Mercy Oladipo, age 22, of Chicago, IL., a graduate of MIT.

By merging Uche’s pre-medical and public health background with Oladipo’s computer engineering expertise, the team created an app that integrates medical research with Black-focused, patient-centered care to support maternal health in Black women’s perinatal journey.

The CDC says that 84 percent of maternal deaths are preventable and occur often due to missed warning signs and poor patient-provider interactions. With Black American women experiencing 3 to 4 times greater risk of childbirth mortality than others, Birth By Us addresses maternal health disparities through a digital platform that fills in where the maternal health market fails.

“As Black women, this problem is personal for us, and we know that if things don’t change, we may fall prey to the very issues we aim to solve,” said Uche.

“With this, before we built anything, we spent time listening to our stakeholders and working to understand what their needs actually are rather than building a tool that we think solves the problem,” she added.

Birth By Us uniquely guides parents through their perinatal journeys from pregnancy, birth, and postpartum with personalized and culturally competent support. It offers tailored visit preparation, at-home patient monitoring, resources, and community – all aimed at helping Black women everywhere achieve their best birth outcome.

The app works daily, prompting mothers to check themselves with questions

ranging from mental health to blood pressure. Birth By Us then analyzes the answers and provides custom insights and culturally competent resources. Through the app, a community of mothers from across the country share stories, ask questions, and support one another, according to Uche.

According to Uche, the app integrates with electronic health records (i.e., MyChart) to ensure seamless communication with providers.

“In this way, we seek to equip mothers and parents with the resources and support they need to have positive perinatal outcomes,” Uche explained. “Additionally, we collect user feedback on their care team in order to find ways providers can improve care, which helps their practices and their patients.”

“As we check in with mom, we also gather feedback on her care team (OB/midwife, nurses, doulas, etc.) and analyze that data to find effective ways that providers can improve patient care,” explained Uche.

“Maternal healthcare in the United States is in disarray; [it leaves] pregnant people to deal with a fragmented system and setting them up for a perinatal experience marred by fear and anxiety,” said Uche. “We recognized that these issues are worse for Black mothers and so we created Birth By Us to be a positive pregnancy and postpartum companion for moms.”

The application aims to save money for users by achieving early detection of pregnancy complications, reducing healthcare costs, and providing at-home health tracking, while for healthcare providers, it offers the potential to decrease operational costs, improve patient communication, medical adherence, and continuity of care, according to Uche.

To keep costs down, Birth By Us envisions their app to have product sustainability in the maternal healthcare market through partnerships, B2B contracts, and Artificial Intelligence for improved data analysis. Currently, Birth By Us primary focus is on implementing the app in all 50 states within the United States and later globally, specifically targeting Black women in the reproductive age range of 16-45. “This demographic faces significant challenges in maternal health, leading to persistent disparities throughout the perinatal period,” she added. “By addressing the specific needs of Black women, we aim to revolutionize the maternal health market and ensure that high-quality perinatal care becomes the standard for all parents.”

Uche said they plan to expand horizontally soon to reach other underserved communities such as Latinx and Indigenous populations as well. “By doing so, we hope to create a comprehensive and inclusive solution that addresses the unique healthcare needs of various marginalized groups,” she said. “This initiative is about empowerment, reclaiming agency, and fostering innovation to create a world where every parent receives the support and care

they deserve.”

Birth By Us has already begun implementing its solution and launched its app just last week. It can be found at www.meetbbu.com. They have already received positive feedback on their impact on the lives of pregnant and postpartum Black mothers around the country. In use this past summer, the Birth By Us team already beta-tested the application with Black mothers across the country and heard firsthand that it helped them effectively communicate their concerns and symptoms with their providers, connect with other mothers, and contribute to making their appointments smoother. Upon receiving the Westly Award, Uche and Oladipo said, “We are honored and excited to join this amazing community of innovators committed to social change. We are so grateful to the Westly Foundation for believing in our mission.”

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Lift your spirits and improve your indoor environment by taking part in the indoor gardening movement. An apartment or home filled with tropical, succulent and flowering plants can provide beauty, extend your garden season, improve air quality and create a peaceful environment to de-stress.

Though some may find indoor gardening a bit intimidating, don't let past failures or the thought of tending living greenery stop you from enjoying the many benefits. Knowing some basics in care and making needed adjustments to the growing environment can turn past failures into success.

Water, humidity and light are key to growing healthy plants. When you match these to a plant's needs and the growing media, you're sure to experience success.

Use a container with drainage holes to avoid overwatering that can lead to root rot and plant death. It should be no more than an inch or two larger in diameter than the plant's root ball. Growing in a larger pot results in the soil staying too wet, increasing the chance of root rot.

Select a quality potting mix that holds moisture but drains well. Cacti and succulents prefer a fast-draining mix while tropicals and African violets prefer a mix that stays moist, not soggy, yet drains well.

Set your plant in a location that's free from drafts of hot and cold air, but in the preferred light conditions. An east- or west-facing window usually provides adequate light for most plants. Keep cacti, succulents and other plants requiring high light within two feet of an east- or west-facing window. Pothos, philodendron, Chinese evergreens and those that tolerate low light can be placed near a north-facing window or up to six

feet back or off to the side of an east- or west-facing window. Shears, awnings and trees can impact the light reaching your plants. Adjust their location as needed.

Always water thoroughly and pour off the excess water that collects in the saucer. Allow the top few inches of soil to dry before watering drought tolerant plants like cactus. Water tropical and flowering plants that prefer moist conditions when the top few inches of soil are barely moist, like a sponge that has been wrung out.

Reduce maintenance and improve plant health with gravel trays. Fill a tray or saucer with pebbles. Allow excess water to collect in the tray. The pebbles keep the pot elevated above the water to avoid root rot. As the water evaporates it increases the humidity around the plant.

When pest problems occur, consider an organic approach safe for people, pets and plants. Manage fungus gnats, those tiny fruit fly like insects found flitting around the house, with a naturally occurring bacteria, *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*, found in Summit Mosquito Bits (SummitResponsibleSolutions.com). Just sprinkle on the soil surface and repeat as needed until these pests disappear.

Mites, aphids, scale and mealybugs can be controlled with an organic horticulture oil like Summit Year-Round Spray Oil. This product coats the pests and kills all stages from egg to adult. Repeat as needed to control any that were missed. Once the pests are managed, check the growing conditions and make needed adjustments to the growing environment.

The more plants you grow, the easier it becomes and soon enough you may find yourself immersed in a tropical or desert paradise inside the comfort of your own home.

HOUSEPLANTS 101

By Melinda Myers



SUCCULENTS should be kept within two feet of an east- or west-facing window and grown in a fast-draining potting mix. Photo Melinda Myers.



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Spot Tech Support Scams

In an era dominated by technology, scammers are finding new and insidious ways to exploit unsuspecting individuals.

Seniors are often particularly vulnerable to their tactics. One prevalent scheme that continues to target seniors is the tech support scam, one that starts with an unexpected call or message from someone claiming to be a tech support representative.

Tech support scams typically begin with a cold call or a pop-up message claiming to be from a reputable tech company.

The caller, often posing as a representative from a well-known tech giant, asserts that your computer has been infected with a virus or malware. The urgency of the situation is emphasized, creating a sense of panic and prompting immediate action.

RED FLAGS

Be wary of unexpected calls or messages from alleged tech support representatives.

Legitimate tech companies rarely initiate contact unless you have first called them with a request and they are returning the call. Scammers often use high-pressure tactics, insisting on immediate action to fix the purported issue. They may claim that failure to comply could result in severe consequences,

such as data loss or identity theft.

Once they've made contact with a victim, the scammers typically employ one or more of the following tactics:

Remote Access: They request remote access to the victim's computer under the guise of troubleshooting technical issues. Once granted access, they may install malware, steal personal information, or lock the victim out of their own computer.

Legitimate tech support representatives from reputable companies would never ask for unsolicited access to your device.

Fee Payment: Scammers may demand payment for their supposed tech support services, often requesting credit card information or payment via gift cards or cryptocurrency.

Be cautious, Tech support from reputable companies does not involve upfront fees or unexpected charges.

HOW TO HANDLE UNEXPECTED CALLS OR MESSAGES

The first line of defense is to remain calm. Scammers capitalize on panic to manipulate victims.

Take a deep breath and approach the situation with a clear mind. Politely ask for the call-



SENIORS are often particularly vulnerable to support scam tactics, the scammers typically try to get remote access to your computer under the guise of troubleshooting technical issues. Once granted access, they may install malware, steal personal information, or lock the victim out of their own computer.

er's name, company and contact details. Verify this information independently before taking any further action.

Legitimate tech support representatives will provide this information willingly.

Under no circumstances should you grant remote access to your computer to an unsolicited caller. This provides scammers with the opportunity to

install malicious software or access sensitive information.

If you have doubts about the legitimacy of the call, hang up immediately. Do not engage in further conversation or provide any personal information.

Trust your instincts and prioritize your safety.

If you are genuinely concerned about your computer's security, contact the official tech

support channel of the company in question using verified contact information.

This ensures you are dealing with legitimate professionals. Stay informed about common scams and educate fellow seniors about the tactics employed by scammers.

Awareness is a powerful tool in preventing these schemes from succeeding.



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2024 SOFTBALL PREVIEW

Gap in 605 League shrinking for top spot while Gahr, La Mirada ready for tougher seasons

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on X

Cerritos High has won six straight league titles, the last four in the 605 League, but that might come to an end in 2024. The emergence of Artesia High, John Glenn High and Pioneer High has made the league as tight as it’s ever been. Gahr High and La Mirada High, loaded with talent, battle in what figures to be a tougher Gateway League season while Valley Christian High hopes to build off last season’s light schedule.

Returning players in italics



Division 6 semifinal playoffs.
Head coach: Ed Blanck (4th season, 32-27)
Team’s record last five seasons: 53-34
Last time missed the playoffs: 2018
Division 5
Key losses: Rebecca Gooden (JR), Jazzlyn Jara (SR), Amy Martinez, Silvanna Rodriguez, Allisiah Valenzuela (SR)
Projected lineup:
P-*Maya Torres (SR)/Alea Medina (JR)*
C-*Arianna Franco (SR)/Vanessa Soto (SR)*
1B-Jazmine Anguiano (SR)/Kaleyse Foster (JR)
2B-Victoria Lopez (SO)/Paulina Nava (FR)
3B-*Franco/Soto*
SS-*Irma Gonzalez (SR)*
LF-Lopez/Nava/Celeste Cabrera (JR)/Alessandra Russo (JR)/Brendy Sarni (JR)
CF-*Medina*
RF-Cabrera/Lopez/Nava/Russo/Sarni

Once considered a laughingstock in the former Suburban League, Artesia has made a name for itself in the 605 League, advancing to the CIF-Southern Section divisional semifinals for the first time in school history. The Pioneers have finished in third place the past three seasons, but now, this might be the season where Artesia can call itself league champions.
“We came in third in league and then all of a sudden in [the playoffs}, the girls started playing together, and they were all starting to gel, and we started winning,” said head coach Ed Blanck.

Blanck admitted he wasn’t surprised that the Pioneers got bumped up to Division 5 this season but thought his team might be in Division 4 because J.W. North is now in Division 4. The offseason was the same as it had been ever since Blanck took over the program. He had to bring up a lot of freshmen and sophomores from the junior varsity team and they had to learn the fundamentals.

In the circle is senior Maya Torres, whom Blanck says has matured in the way she is attacking each batter and is coming in with more of a positive attitude. There isn’t a true backup to Torres as junior Allisiah Valenzuela decided not to come back. So, junior Alea Medina would be the emergency backup. Artesia will display one of the best catching tandems around in seniors Arianna Franco and Vanessa Soto. They will also alternate at third base.

Junior first baseman Kaleyse Foster is a transfer from Lakewood High and until she is eligible, which won’t be until the second league game, senior Jazmine Anguiano assumes those duties. Medina is the only experienced outfielder and can cover a lot of ground.

“I really have high expectations, but that’s me,” said Blanck. “I always expect high expectations from my girls and I expect them to work hard. As a team, they’re really coming together right now. I know their goal is to beat Cerritos...and if I was going to predict, I would say we would go 1-1 with Cerritos.



CERRITOS DONS
15-3 overall last season, 10-0 in 605 League, first place, lost to Los Altos High 6-4 in the Division 3 first round playoffs.
Head coach: Todd Denhart (fourth season, 52-8)
Team’s record last five seasons: 66-27
Last time missed the playoffs: 2008
Division 3
Key losses: Haley Ceron, Rose Guerrero, Camille Lara, Catherine Quibrantar
Projected lineup:
P-*Kylee Manibusan (SR)/Danielle Baca (SO)/Ava Ceron (SO)*
C-*Alianna Calderon (JR)*
1B-*Natalie Gardea (SR)/Anaya Granflor (JR)*
2B-Ceron
3B-*Toafaoalii Pua (SR)/Gardea*
SS-*Michelle Meza (JR)*
LF-*Megan Wallace (JR)/Manibusan*
CF-*Presley Hendrix (SR)*
RF-*Wallace/Micaela Curiel (SR)*

For the second straight season, the Dons finished the regular season with 15 wins and for the second straight time, they were bounced out in the first round of the playoffs.

The Dons have dominated the 605 League since it was formed, winning 39 out of the 40 games played in the circuit. That streak may be in jeopardy this season as the talent level has slipped a bit. On top of that, Cerritos has failed to get out of the first round of the playoffs the past two seasons and nine times out of the last 12 seasons. Only in 2015, 2017 and 2021 have the Dons won a playoff game during that stretch.

“It’s a game of inches,” said head coach Todd Denhart. “In the last couple of years, a couple of inches beat us. I don’t want to say it’s bad luck; I just think it’s unfortunate.”

When looking at the 2024 Cerritos softball team, the first thing that stands out is the roster. There are only a dozen players on varsity and 13 on the junior varsity team. In past seasons the varsity squad has had close to 20 players. And, the roster is even shorter with the loss of junior shortstop Katherine Villegas, who stepped in a pothole and blew out her knee after a recent scrimmage game against North Torrance High. Filling in her shoes will be junior Michelle Meza.

“Three years coming out of Covid, everybody wanted to play, and I think that had a little bit to do with [the numbers],” said Denhart. “Last year we had a few less bodies [and] we’re thin [this season]. We have 25 kids in the program. I had 21 on the roster three years ago on the varsity team. I don’t know what it is. The program here has gone in cycles.”

What Cerritos does have is the returning league most valuable player in senior third baseman Toafaoalii Pua, who most likely will be the first player opponents notice. Besides her, Denhart says there is no standout player and that the team will have to be scrappy. He cites senior first baseman Natilie Gardea as the most improved since the end of last season. She came to Cerritos as a shortstop, which didn’t last long, then moved to the outfield but now, out of

necessity, is at first base. Denhart says she will play collegiate softball as an outfielder.

Losing Villegas is a crushing blow to the Dons in terms of another league title. In the past, Cerritos has battled all the adversity, but Denhart say this time, it might be too much to overcome.

“Ed has a solid squad over [at Artesia] and I don’t know what Glenn lost defensively,” said Denhart. “I thought they were fairly young, but they have the kid in the circle and she’s a senior and has been getting better every year. And then, Pioneer is a solid team, too. It’s a coin toss if we make the playoffs this year.”



GAHR GLADIATORS
12-11-2 overall last season, 4-4 in the Gateway League, third place, lost to Norco High 9-5 in the Division 1 first round playoffs.
Head coach: Rey Sanchez (sixth season, 79-34-2)
Team’s record prev. seasons: 79-34-2
Last time missed the playoffs: 2013
Division 2
Key losses: Sophia Magcale, Hayley Olivas, Rya Rivas, Hailey Sanchez
P-*Marley Cortez (SR)/Olina Burgueno (SO)/Isabella Gonzalez (FR)*
C-*Alyssa Aguilar (SR)/Larissa Flores (SR)*
1B-*Vivian Tavera (SR)/Aguilar/Gonzalez*
2B-Flores
3B-*Cortez/Tavera*
SS-*Rio Mendez (SR)/Flores*
LF-*Malaia Huskey (JR)*
CF-*Natalia Hill (SR)*
RF-*Emma Maldonado (JR)*

Since 2014, Gahr has ended every season at least six games above .500, including the shortened 2020 Covid season until last season. Moving into the new Gateway League where the Gladiators were introduced to La Mirada made an already challenging schedule even tougher. On top of that, Gahr fell in the first round to the Division 1 finalists and has lost in the first round in two of the last three seasons.

“It was a good year; the year before was a pretty good year for us,” said head coach Rey Sanchez. “We were young; it was my big group of seniors that I have this year. Last year we had expectations, higher expectations for sure because it probably was my most talented position player-skill player team that I have had. We didn’t have the number two pitcher who can really...we had Hailey [Sanchez], but she didn’t have the experience.”

Sanchez added that one of the problems the team faced last season was the chemistry and clashes between the different personalities. This season, the Gladiators will have 18 players with half of them seniors, including the ace of the pitching staff, Marley Cortez. Sophomore Olina Burgueno has experience but is currently sidelined with no timetable of return as of now. However, freshman Isabella Gonzalez, whom Sanchez says will be a difference maker and is not going to pitch like a freshman, will be a solid backup in the circle. He added that she’s not afraid and feels confident giving her the ball.

“Marley is going to do what Marley does,” said Sanchez. “Marley is going to throw strikes and she’s going to hit spots and she’s going to pitch to a lot of weak contact. But Isabella is a little bit more of a power pitcher. They can throw to both sides of the plate as well and she’s only going to get better.”

Sanchez said that of his returning

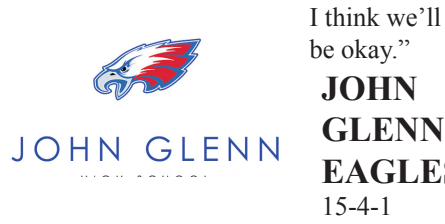
players, the most improved since last season is senior first baseman Vivian Tavera. She started on defense last season but ended up being the flex player. However, she has made strides offensively.

Even though there are close to 20 players on the team, Sanchez said there isn’t much depth. Four of the newcomers played on the junior varsity team last season and outfielder Kaityn Hughes is the other freshman along with Gonzalez. Look for sophomores Alexis Johnson and Abbygail Perez to get some at-bats and whoever of the two can swing the bat will be penciled in as the designated player.

Despite the power of the Gateway League, Gahr has been league champions in seven of the last nine seasons. This season, the Gladiators get bumped down to Division 2, but Sanchez said this season’s team would have been fine in Division 1. Still, he added that there are no slouches in Division 2. But the most important thing about the 2024 Gahr team is the chemistry is better than last season and the players admitted they don’t want a repeat of last season.

“The league is obviously stronger,” said Sanchez. “There is no easy game. Everybody [in league] is tough. When you have La Mirada [and] Mayfair that have joined the three that traditionally have been strong, which are Downey, Warren, and us, it makes for great competition. It prepared us to play against anybody.

“Can we make a run in Division 2,” he continued to ask. “I’m hoping so. I’m hoping that we can put it together and get this motor going in the right direction and



I think we’ll be okay.”
JOHN GLENN EAGLES
15-4-1
overall last season, 7-3 in the 605 League, second place, lost to St. Joseph High 9-1 in the Division 6 second round playoffs.
Head coach: Javier Galvez (second season, 15-4-1)
Team’s record last five seasons: 43-40-1
Last time missed the playoffs: 2022

Division 5
Key losses: Julia Cole (SR), Beatriz Galvez
Projected lineup: Unknown

After going to the quarterfinals in 2021, Glenn missed the playoffs the next season before bouncing back under first-year head coach Javier Galvez. The Eagles have gone 40-23-1 over the past three seasons, the best three-year mark in over 25 seasons.

Glenn has built its team since going to the quarterfinals and now, those ladies are seniors, including catcher Sienna Contreras, infielders Anais Perez and Kristy Rodriguez and center fielder Diana Bravo. Junior pitcher Carissa Galvan pitched all but three innings last season.



LA MIRADA MATADORES
18-9 overall last season, 7-1 in the Gateway League, first place, lost to Pacifica High 6-5 in eight innings in the Division 1 first round playoffs. Lost to Torrance High 16-2 in the CIF Southern California Regional first round playoffs.
Head coach: Brent Tuttle (ninth season, 156-67-2)
Team’s record last five seasons: 93-34-1

Division 1
Key losses: Natalie Craig, Kaitlyn Macias

{See Preview pg. 14}

CIF-SOUTHERN SECTION DIVISION 4AA BOYS BASKETBALL SEMIFINALS

Cerritos rallies in fourth quarter to reach divisional finals for first time in program’s history

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on X

Smiling somewhere high above the intersection of Bloomfield Avenue and 183rd Street is Ethan Soriano, the former Cerritos High basketball player who passed away shortly before the season began. Also smiling is longtime Dons head coach Jonathan Watanabe, his team, everyone at the high school and the community.

That’s because the Dons reached a destination high school athletes dream of but a destination the program has never been to until now-the CIF-Southern Section Division 4AA championship game. Cerritos, the third-ranked team in the division which was once down by 13 points in the second quarter, had a strong second half and knocked off No. 10 Diamond Ranch High 68-61 last Friday. The Dons (21-10) will face Yeshiva University High of Los Angeles (YULA) for the division title. The Black Panthers, ranked 13th, upset top-ranked Price High 47-44 last Saturday.

“We’ve had...I don’t even know how to explain it in terms of the last year, it’s been unreal,” said Watanabe. “But we’re doing all of this for Sori. I had a feeling the other day it was so bitter-sweet that we would be advancing and thinking that Sori should be here experiencing this with us. But something hit me, and I said, ‘you know what, he is. He’s here going through all of it with



THE CERRITOS HIGH boys basketball team celebrates after its 68-61 win over Diamond Ranch High last Friday in one CIF-Southern Section Division 4AA semifinal game. The Cerritos boys program advances to its first divisional championship game. PHOTO COURTESY OF JASON WATANABE.

us. He’s been with us the whole time.”

Watanabe added that it’s been a dream since he started coaching to get to the championship game. He’s attended those games every season, watching and hoping that the Dons would have the opportunity to compete in a championship game.

“It just feels amazing to me, to be on the first team in Cerritos [history] to make it to the finals,” said senior Shay Pema. “We came out here and we did our thing. Even though we were down 13 at

one point, we kept doing what we knew we could and came back to win this game.”

“For the past two years, everyone has been saying Cerritos this, Cerritos that,” said senior Tobenna Ozoagu. “Going into last year, we were going to be third in the [605 League] or maybe not even make the playoffs. We took that personally and for the last two years, we just kept grinding. It’s just so surreal right now; I love all the guys on the court with me. We’re just doing it all for Sori.”

Cerritos, the champions of the 605 League, led for most of the first quarter and were up 9-2 nearly halfway through. But the Panthers chipped away and outscored the hosts 17-7 over the final 3:41 of the stanza. That momentum carried into the second quarter when Diamond Ranch, the second place team from the Valle Vista League, built a 32-19 advantage with 2:43 remaining in the half.

A lot of that can be attributed to Dylan Tran, who was nearly a one-man machine for the Pan-

thers. He hit four three-pointers in the first quarter and two more in the second quarter on 50 percent shooting. However, in the second half, he was limited to seven points, no three-pointers and fouled out with 26.9 seconds to play.

“I know he’s a good shooter, but I wasn’t expecting that,” said Watanabe on Tran’s first half shooting. “We have [senior] Luke [Rigor] and [junior] Jaden Ribac clamp him down in the second half and that made a huge difference, and then the other guys played. We have some dogs here, so our guys stepped up.”

“This isn’t the first time this has happened,” said Ozoagu. “Coach has always planted in our heads that it doesn’t matter what the score is, just play possession by possession, get a stop or get a good shot. But Jaden Ribac came in and hit a big three. Shay Pema, the guy of tonight, hit a big three. we just have to play every possession by possession.”

Ribac and Pema nailed consecutive three-pointers in a span of 19 seconds to make it 32-25. The Dons would trail 34-28 at the break and continued their momentum burst in the third quarter on a 5-0 run early and an 8-0 run late.

“At the halftime speech, we knew that it all comes down to defense,” said Pema. “[Tran] had six threes in the first half and part of the reason why we were down so much. In the second half, we talked about fully denying him.

{See **Cerritos** pg. 13}

CIF-SOUTHERN SECTION DIVISION 5AA GIRLS SEMIFINAL BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS

La Mirada squanders first half double-digit lead, buzzed by Colton on late basket

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on X

COLTON-La Mirada High girls basketball head coach Victoria Luong has seen this happen far too many times, but on the biggest stage in the history of the program, this was not the time for it to happen. Her Matadores had somewhat dominated Colton High the first half of last Saturday night’s CIF-Southern Section Division 5AA semifinal game, then went into a slump on both ends of the court in the third quarter only to lose in the final seconds of the game.

La Mirada, which had never advanced this far, was roughly a quarter and a half from advancing to the championship game for the first time in school history. But the Yellow Jackets outscored the third-ranked team in the division 26-16 in the second half and edged the Matadores 43-42. La Mirada (21-6) now waits to see if it gets a berth in the CIF-State Southern California Regionals. Those brackets will be released on Sunday.

“We usually struggle in the third [quarter],” said Luong. “We just came out and didn’t play strong defense. They scored 14 points; we scored three and just weren’t getting back [on defense]. It was one layup after another and the girls again...it’s a mental game. It got to them mentally and they’re still struggling in learning how to pick up their heads and

turning around and playing better ball. Had we played better ball in that third quarter, things would have been completely different.”

La Mirada scored the first four points of the game before the Yellow Jackets, ranked seventh in the division, tied things up. After that, the Matadores went on an 8-2 run over the final 3:54 of the first quarter. The momentum continued into the second quarter as second place team out of the Mid-Cities League opened a 12-point lead following a basket from junior Nayeli Tamayo with 1:45 left in the half. Colton would trim that to a nine-point contest by halftime, then went to work in the third quarter.

Consecutive baskets from Naomi Ontiveros forced Luong to call a timeout a little over a minute into the second half. Over half a minute later, Ontiveros drained a three-pointer and Colton continued its pressure. It took its first lead of the game with 3:50 remaining in the stanza and it wasn’t until a minute later when junior Jael Arreguin scored off a steal for the lone basket in the quarter. The Matadores missed the first 13 shots they took and were one of 18 in that

time.

Arreguin began the fourth quarter scoring off one of her five offensive rebounds and senior Jirah Domingo connecting on a free throw to give La Mirada a 32-31 advantage. The lead would change hands five more times in the game.



Savannah Govea’s basket with 1:46 gave the Yellow Jackets a 41-37 lead with 2:21 left to play before freshman Katelyn Casillo went one of three from the charity stripe and Domingo had a steal and assisted on an Arreguin bucket with 55.8 ticks left. After a Colton

timeout, Domingo was fouled and sank her two free throws to put the Matadores back in front with 45.9 seconds left.

They had a chance to ice the game when Arreguin forced Govea to foul her, and subsequently foul out of the contest with 24 seconds left. But she missed both free throws and with 15.7 seconds left to play, Olivia Torres scored the game-winner.

“We watched film on Colton, obviously, and we watched their round two game against Desert Hot Springs,” said Luong. “We knew they were a better team compared to the other schools

we had played. We knew it would be competitive. We knew what to watch out for and we rehearsed everything that we needed to. We just didn’t execute in the third quarter.”

Arreguin led the Matadores with 16 points, 11 rebounds and three steals while Domingo pitched in with 15 points, 11 steals and eight rebounds. Tamayo and junior Emily Gonzalez each had eight boards but the one thing that will haunt La Mirada, especially in a one-point loss, is the shooting. The Matadores were 12 of 71 from the field and 18 of 31 from the free throw line. To make matters worse, the Yellow Jackets were two of 13 from the line.

“I think we missed eight free throws in the fourth quarter,” said Luong. “So, that in itself...one of those free throws or two or those free throws is a game changer.

“They were guarding Jirah 100 percent, and we knew that because on film, they guarded their opponent’s number one player 100 percent of the time,” she later added. “We just couldn’t get Jirah open. Jael stepped up and did what she could. But what I told the girls after the game was it’s a five-man team. We need five players out there to make a difference and we only had a handful of points from our bigs, and that was detrimental.”

NOTICE AND SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 24-949

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARTESIA AMENDING SECTION 3-5.505 OF THE ARTESIA MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING ESTABLISHING THE INITIAL RATE OF CANNABIS BUSINESS TAX

Notice is hereby given that on February 12, 2024, the City Council of the City of Artesia adopted Ordinance No. 24-949, making certain amendments and additions to the Artesia Municipal Code related to establishing the initial rate of the Cannabis Business Tax. The following is a summary of the adopted Ordinance:

In November 2020, the voters approved a ballot measure allowing for taxes to be collected from the cultivation and retail sale of cannabis in Artesia. The ballot measure provided the maximum business tax rates for the sale of cannabis at 15% and provided that the City Council may, by resolution or ordinance, set the initial tax rates. Ordinance No. 24-949 complies with the ballot measure and establishes the initial tax rate for cannabis business tax at 7% of gross receipts, as defined in the Municipal Code.

The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council by the following vote:
Ayes: Manalo, Ramoso, Trevino, Lima
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Taj
Please note that the above is a simply a summary of the Ordinance. To obtain a full understanding of the Ordinance it should be read in its entirety. A copy of the full text of the Ordinance is posted in the City Clerk’s office at 18747 Clarkdale Avenue, Artesia, California 90701.
Date: February 23, 2024 Jennifer Alderete, City Clerk

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 2/23/24

NOTICE AND SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 24-951

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARTESIA AMENDING SECTIONS 1-7.02, 5-4.05, 5-4.12, and 5-4.13 OF THE ARTESIA MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING ISSUANCE OF ADMINSTRATIVE CITATIONS TO PARENTS OR LEGAL GUARDIANS OF MINORS WHO VIOLATE THE CITY’S GRAFFITI PROVISIONS

Notice is hereby given that on February 12, 2024, the City Council of the City of Artesia will adopted Ordinance No. 24-951, making certain amendments and additions to the Artesia Municipal Code related to holding parents and legal guardians of minors who commit acts of graffiti responsible. The following is a summary of the adopted Ordinance:

Ordinance No. 24-951 amends the municipal code to strengthen the City’s ability to enforce its graffiti related ordinances. The amendment provides that parents and legal guardians of minors who cause graffiti in the City may be administratively be cited in additional to being civilly liable.

The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council by the following vote:
Ayes: Manalo, Ramoso, Trevino, Lima
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Taj
Please note that the above is a simply a summary of the Ordinance. To obtain a full understanding of the Ordinance it should be read in its entirety. A copy of the full text of the Ordinance is posted in the City Clerk’s office at 18747 Clarkdale Avenue, Artesia, California 90701.
Date: February 23, 2024 Jennifer Alderete, City Clerk

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 2/23/24

CITY OF LA MIRADA

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT NO. 2023-01

CARPET AND FLOORING REPLACEMENT AT VARIOUS CITY FACILITIES

Notice is hereby given that the City of La Mirada, California invites sealed bids for the furnishing of all labor, materials, equipment, and services for Capital Improvement Project No. 2023-01. Work includes carpet and flooring replacement at various City facilities.

Project Documents are available online from American Reprographics Company (ARC). Bid-ders may obtain free copies of the Plans, Specifications and other Contract Documents online by visiting the ARC Southern California website: https://customer.e-arc.com/arcEOC/PWELL_Main.asp?mem=29. Look under PUBLIC PLANROOM and click GO, then search for City of La Mirada from the dropdown list titled “in all company”. You can also contact ARC at (949) 660-1150 or costamesa.planwell@e-arc.com to request Plans and Specifications.

Sealed bids shall be delivered to the City Clerk at or before 11 a.m. on April 3, 2024. Bids must be submitted on the blank forms, prepared and furnished for that purpose and included in the Plans and Specifications. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or delete portions of any or all bids, or waive any informality or irregularity in the bid or the bid procedures.

Anne Haraksin, City Clerk

Published at La Mirada Lamplighter 2/16 and 2/23/24

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING FOR THE ARTESIA DOWNTOWN SPECIFIC PLAN

NOTICE OF PREPARATION: The City of Artesia (City) intends to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Artesia Downtown Specific Plan (proposed project). In accordance with State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15082, the City has prepared the Notice of Preparation to provide the public, nearby residents and property owners, responsible and trustee agencies, and other interested parties with information describing the proposed project and its potential environmental effects.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING: A Public Scoping Meeting will be held to receive input as to what environmental topics the Draft EIR should study. All interested parties are invited to attend the scoping meeting to assist in identifying issues to be addressed in the Draft EIR. The Scoping Meeting will involve a presentation about the proposed project, the environmental review process, and schedule. The Scoping Meeting will be held on **March 4, 2024** from **6:00 PM to 7:00 PM** at **Albert O. Little Community Center, 18750 Clarkdale Avenue, Artesia, CA 90701**.

PROJECT LOCATION: The Downtown Artesia Specific Plan encompasses the blocks adjoining Pioneer Boulevard to the southeast and ending at 180th Street to the north. The northern portion of the project site (north of the Southeast Gateway Line) is bounded by Alburts Avenue and Corby Avenues to the west, 180th Street to the north, Arline Avenue to the east, and 188th Street to the south. The project site extends south of the Southeast Gateway Line to the future Pioneer Boulevard Light Rail Station and includes the area between 188th Street and the La Belle Chateau Mobile Home Park, and Pioneer Boulevard on the east and Jersey Avenue on the west.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Artesia Downtown Specific Plan would implement new land use, zoning, and development standards to guide the scale of future development and growth in Artesia’s Downtown district as the city prepares for the planned expansion of a new Metro light rail line (referred to as the Southeast Gateway Line Branch) that would connect southeastern Los Angeles County communities, including Artesia, to Downtown Los Angeles. The new Metro light rail line extension is anticipated to connect to Pioneer Boulevard in 2035. While there are no specific development projects proposed at this time, the Artesia Downtown Plan will establish goals and objectives, development standards, and implementation actions associated with land use, mobility, and infrastructure, and establishes a transit-oriented plan that would provide new opportunities for housing, retail/commercial, and entertainment uses. The proposed project would establish the necessary plans, development standards, regulations, infrastructure requirements, and implementation programs on which subsequent project-related development activities in the Specific Plan area would be based. Below is a discussion of each component of the proposed project.

FILE REVIEW AND COMMENTS: The Initial Study is available for public review and download at: <https://cityofartesia.us/522/Artesia-Downtown-Specific-Plan>
Copies of the Initial Study are also available for public review at the following locations:
• Artesia City Hall, Planning Department, 18747 Clarkdale Avenue, Artesia, CA 90701
• Artesia Public Library, 18801 Elaine Avenue, CA 90701

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD AND SUBMITTAL OF WRITTEN COMMENTS: In accordance with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15082, this Notice of Preparation is being circulated for a 30-day comment period. The City of Artesia requests that written comments be provided at the earliest possible date, but no later than 5:00 P.M. on March 27, 2024. Please direct your comments to:

E-mail: planning@cityofartesia.us

Mail: City of Artesia
Planning Department
ATTN: Peter Kann, Planning Manager
Community Development
18747 Clarkdale Avenue
Artesia, California 90701

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 2/23/24

Extra Space Storage, on behalf of itself or its affiliates, Life Storage or Storage Express, will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at location indicated: **17701 Ibbetson Ave. Bellflower, Ca. 90706 on March 06, 2024, at 12:30 p.m.**
Diego Cerezo
Miesha Standford
Glen Sutherland
The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

Published at LCCN 2/23/24

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF LAURA F. RIVERA aka LAURA FLORES RIVERA

Case No. 22STPB04562

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of LAURA F. RIVERA aka LAURA FLORES RIVERA
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Janice Wineke in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Janice Wineke 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 ap-proval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on March 18, 2024 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 67 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

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

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a con-tingent 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 au-thority 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:
REBECCA J BIRMINGHAM ESQ
SBN 192383
LONG BEACH LAW INC
782 PACIFIC AVE
LONG BEACH CA 90813
CN102859 RIVERA Feb 23, Mar 1,8, 2024

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 2/23, 3/1, 3/8/24

NOTICE OF SALE OF ABANDONED PROPERTY

Notice is given that pursuant to sections 21700-21713 of the Business and Professions Code, Section 2328 of the Commer-cial Code, Section 535 of the Penal Code. 1812.607, that Cherry Carson RV Storage Inc. at 4160 Cherry Ave., Long Beach, CA 90807 intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a Lien imposed on said property. The undersigned will be sold at public auction conducted on www.storagetreasures.com (bond #63747122) ending on or after Tuesday, March 12th, 2024, at 9:00AM.

NAME

UNIT #

ANDREA YANEZ B110

This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of Section 21700 et seq. of the Business and Professions Code of the State of California. Storage Treasures’ Principal Auctioneer and Auctioneer on Record: Auctioneer License Numbers for Christopher Paul Rosa-California 3112562
Sales subject to prior cancellation in the event of settlement between Owner and obligated party.
Published at Los Cerritos Community News 02/23/24 AND 03/01/24

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: DALE JOSEPH VERTREES CASE NO. 23STPB13087

To all heirs, beneficia-ries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of DALE JOSEPH VERTREES
A PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION has been filed by SAMETH KONG TENG in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION requests that SAMETH KONG TENG be appointed as ADMINISTRATOR the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. A \$31,098.00 BOND WILL BE FURNISHED BY AN ADMITTED SURETY INSURER. OR AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW. This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 3/12/24 at 8:30AM Dept. 2D in Stanley Mosk Courthouse located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012. IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the per-sonal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person in-terested 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. PETITIONER SAMETH KONG TENG Self represented 562-569-3069 LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS 2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23/24

Cerritos from page 11

We also weren’t getting the boards. We need to be more aggressive and want it more.”

With Diamond Ranch up 44-39, Pema completed a three-point play with 1:14 left in the third quarter. Then with 37 seconds remaining, he hit a three-pointer to put Cerritos back in front. That was followed by a pair of free throws from Ozoagu 20 seconds later. Pema, who had nine points in the first half, clutched up to score 11 points in the third quarter alone.

“I think that we started to attack the paint more, which allowed us to get more open shots around the perimeter,” said Pema. “When we had those open shots, I knew we weren’t going to hesitate to take them. We needed to do everything we could to get in this game and make sure we took this lead.”

“We didn’t rebound very well,” said Watanabe of the first half. “We had to do a better job of that if we wanted to finish this and get that last [game]. But we defended well enough to get the job done. And now when you get stops that opens up the offensive end. Toby was attacking, that made them collapse and Shay’s shots...we don’t really have an MVP. We have a lot of MVP’s on our team. “

The Panthers began the fourth quarter on a 9-2 run to take a 54-49 lead with 5:18 left in the game. However, the Cerritos defense clamped down and limited Diamond Ranch to three of eight shooting down then stretch. Meanwhile, Pema drained another long shot with five minutes left, then junior Benson Cho scored his only basket of the fourth quarter followed by a free throw from senior Osinachi Agaranna and another three-point play from Pema. Just like that, the Dons had a four-point lead with 2:59 remaining.

Pema, who scored 22 points three nights earlier in the quarterfinals at Highland High, tied a season best with 28 points with half of his 10 baskets coming from beyond the arc. He also had three steals. Cho and Ozoagu each scored 13 points with the latter adding 10 rebounds and eight assists. Ribac came up huge off the bench with 10 points and was the only non-starter to score.

“This is for all our players, coaches and families throughout the years,” said Watanabe. “This is a very special group. Don’t get me wrong, this is a very special group. But we built this. A lot of these guys are here because they came as young kids watching our guys play. This is not just for our current players.

“This is for former, current and any future players,” he continued. “But it’s just a family; that’s what it comes down to. I thank Mr. [Cerritos principal Patrick] for asking me to come back, because we wouldn’t be here right now. Two years ago, I was coaching freshmen ball and he asked me if I would come back [to varsity], and we started this whole mission last year. I told the guys it would be a two-year process.”

“Before I ever entered high school, the only thing I wanted to do in my high school career was win a CIF ring and now we have that chance next week,” said Pema. “This season has had its ups

and downs and without Sori, this team just wasn’t the same. But everything we’ve done this season is for Sori. We want to win this ring for him and do everything we can to honor his memory and with the hard-working player he was.”

The game with YULA will be at 8:30 Saturday night at Edison High in Huntington Beach and will immediately follow the Cerritos girls Division 3AA championship game with Oak Park High, which is scheduled for 6:30.

Schools from page 1

closures.

Wednesday’s meeting started with public comments, with about twenty speakers, then moved to the discussion items on the agenda.

One of the twelve possible discussion items proposed narrowing down the list to six schools; that’s when former board member Medoza, who later said that closing schools is a last resort, made the motion that the committee recommend to the board that no schools be closed and that it explores alternative solutions. ABCFT President Ray Gaer seconded the motion.

Gaer supported Mendoza’s motion, pointing out that, “the ABC is not in a dire financial situation at this time, that teachers and students are continuing to make academic gains, we still have funds to avoid combo classes and we currently don’t have schools so small that we have teachers who are the lone classroom teacher in their classroom.

“It would have been helpful to get information about the budget or how closures could positively impact students and parents but that was not given as a lead-up to the committee forming.”

A call to question motion failed, adding to the night’s drama, but then the roll call vote passed Mendoza’s motion.

Su Casa - Ending Domestic Violence

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

Services include:
24/7 Crisis Hotline
Domestic Violence Counseling
Safe and Secure Emergency Shelter
Case Management Services

SEEK HELP NOW!

Hotline: (562) 402-4888
Sucasadv.org

Published as a public service by Los Cerritos Community News.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF LAURA F. RIVERA aka LAURA FLORES RIVERA
Case No. 22STPB04562

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of LAURA F. RIVERA aka LAURA FLORES RIVERA

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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:
REBECCA J BIRMINGHAM ESQ
SBN 192383
LONG BEACH LAW INC
782 PACIFIC AVE
LONG BEACH CA 90813
CN102859 RIVERA Feb 23, Mar 1,8, 2024
Published at Los Cerritos Community News 2/23, 3/1, 3/8/24

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICIA PARA UNA AUDIENCIA PUBLICA

CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the City of Hawaiian Gardens will conduct a public hearing pertaining to the following item:

HEARING BODY:	PlanningCommission
DATE OF HEARING:	June 13, 2023
TIME OF HEARING:	6:00 P.M., or soon thereafter.
LOCATION OF HEARING:	City Council Chambers 21815 Pioneer Boulevard Hawaiian Gardens, CA 90716

PUBLIC HEARING: Conditional Use Permit Case No. PLNG2023-0070 is a request to approve a conditional use permit and determination of public convenience to allow the on-sale consumption of beer and wine (Type 41 – On-Sale Beer & Wine) in conjunction with an existing restaurant (Taqueria Carnitas Sahuayo), located at 12135 E. Carson Street in the C-4 (General Commercial) zone.

CEQA DETERMINATION: The proposed project is Categorically Exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per Section 15301 (Class 1 – Existing Facilities) of the CEQA guidelines. The request to permit a California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control license (Type 41 – On-Sale Beer & Wine) at the existing restaurant will not result in any changes in land use and will not have a significant effect on the environment. Thereby the request qualifies for an exemption.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the Hawaiian Gardens Community Development Department at (562) 420-2641 Ext 248. Si desea obtener mas informacion, llame al Departamento de Desarrollo de la Comunidad al (562) 420-2641 Ext 248.

Elise McCaleb, Community Development Director

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 02/23/2024

Mechanical Design Engineer

SafeSmart, LLC (Santa Fe Springs, CA) seeks Mechanical Design Engineer to design & implement new configurator design programs to streamline the design, sales, admin, & manufacturing process. Will produce drawings, verify designs, produce Solidworks reports. Will work with production & sales teams to ensure efficiency. Requires Master's degree in mechanical engineering or related field & one (1) year of experience as a Mechanical Design Engineer including using Solidworks. Will accept Solidworks Foundation & Solidworks Mechanical Design certifications in lieu of one year of experience using Solidworks. Telecommuting is permitted.

Mail CV to S. Wearmouth, JobCode MDE1122,
13238 Florence Ave, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670.

[@cerritosnews](https://www.instagram.com/cerritosnews)

[@cerritosnews](https://twitter.com/cerritosnews)

Preview from page 10

Projected lineup:
P-*Quira Castillo (JR)/Montserrat Reyes-Cardenas (JR)*/Alison Ortega (FR)
C-*Rebecca Eckart (SR)/Riley Hillard (FR)*
1B-*Amber Valdez (SR)/Hillard*
2B-*Alissa Avila (JR)*
3B-*Angelyna Conde (JR)*
SS-*Amanda Urbina (JR)*
LF-*Angelina Ratzlaff (JR)*
CF-*Angelie Kennedy (JR)*
RF-Reese Hillard (FR)

La Mirada, like other Division 1 teams, was primed to make a deep run in the playoffs. What the Matadores didn’t anticipate was blowing a 4-0 first inning lead to Pacifica in the first round of the playoffs. They also didn’t anticipate getting blown out oy Torrance in the Southern California Regionals, but that game also fell on the same day as graduation. Still, La Mirada continues to be one of the premier programs in Southern California and return all but one player.

“The girls...it’s all them, but they competed and it’s a heartbreak to lose two years in a row, really close games to the eventual CIF champion,” said head coach Brent Tuttle. “[The CIF-SS] did it again this year where you only have 24 teams in Division 1. You know you’re going to get a dog fight every time you go out there. It doesn’t matter if it’s first round, second round or whatever.”

This past offseason was different for the Matadores because they didn’t have their home field to practice on. They are still using Glenn’s field for home games until their new digs are completed, maybe in April. In lieu of their normal practices, the team focused on the weight room twice a week, then went across the street to the park to get their hitting in.

The leader in the circle is junior Montserrat Reyes-Cardenas and even though junior Quira Castillo was a solid backup last season, La Mirada is going to freshman Alison Ortega as a backup to Reyes-Cardenas. Tuttle says the 5’9” freshman can pitch in the mid-60s and with her joining the pitching staff, she and Castillo will probably pitch three and four innings each game they toe the rubber.

One of the top hitters in the area is senior catcher Rebecca Eckart, who is committed to the University of Notre Dame. Waiting in the wings is freshman Riley Hillard, who is the same size as Eckart (5’9”) and squats 265 pounds. Moving from the outfield to replace the graduated Natalie Craig at first base is senior Amber Valdez while another freshman, Megan Avila, could work her way into the lineup. She is the younger sister of Alyssa Avila. Sophomore Danni Lopez is slated to be the designated player for Reyes-Cardenas.

“La Mirada is such a neat area,” said Tuttle. “All our girls are La Mirada girls. There’s nobody coming in from the outside. It’s just a nice, little hotbed of players. For sure there’s a two-year window, and then I’m sure there’s going to be a couple more coming next year. We have another little Avila [coming in next year], so we’ll have three Avila’s; three sisters coming. It’s just a nice, little community where we get these players. The future is bright.”

The Matadores, 3-1 on the season, have already played in the 1st Pitch Challenge on consecutive Saturday’s and will be in the Norco Showcase before going to the Dave Kops Tournament of Champions in Bullhead City, AZ. Those tournament games will prepare the Matadores for what figures to be another tough Gateway League where two games separated second place from fourth place and last place Downey High stayed instead of moving to the Mid-Cities League.

“When you’re in a competitive league

like we are...we try to pride ourselves to get ready for that,” said Tuttle. “We take pride in working hard to get to league. Our goal is not to be playing our best softball right now. Our goal is to be playing our best softball in the league. And yes, our teams are good, but I think our girls really get up for league.”



NORWALK LANCERS

17-6 overall last season, 10-0 in the Mid-Cities League, first place, lost to Culver City High 1-0 in the Division 3 first round playoffs.

Head coach: Fred Perez (third season, 37-14)
Team’s record previous five seasons: 52-38
Last time missed the playoffs: 2019

Division 4

Key losses: Cerise Cervantes, Sasha Gonzalez, Leilani Juan, Kasarey Lotts, Monique Rivas (JR)

Projected lineup:
P-*Jalynn Banda (SR)/Kendall Nakano (SR)/Rachel Cabrerra (FR)*
C-*Jezrael Acosta (JR)/Diana Avina (JR)*
1B-*Itzel Hernandez (SR)*
2B-*Yanelli Vega (JR)/Amarie Encarnacion (SR)/Jaslene Pelayo (SO)*
3B-*Nayeli Sanchez (SO)/Nakano*
SS-*Banda/Nakano*
LF-Avina
CF-Gabriela Hughes (SO)
RF-*Anahi Rodriguez (JR)/Jazmin Jiminez (SO)*

After sharing the Suburban League title in 2009 and 2016, Norwalk High went wire to wire in the first season of the Mid-Cities League. However, for the second time in the last three seasons, the Lancers were ousted in the playoffs in the first round. Norwalk won at least 17 games in consecutive seasons for the first time since 2008 and 2009 and is seeking its best three-year stretch since 2007-2009.

“I think it’s just a learning experience,” said head coach Fred Perez of the early playoff exit. “With our team this year, it’s winning those one-run games. It’s been coming down to where we just need to execute in those one-run games. It’s something we’ve been trying to work on during the offseason and preseason.”

When the Suburban Valley Conference was formed, it was set up so the champion of the Mid-Cities League moves up to the Gateway League the next season and the last place team of the Gateway League shifts to the Mid-Cities League. That’s not the case this season as the Lancers remain in the Mid-Cities League. Perez said he wanted to remain where he was, and that Downey wanted to remain in the Gateway League again.

While the Lancers return nine players this season, Perez says the team is very young. A third of those returning players are seniors-pitchers Jaylynn Banda and Kendall Nakano, who will also play shortstop, and first baseman Itzel Hernandez. Banda figures to get most of the work in the circle while Nakano is one of the top hitters in the area as her .704 average and her 57 hits is evidence of that. Those two will be the team captains this season. But Perez still sees the youth as a good thing because the leadership that the Lancers have will funnel down to the younger ones.

“It will start showing on the field to where I can see already where they’re performing defensively and in their at-bats,” said Perez. “But we still have a way to go in a 28-game season.”

Second and third base will be new with sophomore Nayeli Sanchez shifting from center field to play third base while junior right fielder Anahi Rodriguez is the

only experienced outfielder.

It’s expected that the Lancers will win the Mid-Cities League again where they scored 167 runs in the 10 games with only Bellflower High and Paramount High scored against them.

“They have enough to win the Mid-Cities League title and the chemistry on the team is really good right now,” said Perez. “We’re going to execute on the field and we’re going to have our bumps. But the one thing I want to make sure we get better in is just winning those close games that we lost last year.”



VALLEY CHRISTIAN DEFENDERS

8-6 overall last season, 5-3 in the Olympic League, tied for second place, lost to Mayfield High 6-4 in

the Division 6 second round playoffs.

Head coach: Chet Kingery (third season, 13-22-1)

Team’s record previous five seasons: 27-52-1

Last time missed the playoffs: 2022

Division 5

Key losses: Madison Morgan
Projected lineup:
P-*Bella Bulthuis (SR)/Rachel Zhang (FR)*
C-*Peyton Kingery (SO)/Brianna Ramirez (SO)*
1B-*Kayla Martin (JR)*
2B-*Julia Gonzales (SR)*
3B-*Ramirez/Lydia Dietz (FR)*
SS-*Britton Brown (JR)*
LF-*Zoe Barrett (JR)*
CF-*Choyce Chambers (SO)*
RF-Tallulah Ireland (FR)

Not only did V.C. return to the postseason for the first time since 2018, but the Defenders won their first playoff game since 2015. Years of building the program back to where it was over 10 years ago when V.C. went to the quarterfinals twice in a three-season span seem to be paying off. On top of that head coach Chet Kingery guided the Defenders to their first winning season since 2012.

“The culture is changing around Valley for the better,” he said. “These girls are starting to get more dedicated to softball and putting the extra work in as far as extra ground balls, extra fly balls, extra reps in the cage. And as a coach, that’s what you like to see.”

V.C. had a relatively young squad with only one pitcher, senior Bella Bulthuis. Out of caution in not burning her arm out, Kingery didn’t schedule a lot of non-league games. The plan paid off and with the graduation of just one player, V.C. is looking for an even better season.

“We kept Bella as fresh as possible, even though at the end of the season, she did throw a lot of games,” said Kingery. “But I think taking our non-league games all the way down to where we went, I think it kept her legs fresh and her arm fresh and her mind fresh to throw the whole league.”

Kingery says that leadoff hitter and sophomore right fielder Choyce Chambers has improved the most over the offseason. Something that V.C. hasn’t had recently is depth. Against Cerritos in the season-opener, freshman Rachel Zhang pitched the last four innings and everyday third baseman, sophomore Brianna Ramirez, was behind the plate while sophomore Peyton Kingery was recovering from an injury. The Defenders will still be young this season fielding half a dozen freshmen and three sophomores.

Last season, the Defenders tied Village Christian High for second place in the Olympic League, three games behind Whittier Christian High and four games ahead of Heritage Christian High and Maranatha High. Look for Valley to be in the top three once again.

“If we can just compete and the girls play, I think we’ll be just fine to earn a

playoff spot,” said Kingery.



WHITNEY WILDCATS

5-10 overall last season, 1-9 in the 605 League, tied for fifth place.

Head coach: Stephanie Machado (third season, 6-24)
Team’s record previous five seasons: 22-41

Last time made the playoffs: 2019

Division 6

Key losses: Bianca Contreras, Julienne Madius (SR)

Projected lineup:
P-*Monicka Manni (JR)/Olachi Anyama (SO)*
C-*Anyama/Ella Nelson (FR)*
)
1B-*Alise Garcia (SR)*
2B-*Kristen Sutton (SR)*
)
3B-*Mariana Botello (SR)/Madison Velazquez (JR)*
SS-*Chiugo Anyama (JR)*
LF-*Velazquez/Luisa Tuipulotu (SR)*
CF-*Andrea Victoria (SR)*
RF-*Tuipulotu/Velazquez/Nelson*

All Whitney High head coach Stephanie Machado wanted to do was to increase her win total when she took over the program. After the Wildcats went a combined 1-18 in 2020 and 2021, Machado won once in 2022 and five games last season, including the program’s first league win since 2019. It may be baby steps, but the Wildcats are heading in the right direction.

“I think there was just the adjustment period of a new coach and how I run things or how I want things to happen,” said Machado. “I think for some of them, we had younger kids, and so it was just getting comfortable with themselves. From them going from freshmen to sophomore, naturally, was just maturity happening and kind of not being so nervous in general for themselves.”

As she has done most of her first two seasons, junior pitcher Monicka Manni will get the bulk of the work in the circle. Machado said Manni’s biggest improvement is her maturity. However, she hasn’t been keeping up with her pitching lessons and she hasn’t improved on the technical aspect as much, according to Machado. But her game presence has improved and should give the ‘Cats more victories.

There is a changing of the guard behind the plate where sophomore Olachi Anyama will be catching Manni primarily with freshman Ella Nelson the backup. Last season’s starting catcher, senior Mariana Botello, moves to third base while her backup, junior Chiugo Anyama is the primary shortstop.

Machado’s top expectation once again is to win more games than last season. Already, the Wildcats, who moved up to Division 6, have won their first two games. Machado said she would like to win 75 percent of her non-league games, which are mostly Division 6 and 7 opponents. In league, she said she would like to sweep Oxford Academy and split with one of the other four teams.

“Last year, our goal for a lot of those good [league] teams was not to get mercied in five,” said Machado. “Whether we got mercied in six or seven, we saw that as a success when we were plying someone like Cerritos or Artesia.”



CITY OF CERRITOS, NOTICE TO BIDDERS. Project Identification: ARTERIAL STREET REHABILITATION, PROJECT NO. 23303, BID NO. 1541-24. Project Description: The work or improvement to be performed generally consists of cold milling 3” of existing asphalt concrete (AC); removing and reconstructing AC structural section (4” AC on 8” CMB); and the construction of a 3” AC surface. Additional improvements also include the removal & replacement of deficient concrete curbs & gutters; sidewalk panels, driveways, and wheelchair access ramps; adjustment of utilities to grade; removal of parkway trees; planting trees; installation of traffic signal loops; re-striping of lane lines, arrows, and stop bars; and/or the installation of fiber conduit along the following streets: 183rd Street from Carmenita Road (not including the intersection) to Marquardt Avenue (including the intersection), Marquardt Avenue from 183rd Street to Artesia Boulevard (including the intersection), 166th Street from Norwalk Boulevard (not including the intersection) to Bloomfield Avenue (not including the intersection), and Auto Square Drive. **Bids will be opened: Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. Place of bid receipt:** The bid submission must be received in the Office of the City Clerk, First Floor, 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90703. 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 – ARTERIAL STREET REHABILITATION, PROJECT NO. 23303, BID NO. 1541-24 - 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. **Obtaining Contract Documents:** A set of Contract Documents, including plans and specifications can be obtained by contacting Cerritos Engineering Division at (562) 916-1219. Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid security referred to in the Contract Documents and by a list of proposed subcontractors. Evidence of current City Business License (applies to contractor and all subcontractors), insurance, a Performance Bond, a Labor and Material Payment Bond, and Warranty Bond, as specified in the Contract Documents, will be required prior to execution of the contract. In accordance with Public Contract Code Section 22300, the bidder who is awarded the contract may substitute securities for retention money withheld by a public agency to ensure performance under the contract. The procedure and requirements for substituting said securities are set forth in Public Contract Code Section 22300, which is incorporated by this reference. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or portions thereof, or to waive any informality or irregularity in a bid to the extent allowed by law. No bid will be accepted from a contractor who has not been licensed in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 9, Division III of the California Business and Professions Code. The contractor must possess a license of the following classification at the time the contract is awarded (and must maintain this license classification through completion of the project): **“A.”** The bidder’s attention is also directed to Section 7028.15 of the Business and Professions Code for further reference, as set forth herein. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or portions thereof, or to waive any informality or irregularity in a bid to the extent allowed by law. Only a contractor or subcontractor who currently is registered with the California Department of Industrial Relations (“DIR”) to bid on public works contracts in California, pursuant to Labor Code Section 1725.5, shall be permitted to submit or be listed on a bid. No bid shall be accepted, nor any contract or subcontract entered into, without proof of the contractor or subcontractor’s current registration to perform public work pursuant to Labor Code Section 1725.5. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 1770, *et seq.*, of the California Labor Code, the DIR has determined the general prevailing rate of wages and employer payments for health and welfare, vacations, pensions and similar 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. The bidder’s attention is further directed to Section 9204 of the Public Contract Code regarding the claims resolution process for all public works projects. Any dispute or claim against the City under a public works project shall be processed in accordance with Section 9204 of the Public Contract Code and any other applicable law. 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). 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 action’s 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 LA MIRADA
NOTICE OF NOMINEES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following persons have been nominated for the offices designated to be filled at the General Municipal Election to be held in the City of La Mirada on Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

For Member of the City Council Representing District 3. Vote for no more than one.

John Accornero
Ed Eng

/s/

Anne Haraksin, City Clerk

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CITY OF CERRITOS, STATE OF CALIFORNIA. NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR CERRITOS ANNUAL ELECTRICAL MAINTENANCE, RFP NO. 1540-24. Project Identification: Request for proposals for Cerritos Annual Electrical Maintenance, RFP No. 1540-24. **Project Description:** The work or improvement to be performed consists of providing all labor, services, tools, equipment, materials, appurtenances, and incidentals necessary for performing miscellaneous annual electrical maintenance for the City of Cerritos. Typical tasks completed under past contracts include the installation and repair of electrical outlets and fixtures, troubleshooting City facility lighting, lighting upgrades, and other similar tasks (the “Work”). The contractor shall have a minimum of five (5) years of experience performing similar tasks. The term of the proposed contract is for one (1) year, with a provision for up to four (4) one-year extensions. The Contract may be extended with the mutual written consent of the parties thereto. **Proposals must be received on or before: 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, March 13, 2024. Place of proposal receipt:** Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, First Floor, Cerritos, California 90703. It is the responsibility of the bidder to ensure that the proposal is received in the appropriate location by the deadline. Proposals not received in the Office of the City Clerk by the deadline provided will not be considered. **Proposals must be marked: “PROPOSAL – CERRITOS ANNUAL ELECTRICAL MAINTENANCE, RFP NO. 1540-24- DO NOT OPEN.”** The not-to-exceed fee proposal shall be submitted as part of the consultant’s submittal package. Request for Proposal details are available by visiting the Public Works Department at City Hall, 2nd Floor, 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, CA, 90703, or by calling (562) 916-1220. The City’s final selection criteria will be based on, but not limited to, the following analysis: Completeness of proposal; Contractor’s demonstrated understanding of the scope of work and knowledge of electrical at City parks, facilities and the City’s holiday lighting program; Feedback received from references listed on Reference Sheet; The total fee for the proposal; Qualifications of contractor. The City reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or portions thereof, or to waive any informality or irregularity in a proposal to the extent allowed by law. No proposal will be received unless it is made on the official forms in the Contract Documents that include the Proposal Cost Schedule/Non-Collusion Affidavit. Failure to properly execute the Proposal Cost Schedule/ Non-Collusion Affidavit will render the proposal non-responsive and the proposal will not be accepted. Evidence of insurance, and City Business License (applies to contractor and all sub contractors) as specified in the Contract Documents will be required prior to execution of the contract. No proposal 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 this license classification through completion of the project): **“C-10”** is required. The proposer’s attention is also directed to Section 7028.15 of the Business and Professions Code. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 1776, et al. of the Labor Code of the State of California, the Director of Industrial Relations for the State of California 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. Rates are available on the Internet at <http://www.dir.ca.gov/DLSR/PWD>. In addition, the information can be obtained by calling the Division of Labor Statistics and Research’s Prevailing Wage Unit at (415) 703-4774, or by faxing the Prevailing Wage Unit at (415) 703-4771, or by writing to: California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Labor Statistics and Research, Prevailing Wage Unit, P.O. Box 420603, San Francisco, CA, 94142. 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 BELLFLOWER
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
REGARDING CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT CASE NO. CU 23-05**

TAKE NOTICE that the Bellflower Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, March 4, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at 16600 Civic Center Drive, Bellflower, CA 90706 to consider a Conditional Use Permit (“CUP”) to allow accessory on-site alcohol sales at an existing 1,632-square foot restaurant located within the General Commercial (“C-G”) zone on property located at 14201 Bellflower Boulevard.

Pursuant to the authority and criteria of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), an environmental assessment was conducted for this project. This Project is determined to be Categorically Exempt (Section 15301, Class 1 – Existing Facilities) because the proposed project consists of the permitting of an existing private structure and therefore involves a negligible expansion of the existing use. Furthermore, it can be seen with certainty that no special circumstances exist that would create a reasonable possibility that the proposed project will have a significant adverse effect on the environment.

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, 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 2011. All written comments concerning this may be submitted to Eliana Muñoz at 16600 Civic Center Drive, Bellflower, CA 90706; or by email at emunoz@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 2/23/24


Mechanical Design Engineer

SafeSmart, LLC (Santa Fe Springs, CA) seeks Mechanical Design Engineer to dsgn & implmnt new configurator dsgn programs to streamline the dsgn, sales, admin, & mfg process. Will produce drawings, verify dsgns, produce Solidworks rprts. Will work w/ prod & sales teams to ensure efficiency. Reqs Master’s deg in mech engg or rlted field & one (1) year of exp as a Mech Dsgn Engineer incl using Solidworks. Will accept Solidworks Foundation & Solidworks Mech Dsgn certifications in lieu of one year of exp using Solidworks. Telecommuting is permitted.

Mail CV to S. Wearmouth, JobCode MDE1122, 13238 Florence Ave, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670.

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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