



## LCCN OP/ED

### Deja Vu - 2024 Central Basin Board Removes Art Chacon, Acts Like 2013 Board

Two days after publishing this OP/ED online Feb. 5, the CB Board placed CB GM Alex Rojas on leave using their newly hired attorney.

By Brian Hews,  
LCCN Publisher

Flash back to 2013.

Leticia Vasquez, James Roybal, and Bob Apodaca took over the Central Basin Board and ruled for years, as documented by Los Cerritos Community News in its award-winning Dirty Water series.

Vasquez was handing out contracts, Apodaca was harassing women, triggering an \$800,000 settlement, and Roybal was in LAUSD Teacher Jail for alleged sexual harassment.

In just a couple of years, the agency was forced into a state audit that ultimately led to new policies, procedures, and rules to protect CB employees and rate-payers.

Despite that, it looks like 2013

is happening again.

At its last meeting, a new CB Water Board majority, led by Small-Time Mike Gualtieri, the GM of La Habra Heights Water, removed Art Chacon as president, and removed him from his Metropolitan Water District seat and MWD committees.

Gualtieri, who was the swing vote, joined Directors Leticia Vasquez-Wilson, Martha Camacho-Rodriguez, and Juan Garza. It was a 4-3 vote, exactly what happened in 2013 when Vasquez, Roybal, and Apodaca removed Chacon as president and pulled away his MWD seat.

No reasons were given for this latest removal..... that's because there was none.

Chacon, CB GM Alex Rojas, and Chacon's board allies NOT named Gualtieri, Vasquez, Rodriguez, or Garza, have guided a turnaround that saw the agency earn record profits and earn a seat on the Executive Committee of the Metropolitan Water District Board, one of the highest honors Chacon's MWD colleagues can

{See Central Basin pg. 4}



### RAIN DAMAGE IN LA MIRADA

**MUDSLIDE:** a retaining wall collapsed during a small landslide in La Mirada wiping out a large portion of the backyard. The home was located near Rosecrans and La Mirada Blvd. Rain damage was widespread across Southern California and the state with Bel Air getting over eleven inches of rain.

## LCCN Investigation

### No on Orange Unified School District Recall Committee Raking in Cash From Questionable Donors

The Lincoln Club of Orange County, with their aged members, donated over \$40,000 to the No campaign.

By Brian Hews

On March 5, voters will decide whether to recall two Orange Unified School District board members, Board President Rick Ledesma and Trustee Madison Miner, and the cash is rolling in for both sides of the recall.

The campaign in favor of the recall, Citizens for the Recall of Ledesma, Ortega, Miner, and Rumsey, is far outpacing the committee against the recall with nearly \$220,000 in donations as of January 25, 2024, collected from over 500 donors, a large majority small amount donors.

A little over 10% (52) of the donations were over \$1,000, with the Orange Unified Education Association donating \$15,000.

See donations.

The campaign committee against the recall, "No Recall, Par-

ents Protecting Our Kids Against the Recall of OUSD Boardmembers," (No Recall) has collected nearly \$155,000 through January 2024, with just over 103 donors.

See donations.

In contrast to the donors in favor of the recall, many donors to No Recall include wealthy high-powered Orange County business owners, donations from an obscure political action committee, donations from an exclusive club known for its uber-conservative stance, and many campaign consulting companies known for their high-profile clients.

The June 30, 2023 report showed the No Recall committee collected over \$18,000; the largest included \$2,200 from Temescal Canyon LLC, \$1,000 from Dmitriy Chebotarev, CEO of Newport Beach-based Vosht Capital, and \$6,000 from attorney Shawn Steel.

The September 30, 2023 report showed the No Recall committee collecting just over \$38,000, with \$15,500 of that total coming from Service First Inc. with the "other" contribution checkbox checked. Los Cerritos Community News could not find any information on

Service First Inc.

By December 31, 2023, No Recall had collected \$65,000 in donations, the largest was \$5,000 from Mesa Management, who checked the other contribution box, \$5,000 from attorney Fred Whitaker, and \$2,500 from Villa Park resident Denise Bittel.

The Lincoln Club?

2024 saw a marked increase in donations to No Recall, the committee collecting \$38,100 in just twenty days.

An eye-opening \$30,500, 78 percent, was donated by the Lincoln Club of Orange County State PAC. The average age of a Lincoln Club member is 60 years old, but here was the Club donating big money to a local school district recall.

Their website states, "The Lincoln Club of Orange County is the oldest and largest conservative major donor organization in California."

But that was only the beginning of the high-powered money spigot.

To ensure transparency in all elections, when donations to any {See Orange pg. 7}

### St. John Bosco Alum Playing in Super Bowl, Again

By Brian Hews

Trent McDuffie is living the American dream. McDuffie attended and played football at St. John Bosco High School in nearby Bellflower. With his evident skills, he was selected for the All-American Bowl and went to the University of Washington to play college football. As a rookie, he played in eleven games starting as a true freshman and recorded 45 tackles and one interception.

His NFL journey began in 2022 after getting selected 21st overall by the Kansas City Chiefs. He played his way into the lineup as cornerback and managed to record five tackles

in the Super Bowl, helping his Chiefs beat the Philadelphia Eagles, 38-35.

Look for number 21 playing this Sunday.



Cornerback Trent McDuffie

Segerstrom Center Presents



Disney  
**THE LION KING**

THE WORLD'S #1 MUSICAL

FEBRUARY 1-25  scfta.org

 **Segerstrom  
Center for the Arts®**



## Cerritos Employee Honored for 25 Years of Service



ALAN STRICKLAND, 3rd from left, receives a commemorative plaque for his 25 years of service to the city of Cerritos, Strickland started in 1998. With Strickland is the Cerritos City Council and Jeff Thielke, Director of the CCPA.

## Cerritos Sheriff's Deputies Visit Wittmann Kindergarten



FEBRUARY 6 was a very rainy day, and full of excitement for these young students. Cerritos Deputies were invited to be guest speakers at an assembly with all of the Kindergarten students at Wittmann Elementary School in ABCUSD. The children learned about safety, community and what it means to be a Deputy Sheriff. ~Submitted by Linda J. Hernández



### Athens Services

**SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICES**

Proudly serving the city of Cerritos

**GOT TRASH? RENT ME!**



- Up to 7-day rental
- Next day delivery
- Approximately 350lb. weight capacity
- Ideal for general cleanup projects
- Extra empties may be ordered for an additional fee.

**Call (888) 336-6100**

[athensservices.com](http://athensservices.com) • Email: [cs@athensservices.com](mailto:cs@athensservices.com)

## Golden Globe Foundation Gives Cerritos College \$20K to Support Diversity in Journalism

The Golden Globe Foundation has awarded a grant of \$20,000 to the Cerritos College Foundation. The grant is intended to support the Cerritos College Journalism & Media Studies Department by promoting diverse voices.

In particular, the funding will be used to create opportunities for current and future students to study journalism and support diversity initiatives.

The grant will support the journalism & media studies department's goal of

preparing students for careers in journalism through internships, conference attendance, and magazine development.

Students will have opportunities to participate in an eleven-week internship at LAist, a non-profit media organization and home to NPR affiliate 89.3 FM, attend the Associated Collegiate Press Spring National College Media Conference, and gain hands-on experience producing the annual WINGS magazine.

"We're elated at the Golden Globe Foundation's continual funding," said Christian Brown, professor of journalism and department chair of journalism & media studies at Cerritos College.



ABC Unified School District

**TOWN HALL MEETINGS**  
**SCHOOL FACILITIES CAPACITIES AND DECLINING ENROLLMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE**  
Invites ABCUSD families, staff, and community members to provide feedback on the potential consolidation of schools.

**February 7, 2024**  
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Artesia D.E.S. Portuguese Hall  
11903 Ashworth St.  
Artesia, CA 90701

**February 15, 2024**  
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
C. Robert Lee Community Center  
21815 Pioneer Bl.  
Hawaiian Gardens, CA 90716



## La Mirada ‘Team We Walk’ Raises \$5,600 For Relay for Life



**TEAM WE WALK** hosted their largest Bunko game day with over 100 attendees. 29 game tables were prepared with every seat occupied. Photo Stepheny Gehrig.

By Stepheny Gehrig

Team We Walk hosted a Bunco game day at Beatitudes of Our Lord in La Mirada on Feb. 4.

The event raised over \$5,600 for the American Cancer Society; this was the largest Bunco event hosted by the team.

Tickets were available to purchase before the event and at the door. Single tickets were \$30, and tickets per couple were \$55.

Tickets included a light lunch, refreshments, an entry door prize raffles and a space to play Bunko.

Along with that, raffle tickets were given to those who pre-paid for the tickets with 12 items available to win.

With over 100 people in attendance, said Rose Bourassa, team member of We Walk, this was the largest Bunko event that the team has hosted.

Last year, there were about 80 people in attendance, Bourassa said. Since this was one of the largest groups attending, 29 game tables were prepared with every seat occupied.

Bunko is a dice game with easy-to-grasp rules. There were stations of four seats, each of the four players, with those sitting diagonally across paired up.

The dice move clockwise and the team seated at the number 1 station were the ones in charge of the time spent on each set.

In the game, the partners are working toward earning the most points by rolling the dice.

For example, during round one, the goal is to simply roll ones and with each one rolled, the team would earn a point.

After every two rounds, whichever team earned the most points moved on to challenge a different team. The catch is that pairs from the previous game now challenge each other as they join opposing teams.

Similar to Yahtzee, to roll a Bunko, one must get a three of a kind of goal number for that match, like during match two where twos are the goal number, rolling three twos on the dice will earn the team 21 points.

Gift cards and extra raffle tickets were among the prizes for those who earned the highest score, lowest score, and most Bunkos.

With a roaring applause, Jenny Chen from La Mirada’s K and T Donuts won the large raffle prize.

Attendees spoke in appreciation for Chen and her business as they have graciously provided and donated so much during Relay for Life in the past and have contributed much toward the community.

At the end of the event, survivors and caretakers were recognized with designated pins and an inspiring speech.

“You’re a cancer survivor from the minute you hear you have cancer. You’re a survivor. You’re living it, you’re winning at that point,” said Kate Abad, team captain of team We Walk.

Due to construction at Splash, this year’s Relay for Life will be conducted as 20 different events, with a “small” walk that will be hosted at the Norwalk Adult School on July 13 at 10 A.M.

*More information about the Relay for Life can be found at [relayforlife.com](http://relayforlife.com).*

## Enjoy Donuts With a Deputy in Lakewood

Come enjoy a donut and coffee while chatting with Lakewood Sheriff Station Deputies and Lakewood’s Public Safety Department staff on Wednesday, Feb. 21 at 9:30 a.m. at the Albertsons supermarket at the north entrance by Starbucks.

The first 50 people to attend get a free delicious donut. The first 20 people to attend get a free coffee mug. Raffle entry for a \$50 gift card to Albertsons - must be present to win. Free coffee!

Donuts with a Deputy is part of Lakewood’s ongoing work to provide opportunities for residents to meet with Lakewood Public Safety Department personnel and LASD Deputy Sheriffs serving the Lakewood community. Albertsons is located at 5015 Del Amo Blvd. in Lakewood. All ages are welcome.

## Cerritos Library Welcomes African American Authors

In celebration of African American History Month, the Cerritos Library and others are pleased to present a program featuring prominent African American authors on Sunday, February 25 from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Skyline Room.

The meet-and-greet, from 1 to 1:45 p.m., gives the public a chance to spend time with authors Tracy Danielle Robinson, Brandon Shelby, Pamela Samuels Young and Dr. La-Doris McClaney. The authors will discuss their works from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

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

## Cerritos Library Book Sale Set for February 24-25

Stock up on books, music and movies at the Friends of the Cerritos Library book sale on Sat., Feb. 24 & Sun. Feb. 25. A great selection of fiction and nonfiction books in English and foreign languages, plus multimedia items, will be sold at bargain prices.

The sale takes place inside the Cerritos Library from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday the 24 and from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday the 25. The Sunday sale will offer fill-a-bag for \$4 per bag for Friends of the Library members and \$5 per bag for non-members. The Library is located at 18025 Bloomfield Ave. For more information, call (562) 916-1342.

PLUNGER PRO

ON DUTY 24/7

DRAIN CLEANSING SPECIAL, FREE CAMERA INSPECTION!

\$58\*

\*THROUGH ACCESSIBLE CLEANOUT, DURING BUSINESS HOURS

FREE

SERVICE CALL DURING BUSINESS HOURS

562-716-7300

DRAINS - REPIPER REPAIRS

PLUNGERPRO.COM LIC#917121

Aloha

FAMILY BILLIARDS

• Non-smoking

• Family friendly

• 50 selections of beer

• Available for parties

• Large screen TV's

• Touch-tunes digital juke box

• 11 - 9 foot Brunswick tables

• 2 - 7 foot Diamond tables

• 2 dart boards

• Weekly 8 Ball & 9 Ball Tournaments!

Mon-Thurs, 1:00pm to 2:00am

Fri-Sun, 12:00pm to 2:00am

Happy Hour Pool:

Mon-Thurs from 1:00pm to 4:00pm

7311 Orangethorpe Ave,

Buena Park, CA 90621

alohafamilybilliards.com

f

AlohaBilliards

alohafamilybilliards

SEWER & DRAIN CLEAN-OUTS • FAUCETS • VIDEO SEWER INSPECTION • GAS LINES

WE USE

Radiodetection

AN SPX COMPANY

EQUIPMENT

\$5 OFF

WITH THIS AD!

This offer is only good on service calls over \$79.00 to first time customers.

24

7

SERVICE

Albanos

PLUMBING

888-745-8338

24/7 SERVICE

www.albanos.com

CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

(562) 924-2565 • (714) 527-5300

20014 State Road, CERRITOS

Bonded & Insured • California Contractors Lic. #498625

SEWER LOCATION • WALL & FLOOR HEATERS • CIRCULATING PUMPS

BEFORE

AFTER

BENEFITS OF COPPER REPIPING:

☒ Increased water pressure

☒ No more rusty or discolored water

☒ Being able to use more than one faucet at a time

☒ No more leaky pipes

☒ No scalding in the shower when someone turns on a faucet

☒ Greater peace of mind

☒ Positive selling point for your property

SLAB LEAKS • WATER HEATERS • DISPOSALS







Central Basin from page 4

which he or she has a financial interest in both a governmental and personal capacity.

The routine check of Garza’s Incoming Office Form 700 found an extremely disturbing business relationship.

As required by law, Garza listed several organizations he is doing business with that paid him more than \$10,000 annually.

Garza listed La Luz Del Mundo (La Luz) as a client, the mega-church whose leader pled guilty to sex trafficking and heinous sexual acts with minors in June 2022; additional sex charges were filed in October 2023.

Despite the charges, Garza admitted to LCCN that “due to a previous commitment,” he took La Luz on as a client with his private company Six-Heron after Garcia’s indictment and represented the church during the height of felony sex charges proceedings from January 2021 to March 2022.

But it got murkier for Garza; a closer examination showed that Garza may have attempted to hide the fact that La Luz was his client on a 2022 SEI.

On Garza’s Candidate SEI filed in August 2022 with the city of Bellflower, Garza did not list La Luz as a client of his company Six-Heron.

When asked about the omission, Garza told LCCN, “My non-inclusion of La Luz Del Mundo as a client of my firm in my candidate FPPC form 700 submitted to the [Bellflower] city clerk on August 6, 2022, was an unintentional error, thank you [LCCN] for bringing that to my attention....it should have been included and that’s an unintentional error on my part.”

But was it “unintentional?” On Garza’s 2021 SEI, LCCN found that La Luz was once again not listed.

When asked about the second omission, Garza described an odd business relationship. He said he worked for La Luz for the entire year in 2021 but got paid more working for only three months in 2022, completing his work with the church just three months before Garcia pleaded guilty.

In his statement, Garza indicated that, during the height of felony sex charges proceedings involving Garcia, he met with La Luz church leadership, and they “increased his compensation.”

Ball is in MWD’s Court

Will the MWD board look past these issues? Can the MWD Board leadership put someone who voted “NO” to recognize Juneteenth at CB and another who contracted with a company whose leader was a convicted sex offender into any MWD leadership positions or committees?

After unceremoniously removing Chacon at their last meeting, Gualtieri and Garza are nominating each other for MWD seats at this Wednesday’s CB meeting.

Ed Templeton Premieres Art at Long Beach Museum of Art



ED TEMPLETON showcases the complexities of life with his “Wires Crossed: The Culture of Skateboarding 1995-2012,” at the Long Beach Museum of Art through May 5.

By Stepheny Gehrig

Famed skater and artist Ed Templeton opened his first solo exhibition, “Wires Crossed: The Culture of Skateboarding 1995-2012,” at the Long Beach Museum of Art on Feb. 2. The exhibition will run through May 5 and is among the first exhibitions that feature modern and contemporary art at the museum.

Executive director of the museum, Ron Nelson, explained that the process of deciding which art to feature at the museum requires patience, dedication, and an understanding of what the people, members, and city would like to see. “Wires Crossed” became a clear choice because of the historical and cultural impact that skateboarding has had in Long Beach and Southern California.

“Paul [Loya] and I, four times a year, sit down with piles of stuff, and he presented it to me. I said, ‘Ok, let me let it grow on me a bit. I’m older than you are,’” Nelson said. “Then, I started reading more about it and the depth of this — that hits so many people.”

Hailing from Garden Grove, Templeton provides a deep and intimate loom at punk, skateboarding, and youth culture spanning almost two decades. Documenting his life and the lives of other skaters, Templeton curates a unique environment unlike any other art experience.

“I started shooting in 1994, and some of these images go back that far and just been shuffling and reshuffling over the years,” Templeton said. “I had something like 5,000 photographs to choose from, and I had to widdle that into 300 somehow. It was daunting.”

The exhibition is separated into different sections — a timeline of sorts that is also arranged by themes. Templeton highlights the rawness and influence of

punk culture that evokes such ephemeral emotions spanning intrigue, humor, and disgust that viewers are left with an intense feeling of familiarity. Through this introspective view of skateboarding, Templeton creates a new sense of community with his art.

“It takes a village to make something like this. It takes the trust of my peers and the people I shot over these years. I mean, it would be nothing without the trust of my fellow skaters.” Templeton said. “Thank you, skateboarding, for what you’ve given to me. A lifetime of adventure, joy, pain, suffering, but also just so much beauty, friendship, camaraderie, a real sense of community.”

Juxtaposing the complexities of modernity with the simplicity of existence, Templeton displays an intriguing documentation of human life, fragility, and change. From a display of polaroids to a collection of injuries, the exhibition does not shy away from the grotesque or silence of the experience of the ordinary as it shares the challenges and fears faced in life.

Templeton, who occupies a unique space as both a skater and an artist, cultivates an immersive experience unlike any other. Providing visuals of lust, self-medication, friendship, and life, “Wires Crossed: The Culture of Skateboarding 1995-2012” is an honest depiction of human life.

“I just feel embraced by my community tonight, and I just want to give you all the love back,” Templeton said to the crowd at the opening of his exhibition.

Tickets to visit the Long Beach Museum of Art free for children under 12, \$12 for general admission, and \$10 for students and seniors. Visit [lbma.org](http://lbma.org) to view more information about visiting the exhibit.

Catherine Grant Wieder

Attorney & Mediator

Probate, Wills & Trusts  
Conservatorship, Guardianship, Dispute Mediation



562-404-4039

CENTURION Mortgage Finance

•NOT SATISFIED WITH YOUR CURRENT HOUSE PAYMENT?  
•BIG BANK TURNED YOU DOWN?

I can help you with that.



DeAnna Allensworth  
Broker - Advisor

Phone: 562-533-5600  
[www.CenturionMF.com](http://www.CenturionMF.com)  
CA DRE 01443787  
NMLS 206457

THE LAW OFFICE of LEWIS & LEWIS

LA MIRADA'S

FULL SERVICE

LAW FIRM

(562) 293-4073  
[LewisLaw.info](http://LewisLaw.info)



JOHN LEWIS, ESQ.

- REAL ESTATE LAW
- PERSONAL INJURY
- BUSINESS LAW
- WILLS & TRUSTS

14241 E. FIRESTONE BL., #400, LA MIRADA

Are you Prepared?  
Do your kids and family a favor,  
Preplan today!



Artesia Cemetery

Artesia Cemetery is your local community cemetery conveniently located in Cerritos. Our prices and services are unmatched. Spaces are still available.

For more information, Please call or visit:  
562-865-6300 or [www.ArtesiaCemetery.com](http://www.ArtesiaCemetery.com)

Keeping It Flowing For You!  
PETE'S PLUMBING



- ✓ Plumbing clogs
- ✓ Water heater replacement
- ✓ Repair and install gas lines
- ✓ Remodel your plumbing
- ✓ Flood repair
- ✓ Disposals repair and install
- ✓ Toilets install or replace
- ✓ New piping and repairs
- ✓ New homes, old homes, commercial plumbing and a ton more

We offer a wide range of plumbing services from emergency plumbing to commercial plumbing services, our master plumbers are ready to handle all jobs large or small at any time during the day or night.

Over 30 years in business!

800-21-4PETES or 562-599-0106

3099 E. Pacific Coast Highway • Long Beach  
[petes-plumbing.com](http://petes-plumbing.com) • [info@petes-plumbing.com](mailto:info@petes-plumbing.com)

[petesplumbingca](https://www.facebook.com/petesplumbingca)





**TABLETOP** light stands work well on kitchen counters and provide plenty of light for greens to grow. Photo-Gardener's Supply Company, gardeners.com

## Grow Tasty and Nutritious Leafy Greens Indoors

By Melinda Myers

Boost the flavor and nutritional value of winter meals by growing a container of greens indoors. Plant, tend and harvest greens for garden-fresh flavor now and throughout the year.

Green leafy vegetables are healthy sources of carbohydrates, typically rich in fiber and nutrients, while also being low in fat and calories. Many of these vegetables can help reduce the risk of stroke, anemia, high blood pressure, certain cancers, and diabetes. They also help improve the health of your gut, heart, bone, and skin while boosting your body's immunity.

To create your own indoor garden of greens, all you need are seeds, a container, potting mix, and a sunny window or artificial lights. Select a container or planter with drainage holes or reduce maintenance with the help of self-watering containers like the Viva Round or Square self-watering planters. Their water reservoirs reduce watering frequency.

Fill the container with a quality potting mix that is well-drained and retains moisture. Plant seeds as recommended on the seed packet. You can grow each type of green in its own container or mix them up for an attractive display in larger planters like the Tartu Elevated Rectangular Planter (gardeners.com).

Water thoroughly and often enough to keep the soil moist while waiting for the seeds to sprout. Reduce the need for frequent watering by covering newly planted containers with a plastic sheet or dome. Once sprouts appear, remove the plastic and begin watering thoroughly when the top inch of soil begins to dry.

Boost productivity and increase planting space with the help of artificial lights. You will find a variety of setups for any space in your home. Counter and

tabletop light stands like the Micro Grow Light Garden can be conveniently located in the kitchen or dining room. Stand-alone light shelves provide more growing space within a small footprint. Furniture-grade light stands make them easy to use in any room in the house. Grow greens you and your family like to use in your favorite recipes and salads. Green or red leaf lettuce is easy to grow indoors and its mild flavor is most appealing to children and picky eaters.

Spinach is another popular and easy-to-grow leafy green vegetable used fresh in salads and smoothies or added to soups and sauces. It contains many vitamins and nutrients, including iron, folic acid, and calcium.

Kale is considered a superfood. This nutrient-dense vegetable is packed with vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants. If the flavor is a bit too intense for you, try the baby leaf types that are milder in flavor, or try braising kale for a milder flavor and more tender texture.

Add a bit of peppery flavor to salads, soups, pastas, and other dishes with arugula. Add a spicier flavor with mustard greens. Sauté mustard greens or add them to your favorite Southern, Asian, Indian or savory dish.

Include color and flavor in your winter meals with beet greens. The leafy part of this vegetable is often overlooked but is the most nutritious part of the plant. Use these the same way you would spinach or kale. You can purchase beet varieties selected for growing the best greens to harvest from baby to full size.

Make it more fun by getting others involved. Hand family members and guests a plate and kitchen shears so they can harvest and help prepare the meal.



### Athens Services

**SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICES**

Proudly serving the city of Cerritos

**GOT TRASH? RENT ME!**



- Up to 7-day rental
- Next day delivery
- Approximately 350lb. weight capacity
- Ideal for general cleanup projects
- Extra empties may be ordered for an additional fee.

**Call (888) 336-6100**

[athensservices.com](http://athensservices.com) • Email: [cs@athensservices.com](mailto:cs@athensservices.com)

The Gardens Casino



**V.I.P. Drawing**

Wed - Sun (2/7 - 2/11)

2pm | 4pm | 6pm | 8pm  
10pm | 12am



**Dragon Dance**

Friday & Saturday

2/9 & 2/11 @ 9pm



**\$8,888**

**Saturday Night  
Buy-in Special  
2/10 @ 9pm**

*the*  
**Gardens  
CASINO**

#THEGARDENSCASINO

[WWW.THEGARDENSCASINO.COM](http://WWW.THEGARDENSCASINO.COM) • (562) 860-5887

11871 E. CARSON ST. HAWAIIAN GARDENS, CA 90716

Hawaiian Gardens Casino reserves the right to change or cancel all promotions at any time. Must be 21 to enter casino. Gambling problem? Call 1-800-GAMBLER or visit [www.problemgambling.ca.gov](http://www.problemgambling.ca.gov). GEGA 002016. For more information, visit our website or see a CSR



## Carver Elementary Earns National Blue Ribbon Award



**BLUE!** Students, families, teachers, staff, and dignitaries gathered on Friday, February 2, 2024, at an assembly to celebrate Carver Academy’s National Blue Ribbon Award in the category of Exemplary High Performing School. Carver Academy is the ninth school in ABC to receive this award and the first Title I school to do so.

### Orange from page 1

committee exceed \$1,000, the committee must file a Form 497 with the Fair Political Practices Commission within 48 hours of receiving the contribution.

Records show that on January 23, 2024, three days after the first January reporting period, the Lincoln Club donated \$10,000 to No Recall; the Club’s donations now totaled \$40,500.

But then an obscure political action committee started giving to the No Recall committee titled The Family Action PAC.

Started in 2021, The Family PAC garnered thousands of dollars in donations, eventually giving \$7,400 to current OUSD Board Member Madison Miner in October 2022. In December 2023, California Secretary of State records show the PAC took in \$9,100 each from five wealthy donors for a total of \$45,500.

The donors included Larry Smith of

MHI Real Estate in Newport Beach; Kim C. Bengard, a “Homemaker” from San Clemente; Thomas Bengard, a “Self-Employed Investor” from San Clemente; and John D. Lewis and Nancy Lewis of J. Derek Lewis & Associates in Newport Beach.

In prior years Family PAC reports, an inordinate amount of donors list their business in Newport Beach which is miles for Orange Unified boundaries.

A few weeks later, on January 25, The Family PAC turned around and donated \$15,500 to the No Recall committee, above. In addition, just yesterday, on February 6, the Family PAC took in another \$45,000 from three current O.C. Board of Education Board Members: 1st District Trustee Jorge Valdes, 2nd District Trustee Mari Barke, and 4th District Trustee Tim Shaw donated \$15,000 each.

Get ready OUSD residents, time to make room in your mailboxes.



Soroptimist International of Artesia-Cerritos  
30<sup>th</sup> Annual

### Monte Carlo Fundraiser Gala

Saturday, February 24, 2024

Buffet Dinner 6-7:30 PM, Casino-Style Games,  
Silent Auction, and Prizes until 9:30 PM.

### The Centre at Sycamore Plaza

5000 Clark Ave, Lakewood

### Theme: “Reaching for the Stars”

Fabulous prizes totalling over \$30,000.

Dressy Attire

**\$130 per person**

and available through all members  
of Soroptimist International of Artesia-Cerritos.

Proceeds go to local charities and awards for  
women and girls in our own communities through  
Soroptimist educational and mentoring programs.

**Questions, to purchase tickets,  
to sponsor, or to donate a prize:**

Contact Monte Carlo Event Chair  
Norma Williamson - [NVWilliamson@gmail.com](mailto:NVWilliamson@gmail.com)



**562-402-6769**  
21900 Norwalk Blvd.  
Hawaiian Gardens, CA 90716

**OPEN 7 NIGHTS A WEEK**


Monday thru Saturday -  
6 pm to 12 Midnight  
Doors open at 4pm  
Sunday 2 pm to 9 pm  
Doors open at 12pm

**3 SESSIONS PER DAY!!!**  
**25 Games per Session**  
**EXCLUSIVE VARIETY OF PULL TABS!!!**



• Smoke Free Indoors • Snack Bar • Security on Site •  
Ample parking • ATM's Available

THE BINGO CLUB IS A FUCTION OF AND OPERATED BY THE IRVING I. MOSKOWITZ  
FOUNDATION NON-PROFIT PUBLIC CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION.



*An Evening with  
Davis Gaines*

**FEBRUARY 14**

*LaMiradaTheatre.com*



CIF-SS BOYS B-BALL  
PLAYOFF PREVIEW  
Area stacked with  
six teams keeping  
their seasons alive

By Loren Kopff  
@LorenKopff on X

The drive for five begins on Wednesday as first round action of the CIF-Southern Section boys basketball playoffs gets under way. For six of the eight area teams, five wins is what it takes to win a divisional championship, except for La Mirada High, which received a first round bye.

**DIVISION 1**  
#12 Mira Costa High or St. Bernard High @ #6 La Mirada (21-7 overall, 8-0 in the Gateway League, first place).

La Mirada was one five teams in the division to go straight to Friday’s second round game where it will host either Mira Costa, the third place team from the Bay League, or St. Bernard, which tied for second place in the Del Rey League. The Matadores played one of the toughest schedules in the CIF-SS, probably in Southern California, too. They won 10 of their first 11 games, including taking the championship of the Rumble for Rosecrans Ave. Tournament and third place in the St. John Bosco Braves Winter Classic. But La Mirada stumbled in the middle of the season, losing five straight games before ending the season with 10 straight wins. During the midseason slump, La Mirada lost a pair of two-point games to Branson High out of Ross, CA, and Chandler, AZ-based Basha High, and a four-point affair to St. Pius X-St. Matthias Academy.

The Matadores went 6-3 against Division 1 teams, including a one-point win against Damien High to win the first tournament of the season, a double overtime victory over Rancho Cucamonga High on Jan. 6 and a one-point victory against St. Paul High on Jan. 15. A potential second round opponent could be Damien, which is ranked third in the division. Damien also received a first round bye.

La Mirada has been paced all season by freshman Gene Roebuck, who had 650 points entering the final regular season game, and last season’s star, junior Julien Gomez, who was at exactly 500 points entering last Thursday’s home game against Downey High.

**DIVISION 2AA**  
Valley Christian High (16-12 overall, 3-5 in the Olympic League, fourth place) @ #15 Saugus High (21-7 overall, Foothill League champions).  
V.C. may not have earned an automatic berth to the playoffs but finishing four games over .500 was worthy enough to get an at-large berth. The Defenders faced two teams in Division 1-Redondo Union High and Village Christian High, and went 1-2, defeating the latter by a point in the last game of the regular season. The Defenders went 3-5 against teams in their division and 1-3 against teams in Division 2A.

V.C. began the season losing four of its first six games, including three by a combined eight points before taking eight of the next nine games. In January, the Defenders had two straight three-point losses and another setback by points. They have a solid starting five of seniors Chris Allen, Jacob Bayla, Ryan Caracoza, Myles Harvey and Gavin Stahl, though junior Bryce Shepherd and sophomore Josiah James started some games in December.

Saugus has won four straight games and eight of its last 10. The only common opponent is Loyola High, which edged V.C. by three points but lost to the Centurions by 21 points.

The winner plays either #2 Campbell Hall High or Simi Valley High in the sec-



ond round on Friday.  
**DIVISION 3AA**  
Artesia High (18-9 overall, 8-2 in the 605 League, second place) @ #12 Camarillo High (18-10 overall, tied for second place in the Coastal Canyon League).

After winning back to back 605 League championships, Artesia finished in second place with its lone league setbacks coming to Cerritos High in close contests. On Jan. 5, in the second league game of the season, the Dons edged Artesia 50-47 while the rematch on Jan. 24 was a 52-47 affair.

“I think our seeding was kind of where we should have been,” said Artesia head coach Jeff Myles. “Obviously, we didn’t win as many games as we did in the past. But we don’t mind long road trips. I kind of scheduled long road trips just to kind of get us ready for the playoffs.”

The Pioneers lost their only game against a division team, Beckman High, 56-41 on Nov. 29. But they defeated Division 1 foe Downey 50-41 in the third game of the season and went winless against three other higher division teams, including a two-point loss to Beverly Hills High of Division 2A.

Artesia went 3-0 against teams from the CIF-Los Angeles City Section, defeated Steele Canyon High of the San Diego Section 66-57 on Jan. 15 and lost two of three games against Florida teams during the Osceola Holiday Tournament, Dec. 19-21. The Pioneers began the season with three straight wins, four of its first five and seven of its first 10 before heading to Florida.

The heart and soul for the Pioneers is senior Zion Staples, who is 47 points shy of 500 for the season. Senior Joshua Martinez is next with 301 points while three other players have scored at least 100 points. Juniors Cayden Del Rosario, C.J. Okeke and Jovell Tate could be key factors other than Martinez and Staples.

“I really had no expectations of this year,” said Myles. “This is pretty much a brand new team besides Zion, who pretty much is our only returner with experience. Even though Josh Martinez was a starter last year, he only started half the games, and he was the third or the fourth option. Everybody else played five to seven minutes and some games they didn’t play at all.”

Camarillo tied Simi Valley High for second place in the Coastal Canyon League with a 5-3 mark, a game behind Oak Park High. The Scorpions had won seven straight games before falling to Oak Park by four points last Friday. Artesia and Camarillo didn’t face a common opponent, however, the Scorpions defeated Mayfair High 50-38 on Dec. 28. The Pioneers were scheduled to play Mayfair last Saturday.

“I really didn’t want to look past the first round because the first one is always the hardest one,” said Myles of the bracket. “I’ve only looked at Camarillo and I looked at our potential second round opponent. Other than that, I couldn’t tell you who is who because if you try to look past anybody, you’ll end up losing bad right away.”

The winner plays either Pilibos High or St. Margaret’s High in the second round on Friday.

**DIVISION 3A**

{See **Playoffs** pg. 10}

CIF-SS GIRLS B-BALL  
PLAYOFF PREVIEW  
Pair of area teams seeded high  
while two more are ranked as  
playoffs begin

By Loren Kopff  
@LorenKopff on X

Five area girls basketball teams will take center stage on Thursday as the first round of the CIF-Southern Section gets under way with second round games on Saturday. Two teams, who were in the same league last season but different leagues this season, are among the top four seeded teams in their divisions while two others are in the top 16 in their respective divisions.

**DIVISION 2A**  
#16 Whitney High (19-9 overall, 8-2 in the 605 League, second place) @ Calvary Chapel/Santa Ana High (19-9, Orange Coast League champions).

Whitney was hoping to win the program’s first outright league championship since the 2013-2014 season but lost to league champion Cerritos High by four and five points, respectively. The Wildcats had a daunting schedule which should prepare them for the playoffs, losing to Sonora High (Division 1) by three points and defeating Crean Lutheran High (58-56) and Bishop Amat High (68-31) of Division 2AA. Whitney split four games against teams in the same divisions and three other losses came against teams out of state in the NIKE Tournament of Champions.

“Honestly, in this Division, I think we could have placed anywhere,” said Whitney head coach Myron Jacobs. “Looking at our first opponent, I think they’re a good team; well-rounded. Two of their kids play on my club team. So, I kind of know what we’re going through. They don’t have big [players]; they only have one. We have one, so it kind of makes it an even matchup. They’re 19-9, we’re 19-9.

“When I look at the bracket from top to bottom...I would have preferred to be in the middle of the bracket,” he continued. “But in reality, we can’t play in the middle of the bracket right now because we don’t have the height. I think where we’re at, I’m okay with it.”

Senior Kylie Wang and junior Haylie Wang each scored over 400 points in the regular season and are 40 percent of a potent starting lineup that includes freshman sensation Alyssa So, junior Allie Yamaguchi and sophomore Mady Macaraeg. The Wildcats have 11 players and the six on the bench don’t get too much playing time. When they do, juniors Kiera Kato and Rachel Moyher can provide some key points or rebounds along with freshman Cheyanne Cheung.

“I think Kiera plays a big role coming off the bench,” said Jacobs. “She gives us big time minutes and she’s more of a defensive play piece.”

Calvary Chapel/Santa Ana won all 10 Orange Coast League games but also lost to Martin Luther King High by two points and St. Margaret’s High in January. The Eagles went 2-2 in their first two tournaments before falling to Crean Lutheran by a point six days after Whitney defeated the Saints.

The winner will play either Campbell Hall High or top-seeded Louisville High in the second round.

**DIVISION 3AA**  
Yorba Linda High (13-12 overall, third place from the North Hills League) @ #15 Cerritos (19-9, 10-0 in the 605 League, first place)

For the first time since the 605 League was formed, Cerritos went undefeated in league competition. The Dons also closed out the Suburban League with a 12-0 mark

in the 2017-2018 season. Cerritos didn’t face anyone in its division. but went 2-0 against teams in Division 3A and of their losses, the Dons fell by nine points to Cypress High (Division 1), five points to Beckman High (Division 2A), a point in overtime to Diamond Bar High (Division 2A) in the championship game of the Corona Del Mar Tournament and to Fallbrook High, which won the Valley League of the CIF-San Diego Section and Torrey Pines High, which finished second in the Coastal League of the San Diego Section in the Southern California Holiday Prep Classic. Two other losses were to North Torrance High (Division 1), and to Gig Harbor out of Washington.

“We’ve had our ups and downs, and it had to do with things that were going on from the beginning of the season,” said Cerritos head coach Marcus Chinen. “As the season progressed, there were times where we had some girls hurt; a couple of injuries here and there.”

Cerritos has one of the deepest benches around and lately, have been plugging its two biggest players, senior Oneyka Nwanze and junior Ambar Multani in the starting lineup. During the first half of the season, one or the other would be a starter. Seniors Mailee Dizon and Mia Rivera and sophomore Cameron Lacorte are the other current starters however, Kishan Saberón has started 17 games. If the Dons need a spark off the bench, Chinen can turn to juniors Miya Scammahorn and Megan Wallace or freshmen Kalana Nguyen and Jordin Pulley.

“We had to really work on that,” said Chinen of his starting lineup. “In the very beginning, it was kind of hard because we had brought some girls up. But once they got everything going, we were able to turn it around and at any time, we can say, ‘hey, this girl can go in or that girl can go in’ and we would feel comfortable with that.”

Yorba Linda was third in a four-team North Hills League where everyone won anywhere from 12 to 17 games. The Mustangs won three straight and five of their first six to begin the season before losing four straight contests. One of those victories was against Laguna Beach High, 50-25, a common opponent of Cerritos which defeated the Breakers 49-34. Cerritos and Yorba Linda also defeated Peninsula High early in the season and both were victors against Foothill High while the two lost to Esperanza High and Los Alamitos High. Yorba Linda also defeated Cypress 67-63 in overtime and 53-52.

“It’s going to be a good matchup,” said Chinen. “Yorba Linda was ranked for awhile before us and we just snuck in at the last couple of weeks. They had some key wins off some pretty tough teams that I’ve seen. It’s not going to be one of those games where you’re just going to go in and win. It’s going to be a game where we’re going to have to battle.”

The winner will play either second-ranked Dos Pueblos High or Walnut High in the second round.

**DIVISION 4AA**  
#4 Gahr High (18-8 overall, 2-6 in the Gateway League, fourth place) @ Santa Paula High (19-8, Citrus Coast League champions)

Gahr’s first season in the Gateway League was as expected as four of its league losses were to Division 1 teams and the other two came to Downey High (Division 2AA). Before that, the Gladiators began the season with eight straight wins, 10 of their first 11 games and 16 of their first 18 contests. They went 3-0 against teams in their division, including their only two league victories, and defeated a pair of Division 4A teams-Orange High and Valley Christian High. Gahr also went 2-2 against teams from Division 3A and up prior to league competition.

“It all comes down to scheduling,” said Gahr head coach Alfred Howard. “I knew

{See **Girls** pg. 9}



# Cerritos basketball teams sweep Whitney in regular season finale, sets historic mark

By Loren Kopff  
@LorenKopff on Twitter

The only thing that stood in the way of a perfect 605 League slate for the Cerritos High boys and girls basketball teams was Whitney High, which has now been the most intense rivalry in the circuit. While the Cerritos boys had already locked up the league title and Whitney no worse than third place, the girls were playing for a league title last Thursday on Senior Night at Whitney.

Cerritos would take care of business on both sides, not only sweeping the league this season, but going undefeated in any league for the first time in the same season in at least 26 seasons. The boys had never been better than 10-2 in the Suburban League, which came in the 2014-2015 season, while the girls went 12-0 in the Mission Valley League in the 1997-1998 season and 12-0 in the Suburban League in the 2017-2018 campaign. Before this season, the best combined Suburban League record for both the boys and girls in the same season was 21-3 in 2014-2015. The best combined league record as members of the 605 League was 19-1 in 2019-2020.

The Cerritos girls held on for a 60-55 victory, ended the regular season 19-9 and swept the Wildcats for the first time. In the first round on Jan. 17, the Dons got past the ‘Cats 64-60, but Whitney still leads the overall series 7-6.

“That was one of our goals,” said Cerritos head coach Marcus Chinen. “It wasn’t actually [going] 10-0; our goal was to compete for a league title. The one thing [the players] kept saying was once we got through the first [meeting], let’s work really hard and see what happens on the last game because that was going to be a playoff environment.

“Personally, I think the game was on me,” said Whitney head coach Myron Jacobs. “We lost by five points; my biggest thing as a coach is anything around three to five points is on a coach and not on team. I thought we got killed on offensive rebounds. We knew they weren’t going to play us in zone because of the shooting that we had; they didn’t want us to get comfortable or they didn’t want to take a chance of being down like they were in the first half. So I thought they made a

great adjustment by playing us in man.” Cerritos was down 7-2 within the first 90 seconds before it went on an 8-0 run and never looked back. It was 20-12 after the first quarter and its lead was anywhere from five to nine points in the second quarter. While the halftime score was 31-22, the star of the game was senior Oneyka Nwanze, who already had 16 points and 13 rebounds, and was only heating up. She added another six points and six rebounds in the third quarter and finished the game with 25 boards and 24 points before fouling out with 3:17 left in the game.

At that point, the score was 52-48 and the Wildcats thought this was their chance to claw back and take the lead, knowing the tallest player on the Dons was out of the game. But Whitney went two of seven from the field down the stretch.

Junior Haylie Wang led Whitney (19-9 overall, 8-2 in league) with 23 points while senior Kylie Wang added 12 points and eight rebounds and freshman Alyssa So chipped in with 11 points.

“I think that game was a result of showing my girls, ‘hey, if we don’t follow instructions and you go rogue, this is what can happen’ because that was a very winnable game,” said Jacobs.

Senior Mia Rivera and junior Ambar Multani each scored eight points for the Dons with the latter also grabbing nine rebounds. Cerritos outrebounded Whitney 47-18 and never let the hosts get closer than a point in the second half.

“Late in the third quarter, I don’t know if they were tired or what not,” said Chinen. “We had a couple of key turnovers there, so Whitney came firing back. We had a couple of missed assignments and a couple of their players hit some key shots to bring them closer to us. But our girls sat in there and in their minds, they weren’t going to let them come back into it.”

Following the game, the boys were in for a bigger battle than when the teams met on Jan. 17, which was a 70-31 contest. This time around, the Dons held a slim 29-28 lead at the half, never leading by more than six points, before pulling away late in the third quarter for a 59-47 win. Cerritos (17-10, 10-0) has now won all 15 games in the series. However, longtime Cerritos head coach Jonathan Watanabe gave high praise to Whitney as

the 12-point win was tied for the closest margin of victory.

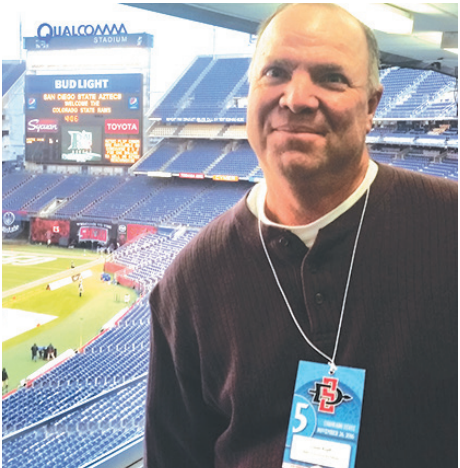
“When it came down to it, they made shots,” said Cerritos head coach Jonathan Watanabe. “[Whitney junior] Morgan [Marks] was playing like Morgan, and if he’s healthy, they’re going to be a team to watch. We witnessed firsthand what that’s like and you’re trying to defend him, then they’re knocking down all their shots and they’re running down the shot clock. It was a great game. The scariest part about that is they’re in our division and next year...they only have two seniors [this year] and one of them was hurt in this game.”

Marks was the high scorer in the game with 19 points and had five steals. But the Wildcats (15-10, 6-4) were without the services of senior Sakeef Sekender, sidelined with an ankle injury, and junior Alex Cheng picked up two quick fouls in three seconds late in the third quarter, following by an immediate technical foul for his fifth personal infraction. At that point, Whitney was trailing by five points and would not get closer than four points.

“That whole sequence to me was obviously detrimental as far as our situation because we only went about six deep at that point, then we had to go seven,” said Whitney first-year head coach Nasir Akmal. “That’s always going to be something in the closer games. Alex has been our best defender the whole season. His blocks and just his presence...he’s an undersized big and he guards the guards, and he guards bigs. What he brings to our team is irreplaceable.”

“He’s a really solid player,” said Watanabe of Sekender. “But the matchup for us in particular made it more difficult because they were quicker. When [freshman] Jezreel [Dela Cruz] started, and they had three guards now that are super quick and hard to stay in front of, it was probably a more difficult matchup for us.”

Marks converted a three-point play with 5:32 left in the game but wouldn’t get another field goal until almost two minutes later. By then, it was a nine-point Cerritos lead. Junior Christian Carreon added 11 points and three rebounds and senior Joseph Whittaker pitched in with eight points and four boards for the Wildcats, who collected 14 rebounds. Cerritos was led by seniors Tobenna Ozoagu (12



LOREN KOPFF’S  
NEWS AND NOTES  
FROM PRESS ROW

points, six assists) and Osinachi Agaranna (11 points, seven rebounds) and junior Benson Cho (10 points, eight rebounds).

“Our guys still fought,” said Akmal. “It wasn’t like the guys suddenly just folded. We still were in the game, and we still fought in the fourth.”

Cerritos ranked third in the CIF-Southern Section Division 4AA bracket defeated Jurupa Valley High 76-46 this past Wednesday and will travel to Yucca Valley High on Friday while Whitney fell to Milken Community, ranked eighth in the division, 61-50 this past Wednesday.

In first round boys basketball action this past Wednesday, Artesia High (18-10) lost to Camarillo High 53-36 in Division 3AA, Gahr High was eliminated by Huntington Beach High 58-52 in Division 3A and Valley Christian High (16-13) fell to Saugus High 64-52 in Division 2AA.

In the Gahr game, the Gladiators rallied from an early 7-2 hole to reel off 13 straight points with under a minute left in the first quarter. The Gladiators (18-9) either led or was tied until late in the third quarter but the Oilers went on a 15-0 run of their own to take a 44-37 advantage within the first minute of the fourth quarter. Gahr was unable to get its deficit under four points for the final six minutes of the game. Senior Miles Merchant led the Gladiators with 18 points while junior Uchenna Okoli added a dozen points.

## Girls from page 8

moving up from the Mid-Cities League, with the team that we had returning...entering the gauntlet I knew we were going to have trials and tribulations. So, I wanted to have a favorable schedule and have a chance to make [the playoffs].”

Howard was referring to the Gateway League and going up against Downey, Lynwood High, Paramount High who all defeated Gahr by an average of 29.8 points per game. Gahr is young this season and if can’t make a deep run like last season, the Gladiators will be set for the next few seasons. Gahr faced three former Mid-Cities League teams and beat them by 42, 17 and 19 points, respectively.

Gahr’s most consistent starting five has been juniors Jody Colbert, Christine Ho and Simarpreet Sogi, and freshmen Rachel Fredenburg and Ella Mims. Sophomore Chloe Beard, a transfer from Mayfair High is a key bench player.

After splitting its first six games of the season, Santa Paula won seven of its next 12 games heading into Citrus Coast League action where the Cardinals won the remaining nine of their 12 league contests. In fact, Santa Paula dominated the league, outscoring the other six teams by 454 points. No other league team finished

more than four games over .500 and Gahr and Santa Paula did not face a common opponent.

“We saw what they like to do,” said Howard on Santa Paula. “They have a talented freshman [Aryanna Lopez] who is averaging 18 [points per game] and a couple of seniors who are averaging 10 points apiece. They’re goal is to beat us; they’re going to be at home. Our job is to go out there and take care of business. Our players are salivating at the opportunity to go and upset that team and move on to the next round.”

The winner will play either #13 San Marino High or Valley Christian/Santa Maria High in the second round.

### DIVISION 4AA

Norwalk High (13-15 overall, 7-3 in the Mid-Cities League, third place) @ # 16 Marina High (20-8, Wave League champions)

Norwalk played all its games off campus as its new gymnasium is under construction and despite beginning the season with five straight losses, the Lancers bounced back to claim a spot in the playoffs. The last 16 opponents were not above Division 3A and the Lancers faced just one team above Division 3AA. That was against Whitney, an 80-19 loss on Dec. 5. The Lancers went 2-1 against teams in their division and 2-2 against teams from

Division 4A.

The key starter is senior Keilani Gananacial, who missed the ninth and 10th games of the season. She has scored at least 20 points in 10 games played and was the high scorer in 23 games. Complementing her in the starting lineup is senior Rhean Pasqual, juniors Janii McGarrah and Anahi Rodriguez and sophomore Monica Ruiz.

The Lancers have a tough task against Marina, which enters the playoffs winners of its last eight games. The Vikings have not scored more than 57 points in any game whereas the Lancers have eclipsed 50 points seven times. Common opponents include Valley Christian High, which defeated Norwalk but lost to the Vikings and Fountain Valley High and Huntington Beach High, both of whom won their games against Marina and Norwalk.

The winner will play either Avalon High or second-ranked Canyon High in the second round.

### DIVISION 5AA

Orange Vista High (10-11 overall, tied for second place in the Inland Valley League) @ #3 La Mirada High (18-5, 8-2 in the Mid-Cities League, second place)

La Mirada had a season to remember and being in Division 5AA with an experienced returning squad had a lot to do with it. The Matadores faced one team above Division 4AA, and that was May-

fair, which split a pair of games with La Mirada. The first league meeting went to the Monsoons, 65-59, with the Matadores taking the rematch 62-61. La Mirada went 5-2 against teams from Division 4AA, 1-0 against teams from Division 4A and 5-2 against teams from the same division. At one point, La Mirada won eight straight games.

The lone senior for the Matadores, and their leading scorer is Jirah Domingo, who has missed the last three games while in concussion protocol. Juniors Jael Arreguin and Emily Gonzalez and freshman Jordin Shaw had combined to start all but three games while juniors Simran Sahota and Nayeli Tamayo have split the starting duties.

Orange Vista went 5-3 in the Inland Valley League, tied with Canyon Springs High, which finished one game above .500. League champion Elsinore High, which went 6-2, was also a game above .500 overall. The Coyotes won five of their first seven games before going on a six-game skid. There were no common opponents between the two teams.

The winner will play either Liberty High or Sierra Vista High in the second round.



{See Playoffs pg. 11}

Published at La Mirada Lamplighter 2/2 and 2/9/24



NOTICE INVITING SEALED BIDS

BANDINI LIBRARY & LEARNING CENTER

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the CITY OF COMMERCE, referred to as “CITY”, invites sealed bids for BANDINI LIBRARY & LEARNING CENTER, and will receive bids **on PlanetBids**, up to the hour of **2:00 PM, March 12, 2024**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud online. Late submittals will not be considered. It is the bidder’s responsibility to upload the bid proposal file by the due date to City’s portal on PlanetBids.

Electronic files of the Plans, Specifications and Contract Documents are available for download on the City’s portal on PlanetBids.

Working hours for are from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The work shall be completed within 120 working days after the City’s Notice to Proceed.

**A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on February 21, 2023, at 10:00 AM in front of Bandini Library & Learning Center at 2269 S Atlantic Blvd, Commerce, CA 90040.** Every Bidder is required to attend the pre-bid meeting and Project site visit. Failure of a Bidder to attend will render that Bidder’s Bid non-responsive.

Each Bidder shall possess a valid California Class B General Building License issued by the California State Contractors License Board at the time of the Bid submission for this project. The contractor must employ an hazardous abatement contractor for the lead, mold, and asbestos abatement activities that has a California C22 Contractor’s License in good standing with the Contractor’s State License Board, is registered with the California Department of Industrial Relations Division of Occupational Safety & Health (‘DOSH’ or ‘Cal/OSHA’), a California Department of Public Health (CDPH) lead worker and supervisor certification, a Hazardous Substance Removal Certification, a Hazardous Waste Operations & Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) certification, and a American National Standards Institute / Institute of Inspection Cleaning & Restoration Certification (ANSI / IICRC) S500 and S520, and comply with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rule 1403 (i) Asbestos Training Requirements. The successful Contractor must also possess a current City business license before commencing work.

This project is subject to the requirements of SB 854. No prime contractor or subcontractor may be listed on a bid proposal and may be awarded for a public works project unless registered with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code section 1725.5.

If there are any questions regarding this project, please upload all questions to: City’s portal on PlanetBids.

Published at LCCN 2/8/24 and 2/16/24

CITY OF ARTESIA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the City of Artesia Planning Commission will hold a Regular Planning Commission Meeting in the City Council Chambers of Artesia City Hall located at 18747 Clarkdale Avenue, Artesia, California at 7:00pm on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 to conduct a **Public Hearing** to consider the following project:

Project Description:

**Case 2024-03:** The Planning Commission will consider Resolution No. 2024-03P for a Modification to an existing Conditional Use Permit, to allow an existing automobile service station, dba AM/ PM, to modify their existing conditions of approval in regards to 1) to allow off-sale of alcoholic beverages from 6:00am to 12:00am to 6:00am to 2:00am and 2) to increase the display of beer from three coolers (20sq. ft.) to six coolers (40 sq. ft.).

Applicant:

Johal Oil Corporation, Inc

Location:

16809 Pioneer, Artesia, CA 90701

CEQA Determination:

Pursuant to the California Environmental Equality Act (CEQA), the Planning Department has determined that this project is categorically exempt from the requirements of CEQA pursuant to Section 15301, Class 1 Existing Facilities.

Members from the public who would like to address the Planning Commission may appear at the public hearing during the consideration of this item and state their opinion. If you have written comments that you wish to submit, please deliver them to the Artesia City Clerk’s Office, 18747 Clarkdale Avenue, Artesia, CA, or by email: [planning@cityofartesia.us](mailto:planning@cityofartesia.us) prior to the start of the public hearing. If you have questions about this notice or the proposed action, please contact the Artesia Community Development Department at (562) 865-6262 or by the email above. If you challenge any action related to this public hearing in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered at, or prior to, the public hearing.

PUBLISHED:

Peter Kann,  
February 09, 2024  
Planning Manager

Published at LCCN 2/9/24

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

ZESHAN SHOUKAT ALI filed a petition with this court for a decree changing name as follows: ZESHAN SHOUKAT ALI TO ZESHAN AKASH OCHOA. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant a petition without a hearing. Court date 2/23/24, at the SUPERIOR COURT COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 111 N. HILL ST. ROOM 118, LOS ANGELES, CA. 90012. A HEARING will be held FEBRUARY 26, 2024 at 9:30 am, Dept 26. ROOM 316. Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9/24 Case number 24STCP00091

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

CORINNE SUSAN RUFF filed a petition with this court for a decree changing name as follows: CORINNE SUSAN RUFF TO CORINNE SUSAN RUFF OCHOA. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant a petition without a hearing. Court date 2/23/24, at the SUPERIOR COURT COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 111 N. HILL ST. ROOM 118, LOS ANGELES, CA. 90012. A HEARING will be held FEBRUARY 23, 2024 at 10:00 am, Dept 82. ROOM 833. Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9/24 Case number 24STCP00085

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.

**10753 Artesia Blvd., Cerritos, CA 90703 on 02/21/2024 at 11:00 a.m.**

Dick Cruz  
Gary Stephenson  
Daviena Hill  
Terence Traylor  
Katrina Crawford  
Ryan Frederick  
Eddie Lloyd  
James Williams  
Michael Beltran  
Diego Castaneda

The auction will be listed and advertised on [www.storagetreasures.com](http://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 2/9/24

## Playoffs from page 10

five tries against teams in higher divisions.

“We got Milken in the first round, and I think that’s a winnable game for us,” said Whitney first-year head coach Nasir Akmal. “Obviously, it’s going to be a challenge, but I like our chances in that game. I’m not a fan of us going up against a number 1 team if we get to the quarterfinals. But we have to see them at some point.

“We’re ready to shake things up for people,” he continued. “If they want to underestimate us, that’s fine. We’re good with an upset.”

Whitney won its first three games of the season and eight of its first 10 games. But of the 10 losses, half of them were by 20 points or more. The heart and soul of the team is junior Morgan Marks, who can reach 300 points with a strong performance against Milken Community. He has been held under 10 points five times. Senior Joseph Whittaker and juniors Christian Carreon and Alex Cheng have been the other consistent starters while the last one as of late has been freshman Jezreel Dela Cruz. He replaces senior Sakeef Sekender, who has missed the second half of league action due to an ankle injury.

“Everyone kind of knows that at this point, it’s next man up,” said Akmal. “A lot of the guys who are returners know how our season was last year when it was filled with injuries. So, at this point, I think they’re accustomed to just having to make do.”

Milken Community began the season with five straight wins and after two consecutive losses, went on a seven-game winning streak. Despite losing just one Independence League game, four of the five teams in the league won at least 13 games and were .500 or better. Milken Community and Whitney, both of whom are the Wildcats, faced Hawthorne and came away with wins of 34 and 61 points, respectively.

“They have size and I think that’s just going to be the issue for us going forward anyway,” said Akmal. “But our guys have been used to playing bigger teams; more athletic teams.”The winner plays either Lakeside High or Workman High in the second round on Friday.

City of La Mirada Financial Transaction Report Fiscal Year 2022-23		
	Governmental Funds	Proprietary Funds
<b>REVENUES</b>		
TAXES	39,119,127	
LICENSES AND PERMITS	1,362,227	
FINES AND FORFEITURES AND USE OF MONEY AND PROPERTY	1,995,992	495,756
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	10,737,746	
CHARGES FOR CURRENT SERVICES	11,256,612	5,066,800
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES	374,026	
	<u>64,845,730</u>	<u>5,562,556</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY	17,242,867	6,452,958
TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	7,135,657	
HEALTH AND CULTURE AND LEISURE	20,412,602	
DEBT SERVICE AND CAPITAL OUTLAY	16,354,368	328,409
	<u>61,145,494</u>	<u>6,781,367</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	3,700,236	(1,218,811)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)		
PROPRIETARY FUND TRANSFERS IN (OUT)	(4,108,432)	4,108,431
SPECIAL AND EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS	-	-
<b>CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE/NET POSITION</b>	<u>(408,196)</u>	<u>2,889,620</u>
<b>FUND BALANCE/NET POSITION (DEFICIT), BEGINNING OF FISCAL YEAR</b>	<u>89,696,116</u>	<u>17,103,524</u>
<b>FUND BALANCE/NET POSITION (DEFICIT), END OF FISCAL YEAR</b>	<u><u>89,287,920</u></u>	<u><u>19,993,144</u></u>
APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT		164,856,368
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS SUBJECT TO THE LIMIT		36,286,639
Published at La Mirada Lamplighter 2/9/24		





# NEW IB HIGH SCHOOL OPENS IN SIGNAL HILL, CA

- Faith & Learning
- Academic Excellence
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics)
- Multicultural experience
- Family-centered values
- Smaller class setting
- **College credits in HS**
- Fast track Pathway:
  - o Pharmacy
  - o Nursing
  - o Clinical Research
  - o Medicine

## WHAT MAKES US AURA?

### AURA

Offers students an advanced Christian-based, Global-Mission-based, and STEAM-based curriculum with university credits in an International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum.

### INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) CANDIDATE

IB is a global-focused, rigorous academic program

### FAITH-BASED

Develops greater compassion and spiritual awareness

## TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE TODAY!



**YEAR-ROUND ENROLLMENT  
APPLY TODAY, ATTEND TOMORROW**

*AURA welcomes incoming 9th and 10th graders to apply!*



**LEARN MORE:**

<https://auracademy.org/p205/application-for-admission>

## Announcing the **Edna Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund!**

- **\$10,000 scholarship**
- **\$5,000 remaining tuition cost**

AURA High School, an International Baccalaureate (IB) MYP and DP Candidate School\*. This school is pursuing authorization as an IB World School. These are schools that share a common philosophy—a commitment to high quality, challenging, international education that AURA High School believes is important for our students.

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