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**"So kids will get 2 dolls for Christmas instead of 30, they can handle that."
~President Trump on his disastrous tariff policy.**

Serving La Mirada and ten other surrounding communities • May 2, 2025 • Vol. 69, No. 40 • LMLAMPLIGHTER.COM

EXCLUSIVE:

L.A. County Office of Education: Central Basin Dir. Gary Mendez Holding Incompatible Offices

Mendez is a Whittier UHSD Trustee. Central Basin sells water to Whittier Union and Whittier sells CB water to others.

By Brian Hews

Los Cerritos Community News has obtained a letter, dated January 10, 2025, from the L.A. County Office of Education General Counsel, addressed to the Dr. Russell Castaneda Caleros, President of the Board of Trustees Whittier Union High



Gary Mendez

School District, and Monica M. Oviedo, Ed.D., Superintendent of the WHSD, concluding what LCCN has been writing about since his election; that Gary Mendez is holding incompatible offices.

Mendez is both a WUHSD Trustee and a Central Basin (CB) board member, having won his WUHSD seat in 2022 and subsequently won the CB seat in 2024. After he won the CB seat, LCCN opined on the incompatible office situation; sources are telling LCCN that the opine triggered LACOE's investigation into Mendez.

In the letter to WUHSD, LACOE General Counsel Vibiana M. Andrade wrote, "The Board of Trustees of the Whittier Union

[See MENDEZ, page 6]

Experts Agree Climate Change is Already Affecting the Entire State of California



WAKE UP: A chorus of experts is sounding the urgent alarm that the crisis is already taking a toll on Southern California and the entire state. California has 78 more annual 'fire days' — days where the conditions are especially apt for fires to spark — than 50 years ago.

By Lauria Hanson

With the Trump administration's denial of climate change becoming increasingly apparent through its policies, a chorus of experts is sounding the urgent alarm that the crisis is already taking a toll on Southern California and the entire state.

"About 10 years ago, we started noticing that the temps in the summer and winter were edging higher and higher," said Orange Coast College Professor Emeritus, Biological Sciences Ann Harmer. As a Sea and Sage Audubon Society member since 2010 and having served on their Board of Directors for 5 years plus living in SoCal since 1967, she has noticed how it has affected local birds and wildlife.

"The decreases [in bird spe-

cies] are due to many factors," she said. "First, loss of habitat as developers choose the richest wildlife areas to destroy for new homes."

The temperature increases worldwide have resulted in many plants blooming and going to seed earlier. If plants bloom and seed earlier, in an area where birds migrate to raise their young, by the time the young are hatched, there is no food left for them, and they starve, and reproductive capabilities decrease, according to Prof. Harmer.

"As plants bloom and seed earlier, insects and birds that pollinate them are not yet present. Birds have not arrived to breed; insects often do not emerge in time to pollinate food plants for birds AND US," she added.

The National Audubon Soci-

[See CLIMATE, page 5]



BELLFLOWER'S 2025 BRAVO AWARD WINNERS

THANK YOU: On Thursday April 24, Bellflower honored nine public safety professionals and several remarkable community members for their exceptional public service and acts of heroism. The ceremony also celebrated community spirit and civic engagement, recognizing two outstanding student essay winners. NASCAR icon and philanthropist Kyle Petty served as Keynote Speaker.

LCCN Staff Report

The City of Bellflower honored nine public safety professionals and several community members for their exceptional public service and acts of heroism at the 29th annual Bellflower Recognizes Acts of Valor & Outstanding Service Awards [BRAVO] ceremony, held on April 24, 2025.

NASCAR icon and philanthropist Kyle Petty served as the Keynote Speaker.

Petty shared a powerful message about opportunity, sharing stories from his racing career and charitable efforts, including the Victory Junction camp he created in honor of his late son, Adam.

The ceremony also celebrated community spirit and civic engagement, recognizing two outstanding student essay winners.

2025 BRAVO Award Winners Outstanding Service

- Deputy Jose Martinez, III, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
- Khadijah Dibia, Bellflower Unified School District
- Captain Michael DeLelio, Los Angeles County Fire Department
- Firefighter Matthew Powers, Los Angeles County Fire Department
- Firefighter Wolhan Sosa, Los Angeles County Fire Department
- Firefighter Paramedic Greg Bryant, Los Angeles County Fire Department
- Firefighter Paramedic Chris

[See BRAVO, page 4]

ABCUSD School Board Appoints New Member to Fill Vacancy Left by Sophia Tse



WELCOME: This past Saturday, April 26, 2025, the ABCUSD Board of Education selected Mrs. Jean M. McHatton (3rd from left) to fill the vacancy on the Board for Trustee Area 5. Pictured, (l-r) are Superintendent Dr. Gina Zietlow, Board Member Mrs. Leticia Mendoza, Board Member McHatton, Board President Mr. Ernie Nishii, Board Clerk Mrs. Tatiana Yokoyama Bui, Esq., Board Vice President Mr. Francisco Noyola, and Board Member Mrs. Soo Yoo.

From ABCUSD News Service

The ABC Unified School District Board of Education has appointed Mrs. Jean M. McHatton as the new Board Member representing Trustee Area 5.

Mrs. McHatton will serve in the seat left vacant by former Board Member Mrs. Sophia Tse, who resigned in March after she won a seat on the Cerritos City Council.

The Board interviewed seven candidates who submitted completed applications before the April 16, 2025, deadline.

All applicants met the eligibility criteria, including residency within Trustee Area 5, being at least 18 years old, and being registered voters.

Interviews were conducted during a Special Board Meeting held on Saturday, April 26, 2025,

where the Board selected Mrs. McHatton by vote.

"I would like to thank all of the candidates who applied to serve as Trustee for Area 5," said Board President Mr. Ernie Nishii. "Public service is a calling, and each candidate did an outstanding job. We are pleased to welcome Mrs. McHatton, a long-time educator, to the Board."

Mrs. McHatton, a resident of Cerritos, has deep ties to the ABCUSD community, with her children and grandchildren attending District schools.

She brings decades of experience as a teacher, school and district administrator, and currently serves as a coach and mentor for future educators.

Her appointment to the ABCUSD Board of Education is effective immediately, and will continue through Dec. 2026.

Catherine Grant Wieder
Attorney & Mediator

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Social Security Town Hall at Cerritos Library



BENEFITS: A town hall on Social Security benefits was held at the Cerritos Library last week hosted by Rep. Derek Tran. Discussions centered on protecting Social Security and other vital benefits. From (l-r) Cerritos Councilmember Mark E. Pulido, Rep. Derek Tran, Mayor Frank Aurelio Yokoyama and Councilmember Sophia M. Tse.

Hahn Announces Phase 2 of Metro Weapons Detection Pilot Program

LCCN Staff Report

Last week, Chair of the Metro Board of Directors and Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn announced the beginning of Phase 2 of Metro’s Weapons Detection Pilot Program, which began last week at Metro’s Norwalk Station on the C (Green) Line and San Pedro Street Station on the A (Blue) Line.

Hahn was joined by Metro Board Vice Chair Fernando Dutra, Metro Deputy CEO Sharon Gookin and Metro Deputy Chief of System Security and Law Enforcement Robert Gummer for the announcement at the Norwalk Station, which serves as the eastern terminus of the C Line and a major commuter hub for the Gateway Cities region.

“You can’t take a gun or knife into a Dodger Game, a concert, or a government building, and you shouldn’t be able to bring them on Metro,” said Hahn who first urged the pilot and has championed weapons detection. “Let me be clear: weapons do not belong on Metro. There is no room for compromise on that. My goal is simple but firm: a Metro system where all of our riders feel safe, respected, and confident that they will get to their destination without fear.”

The weapons detection pilot program, using pillar-style scanners, will be conducted by Metro Security Officers at various stations, two stations at a time, for two-month increments, for the next 12 months.

Riders will walk between sensors which detect concealed weapons without requiring them to stop and remove any belongings. If flagged by the sensors, riders will be subject to further screenings including a search of their belongings and follow-up questions.

“The Metro Board is committed to helping Metro explore every opportunity to make the system safer for employees and customers,” said Whittier City Council Member and Metro Board First Vice Chair Fernando Dutra. “Testing innovative solutions, such as weapons detection systems, seems like a logical next step in expanding Metro’s safety resources.”

From August through December 2024, Metro conducted the first phase of the weapons detection technology pilot program at Union Station and APU/Citrus College Station in Azusa. In addition to the rider screening process, Metro also tested video analytics systems at Union Station which scan CCTV video feeds in real time to identify threats, including someone brandishing a weapon, and sends alerts to law enforcement. In February, Hahn along with fellow board members Kathryn Barger, Hilda L. Solis, Karen Bass, Fernando Dutra, and James Butts led the Board in expanding the pilot program for this next phase.

“Nothing is more important to Metro than the safety of our employees and customers,” said Stephanie Wiggins, Metro CEO. “The weapons detection pilot is an additional tool to help improve safety on Metro, which includes increasing our uniformed presence on the system.”

A report by Metro shows that the passenger screening system technology proved to be effective. While no weapons threats were identified on passengers, the systems detected officers’ service weapons with 100% accuracy. At Hahn’s request, the Board’s February motion also called for Metro to explore bringing the weapons detection technology pilot to the system’s buses. Metro has identified a vendor to conduct the 12-month pilot program on buses and is working to schedule its launch.

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La Mirada’s ‘Love a Tree’ Poster Contest Winners Recognized



LA MIRADA MAYOR John Lewis with first grade winner Melissa Santacruz and teacher Tami Gifford of Escalona Elementary School.

Gardenhill Elementary School
Principal: Sarah Gilbert

First Grade
Melissa Santacruz
Teacher: Tami Gifford
Escalona Elementary School
Principal: Dr. Nnenna Okpara

Second Grade
Irene Jeong
Teacher: Tiffany Koopsen
Height Christian School
Principal: Andrea Taylor

Third Grade
Naya Santana
Teacher: Allissa Kinsella
Escalona Elementary School
Principal: Dr. Nnenna Okpara

Fourth Grade
Kyujin Jung
Teacher: Linda Kim
Escalona Elementary School
Principal: Dr. Nnenna Okpara

Fifth Grade
Sarah Salgado
Teacher: Liliana Belmont
St. Paul of the Cross School
Principal: Carlos Loaiza Sr.

Sixth Grade
Katie Kim
Teacher: Jessie Hernandez
Benton Middle School
Principal: Robin Ridgeway

Seventh Grade
Marie Lupita Jurado
Teacher: Marlene Hernandez
St. Paul of the Cross School
Principal: Carlos Loaiza Sr.

Eighth Grade
Devin Gonzalez
Teacher: Marlene Hernandez
St. Paul of the Cross School
Principal: Carlos Loaiza Sr.

High School
Viviana Rubio
Teacher: Sylvana Calahorrano
La Mirada High School
Principal: Ben Webster

The “Love a Tree” poster contest recognizes the importance of planting trees in the community and takes place around the Arbor Day holiday.

LCCN Staff Report

Winners of the City of La Mirada’s annual “Love a Tree” Poster Contest were announced last week.

Posters were judged for creativity and originality by the La Mirada Senior Council and the Community Services Commission.

More than 315 elementary through high school students from La Mirada submitted posters recognizing the importance of planting trees in the community.

Winning artists include:

Kindergarten
Theodore Mila
Teacher: Josie Hernandez

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562-865-6300 or www.ArtesiaCemetery.com*

Traveling With Hearing Loss

Tips for people traveling with hearing loss will be offered by the Hearing Loss Association of America on Thurs. May 8, 2025, 4:00 to 5:00 pm at the Weingart Center, 5220 Oliva Ave. in Lakewood.

Meetings are free and open to the public, all meetings are captioned For more information text: 213-705-3629. Meetings are ongoing on the Second Thursday of each month.

Whitney High's Jason Lai Captures Boys 605 League Golf Title



605 ALL-LEAGUE TEAM: From (l-r) winner Jason Lai, Whitney; Ralph Duarte, Cerritos; Zeke Anderson, Valley Christian; Kendrick Tan, Whitney; Harrison Kim, Cerritos; Hendrick Stellingwerf, Valley Christian; and Nathan Kelgen, Cerritos.

By Glen Hamakawa

Jason Lai, a senior at Whitney High School, captured the recently completed 605 league boys golf finals by shooting an even-par 144 over the two-day tournament, which took place on April 28 and April 30.

The first round at Skylinks Golf course in Long Beach began with Lai carding an even-par 72 that tied him with Zeke Anderson, a sophomore at Valley Christian High School. Ralph Duarte, a sophomore at Cerritos High School, and Kendrick Tan, a senior at Whitney High School, shot a 73 and 74, respectively, and trailed by 1 and 2 strokes after the first round.

The second round at Lakewood Country Club was a hotly contested match, with all four players sharing or being within one stroke of the lead the entire day.

Lai, however, responded and with-

held the championship pedigrees of Anderson, the 2024 605 league champion, Tan, the 2023 605 league champion, and Duarte, an up-and-coming player, by carding three birdies on the back nine at Lakewood to win by one stroke over Duarte who finished at one over par.

Anderson came in third with a cumulative two-over-par total, while Tan finished in fourth at three-over-par.

The remaining order of finish for the Boys Golf 605 league finals was Harrison Kim, a sophomore at Cerritos High School who came in fifth; Hendrick Stellingwerf, a sophomore at Valley Christian High School, who came in sixth; and Nathan Kelgan, a freshman at Cerritos High School who came in seventh.

All seven players advanced to the CIF Southern Section Southern playoff, which will take place on May 14. By winning the 605 League final, Lai was also named the MVP of the 605 League for the current golf season.

Santa Fe Springs Holds 10th Annual ArtFest



ENJOYING THE ARTFEST: Santa Fe Springs City Council from left, Councilmember Juanita Martin, Mayor Pro Tem Joe Angel Zamora, Councilmember Annette Rodriguez, Mayor: William K. (Bill) Rounds, and Councilmember John Mora.

LCCN Staff Report

Santa Fe Springs held its 10th Annual Art Fest this past Saturday, April 26, 2025, from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at Heritage Park. The free, family-friendly event that celebrated “a decade of local creativity, culture, and artistic expression.”

As one of the City’s signature events, Art Fest has grown into a showcase of top-notch talent throughout the community. This year’s milestone anniversary celebration featured local artists, art installations, musicians, dancers, and filmmakers, that brought Heritage Park to

life with color, rhythm, and inspiration.

Attendees enjoyed activities that included a paint and sip experience for the 21+ crowd, live musical entertainment headlined by crowd favorites Metalachi and Upstream, a curated selection of delicious food trucks, and a spectacular drone show that lit up the sky.

“Art Fest is more than just an event – it’s a celebration of who we are as a community,” said Mayor Bill Rounds. “For 10 years, we’ve gathered to appreciate and expose local talent and share in the joy that art brings to our lives.”

For more information, visit www.santafesprings.gov/SFSARTFEST

Volunteer at the Cerritos Senior Center

Volunteer at the Cerritos Senior Center at Pat Nixon Park for the opportunity to support your neighbors and a variety of programs. Seniors age 50 years and older, and youth ages 16 and above are encouraged to participate in this rewarding experience. Whether assisting with recreational activities, performing clerical work, serving lunch, or staffing the gift boutique, volunteers play a crucial role in enhancing the quality of life for seniors.

Senior volunteers can also share their unique life experiences while volunteering to teach classes and programs to their

peers.

Additionally, local school leadership clubs can utilize this volunteering opportunity to foster teamwork, empathy, and community engagement among their members, while making a positive impact.

Professionals, such as doctors and lawyers, are also needed to volunteer as instructors or to provide services at the Senior Center. If you are interested in volunteering, contact the Senior Center at (562) 916-8550 or fill out the application online at Cerritos.gov/seniorvolunteer.

Wittmann Elementary Will Celebrate 50th Anniversary

The Wittmann Alumni class of 1992 for Helen Wittmann Elementary School is collaborating with the current students under the direction of 6th grade teacher, Ms. Jackie Pilger, Principal Miguel Marco, and the Wittmann parents and teachers, (WOW), for the 2nd annual Warrior Fest/50th anniversary on Friday, May 16th from 5pm-7:30pm at the blacktop/outside area of Wittmann’s campus.

This event will celebrate art & music, will include over 30 performances

including current students, Wittmann alumni, games, arts and crafts, local vendors, and food trucks. A table set-up with school memorabilia and an opportunity for alumni to reunite.

Cerritos will be represented by Wittmann alumni, Tatiana Yokoyama-Bui.

The group hopes to see residents at the Warrior Fest and celebrate Wittmann’s 50th anniversary.

For more information, please contact zeegeedee79@gmail.com.

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Bellflower Shred Event

Have documents you need to dispose of securely? Got to Day of the Shred at Thompson Park, 14001 Bellflower Blvd. on Saturday, May 17, from 8 to 11 a.m.

A shredding truck will be onsite to provide free document shredding for Bellflower residents. Each household may bring up to five boxes or bags of paper. Shredding documents protects sensitive information from identity theft and fraud while also helping the environment by reducing landfill waste. Accepted materials include paper file folders with staples, rubber bands and small binder clips. Please do not bring phone books, hardcover books, plastics, metals CDs, trash or hazardous materials. This service is available on a first-come, first-served basis until the truck reaches capacity. Empty boxes or bags must be taken home. For more information, please call (562) 866-7510.

Municipal Clerks Week

From May 4 through May 10, it's time to recognize the vital work of the Clerk's office and its role in maintaining transparency, accountability and public access to local government.

The Clerk's Office manages records, processes Public Records Act requests, oversees municipal elections, handles filing related to the Political Reform Act and the Fair Political Practices Commission and supports City Council meetings.

These efforts ensure that the City of Bellflower runs smoothly and that residents stay informed and engaged. To learn more about the 56th Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week, please visit iimc.com/156/Professional-Municipal-Clerks-Week

Bellflower Leadership Program

The Bellflower Leadership, Experience and Development (LEAD) Program offers local teens a unique opportunity to engage with their community while building essential life and leadership skills.

This summer, LEAD will host an eight-week session designed to help students in the graduating classes of 2026 through 2029 prepare for life after high school. Meeting once a week, participants will explore topics such as interview techniques, teambuilding exercises and general job readiness. LEAD provides a supportive environment where students can build confidence and develop tools to help them succeed beyond high school.

Applications for the summer session are open from May 1 through June 6 at 4 p.m. For more information, please contact Michelle Hardy at mhardy@bellflower.ca.gov

Bragg Elementary Named 2025 California Green Ribbon School



BRAGG ELEMENTARY was named a California Green Ribbon School for the second time due to enrollment-friendly efforts like the trash-free lunch.

From ABCUSD News Service

Bragg Elementary School has been named a 2025 California Green Ribbon School at the Silver Level by the California Department of Education, recognizing its strong commitment to sustainability and environmental education. This is the second time Bragg has earned the distinction, having first received the award in 2023.

"We are proud of Bragg Elementary for earning this recognition again," said Superintendent Dr. Gina Zietlow. "The school continues to show how hands-on, real-world learning can empower students while building a strong sense of responsibility for the environment."

Bragg Elementary has launched a range of green initiatives that continue to grow each year. These efforts include a trash-free lunch program, a student-run share table to redistribute uneaten food, and a partnership with a local farm to send leftover produce for use as animal feed. The school promotes reusable water containers over single-use plastics and takes part in community tree-planting efforts. Last year, Bragg hosted its first-ever Green Summit, welcoming schools from across ABC Unified and Southern California to explore simple,

actionable ways to make their campuses more environmentally friendly.

"Having a two-time California Green Ribbon School in ABCUSD is something to celebrate," said Board President Mr. Ernie Nishii. "Bragg's recognition reflects the hard work of its students, families, teachers, and staff—all working together to create a greener school and community. Well done!"

Bragg's environmental efforts have also earned attention beyond the school community. In December 2024, the school was featured on CNN World's Call to Earth program, which highlighted student-led environmental initiatives from around the globe.

The California Green Ribbon Schools program honors schools that demonstrate excellence in three key areas: reducing environmental impact and costs, improving health and wellness, and providing effective environmental education that connects STEM learning with civic engagement and green career pathways.

Bragg's Silver Level award affirms its leadership in sustainability and environmental learning. The school plans to expand its programs further, continuing to serve as a model for how education can support a healthier planet and a brighter future for students.

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La Mirada Mother-Daughter Lunch

Celebrate mom with family fun at the annual Mother Daughter Luncheon at the Activity Center on Saturday, May 10 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A delicious lunch of mini sandwiches, salads, fresh pastries, and seasonal fruit will be served.

Guests will also enjoy crafts, games, door prizes, and more! Space is limited.

For more information, visit cityoflamirada.org.

Buccaneer Bay Season Pass Sale Ends May 31

2025 season pass is \$70 for General (reg. \$80) and \$60 for Junior/Seniors (reg. \$65). Season pass holders receive exclusive access to a Preview Event on Sat. May 17, before opening to the public on Sat. May 24. Season passes are available for purchase at Splash! or online at splashteamirada.com. For more information, call (562) 902-3191.

BRAVO from page 1

- Warren, Los Angeles County Fire Department
- Firefighter Specialist Justin Neese, Los Angeles County Fire Department
- Valor
- Deputy Gabriel D'Souza, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
- Deputy Elvis Ontiveros, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
- Outstanding Citizens

Cindy Weeks, Bellflower Unified School District

Christopher & Marcus Guillen, The Rocio Guillen Foundation

Student Essay Winners

Isaiah Gonzalez, Bellflower High School

Natalie Schulz, Mayfair High School

A video of the ceremony will be available for viewing on the City of Bellflower YouTube channel in mid-May.

CLIMATE from page 1

ety estimates that 3 billion birds were lost between 1970 and 2000, and now the estimate is at 1 billion a year. This is due to loss of habitat, loss of food as farmland is converted to housing, building strikes during migration, and the indiscriminate use of pesticides, resulting in an overall decrease in the insect population. Some estimates say that up to 40 percent of insects have been lost.

“What most of the population isn’t aware of is that the use of sprays, and again, habitat loss, is decimating the insects as well,” Prof. Harmer said. “These ‘bugs’ pollinate and provide food for birds, reptiles, amphibians, and people.”

The mission of the Audubon is to save the remaining birds and try to increase their populations. Through captive breeding programs, such as the return of the California condor to the wild, rescuing and rehabilitating birds to be returned to the wild, and providing captive birds that cannot be set free due to severe injury, the Audubon teaches to summer camps, schools, and other nature-based organizations.

According to an article Prof. Harmer recently read in the O.C. Register, society has already passed the tipping point of 1.6 degrees Celsius in global warming.

“It has been estimated by climate and biological scientists that this increase is high enough that there is nothing we can do,” she said. “But we CAN prevent a further increase if we only focus on what is important to our survival and not just what makes the rich richer!”

To mitigate this, Harmer says the public can protest by writing or calling their State and Federal Government legislators to bring back the EPA, stop taking away public lands for drilling or mining, and, if possible, buy electric cars.

“We are already feeling the weather effects of climate change,” she explained. “Sea level is rising as glaciers and icebergs melt, wildfires are increasingly dangerous due to dry weather and high winds, rainstorms are becoming more severe and more deadly, there are more hurricanes and tornadoes in the southeast than ever before, and the storms are getting stronger.”

“And the government has tried to close down FEMA, which rescues and provides housing and water to millions affected by these powerful storms,” said Prof. Harmer. “Alaska is suffering as the permafrost melts. Due to melting, there is now an open passage between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans that is affecting whale and other sea mammal migrations. Everything is connected in the natural world, and if one system is disrupted, all of the systems are.”

“Future generations may be living in bubbles because the air is unbreathable and the water undrinkable,” she added. “They may never hear a birdsong. They may never hike in the mountains or see the desert at sunrise. Nature will be lost to them, and the few voices remaining have been silenced, one by one.”

“I fear for the children,” Prof. Harmer said. “And we have been aware of this issue since the 1960’s.”

Another Southern California-based expert on climate science, sustainability, and microplastic pollution is Dr. Jennifer Brandon, who holds a Ph.D. in Biological Oceanography from Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

As the founder of Wild Beacon Consulting, she advises philanthropies and organizations on strategies, sustainable investing, and impactful climate solutions. With over a decade of experience, including roles at King Philanthropies and Applied Ocean Sciences, Dr. Brandon combines scientific rigor with accessible communication, having delivered hundreds of talks and interviews on environmental issues.

“Two of the main threats from climate change in Southern California are increased

droughts and wildfires,” said Dr. Brandon. “California’s climate had become increasingly dry since 1895 when temperature recordings started. From 2012-2016, California had its most severe drought on record, with 13 of the 30 driest months on record in that time frame.

In part because of our increasing drought, California wildfires are increasing,” she explained.

“California has 78 more annual ‘fire days’ — days where the conditions are especially apt for fires than 50 years ago. More structures in California were destroyed by fire in 2017, 2018, and 2020 than in all 10 years before 2017 combined.”

According to Dr. Brandon, Southern California wildfires are fueled by our [own] “weather whiplash” of anomalously wet years followed by anomalously dry years.

“We had two very wet winters followed by almost no rainfall at all for eight months before the devastating LA wildfires,” she added. “Soil moisture indicators from Santa Barbara to San Diego were only at 2-5 percent before the fires, leading to prime tinder for fires. This intense whiplash of two wet seasons leading to lots of brush material growing and completely drying out has only been seen twice in the last 125 years on record.”

“Also, the fact that the LA wildfires began in January shows another consequence of climate change,” Dr. Brandon said. “We used to have a clearly defined wildfire season, but it is now a year-round threat.”

Increased wildfires lead to increased costs. CalFire’s total funding for fire pro-

tection, resource management, and fire prevention has grown from \$800 million in 2005-06 to an estimated \$3.7 billion in 2021-22. According to Dr. Brandon, Californians’ fire insurance prices keep going up (some by 20 percent year after year) or being canceled altogether, with eight of the largest twelve California insurers aggressively reducing new customers or even kicking out existing customers over the last two years.

“Increased insurance costs are one of the largest felt effects on homeowners and will likely only continue to be a problem as wildfire and mudslide risks continue,” she added.

Another Southern Californian problem that is not always intuitively tied to climate change is coastal erosion. However, with increased storm events and rising sea levels from climate change, Southern California continues to see increased erosion at beaches and on beachside cliffs. According to Dr. Brandon, the retreat of beaches has led to expensive beach nourishment infrastructure projects, where sand is pumped onto the shorelines.

“A recent USC study predicts a tripling of erosion rates in Southern California by 2050, which will lead to more need for sand replenishment,” she added. “[It’s] predicted [to have a] fivefold cost of living increase by 2050 in coastal Southern California, mainly due to the need to strengthen and replenish our coastlines and a global increase in sand prices as global shorelines are receding (USC).”

“But then there are even more extreme

examples of erosion, like the cliffs of Encinitas collapse or the Surfliner train needs to be rerouted because of cliff erosion,” she added. “These costly, intensive erosion projects not only can be dangerous, but they will also increase tax rates as we shoulder the burden of adapting and mitigating the effects of climate change in a coastal environment.”

Another environmental expert is Abigail Wellman of TeamPlanting. “Through our partnerships in the region, we have learned that butterfly populations, including species like the monarch, are experiencing alarming declines. Over the past two decades, we have seen a 22 percent decline in U.S. butterfly populations.”

“Additionally, marine mammals such as sea lions are increasingly suffering from neurotoxic algae blooms, a direct consequence of warming ocean temperatures,” Wellman added. “On land, prolonged droughts and rising temperatures have led to significant declines in native vegetation, even among resilient species like creosote bush and yucca.”

“These shifts threaten biodiversity and disrupt ecological balance, emphasizing the urgency for comprehensive conservation strategies,” she said. “[But] despite these challenges, I remain optimistic. Through our reforestation and habitat restoration projects in Southern California, we are not just reversing damage but creating resilient ecosystems where wildlife can thrive.”



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April 21, 2025 - April 27, 2025

Cerritos

Robbery

18800 blk Gridley Rd. in the Gridley shopping area, hygiene products were stolen.

11500 blk South St., near Aldi Grocery, attempt only.

Grand Theft

13200 blk South St., in between Carmenita and Shoemaker, a tailgate was stolen.

17500 blk Gerritt Ave., behind Concordia Lutheran Church, electronics were stolen.

12900 blk Wolverton Ln., behind Knabe Park, silver was stolen.

239 Los Cerritos Center, clothing was stolen.

239 Los Cerritos Center, clothing was stolen.

18000 blk Studebaker Rd., in the 183rd Plaza, electronics were stolen.

Burglary, Other:

13400 blk Alondra Bl. at Alondra and Carmenita, electronics were stolen.

16400 blk Piuma Av., near Piuma and Barnwall, car accessories was stolen.

16000 blk Piuma Av., near Piuma and Barnwall, unknown loss.

11400 blk South St. at South and Gridley, electronics was stolen.

Vehicle Burglary:

12600 blk Artesia Bl. near Artesia and Bloomfield, a 2016 Toyota Corolla was burgled, documents stolen.

10900 blk Alondra Bl. in the Home Depot area, a 2013 Ford F250 was burgled.

11100 blk 183rd St. in 183rd plaza, a 2017 Mercedes Benz C300 was stolen and recovered.

17900 blk Studebaker Rd., near the Auto Square, a 2017 Acura RDX was burgled and a backpack was stolen.

La Mirada

• Four suspects were arrested throughout La Mirada for various warrants and narcotics violations.

• Two suspects were arrested for burglary.

• One suspect was arrested for grand theft.

Other Structure Burglary

• An early morning burglary occurred on the 14900 block of La Mirada Blvd.

Vehicle Burglary

• A window smash vehicle burglary occurred on the 14900 block of Imperial Hwy.

Grand Theft

• A wallet was reported stolen on the 15200 block of Rosecrans Ave.

• A tailgate theft occurred on the 12300 block of La Mirada Blvd.

• Handbags were stolen on the 15900 block of Imperial Hwy.

Grand Theft Auto

• A sedan was reported stolen on the 15800 block of Alicante Rd.

• An attempted vehicle theft was reported in the area of Biola Ave. and Calpella St.

• An overnight theft of a SUV occurred on the 13600 block of Avion Dr.

• An attempted vehicle theft was reported on the 15500 block of La Fortuna Dr.

MENDEZ from page 1

High School District requested a legal opinion from the Los Angeles County Office of Education General Counsel on whether the offices of School Board Trustee and Director, Central Basin Water District are incompatible offices.

“Our conclusion is that these offices are incompatible.

“This conclusion is based on the overlapping geography, the underlying functions of the school district and water district, conflicting roles or clash of duties, the multiple opinions issued by the Attorney General involving identical or similar facts, as well as the Attorney General pub-

lications.”

According to the letter and sources at WHUSD, Mendez has been fighting his removal from WUHSD since January 10, just days after he was sworn in as CB Director. Sources at CB have told LCCN that CB GM Elaine Jeng and attorney Victor Ponto have also been helping Mendez.

The incompatible office rule was established in 1940 and holds that “the acceptance by a public officer of another office, which is incompatible with the first, thereby vacates the first office.” This rule was codified into Government Code section 1099.

1099 reads in part, “A public officer... shall not simultaneously hold two public offices that are incompatible. Offices are incompatible when certain circumstances are present.”

In Mendez’ case, the pertinent section of 1099 reads, “Based on the powers and jurisdiction of the offices, there is a possibility of a significant clash of duties or loyalties between the offices.

Additionally, the California AG has repeatedly found the office of the school district trustee to be incompatible with the position of water district director.

In 2002, the California AG determined that the offices of trustee of a school district and director of a municipal water district were incompatible. A water district sells water, determines the rates, and can withhold water during a shortage.

The California AG found that “a significant clash of duties and loyalties may... arise in such matters as the Water District setting the wholesale water rate that will be passed on to the School District...also in determining the need for restrictions on water usage during times of a water shortage...”

The same potential for a significant clash of loyalties exists between CB and the WUHSD. WUHSD’s territory is inside the boundaries of CB and CB provides a large amount of the WUHSD’s water requirement.

Additionally, CB sets the rates for the water that the WUHSD sells to other local agencies through its own operations.

For instance, if a rate issue between CB and WUHSD came before the CB board, acting as a CB Board member, Mendez would advocate for the highest water rate, while as a trustee for WUHSD, he would argue for the lowest rate, potentially leading to conflicts of interest.

In its opine, LCCN questioned why, when someone like Mendez runs and wins a public office knowing there is an incompatible office situation, the elected official must vacate the first office, in this case, Mendez’s trustee seat on WUHSD.

Why not the public office that caused the incompatibility in the first place, in this case, Central Basin?

Questions into Mendez went unanswered.

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STAFF WRITERS
LOREN KOPFF-SPORTS EDITOR
LAURIE HANSON
STEPHENY GEHRIG

OWNERS/ PUBLISHERS
BRIAN HEWS
CORA HEWS
EDITOR
BRIAN HEWS

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From the Mayor's Desk: May 2, 2025

By Cerritos Mayor
Frank Aurelio Yokoyama

The City of Cerritos has a long history of achieving progress through partnerships within our City and beyond. The City Council takes pride in developing strong relationships with our residents, local businesses, and our elected leaders at the county, state, and national levels. These partnerships help to advance the mission of our City and open up new opportunities for engagement among our community members.

On April 21, the City welcomed U.S. Representative Derek Tran to our Library's beautiful Skyline Room for his first town hall event. Congressman Tran represents California's 45th Congressional District, which includes the City of Cerritos. More than 80 guests attended the event to learn about Social Security benefits and the entitlement program's future. Jon "Bowzer" Bauman with the advocacy group Social Security Works joined the Congressman to present and take questions. My sincere thanks goes to Rep. Tran and his team for utilizing our City facilities to host this event, Mr. Bauman, and to the attendees for engaging in a robust conversation on this topic. I was pleased to be joined at the town hall by my Councilmember colleagues, Mark E. Pulido, Jennifer Hong, and Sophia M. Tse, along with representatives from our neighboring Cities of Artesia, La Palma, and the ABC

Re: Trump is Acting Extra Constitutionally
Dear Editor:

Alan Charles Raul's (April 25th) article on Trump acting extra-constitutionally is right on (a very timely) target.

That is, the U.S. Constitution places the power of the purse with Congress, in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: "The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imports and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common defence [sic] and general welfare of the United States."

Because former President Nixon refused to spend billions of dollars (appropriated, especially, by Democrats), Congress passed—and Nixon signed—the Budget and Impoundment Act of 1974. He hoped, in part, that such an agreement might head off a fourth article of impeachment against him.

It is (past) time that the present rendition of that former president (now Mr. Trump) re(?)reads the Constitution and (begins to) follow(s) federal judges' rulings regarding the President's U.S. DOGE Service's all-too-often illegal activities.

*Bill Younglove
Lakewood*

Re: Trump is Acting Extra Constitutionally
Dear Editor:

The power of the purse rests with our Republican controlled snowflake congress. It was a Republican (Nixon) that

The opinions expressed here are not necessarily the views of the publisher.

Unified School District.

Throughout our time serving the City, Councilmembers often attend events within and outside of our community to connect with leaders and advocate for our City. In fact, City Council colleagues and I serve as either delegates or alternates on a combined 35 internal ad hoc working groups and external organizations. These roles are crucial to maintaining strong partnerships and helping to bring awareness, secure funding, and drive improvements for our City.

Cerritos residents also have the opportunity to serve the City through our various advisory boards. During our first several weeks as a new City Council, my colleagues and I have focused in part on appointing representatives to these groups, which focus on reviewing matters related to specialized topics. These five-member groups include the Fine Arts and Historical Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission, Property Preservation Commission, and the recently reestablished Economic Development Commission. Each of our committees has 10 members, which include the Community Safety Committee and the Let Freedom Ring Committee. The City also collaborates with three external boards for which I have appointed residents to serve. Learn more about these advisory boards at www.cerritos.gov/boards.

Thank you to our dozens of commission and committee members who dedicate their time to supporting the vitality of Cerritos. You can get involved with the City in numerous ways, from serving on advisory boards and attending our events to signing up for and following our various communications channels. I encourage our residents and business partners to continue to stay engaged in local government, ask questions, and help inform our decision making.

signed the Budget and Impoundment Act of 1974 but the snowflakes ignore it. But there are worse things going on they are ignoring.

Who would encourage the theft of your identity? I wouldn't and I can't think of any of our residents or representatives that would condone it either. But, that's what happened with President Musk and his 20-year-olds at the Treasury Department and other agencies. We were told they had "Read-Access", but that was not the case, based on recent reporting by credible, news outlets.

Even if they only had "read-access" that's bad enough. Hackers can copy what they want and use it to advantage themselves or foreign entities.

We don't know who these DOGE 20 year-olds are or what they could do with our private information they got.

Moreover, they didn't get vetted or abckground checked, and they got legal authorization to get our social security, income tax, or employment data?

A lawsuit stated: "Allowing DOGE access to sensitive information lacked a rational basis, particularly given the lack of transparency about DOGE's members, their security clearance, job duties, and the breadth of their access."

Although there's currently an April 17 court order temporarily restricting DOGE, (that was upheld April 30) there's no assurance that they are abiding by the court order.

Let representatives hear from us about this issue, although I do think Democrats are working hard to stop DOGE.

I encourage those of you who, like me, condemn DOGE. Make your voice heard by calling the White House at 202-456-1111.

*Donna Hayes
Bellflower*

Trump Wants to Topple the Republic's Last Line of Defense

By Erwin Chemerinsky

The arrest of a Wisconsin judge in her chambers on Friday is just the latest and most dramatic effort by the Trump administration to intimidate the judiciary. It follows the playbook of other countries where those seeking authoritarian power have sought to remove judges and lessen their authority.

President Trump and those around him know that at this point the only real check on his actions will come from the courts. Neither Congress nor members of his administration have shown any proclivity for ensuring compliance with the law. Trump posted his disdain on X and his platform Truth Social: "He who saves his Country does not violate any Law."

Dozens of federal judges have issued temporary restraining orders and preliminary injunctions halting unconstitutional and illegal Trump actions since his inauguration on Jan. 20. The president's response has been to attack judges in as brazen a manner as he's broken the law. When U.S. District Court Judge James Boasberg issued a temporary restraining order banning flights taking supposed gang members to a maximum-security prison in El Salvador, Trump called him a "radical left lunatic of a judge, a troublemaker and agitator" who should be impeached.

In fact, Republicans in the House of Representatives have introduced impeachment resolutions against six federal district court judges who have ruled against Trump policies. The Constitution allows judges to be impeached only for "treason, bribery, or high crimes and misdemeanors." In an extraordinary public statement, Supreme Court Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. declared, "Impeachment is not an appropriate response to disagreement concerning a judicial decision."

Republicans know, of course, that their attempts will fail. Even if the House passes the impeachment resolutions, there is no way that two-thirds of the Senate would vote to remove the judges from office. But that misses the point of the attacks: They send a message that the Trump administration will go after those on the bench who block his policies and a message to the country that the courts cannot stop him.

Speaker of the House Mike Johnson has joined in the bullying. Speaking of Congress, he said, "We do have the authority over the federal courts, as you know. We can eliminate an entire district court. We have power of funding over the courts and all these other things." No one believes Congress is about to eliminate federal courts, but Johnson wants to intimidate and discredit them.

The FBI's arrest of Milwaukee County Judge Hannah Dugan in her courtroom, for allegedly trying to help an undocumented immigrant avoid arrest after he appeared in court, is the most blatant scare tactic yet. The sight of federal officials putting a judge in handcuffs is undeniably chilling.

Historically, immigration officials do not arrest individuals with business at a courthouse. It is important that witnesses and parties to litigation can come forward and participate in the legal system without fear of arrest or deportation. Similarly, until now hospitals, schools and churches have been off limits for Immigration and Customs Enforcement. People should be able to seek medical care, to take their children to school and



THE SIGN outside Wisconsin Judge Hannah Dugan's courtroom. Dugan was arrested in her courtroom for allegedly heling an undocumented worker. (Jamie Kelter Davis Bloomberg).

to worship without fear. But the Trump administration is sending ICE into all these places.

Not surprisingly, this creates a conflict between the federal government and other levels of government, including, allegedly, the Wisconsin judge. The administration could have verbally condemned the judge or had a grand jury indict her, which itself would have been outrageous. Public safety was in no way served by handcuffing Dugan at the courthouse. That was done entirely for the media attention.

The administration's attack on the judiciary, taken together with its extortionate executive-order demands of law firms, represents a challenge to the rule of law unlike anything before in U.S. history. But what he and his allies are doing is not unfamiliar.

I used to begin my constitutional law classes by having students read the U.S. Constitution and the not-dissimilar Stalin-era Soviet Constitution. They were always surprised by the far more elaborate statement of rights in the Russian document compared with America's. I also had them read a description of Stalin's killings and the gulags.

Why, I asked, did one country become a police state when the other did not?

The answer, I suggested, was that in the Soviet Union no court could or would invalidate the government's actions. Words on paper are meaningless if they are not enforceable.

The Trump administration is pushing past the limits of executive power to weaken and discredit the only guardrail left against his authoritarianism — lawyers, judges and courts. Those of all political parties and ideologies must speak up loudly and clearly: These attacks are wrong and must stop. Our constitutional democracy depends on an independent judiciary that enforces the law against all who violate it.

Erwin Chemerinsky is the dean of the UC Berkeley School of Law. The opine originally appeared in the Los Angeles Times newspaper.

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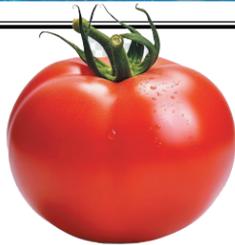
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Creating Room for Tomatoes



By Melinda Myers

Nothing beats the flavor of fresh-from-the-garden tomatoes. Keep them close at hand by growing one or more in containers on your patio, balcony, or front steps.

Any tomato can be grown in a pot, but determinate varieties are shorter and more compact, making them a bit easier to manage in a container.

They grow to a fixed, compact size, usually 3–5 feet tall, sets all its fruit within a short period, typically 2–3 weeks, and then stops growing. These tomatoes are often referred to as “bush” tomatoes because of their growth habit.

They will stop at a certain height and will not continue to vine indefinitely and all fruit ripens around the same time, making it ideal for canning or mass harvest.

Determinates require less staking and pruning than indeterminate varieties. Examples of determinates are Roma, Celebrity, Rutgers, and Bush Early Girl.

Look for a D or determinate on the plant tag, seed packet or in the catalog description.

Indeterminate tomatoes, often designated with an I, are usually much taller and continue to grow, flower, and produce fruit until frost kills the plant or you pinch out the growing tip. These are usually staked or grown in wire cages to save space, reduce pest problems and make harvesting easier. Many new containers have built-in trellises or creative

gardeners craft their own, making it easier and more attractive to grow these bigger plants in pots.

Semi-determinate varieties are in between these two. They are compact like determinates, often trailing but produce fruit throughout the growing season like indeterminate varieties.

You can now find compact varieties often sold as miniature and dwarf plants that grow well in small 4 to 8” pots. They are a great option for those with limited space, gardening on balconies, indoors in a sunny window or just about anywhere. Kitchen Mini tomatoes, Heartbreakers, Red Velvet and Micro Tom Thumb are just a few.

Grow one tomato per container for maximum productivity. Use a 5-gallon or bigger container for large varieties and at least a two to three gallon or similar size pot for smaller varieties. Some research suggests growing tomatoes in a pot that is at least 14 inches but preferably 20 inches wide will yield greater results. Adding flowers and herbs to the container boosts the beauty and diversity of your container garden but will reduce the number of tomatoes produced.

Growing tomatoes in containers also allows you to start the season earlier. Just move the planter inside when the weather is harsh and back outside when the weather is warm and sunny. As the weather turns cold at the end of the growing season, cover the planter or move it into a frost-free location as needed. Some gardeners even move a



EASY: Any tomato can be grown in a pot, but determinate varieties (seen here) are shorter and more compact, making them a bit easier to manage in a container.

pot or two inside to finish off the tomato season.

Plant tomatoes in a container with drainage holes and fill it with a quality potting mix. Reduce the time spent watering with a self-watering pot that has a reservoir to hold water and extend the time between watering. Further reduce the need to water by adding an organic, sustainable soil amendment like certified organic Wild Valley Farms’ wool pellets (wildvalleyfarms.com) to the potting mix. Made from wool waste, this product reduces watering by up to 25%.

Water thoroughly when the top few inches begin to dry. Mulch the soil with evergreen needles, shredded leaves, or other organic mulch to keep the soil consistently moist and suppress weeds. Consistent soil moisture encourages more flowering and fruiting, while reducing the risk of blossom end rot,

cracking, and misshapen fruit.

Harvest tomatoes when fully colored or leave them on the plant a few more days for an even sweeter flavor. You’ll enjoy the convenience of harvesting fresh tomatoes right outside your door for use in salads, sauces, and other favorite recipes.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released *Midwest Gardener’s Handbook, 2nd Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses* “How to Grow Anything” instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda’s Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Wild Valley Farms for her expertise to write this article. Myers’ website is www.MelindaMyers.com.



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‘Legally Blonde’ Earns an A+ at La Mirada Theatre

By Stepheny Gehrig

Grab some pink accessories and get ready to head to Harvard Law. “Legally Blonde” has just arrived at the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts.

All aspects of the show were enthralling, from set design to costuming. But what stood out most was the choreography. The show is heavily reliant on its dance numbers, which were very intricate yet captivating. The complexity and the precision that go into ensemble numbers are always compelling, but Dana Salimando’s choreography direction composed perfection for these numbers.

With big shoes to fill, Kathryn Brunner fully and perfectly embodies Elle Woods. Brunner’s positivity, charm, and grace craft the perfect Elle Woods. While her personality fits the character, Brunner’s voice deserves the spotlight. In

moments like “Serious” and “Bend and Snap,” Brunner blends humor and charm to create lighthearted yet impactful moments in the show.

Nicholas McDonough perfectly captured the toxicity and self-centeredness of Warner Huntington III. But Waner is exquisitely countered by Elle’s new friend Paulette, played by Anthea Neri-Best. While on her search for love, Paulette becomes a new symbol for love within friendships, a love of which Elle is in search of. Neri-Best’s representation of Paulette is one of fun, vulnerability, and relatability.

On the other hand, Vivienne Kensington, played by Anna Mintzer, metamorphoses into a likable, loveable character who supports Elle’s career goals. Mintzer’s on-stage performance as Vivienne creates the tension that “Legally Blonde” needs to keep audiences entertained. While Vivienne has moments of hostility toward Elle, she becomes a cornerstone for Elle’s comeback. Surpassing the story’s love triangle, Mintzer and Brunner’s friendship is another instance in which Elle finds the love and support she is searching for through another female friendship.

Brook Wyndham, played by Jane Papegeorge, left the audience in awe. Papegeorge took the stage in a sporty outfit and a jump rope in hand. Singing and jumping simultaneously, there is no wonder why she was a perfect fit for the role. Papa-

KATHRYN BRUNNER and “Little Ricky” star in Legally Blonde: The Musical, directed by Cynthia Ferrer, and now playing at La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts.



OMIGOD! Aurelia Michael, Bella Hicks, Kathryn Brunner and Grace Simmons.

george gave the most impressive performance in “Whipped into Shape,” as she kept a steady tone and perfect pitch while maintaining the choreography.

“Legally Blonde” is a fun and eccentric show that empowers women, encourages love, and highlights friendship. The show has moments of pure hysterics but is also deeply set in sentimentality. “Legally Blonde” is a show that strives to empower female audiences, uphold friendships, and inspire women of all ages to pursue their dreams and desires.

“Legally Blonde” will be at the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts until May 18. Tickets range from \$25 to \$95.

MICHAEL THOMAS GRANT (Emmet Forest) and Kathryn Brunner (Elle Wood) discuss office politics.

An open-captioned performance will be held on May 10 at 2 p.m. Get tickets at the La Mirada Theater website.



GATEWAY LEAGUE BASEBALL

Irwin's Two-Hit Shutout Helps Gahr Win Season-Series From Defending League Champions

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on X

When Valley Christian High knocked off Heritage Christian High on Apr. 22 behind a one-hit, complete game performance from junior pitcher Josh Hulse, it clinched a playoff berth for the first time since 2021. But the Defenders wanted more, and they got it behind yet another specialty from senior pitcher Riley Jones.

He went the distance for the third straight outing, surrendered two hits and did not allow a runner to get past second base as V.C. sealed second place in the Olympic League with a 10-0 victory last Friday. He and Hulse now have a combined 10 complete games in 19 starts.

"One of the goals that we had coming into the season was to make the playoffs," said V.C. first-year head coach Eric Slater. "We had a pretty high-level schedule playing some really good teams. We've had our successes; we've had some of our lumps in the road, but right now we're playing some really good baseball. We're getting great starting pitching, we've got some timely hitting going on right now and our defense is looking really, really good for us right now."

When the Defenders (13-9, 5-1) last tasted playoff life, former head coach Matt Dahlenburg was in his second full season with the program and he guided the team to an 18-6 overall record, 10-2 in league, and the program's first trip to the playoffs since 2017. But against the Warriors, senior shortstop Seth Dahlenburg went three for three and drove in one of the five runs the hosts put on the board in the bottom of the first inning.



VALLEY CHRISTIAN HIGH senior pitcher Riley Jones delivers one of his 77 pitches last Friday against Heritage Christian High in a 10-0 win. He pitched a complete game, two-hitter, striking out five and walking two as he picked up his third straight complete game and sixth of the season. He has allowed 18 hits and six runs with three shutouts in his complete games in 2025. Photo by Steve Fericean.

"It feels good," said Seth Dahlenburg. "Coach Slater has come in here and has done a very good job coaching and figuring out how we did bad and just turning that into [something] good. We mainly work on those double plays...working on the simple stuff to make sure that we're smooth in the game to get outs for our pitchers."

Jones retired six of the first seven batters he faced, hitting Eden Nalin on the first pitch with two outs in the top of the first inning. Three runners would reach first base in the third, but no one got to second because the following hitters all

reached on a fielder's choice.

Then in the fourth, Nalin doubled on the first pitch and Jones walked Cullen Hirtensteiner with none out. However, the team's best pitcher, who has now pitched six complete games this season and improved to 8-2, struck out a pair of batters and got Joah Mier to fly out to junior left fielder Max Douglas. Jones would retire the last seven batters he faced on 21 pitches and finished the game striking out five batters, walking a pair and throwing 77 pitches.

"He'll get behind guys and he'll come up with big pitches," said Slater. "One

in a run.

"This Heritage Christian team is a good ball club, and they've played a lot of teams tough," said Slater. "For us to have that lead in the first inning was very, very helpful. But trust me, in this league, it's never over until that last pitch is recorded. I've seen plenty of things happen, so it's good to get on the board [early]. But you always need to keep adding to the score because all these teams can come back at any time."

"I was just sitting up there, looking for a fastball; it's the best pitch I could hit," said Dahlenburg. "Once I saw it, I just banged it up the middle."

"I would say it's the high energy coming into the game," he later said. "All of us being on the same page, we're getting hits when we need them and driving in those five runs in the first inning let's our pitcher have just a nice, coast way of pitching."

Ekstrom led off the second with a base hit to left and scored on a double down the left field line from senior right fielder Austin Abrahams. The score remained 6-0 until the fifth inning when Abrahams and senior pinch hitter Weston Lynott both beat out infield singles wrapped around an out. Sophomore pinch hitter Mack Lynott then doubled in Abrahams and sophomore pinch hitter Lincoln Slater was safe on an error, allowing Weston Lynott to score.

In the next inning, Witt was hit by a pitch and later came home on a single to left from Estrada. Then with two outs, Dietz' infield knock brought home Abrahams for the final tally. All 12 batters who had at least one at-bat reached base in some form as Abrahams, Ekstrom and senior right fielder Micah Tamminga, who would drive in two runs, all had a pair of hits.

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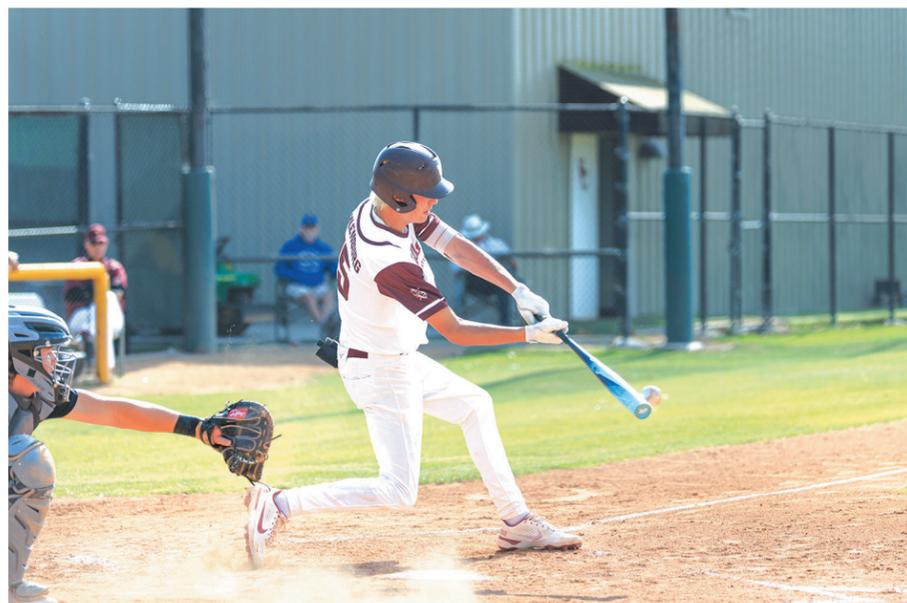
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VALLEY CHRISTIAN HIGH's Seth Dahlenburg delivers the first of his three hits, this one in the bottom of the first inning against Heritage Christian High in a 10-0 victory. His base hit to center would bring in junior second baseman Nico Villafana. Photo by Steve Fericean.

of the key differences today is that our defense was able to turn two huge double plays for him to drastically decrease his pitch count."

Offensively, the Defenders supported Jones early and often as Mier walked junior second baseman Nico Villafana and gave up a double to sophomore first baseman Quintin Ekstrom to begin the bottom of the first. A groundout from junior third baseman Lucas Witt was followed by Dahlenburg's base hit and 15 pitches into the frame, it was 2-0. V.C. would get one more hit in the inning but scored three more times because Mier would hit junior designated hitter R.J. Estrada and junior catcher Nolan Dietz and walk Douglas. When it was all said and done, 10 batters came up to bat and eight of the nine starters had either a hit, scored a run or drove

"That was one of the great things we've been talking about in our team meetings, is how we can get a lot more people to contribute to the success," said Slater. "Today was an absolute team effort. We hit up and down the lineup and we had productive at-bats. The best part about today is that all of our at-bats were really productive, whether we were moving guys over or getting RBI's"

Since their last trip to the playoffs, the Defenders have come close to a postseason berth each season but came up short. In 2022, they were 3-2 after five league games but winning the last two against Heritage Christian at the end of the season wasn't enough as they finished in fourth place with a 5-7 league mark.

{ See VALLEY, page 12 }

MID-CITIES LEAGUE BASEBALL

Norwalk's Rebuilding Season Continues With Shutout, Officially Clinches Third Place

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on X

In the brief existence of the Suburban Valley Conference, the Norwalk High baseball program has gone from the summit to the deepest end of the valley and now back to in between. In 2023, the Lancers carved through the Mid-Cities League, winning all 15 games, posted a 23-5 overall record and advanced to the CIF-Southern Section quarterfinals.

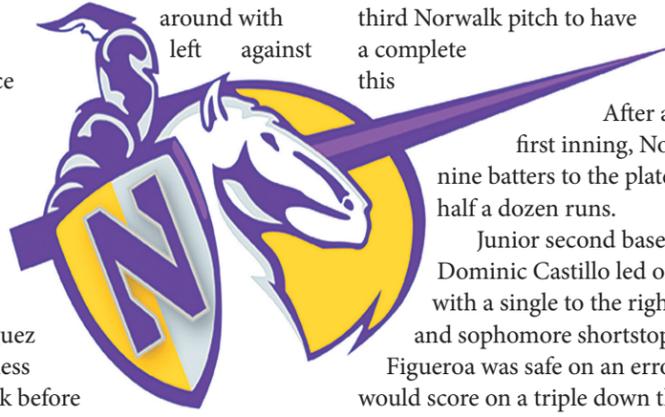
Last season, the promotion to the tougher Gateway League resulted in three wins overall and 0-12 in the circuit. Now, the Lancers are back in the comparable Mid-Cities League and following a four and a half-inning, 13-0 win over Lynwood High last Friday, they officially locked up third place and a berth in the upcoming CIF-SS divisional playoffs. The purple and gold improved to 13-8, 9-4 and have two games remaining in the regular season. The 13 victories are the third most since 2022 and the 12th time since 1999 the program has reached double digits in victories.

"I'm kind of excited about the turnaround the guys have had since last year," said Norwalk first-year head coach Jose Rodriguez. "Their season wasn't as desirable...but they turned it around and had

some good wins. We're getting better as this stretch of the season is going on [and] we're just trying to close it out. They're not the toughest opponents, but I'm making sure the guys are taking care of business."

In addition to the 10-win around with left against Firebaugh High this week, the season is that more special considering Rodriguez was hired less than a week before the first game of the season. And only three players return from last season-senior catcher Israel Molina, senior right fielder Angel Martinez and senior pitcher and third baseman Cesar Urueta.

"It just goes to show that we have some good, young talent and not only am I happy for the remaining part of the season, but I'm happy for the years to come," said Rodriguez. "We have a good group of freshmen and sophomores to build the program, especially since this is my first year that I can actually build something



here for a long time."

Against Lynwood, three sophomores and two freshmen were among the starting 10 including sophomore pitcher David Ibarra, who faced 20 batters, allowed three hits and struck out nine batters. He is the third Norwalk pitcher to have thrown a complete game season.

After a scoreless first inning, Norwalk sent nine batters to the plate and scored half a dozen runs.

Junior second baseman Dominic Castillo led off the frame with a single to the right field gap and sophomore shortstop Edwin Figueroa was safe on an error. Both would score on a triple down the left field line from freshman right fielder Jared Brammer, who then in turn stole home for a 3-0 lead.

In the next inning and up 6-0, Brammer doubled in Figueroa with one out and scored when sophomore left fielder Benjamin Castellanos reached on a fielder's choice. Two pitches later, freshman pinch hitter Marcus Castillo smacked a three-run home run. The last two runs were scored with two outs in the fourth when Figueroa and Martinez had back to back doubles, followed by a run-scoring single from

junior pinch hitter Daniel Albidrez. Of the 15 players to come to the plate in the game, 13 reached base safely with Brammer having the best performance, going two for two, scoring twice and driving in three.

"I think our strength is definitely our defense," said Rodriguez. "We have good, young outfielders who can go get the ball and we have some infielders who can play as well.

Before taking the job, Rodriguez did not know anything about the program other than the winless mark in the Gateway League where the Lancers were facing Downey High, Gahr High, La Mirada High and Warren High in which they were outscored 138-7 by those teams. In the nine league wins this season, Norwalk has outscored Dominguez High, Firebaugh, Lynwood and Paramount 99-8.

This is the first head coaching job for Rodriguez at the high school level, though he played at Warren and was on the coaching staff there as well as at Cantwell Sacred Heart of Mary High. Norwalk's regular season finale will be at Firebaugh on Friday.

605 LEAGUE BASEBALL

Cerritos' Bid For Sixth Straight League Title Put on Hold, Dons Edged By League Nemesis

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on X

Cerritos High was 15 outs away from locking down its sixth 605 League title and had all the momentum, building a 3-0 lead in the bottom of the second inning against Oxford Academy this past Tuesday. But the Patriots, specifically Logan Lavoie and Bear Spessert, spoiled the anticipated dogpile on the pitcher's mound at the end of the game.

Spessert went three for four, drove in three runs and scored once and Lavoie worked his way out of danger in each of the final four-plus innings as Oxford Academy rallied for a 4-3 victory, jumping ahead of the Dons in the



sophomore first baseman Julian Diaz and both runners moved up on a sacrifice from sophomore right fielder Alex Laurin. A fielder's choice from senior catcher Kaden Brickner allowed Regis to score when the throw home was a little late and that was followed by a double steal, making it 3-0.

After that, the Dons would strand 10 runners on base, including the bases loaded with one out in the third and two each in the fourth, sixth and seventh innings. In the third inning, senior second baseman Dalton Chi and sophomore third baseman Brandon Vo each singled and one out later, Tiettmeyer walked Diaz to load the bases and end his time on the mound. On the next pitch, which would come from Lavoie, Chi was forced out at home and Lavoie got Brickner to pop up for the third out.

"I bet on us on Friday," said Cerritos head coach Matt Joyce when asked about the runners left on base. "We're the better team. That's been our problem all year; we've left a lot guys on. The problem is...we end up giving up one too many outs to get runners in scoring position. I can't squeeze if I can't do anything with two outs, and every time we had second and third, I [have] two outs and now I'm relying on a high school kid to get me a hit. That's been a struggle this year."

The fourth and sixth innings saw Cerritos leave runners at second and third with two outs with the best chance coming in the latter. Facing a 1-2 count, Vo sent a flare behind the first base bag

pitch, which would come from Lavoie, Chi was forced out at home and Lavoie got Brickner to pop up for the third out.

{See CERRITOS, page 12}

NEWS AND NOTES FROM PRESS ROW

League Titles, Playoff Spots Still on the Line as Regular Season Comes to an End

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on X

While some spring sports have already begun their run through the CIF-Southern Section divisional playoffs, baseball and softball are in the final days of the regular season. And there will be plenty of drama coming from the two sports of the as first place and third place will be on the line in the 605 League for baseball simultaneously some three and a half miles apart from each other.

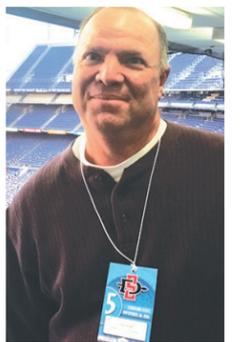
BASEBALL

By virtue of Cerritos High dropping a 4-3 decision to Oxford Academy this past Tuesday, the Dons fell to second place in the 605 League as the Patriots (9-15-1, 7-1-1) overtook them. Cerritos (14-12, 7-2) is slated to throw junior Eli Sarno in the title-clinching game on Friday at Oxford Academy. Sarno will be making his fourth start of the season.

Third place and an automatic berth in the playoffs will be determined when

Artesia High hosts John Glenn High on Friday. The Pioneers defeated the Eagles 4-1 this past Tuesday to temporarily vault into third place with a record of 15-7-1, 4-4-1 while the Eagles fell to 7-15, 4-5. Glenn's last trip to the playoffs came in 2019 while Artesia, which went through a 13-year playoff drought, is hoping to make it four straight trips to the postseason.

Gahr High began the week with a pair of shutout victories against Bellflower High while scoring a combined 16 runs. Junior Jake Ourique went the distance



Loren Kopff's News And Notes From Press Row

{See NEWS, page 12}

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SUBMISSION OF BIDS. All Bidders are required to enter and submit their bid pricing electronically via Planet Bids’ Bid Schedule Tab. In addition, an electronic copy of the Bid Proposal Package must be uploaded to the Planet Bids system.

SCOPE OF WORK. The Project includes, without limitation, furnishing all necessary labor, materials, equipment and other incidental and appurtenant work necessary to satisfactorily complete the Project, as more specifically described in the Contract Documents. Time for completion of the Work is **One Hundred Twenty (120) total Working Days** from the date specified in the Notices to Proceed and shall be inclusive of the procurement time to furnish and install all materials associated with this project. The contractor’s bid shall reflect a schedule that utilizes sufficient amount of crews and equipment to complete all work within the required amount of time. No time extensions will be granted and liquidated damages will be strictly enforced.

OBTAINING BID DOCUMENTS. Bidders may obtain free copies of the Plans, Specifications, and other Contract Documents online by visiting <https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/41481/portal-home>. Hard copies of the Contract Documents are not available at this time.

LICENSES. Each Bidder shall possess a valid Class “A” Contractor’s license issued by the California State Contractors License Board necessary for the performance of all Work to be performed at the time of the Bid submission.

MATERIALS SUBSTITUTIONS AND OTHER QUESTIONS. Bidders are required to post their questions or equivalent material or substitution request of construction materials to the City Project Manager online by visiting <https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/41481/portal-home>. Any questions or equivalent material or substitution request of construction materials asked by email or by telephone will not be answered. Materials substitutions or questions are acceptable until 4:00 pm on or before Wednesday, May 14, 2025. Any questions or equivalent material or substitution request of construction materials submitted after May 14, 2025 will not be answered. Questions and answers and/or any responses to material substitution request will be issued by May 26, 2025 as an addendum. Any addenda and/or supplemental information, as applicable will be posted online and available at <https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/41481/portal-home>. It is the Bidder’s responsibility to check online for any addenda that are released. Any changes or corrections to the original Bid Documents or any other information that will affect the completion of the award will be disseminated and posted on the City’s website.

CITY PROJECT MANAGER CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name: Aaron Hernandez-Torres, P.E.
Contact Number: 562-801-4029
E-mail address: AHernandez-Torres@pico-rivera.org

By: Noe Negrete, PE April 30, 2025
Director of Public Works Date

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 5/2/25

CITY OF PICO RIVERA CITY COUNCIL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR CRIMSON CALIFORNIA PIPELINE – FRANCHISE RENEWAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the City of Pico Rivera City Council to consider the renewal of the franchise for the Crimson California Pipeline. The franchise is limited to crude oil pipelines of sizes and locations as follows:

- 400 linear feet of 6-inch pipeline along Beverly Road near the Rio Hondo River
- 80 linear feet of 4-inch pipeline in Beverly Road near the San Gabriel River
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Annual franchise fees paid to the City General Fund are estimated to be \$191.40 plus a one-time franchise renewal fee of \$1,400.

The term of the extension shall be 25 years.

WHEN: May 27, 2025

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

WHERE: City Hall Council Chambers
6615 Passons Boulevard Pico Rivera, CA 90660

PERSONS INTERESTED IN THIS MATTER wishing to observe the meeting may do so in the following ways:

- (1) Turn your TV to Channel 3
- (2) City’s website at <https://bit.ly/picorivera-ctv3live>
- (3) City’s Official You Tube Channel – youtube.com/cityofpicoriveraofficial
- (4) Email public comments to publiccomments@pico-rivera.org prior to 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting
- (5) Attend the Public Hearing in person

Copies of all relevant material are available to the public for review in the Public Works Department at City Hall, 6615 Passons Boulevard, Pico Rivera, California. Please contact Gene Edwards, Deputy Director at (562) 801-4225 for additional questions.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the City of Pico Rivera is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for a person with a disability. Please contact the City Clerk’s office at (562) 801-4389 if special program accommodations are necessary and/or if program information is needed in an alternative format. Special requests must be made in a reasonable amount of time in order that accommodations can be arranged.

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 5/2/25

PUZZLE ANSWER: EDGE

CITY OF PICO RIVERA CITY COUNCIL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 64 AND ZONE RECLASSIFICATION NO. 329

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the City of Pico Rivera City Council to consider approval General Plan Amendment No. 64 to amend the general plan land use designation of thirty (30) parcels and Zone Reclassification No. 329 to amend the zoning map designation of thirty-two (32) parcels. The purpose is to address incompatibility between land use designations, accommodate residential growth and promote mixed-use development where appropriate. Attachment “A” identifies thirty-eight (38) parcels subject to the proposed general plan amendment, zone change, and/or the addition of an overlay zone.

WHEN: Tuesday, May 27, 2025

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

WHERE: City Hall Council Chambers
6615 Passons Boulevard Pico Rivera, CA 90660

The proposed general plan amendment(s) and zone change(s) is not subject to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c)(2) and 15061 (b)(3).

PERSONS INTERESTED IN THIS MATTER wishing to observe or comment may do so in the following ways:

- (1) Turn your TV to Channel 3
- (2) City’s website at <https://bit.ly/picorivera-ctv3live>
- (3) City’s Official You Tube Channel – youtube.com/cityofpicoriveraofficial
- (3) Email public comments to publiccomments@pico-rivera.org prior to 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting
- (4) Attend the Public Hearing in person

Copies of all relevant material and project specifications are available for public review at City Hall in the Community & Economic Development Department, 6615 Passons Boulevard, Pico Rivera, California. For additional information please contact Estefany Franco, Planner at 562-801-4026. If you challenge the consideration or adoption of the proposed applications 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 written correspondence delivered to the City of Pico Rivera City Clerk at, or prior to, the public hearing.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the City of Pico Rivera is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for a person with a disability. Please contact Cynthia Ayala at (562) 801-4389 if special program accommodations are necessary and/or if program information is needed in an alternative format. Special requests must be made in a reasonable amount of time in order that accommodations can be arranged.

Attachment “A”

	APN	Address	Existing General Plan Designation	Existing Zoning	Proposed General Plan	Proposed Mixed Use Overlay Zone	Proposed Zoning
1.	6374-006-016	4717 Citrus Dr.	Mixed Use (MU)	Limited Industrial (I-L)	No Change	No Change	Multiple-Family Residential (R-M)
2.	6374-006-017	4721 Citrus Dr.	Mixed Use (MU)	Limited Industrial (I-L)	No Change	No Change	Multiple-Family Residential (R-M)
3.	6374-006-003	4731 Citrus Dr.	Mixed Use (MU)	Limited Industrial (I-L)	No Change	No Change	Multiple-Family Residential (R-M)
4.	6374-006-002	4747 Citrus Dr.	Mixed Use (MU)	Limited Industrial (I-L)	No Change	No Change	Multiple-Family Residential (R-M)
5.	6374-006-019	4739 Durfee Ave.	Mixed Use (MU)	Limited Industrial (I-L)	No Change	No Change	Multiple-Family Residential (R-M)
6.	6374-006-020	4725 Durfee Ave.	Mixed Use (MU)	Limited Industrial (I-L)	No Change	No Change	Multiple-Family Residential (R-M)
7.	6374-006-018	4747 Durfee Ave.	Mixed Use (MU)	Limited Industrial (I-L)	No Change	No Change	Multiple-Family Residential (R-M)
8.	6374-006-900	4759 Durfee Ave.	Mixed Use (MU)	Limited Industrial (I-L)	No Change	No Change	Multiple-Family Residential (R-M)
9.	5272-031-014	8451 Beverly Road	Commercial (C)	Neighborhood Commercial (C-N)	Low Density Residential (LDR)	N/A	Single-Family Residential (S-F)
10.	6375-001-004	9314 Beverly Road	Commercial (C)	Community Commercial (C-C)	Low Density Residential (LDR)	N/A	Single-Family Residential (S-F)
11.	6387-025-012	8518 Rosemead Blvd	Commercial (C)	General Commercial (C-G)	Mixed Use (MU)	Propose M-U Overlay	No Change
12.	6387-025-011	No Address	Commercial (C)	General Commercial (C-G)	Mixed Use (MU)	Propose M-U Overlay	No Change
13.	6387-025-010	No Address	Commercial (C)	General Commercial (C-G)	Mixed Use (MU)	Propose M-U Overlay	No Change
14.	6387-025-009	8500 Rosemead Blvd	Commercial (C)	General Commercial (C-G)	Mixed Use (MU)	Propose M-U Overlay	No Change
15.	6387-025-008	8442 Rosemead Blvd	Commercial (C)	General Commercial (C-G)	Mixed Use (MU)	Propose M-U Overlay	No Change
16.	6387-025-007	8438 Rosemead Blvd	Commercial (C)	General Commercial (C-G)	Mixed Use (MU)	Propose M-U Overlay	No Change
17.	6387-025-032	8434 Rosemead Blvd	Commercial (C)	General Commercial (C-G)	Mixed Use (MU)	Propose M-U Overlay	No Change
18.	6387-025-045	8420 Rosemead Blvd	Commercial (C)	General Commercial (C-G)	Mixed Use (MU)	Propose M-U Overlay	No Change
19.	6387-025-002	8412 Rosemead Blvd	Commercial (C)	General Commercial (C-G)	Mixed Use (MU)	Propose M-U Overlay	No Change
20.	6387-025-001	8408 Rosemead Blvd	Commercial (C)	General Commercial (C-G)	Mixed Use (MU)	Propose M-U Overlay	No Change
21.	6368-026-034	8401 Rosemead Blvd	Commercial (C)	General Commercial (C-G)	Mixed Use (MU)	Propose M-U Overlay	No Change
22.	6368-026-038	8403 Rosemead Blvd	Commercial (C)	General Commercial (C-G)	Mixed Use (MU)	Propose M-U Overlay	No Change
23.	6368-026-035	8417 Rosemead Blvd	Commercial (C)	General Commercial (C-G)	Mixed Use (MU)	Propose M-U Overlay	No Change
24.	6368-026-037	8427 Rosemead Blvd	Commercial (C)	General Commercial (C-G)	Mixed Use (MU)	Propose M-U Overlay	No Change
25.	6368-026-024	8439 Rosemead Blvd	Commercial (C)	General Commercial (C-G)	Mixed Use (MU)	Propose M-U Overlay	No Change
26.	6368-026-023	No Address	Commercial (C)	General Commercial (C-G)	Mixed Use (MU)	Propose M-U Overlay	No Change
27.	6368-026-022	8447 Rosemead Blvd	Commercial (C)	General Commercial (C-G)	Mixed Use (MU)	Propose M-U Overlay	No Change
28.	6368-026-021	8501 Rosemead Blvd	Commercial (C)	General Commercial (C-G)	Mixed Use (MU)	Propose M-U Overlay	No Change
29.	6368-026-036	8509 Rosemead Blvd	Commercial (C)	General Commercial (C-G)	Mixed Use (MU)	Propose M-U Overlay	No Change
30.	6368-026-018	No Address	Commercial (C)	General Commercial (C-G)	Mixed Use (MU)	Propose M-U Overlay	No Change
31.	6368-026-017	No Address	Commercial (C)	General Commercial (C-G)	Mixed Use (MU)	Propose M-U Overlay	No Change
32.	6377-007-903	5055 Passons Blvd.	High Density Residential (HDR)	Multiple-Family Residential (R-M)	Park/Open Space (P-OS)	N/A	Open Space (O-S)
33.	6379-020-017	6421 Millux Ave	Public Facilities (PF)	Single-Family Residential (S-F)	Low Density Residential (LDR)	N/A	No change
34.	6379-020-016	6427 Millux Ave	Public Facilities (PF)	Single-Family Residential (S-F)	Low Density Residential (LDR)	N/A	No change
35.	6379-020-015	6503 Millux Ave	Public Facilities (PF)	Single-Family Residential (S-F)	Low Density Residential (LDR)	N/A	No change
36.	6379-020-012	6509 Millux Ave	Public Facilities (PF)	Single-Family Residential (S-F)	Low Density Residential (LDR)	N/A	No change
37.	6379-020-013	6513 Millux Ave	Public Facilities (PF)	Single-Family Residential (S-F)	Low Density Residential (LDR)	N/A	No change
38.	6379-020-014	6519 Millux Ave	Public Facilities (PF)	Single-Family Residential (S-F)	Low Density Residential (LDR)	N/A	No change

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 5/2/25

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**City of Santa Fe Springs
Request for Bids No. 25 - 1
Tree Maintenance Services**

The City of Santa Fe Springs invites bids from qualified contractors to provide city-wide tree maintenance services in accordance with the terms and conditions of Request for Bids (RFB) No. 25 - 1. To view the complete package and associated documents, visit <https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/65093/portal-home> and click "Bid Opportunities" or <https://vendors.planetbids.com/portal/65093/bo/bo-detail/129361> to access the project directly. You can also visit the City's website and find the link on the "Bids & Proposals" webpage. Questions/inquiries regarding this opportunity must be submitted via the PlanetBids Portal by **Thursday, May 15, 2025, at 2 PM Pacific**. The City will not respond to any questions/inquiries submitted after this deadline. Please review all related documents in their entirety prior to submitting a response. Responses must be submitted electronically via the City's PlanetBids Portal by **Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at 2 PM Pacific**. Any proposals received after this deadline will be deemed non-responsive, and the City reserves the right to reject them. Responses to this request will be evaluated to determine the most qualified and responsive vendors. Responses must adhere to the format and content described in the RFB. Responses will not be evaluated unless all parts requested are submitted in a complete package.

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 5/2/25

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ES-TATE OF ROSA MARIA GONZALEZ aka ROSA M GONZALEZ aka ROSA GONZALEZ
Case No. 25STPB04382
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be inter-ested in the will or estate, or both, of ROSA MARIA GONZALEZ aka ROSA M GONZALEZ aka ROSA GONZALEZ
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Yolanda Arvayo in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Yolanda Arvayo be appointed as personal repre-sentative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held on May 19, 2025 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 62 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney 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:
CAGLA Z.BASAR ESQ
SBN 285426
BASAR LAW INC
7755 CENTER AVE
STE 1100
HUNTINGTON BEACH CA 92647
CN116482 GONZALEZ May 2,9,16, 2025

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF
Trent William Richer
CASE NO. 25STPB04718
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: Trent William Richer
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Jaquelynn Navarro in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Jaquelynn Navarro 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 with full authority . (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 on 05/29/2025 at 8:30 AM in Dept. 4 located at 111 N. HILL ST. LOS ANGELES CA 90012 STANLEY MOSK COURTHOUSE.
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (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: Richard A Grossman; SBN 244251;
Law Office of Richard A Grossman, Esq;
223 E Thousand Oaks Blvd, Ste 401,
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360;
Telephone: (805) 309-2830
5/2, 5/9, 5/16/25
CNS-3921001#
LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
MARSAM ACUARIO GUILLER
CASE NO. 25STPB04036
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of MARSAM ACUARIO GUILLER.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by JENNIFER TOOMEY in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that JENNIFER TOOMEY be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 05/23/25 at 8:30AM in Dept. 99 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney 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
ROBERT O. MILLER - SBN 97742
LAW OFFICE OF ROBERT O. MILLER, APC
3502 KATELLA AVE., STE. 207
LOS ALAMITOS CA 90720
Telephone (562) 598-5511
5/2, 5/9, 5/16/25
CNS-3919054#
LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS

CITY OF LA MIRADA

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 741 ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS GOVERNING CAMPING AND STORAGE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY IN THE CITY, AMENDING CHAPTER 9.106 OF TITLE 9 OF THE LA MIRADA MUNICIPAL CODE, ADDING SECTION 10.16.065 OF TITLE 10 OF THE LA MIRADA MUNICIPAL CODE, AND MAKING A DETERMINATION OF EXEMPTION UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on May 13, 2025, at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the Council Chambers, 13700 La Mirada Boulevard, La Mirada, the City Council of the City of La Mirada will consider adopting its Ordinance No. 741.

Summary of Ordinance No. 741
Ordinance No. 741 would make the following amendments to the LMMC:

- Amend Chapter 9.106 (Camping and Storage of Personal Property) of Title 9 (Public Peace, Morals, and Safety).

The proposed ordinance would authorize the City to more fully address camping and storage of personal property for the purpose of protecting the public health, welfare and safety of residents, in accordance with current law. The ordinance would prohibit camping between the hours of one-half (1/2) hour after sunset of one day and 6 a.m. of the next day on any public property without prior City approval. The ordinance would prohibit camping on private property between the hours of one-half (1/2) hour after sunset of one day and 6 a.m. of the next day, without the property owner's consent. Pursuant to the proposed ordinance, it would be unlawful and a public nuisance for any person to store personal property on any public property without the City's approval.

- Amend Chapter 10.16 (Parking) of Title 10 (Vehicles and Traffic) by adding a new Section 10.16.065.

Pursuant to the ordinance, it would be unlawful for any person to use any vehicle, recreational vehicle, or temporary recreational vehicle, for human habitation on any public street or alley, city parking lot, city right-of-way, or public property without the City's written approval.

A certified copy of the entirety of the text of Ordinance No. 741 is available in the office of the City Clerk, City of La Mirada, 13700 La Mirada Boulevard, La Mirada, California, and is available for public inspection at that location.

Anne Haraksin, La Mirada City Clerk

Published at La Mirada Lamplighter Newspaper 5/2/25

NOTICE OF SUCCESSOR PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
DAVID DEVINE
CASE NO. 23STPB03479
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of DAVID DEVINE.
A SUCCESSOR PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by ROBERT L. COHEN in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE SUCCESSOR PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that ROBERT L. COHEN be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE SUCCESSOR PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the successor petition will be held in this court as follows: 05/27/25 at 8:30AM in Dept. 99 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney 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
ROBERT L. COHEN, ESQ. - SBN 150913
LAW OFFICES OF ROBERT L. COHEN, INC.
8081 ORANGETHORPE AVE.
BUENA PARK CA 90621
Telephone (714) 522-8880
4/25, 5/2, 5/9/25
CNS-3918078#
LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS

A.P.N.: 8041-008-003 Trustee Sale No.: S.477-1175 Title Order No.: 220481131-CA-VOI NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 8/26/2005. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: RUDY M. VIDAL AND YGNACIA F. VIDAL, HUSBAND AND WIFE AS JOINT TENANTS Duly Appointed Trustee: PROBER AND RAPHAEL, ALC Recorded 9/1/2005 as Instrument No. 05 2114437 in book N/A, page N/A of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California. Date of Sale: 5/27/2025 at 11:00 AM Place of Sale: BEHIND THE FOUNTAIN LOCATED IN CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, 400 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, POMONA, CA 91766 Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$434,590.12 Street Address or other common designation of real property: 13015 GABBETT DRIVE LA MIRADA, California 90638 A.P.N.: 8041-008-003 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (855) 986-9342 or visit this Internet Website www.superiordefault.com, using the file number assigned to this case S.477-1175. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. For sales conducted after January 1, 2021: NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (855) 986-9342, or visit this internet website www.superiordefault.com, using the file number assigned to this case S.477-1175 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Date: 4/15/2025 PROBER AND RAPHAEL, ALC 20750 Ventura Blvd., Suite 108 Woodland Hills, California 91364 Sale Line: (855) 986-9342 Phone Number: 818-227-0100 Rita Terzyan, Trustee Sale Officer (TS# S.477-1175 SDI-33684) 5/2, 5/9, 5/16/25

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15th Annual

GROUNDWATER FESTIVAL

Treasure Beneath Our Feet



- Samantha L. -

6th Grade - Manhattan Beach Middle School, Manhattan Beach

The Water Replenishment District (WRD) is proud to present the 15th Annual Groundwater Festival on Saturday, May 3, 2025. Please join us for this family friendly event full of activities, educational booths, food, and prizes!

FREE EVENT!

WHERE

WRD

4040 Paramount Blvd.
Lakewood, CA 90712

WHEN

Saturday,
May 3, 2025
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

FOOD, FACE PAINTING, AND MORE!

For more info please contact Monica Sijder at (562) 275-4234 or via email at msijder@wrdd.org.

Paid for by sponsorship funds.

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<i>Division 1</i> | Robert Katherman
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<i>Division 3</i> | Sergio Calderon
<i>Division 4</i> | Vera Robles DeWitt
<i>Division 5</i> | Stephan Tucker
<i>General Manager</i> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|



4040 Paramount Blvd., Lakewood, CA 90712



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