



**ARTESIA RESIDENT HONORED AS RED CROSS HOMETOWN HERO**

**THE QUEEN MARY** served as a backdrop on Friday, May 16, as the American Red Cross Los Angeles Region honored 20 extraordinary individuals during its 20th Annual Hometown Heroes Luncheon. One of them was Artesia resident Diana Sagert, who saved a man’s life after he collapsed from a heart attack.

## ABCUSD Board ‘Accepts’ Consolidation Report to Close Five Schools

The board room was packed at Tuesday’s meeting, which lasted over five hours. The conclusions of the closure report were accepted on a 7-0 vote.

By Brian Hews

Facing a steep and continuing decline in enrollment, ABC Unified School District (ABCUSD) is recommending the closure of five elementary schools and a comprehensive restructuring of grade levels and attendance boundaries.

District officials unveiled the sweeping proposal during a special board meeting on May 20, 2025; the proposal is backed by months of analysis and required equity impact studies under California law.

The closures—scheduled to begin in the 2026–27 school year—come as the District has lost over 3,300 students in the past decade and anticipates shedding nearly 2,000 more by 2029–30.

Demographic shifts, lower birth rates, rising housing costs, and increased competition from alternative education providers have compounded the problem, leaving many campuses operating well below capacity.

“This is not a decision we take lightly,” the District stated in its presentation. “But it’s necessary to preserve long-term educational quality and fiscal sustainability for ABC Unified.”

### Five Schools Targeted for Closure

After a detailed review of enrollment patterns, capacity, and

[ See CLOSURES, page 16 ]

## Like Father, Like Son: Craig and Will Prichard Earn Master’s Degrees Together at Biola University



**ALWAYS TREASURE:** On Saturday May 10, father and son Craig and Will Prichard took the stage one after the other to be awarded masters degrees in business administration. Minutes apart on stage, 40 years apart in age. Courtesy Biola University.

By Brian Hews

In an inspiring example of lifelong learning and family legacy, father and son Craig and Will Prichard are graduating together this month, each earning a master’s degree from Biola University in La Mirada.

The milestone marks a rare achievement—not only are both Prichards completing graduate studies, but they are also doing so side by side, representing two generations united by faith, education, and perseverance.

Craig Prichard, a longtime community member and Biola alumnus, returned to the university decades after completing his undergraduate degree to pursue a Master of Arts in Theology. He said the decision was part personal growth and part unfinished business.

“I’ve always valued the deep spiritual and academic roots Biola offers,” Craig said. “This program gave me the opportunity to strengthen my understanding of faith in a structured and meaningful way.”

His son Will, who will re-

ceive a Master of Arts in Christian Apologetics, said studying alongside his father added a special dimension to the experience. “It was motivating and humbling to be on this journey with my dad. We’d study together, discuss topics from class, and challenge each other,” Will shared. “It’s something I’ll always treasure.”

The Prichards, both known for their commitment to church leadership and mentorship, say the education they received at Biola has already had a ripple effect in their community work. Craig has served in various ministry roles throughout Southern California, while Will has led youth groups and participated in mission outreach programs.

Biola University officials praised the pair for their dedication and example. “Craig and Will embody what we hope every student takes from their time here—that education isn’t just about a degree, it’s about transformation,” said a university spokesperson.

Their shared accomplishment will be celebrated at Bi-

[ See GRADUATES, page 7 ]

## EXCLUSIVE:

## Whittier Union Files Formal Lawsuit to Remove Trustee Gary Mendez From Board

The Quo Warranto lawsuit argues that Mendez holds incompatible offices between Central Basin Water and WUHS.

By Brian Hews

Two weeks ago, Los Cerritos Community News published an exclusive story concerning a letter dated January 10, 2025, from the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) that confirmed what this newspaper has been reporting since 2024: that Whittier Union High School District (WUHS) Trustee Gary Mendez is unlawfully holding two incompatible public offices.

Mendez, currently serving on

the WUHS Board and the Central Basin Municipal Water District (CBMWD), is in clear violation of Government Code §1099. The letter from the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) concluded that Mendez’s roles are incompatible, as CBMWD supplies water to WUHS through vendors—meaning decisions made at Central Basin directly affect the school district he’s sworn to serve.

Now, the legal pressure continues to mount on Mendez, as the WUHS has filed a verified quo warranto complaint in Los Angeles Superior Court seeking his removal from office for holding two incompatible public posts, a violation of state law.

[ See MENDEZ, page 16 ]

## REPORT: Cerritos Psychiatric Hospital Abused Patients, Violated Disability Laws for Years

*Let Me Go: Excessive Restraint of Patients at College Hospital,* documents shocking failures in care, rampant misuse of physical and chemical restraints.

By Brian Hews

A damning new report released by Disability Rights California (DRC) has exposed years of systemic abuse at College Hospital in Cerritos, a private psychiatric facility located at 10802 College Place.

The report, titled *Let Me Go: Excessive Restraint of Patients at College Hospital*, docu-

DRC, the state’s designated Protection and Advocacy system, is legally empowered to inspect and monitor facilities housing individuals with disabilities. The agency began investigating College Hospital in 2022 after noticing unusually high rates of restraint and seclusion in monthly data reports—numbers far exceeding statewide averages.

“A Culture of Restraint”

Key findings from the report reveal that College Hospital relies heavily on prolonged and unjustified physical restraints, including the use of face-down prone holds, which are known to cause asphyxiation and death. Between 2022 and 2024, the



**LEATHER RESTRAINTS** used on patients at College Hospital in Cerritos. Courtesy Los Angeles County.

ments shocking failures in care, rampant misuse of physical and chemical restraints, and a complete breakdown in treatment protocols for some of California’s most vulnerable residents.

hospital reported hundreds of restraint incidents lasting over two hours—486 to be exact—compared to a statewide average of

[ See ABUSE, page 16 ]



# La Palma-Cerritos AAUW Celebrates Academic Achievement Award Winners

By Edna Ethington

The La Palma-Cerritos Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) celebrated its Thirty-Second Annual Recognition and Awards Program at their meeting on Thursday, May 15, 2025, at the ABCUSD Adult School Auditorium in Cerritos.

The Branch presented two Cerritos College women students with Academic Achievement Awards at this meeting.

Administrator Harriet Moses welcomed members and guests at 7:03 p.m. and introduced Joan Pylman, Chair of the Academic Achievement Awards Committee and Facilitator for the evening’s program. Joan thanked the Cerritos Foundation for working with the La Palma Cerritos Branch of the AAUW to offer the Academic Awards to women students who planned to attend a four-year college or university.

She especially thanked Eric Calderon, Scholarship Relations Specialist at Cerritos College, for receiving applications for the awards from students and making copies of the applications for the Awards committee.

Eric thanked the AAUW Branch for offering the awards to Cerritos College students. Joan also introduced members of the Academic Awards Committee.

Joan explained that students who applied for the Academic Achievement Awards had to fulfill the criteria that included a GPA of 3.5 or better, plans to transfer to a four-year college or university in the Fall of 2025, financial need, participation in campus clubs or organizations with leadership positions, volunteer expe-

riences in community organizations, and a personal statement about their current major and future education and career goals. The two award winners will each receive a scholarship of \$1,500 after the drop date of the four-year college that accepted them for the Fall of 2025.

Academic Awards Committee Members Thea Siegel and Gail Ross then read information about the two award winners, Ashley Ramirez and Lisamarie Lara.

Some of Ashley’s qualifications, which were listed in her application, included her having a 3.85 GPA while enrolling in honors classes with her major as Computer Science and Information Science. She excelled in STEM classes.

She joined the Mathematics Engineering Science Program (MESA) at Cerritos College and successfully completed three missions of the NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars Program (NASC).

Ashley started the “Sending Sunshine” as Chapter President and helps students create greeting cards send to seniors in care facilities. Ashley is a first-generation person in her family to attend college. She plans to attend UC Irvine in the Fall of 2025 and eventually work for a Ph. D at Stanford University to become a professor who can help students pursue their higher education goals.

Lisa attends Cerritos College as a 23-year-old student who has overcome many obstacles in her own life including financial stress, homelessness at age 16, and managing mental health issues such as anxiety and ADHD.

She overcame her obstacles and achieved a 3.66 GPA at Cerritos College with a major in Elementary School Education. She joined the Teacher’s Track



**CONGRATULATIONS:** Pictured at the meeting of La Palma-Cerritos Branch of the AAUW on May 15, 2025, are Academic Award Winners, Ashley Ramirez and Lisamarie Lara, in the middle, holding their certificates, AAUW members and speakers, from (l-r), Joan Pylman, Gail Ross, Madison Marks Noble, Lisamarie Lara, Ashley Rodriguez, Joe Pak, Harriet Moses, and Eric Calderon. Pictures and I.D. by Edna Ethington

Program and Grow Your Own Teacher Pathway Program (GYOTP) at Cerritos College. She was selected as one of twenty-five students to participate in the US Department of Education Grant Program. She has extended her teaching experiences with children by doing in the education field in various nearby school districts. She also volunteered time helping the Downey Kiwanis with community service activities such Food Drives and Relays for Life. Lisamarie works at two part-time jobs but needs financial aid because she is her family’s breadwinner. She is an outstanding role-model for female Hispanic students that she interfaces with and helps at Cerritos College. Lisamarie has already been accepted to attend CSU Dominguez Hills in the Fall of 2025.

In addition to receiving the La Palma-Cerritos AAUW Academic Achievement Award from the La Palma-Cerritos

AAUW for their excellence in their education at Cerritos. Ashley and Lisamarie received Certificates of Recognition from five local politicians. Assemblywoman Quirk-Silva’s Field Representative Joe Pak, and Senator Tony Stickland’s Field Representative Madison Marks-Noble, came in person to present their certificates. The women also received Certificates of Recognition from US Congress Representative Derek Tran, State Senator Bob Archuleta, and L.A. County Supervisor Janice Hahn.

The next meeting of the La Palma-Cerritos Branch of the AAUW will be a Planning Meeting for the 2025-2026- year which will be held on Thursday, June 19, 2025, at the ABCUSD Adult School Auditorium at 20122 Cabrillo Lane in Cerritos from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.. For more information contact current Administrator Harriet Moses at 714-994-1487.

## Cerritos Mayor to Deliver State of the City June 24

Cerritos residents, community members, and local business representatives are invited to join Mayor Frank Aurelio Yokoyama for his State of the City address, on Tuesday, June 24. The event is free and open to the public, and will take place at 11:30 a.m. inside the Sierra Room at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts (CCPA). Light refreshments will be served.

Guests will learn about highlights from across the City, as well as new and upcoming initiatives regarding City services and area businesses. To ensure guest accommodations, RSVPs are requested by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 10. To RSVP or learn more, contact the Community Services Division at communityservices@cerritos.us or call (562) 865-8101.

## Artesia Awards Contract for Sidewalk Replacement Project

At its May 12th City Council meeting, the Artesia City Council approved a significant infrastructure contract for a project aimed at improving sidewalk safety and accessibility across the community. Funded through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the project will repair or replace sidewalks at 39 locations identified in the Citywide Sidewalk Assessment as posing the most serious hazards.

Thanks to the City Council’s fore-

sight in joining the County’s Revolving Grant Fund, Artesia tripled its FY 2024-25 CDBG allocation from \$90,423 to \$272,472, making this expanded project possible. The City Council awarded the construction contract for a total not-to-exceed amount of nearly \$145,000. Work is scheduled to begin this summer and be completed by the fall season.

“Ensuring our sidewalks are accessible is a fundamental part of building a community where everyone can travel safely and feel welcome,” said Mayor Ali Taj.

For more information, please contact Artesia City Hall at (562) 865-6262 or visit [www.cityofartesia.us](http://www.cityofartesia.us).

## Artesia Recognized by Arbor Day Foundation

The City of Artesia has achieved Tree City USA recognition for the third consecutive year, demonstrating the City’s dedication to upholding its urban forest for the benefit of the community.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, to support communities in cultivating and maintaining urban forests. The Chief Executive of the Arbor Day Foundation highlighted the benefits of such initiatives, noting that Artesia’s efforts ensure a better quality of life for future generations. Engagement in the program fosters community cohesion and civic pride through volunteerism and public education.

“Being recognized as a Tree City USA for the third year in a row reflects our commitment to ensuring our community is inviting and livable while also showcasing the City’s dedication to sustainability

and environmental stewardship,” said Mayor Ali Taj. Communities worldwide are facing challenges like air quality, water resources, health and well-being, energy use, and climate impacts. The City is actively doing its part to tackle these challenges, ensuring a better life for residents now and in the future.

The City emphasizes the importance of a proactive approach to climate change by taking action to protect our environment. By being recognized as a Tree City, Artesia is not just planting trees, we are building and maintaining a healthier future for our community. The City of Artesia will remain dedicated to environmental sustainability and encourages all residents to join in this important initiative.

For more information, please contact Artesia City Hall at (562) 865-6262 or visit [www.cityofartesia.us](http://www.cityofartesia.us).

## Memorial Day Remembrance Events

### Artesia’s ceremony was 5/22/25 Bellflower

Memorial Day Honor Service  
Sunday, May 25, 2:00 PM  
Bellflower Township Cemetery

### Cerritos

Memorial Day Ceremony  
Monday, May 26, 10:00 AM  
Cerritos Civic Center, Veterans Memorial

### Commerce

No confirmed Memorial Day event details available at this time

### Downey

Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony  
Monday, May 26, 9:30 AM  
Downey Cemetery

### Hawaiian Gardens

Memorial Day Event

Monday, May 26, 8:00–10:00 AM

City Hall, 21815 Pioneer Blvd

### La Mirada

Memorial Day Service

Monday, May 26, 10:30 AM

Olive Lawn Memorial Park, 13926 La Mirada Blvd

### La Palma

Memorial Day Ceremony

Monday, May 26, 9:00 AM

City Hall, 7822 Walker St., Eternal Flame Memorial

### Lakewood

Memorial Day Commemoration

Monday, May 26, 11:00 AM

Del Valle Park

### Norwalk

Memorial Day Ceremony

Monday, May 26

Location and time to be confirmed

### Pico Rivera

Memorial Day Ceremony

Monday, May 26, 10:00 AM

Veterans Memorial Plaza, 9001 Mines Ave

Complimentary breakfast served from 8:00–9:45 AM

### Jaripeo Baile Concert

Sunday, May 25, 1:00 PM

Pico Rivera Sports Arena, 11003 Sports Arena Dr

Featuring Edgardo Nuñez, Arley Perez, and more

### Whittier

Memorial Day Ceremony

Monday, May 26, 9:00–10:00 AM

Whittier City Hall, 13230 Penn Street

### All Souls Cemetery Memorial Day Mass

4400 Cherry Ave, Long Beach, CA

Monday, May 26, 2025, at 10:00 AM



# Cerritos Back in the Light Rail Game? Maybe. Sort of. Not Really. But Maybe.

By Brian Hews

After spending years slow-walking their way out of having a Metro station, thanks to Bruce Barrows, Chuong Vo, and Naresh Solanki, Mayor Frank Yokoyama and Mayor pro tem Lynda Johnson have a majority to work with on the Cerritos City Council. Now, it could be all aboard the light rail express again—even though that train has practically left the station.

At its May 22 meeting, the City Council will review an “informational report” about the long-gestating Southeast Gateway Line (SEGL), formerly known as the West Santa Ana Branch Transit Corridor.

That’s the light rail line Metro has been planning since the Bush administration. The first Bush.

To catch everyone up: Metro has finally cleared all environmental hurdles and is ready to build the 14.5-mile rail line from downtown L.A. to Pioneer Boulevard in Artesia, skipping Cerritos entirely. Yes, skipping Cerritos—the same Cerritos that bills itself as the retail and cultural capital of southeast L.A. County.

Once upon a time, Metro actually floated not one but two potential station sites in Cerritos: one at 183rd and Gridley, the other at Bloomfield and Del Amo.

But in 2022, after a long list of community meetings, political posturing, and “planning efforts” - City Hall speak for Barrows’ delays - Cerritos managed to fumble away both opportunities. Metro moved forward without them, planting a terminus flag in Artesia instead.

Fast forward to 2025, and suddenly, Cerritos wants back in. Why? Because there are competent City Councilmembers

again, who know that light rail lines bring things like people, money, and relevance.

So here comes the grand plan: The City will now study the possibility of a future station. That’s right—not build one, not commit to one—study one.

The platform at 183rd and Gridley was built wide enough to accommodate a station someday, just in case the City changed its mind. And lo and behold, they might be changing it.

On April 10, the City Council asked staff to start talking to Metro again. That led to a letter of intent on May 2, which in government time is like Usain Bolt-level speed.

The letter restates the City’s desire to conduct—you guessed it—a study of possible station sites with Metro’s help. The City will now hire a consultant to look at where and how a station might work, specifically something that could, naturally, serve the Los Cerritos Center.

The whole thing is framed as a triumph of regional cooperation. Still, the subtext is clear: Artesia lapped Cerritos in the race for relevance during the Barrows/Vo/Solanki era, and now, with a new majority, Cerritos is trying to leap back on the track without spilling its Starbucks.

Still, hope springs eternal in local government. As the report proudly notes, the Memorandum of Understanding signed last year leaves the door open for Cerritos to get their way back onto the route map.

And if the consultant comes back with a glowing report, and if Metro still has the patience, maybe—just maybe—Cerritos will one day get a station of its own.

Until then, enjoy your drive to Artesia.

# Winners of Cerritos Library’s 26th Annual Teen Contests Honored

The Cerritos Library hosted its 26th Annual Teen Contests, celebrating student excellence in art, photography, poetry, and short stories. The entries, based on themed categories, showcased the creativity and skill of local teens and are now available for public viewing at cerritoslibrary.us.

A recognition ceremony took place May 12 in the Library’s Skyline Room, where Mayor Frank Yokoyama applauded the students, noting, “The artwork, photographs, stories, and poems created by the teens display their exceptional talent and creativity.” Winners received bookstore gift cards and certificates of achievement. The honored students are:

## ART – Theme: “My Heritage”

**Rachel Luc** – 1st Place, 7th Grade, Carmenita Middle School

**Melanie Estrella** – 2nd Place, 7th Grade, Carmenita Middle School

**Audrey Hu** – 1st Place, 9th Grade, Whitney High School

**Jennifer Robertson** – 2nd Place, 9th Grade, Ayala High School

**Abigail Cordero** – 1st Place, 12th Grade, Cerritos High School

**Tara Long** – 2nd Place, 12th Grade, Cerritos High School

## PHOTOGRAPHY – Theme: “Capture the Mood”

**Nathan Seto** – 1st Place, 12th Grade, Cerritos High School

**Nethmi Karalliyadde** – 2nd Place, 12th Grade, Cerritos High School

## POETRY – Theme: “Hope”

**Aiden Chen** – 1st Place, 8th Grade, Whitney High School

**Zoe Rola** – 2nd Place, 8th Grade, Carmenita Middle School

**Katie Kim** – 1st Place, 11th–12th Grade, Whitney High School

**London Lopez** – 1st Place, 11th–12th Grade, Cerritos High School

**Hillena Mehari** – 2nd Place, 11th–12th Grade, Cerritos High School

**Ava Trujillo** – 2nd Place, 11th–12th Grade, Cerritos High School

**Belle Vang** – 3rd Place, 11th–12th Grade, Cerritos High School

**Kaelynn Vy** – 3rd Place, 11th–12th Grade, Cerritos High School

## SHORT STORY – Theme: “Heroes”

**Zoe Rola** – 1st Place, 8th–9th Grade, Carmenita Middle School

**Isabella Saucedo** – 2nd Place, 8th–9th Grade, Bellflower High School

**Avery Chen** – 1st Place, 11th–12th Grade, Whitney High School

**Denise Gutierrez** – 2nd Place, 11th–12th Grade, Cerritos High School

**Katelyn Ortega** – 3rd Place, 11th–12th Grade, Cerritos High School

**Abigail Rocillo** – 3rd Place, 11th–12th Grade, Cerritos High School

*For more information, contact the Cerritos Library at (562) 916-1350 or visit cerritoslibrary.us.*

Catherine Grant Wieder

Attorney & Mediator

Probate, Wills & Trusts Conservatorship, Guardianship, Dispute Mediation



562-404-4039

THE LAW OFFICE of

LEWIS & LEWIS

LA MIRADA'S FULL SERVICE LAW FIRM

(562) 293-4073 LewisLaw.info

JOHN LEWIS, ESQ.

- REAL ESTATE LAW

- PERSONAL INJURY

- BUSINESS LAW

- WILLS & TRUSTS

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

# ‘Repairs’ on Oldest McDonald’s Sign in Downey



**THE ICONIC NEON SIGN** at the world’s oldest operating McDonald’s in Downey, California, has recently been damaged—not by vandalism, but due to unauthorized construction work, according to SFGate.com. Last week, preservationists discovered that the legs of the original 1953 sign had been cut open and filled with rebar and concrete without proper permits or consultation. This alteration bypassed required approvals for structures eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

CENTURION Mortgage Finance

•NOT SATISFIED WITH YOUR CURRENT HOUSE PAYMENT?

•BIG BANK TURNED YOU DOWN?

I can help you with that.

DeAnna Allensworth Broker - Advisor

Phone: 562-533-5600

www.CenturionMF.com

CA DRE 01443787

NMLS 206457

Athens Services

SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICES

Proudly serving the city of Cerritos

GOT TRASH? RENT ME!

• Up to 7-day rental

• Next day delivery

• Approximately 350lb. weight capacity

• Ideal for general cleanup projects

• Extra empties may be ordered for an additional fee.

Call (888) 336-6100

athensservices.com • Email: cs@athensservices.com

Are you Prepared?

Do your kids and family a favor, Preplan today!

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

For more information, Please call or visit: 562-865-6300 or www.ArtesiaCemetery.com

Serving Family Needs Since 1928

Artesia Cemetery



## La Palma Deploys Radar Trailers

La Palma has introduced new radar trailers throughout the community as part of its ongoing effort to improve traffic safety and keep residents informed. These mobile units display the speed of approaching vehicles in real time, reminding drivers to slow down—especially in residential areas where children, cyclists, and pedestrians are often present.

In addition to monitoring speed, the trailers serve as digital message boards, sharing important safety updates, road closures, and local event announcements. Speeding is a common neighborhood concern, and studies show that simply alerting drivers to their speed can reduce how fast they drive.

NORWALK/LA MIRADA

Plumbing

Heating & Air Conditioning

SINCE 1958

COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL

• Drains and Sewers Cleaned •

Copper Repiping • Furnaces • Water Heaters

Air Conditioning • Water Piping • Hydrojetting

Leak Detecting • Water Softeners • Disposals

Bath Remodeling • Backflow Testing & Repair

11661 Firestone Blvd. Norwalk

State Contractor License: #271767

24 HOUR SERVICE

(562) 868-7777

\$20 off with this ad!

COMMUNITYNEWS

Los Cerritos Community News

Los Cerritos L.A. Press Club Records Including Three Star Best Investigative Newspaper

Online Content and other community news - January 18, 2025 Vol. 46 No. 1 105238701001001001

1-800-901-7211

Email: [editor@cerritosnews.net](mailto:editor@cerritosnews.net)

Phone 562.407.3873

P.O. Box 788, Artesia CA. 90701

STAFF WRITERS

LOREN KOPFF-SPORTS EDITOR

LAURIE HANSON

STEPHENY GEHRIG

OWNERS/ PUBLISHERS

BRIAN HEWS

CORA HEWS

EDITOR

BRIAN HEWS

Los Cerritos Community News, the Hawaiian Gardens Community News and the La Mirada Lamplighter and the Commerce Community News are published weekly. Los Cerritos Community News, the La Mirada the Hawaiian Gardens and Commerce Community News has been established as a newspaper of general circulation in Los Angeles County. Based on this legal status we are eligible to publish Legal Notices and Fictitious Business Name Statements. Reproduction in whole or part of any material in the Community News without permission of the publisher is prohibited. ©2021.

loscerritosnews.net • lmlamplighter.com

## Over 134,000 LA County Residents Receive Notices of Medical Debt Relief

More than 134,000 Los Angeles County residents will begin receiving notices next week as a part of the first wave of medical debt relief, marking a significant step in addressing the financial strain caused by medical costs.

The notices, sent by LA County and national nonprofit Undue Medical Debt inform the resident that their medical debt has been permanently retired and offer helpful information for individuals who need help with additional medical bills or are seeking financial assistance.

The amount of debt being relieved through this first round of notices is nearly \$183.6 million.

Launched in December 2024, the Los Angeles County Medical Debt Relief Program provides immediate financial relief by purchasing and eliminating medical debt for qualifying residents.

Through an initial \$5 million investment approved by the LA County Board of Supervisors, the program aims to retire \$500 million in medical debt for low-income residents, with plans to eliminate up to \$2 billion by seeking additional contributions from philanthropic partners, hospitals, and health plans.

Through this program, Undue Medical Debt acquires qualifying debts in bulk for a fraction of their face value from provider partners like hospitals and health systems along with collection agencies, meaning on average one dollar can erase \$100 or more of medical debt.

“If you get a letter in the mail from LA County and Undue Medical Debt this week—open it. We’ve eliminated medical debt for more than 134,000 residents, no strings attached. This is real relief, and it’s hitting mailboxes soon,” said Supervisor Janice Hahn, who authored the motion to launch the program. “This is LA County government at its best. We are seizing an opportunity and making a smart financial decision to make people’s lives better.”

“Medical debt should never stand between our residents and the care they need. This first wave of LA County’s Medical Debt Relief – over \$183 million – represents more than just numbers; it’s a commitment to removing the weight of a crushing financial burden, that perpetuates health and financial disparities,” said Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell. “We are committed to tackling the root causes of medical debt, so no one has to choose between seeing a doctor or putting food on the table.”

Eligible residents will receive an Undue Medical Debt and Los Angeles County branded envelope in the mail



**DON'T THROW AWAY THIS ENVELOPE:** L.A. County Supervisor Janice Hahn and Supervisor Holly Mitchell at this week’s press conference.

without any need to apply. The program also includes preventive measures to reduce future medical debt through improved eligibility tools for financial assistance programs and increased access to resources.

This medical debt relief is source-based, meaning only qualifying debts held by participating providers or collectors can be canceled. Relief cannot be requested.

To qualify for relief, current LA County residents must be either four times (400%) or below the federal poverty level or have medical debt that totals 5% or more of their annual income.

While relief is beginning to reach many residents, new data shows that medical debt continues to impact nearly 882,000 adults in LA County—about 1 in 9 residents—underscoring the importance of ongoing efforts to support residents.

Key findings from an updated analysis include:

- Medical debt prevalence increased to 11.1% of LA County adults in 2023 from 10.0% in 2022
- Over half (51%) of adults with medical debt have taken on credit card debt to pay medical bills
- Among those with medical debt, 45% report were unable to afford basic necessities, and 72% skipped needed medical care
- Medical debt affects people across insurance statuses, with the uninsured particularly vulnerable (29.4%)
- 42% of the medical debt burden falls on adults living below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level

Significant disparities persist, with Latino/Latine, Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and multiracial adults disproportionately affected by this financial burden.

“Medical debt continues to be a sig-

nificant burden for too many LA County residents, with the total debt estimated at over \$2.9 billion in 2023 in LA County—a staggering amount that has not decreased despite gains in insurance coverage,” said Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed., Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

“While the launch of the Medical Debt Relief Program now brings relief letters to thousands of residents, we continue to work with hospitals and health care providers to improve the quality of financial assistance programs and debt collection practices so that those with limited means are not facing financial distress for seeking medical care. Thanks to the leadership of Supervisors Hahn and Mitchell and to the partnership with Undue Medical Debt, LA County is able to bring real and lasting relief to residents across the County.”

A key component of existing efforts to reduce medical debt accumulation rests in ensuring that hospitals and health care providers have robust systems in place to help those with few resources manage a chronic illness and/or medical emergency.

To assist with these efforts, the LA County Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance on September 10, 2024 requiring hospitals in unincorporated Los Angeles to report on debt and financial assistance activities.

On April 29, 2025, the Los Angeles City Council unanimously advanced a motion, led by Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez, to extend medical debt data collection to 34 additional hospitals within the City limits.

This expansion builds upon efforts to improve the quality of financial assistance programs and debt collection practices in order to reduce medical debt by the LA County Board of Supervisors in September 2024 which apply to hospitals in unincorporated areas.

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

BENEFITS OF COPPER REPIPING:

✓ Increased water pressure

✓ No more rusty or discolored water

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

✓ No more leaky pipes

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

✓ Greater peace of mind

✓ Positive selling point for your property

WE USE

Radiodetection

AN SPX COMPANY

EQUIPMENT

EMERGENCY

24

7

SERVICE

\$5 OFF

WITH THIS AD!

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

BEFORE

AFTER

CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

(562) 924-2565 • (714) 527-5300

20014 State Road, CERRITOS

Bonded & Insured • California Contractors Lic. #458625

SEWER LOCATION • WALL & FLOOR HEATERS • CIRCULATING PUMPS

COPPER REPIPING • SLAB LEAKS WITH ELECTRONIC LEAK & LINE LOCATION

SLAB LEAKS • WATER HEATERS • DISPOSALS

Keeping It Flowing For You!

PETE'S PLUMBING

✓ Plumbing clogs

✓ Water heater replacement

✓ Repair and install gas lines

✓ Remodel your plumbing

✓ Flood repair

✓ Disposals repair and install

✓ Toilets install or replace

✓ New piping and repairs

✓ New homes, old homes, commercial plumbing and a ton more

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

Over 30 years in business!

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

3099 E. Pacific Coast Highway • Long Beach

[petes-plumbing.com](http://petes-plumbing.com) • [info@petes-plumbing.com](mailto:info@petes-plumbing.com)

f

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



## L.A. County Invests \$10M to Fight Food Insecurity

### LCCN Staff Report

Los Angeles County has announced a second round of funding totaling \$10 million through the LA Food Equity Fund, supporting 31 nonprofits working to improve food access and sustainability across the region.

The grants, managed by Community Partners and the County’s Chief Sustainability Office, bring the total investment in food equity to over \$20 million. Funded by the federal American Rescue Plan, the initiative addresses rising food insecurity, which affected nearly 1 in 4 L.A. County households in 2024.

“Too many families in L.A. County still struggle to access healthy food. By supporting local leaders who know their communities best and are building lasting solutions that work for them, we’re investing in a future where no one in L.A. County goes hungry,” said Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn, who helped create the Office of Food Systems.

The latest awards range from \$75,000 to over \$400,000 and fund efforts such as food recovery, urban farming, nutrition education, and medically tailored meals. High-profile recipients include LA Regional Food Bank, Union Station Homeless Services, Homeboy Industries, LA Family Housing, Crop Swap LA, and Grow2Zero FARMS.

“This investment is not just about putting food on the table,” said Supervisor Kathryn Barger. “It’s about empowering community organizations to create lasting change.”

Programs will expand food pantries, farmers markets, refrigeration space, and health-focused food services across areas like South L.A., Long Beach, Paramount, and the Antelope Valley.

Supervisor Hilda Solis called the program “essential for families facing the impossible choice between paying rent and buying groceries.” Supervisor Janice Hahn added that it reflects “a future where no one in L.A. County goes hungry.”

This effort is also backed by the new LA County Office of Food Systems, designed to strengthen long-term food equity and supply chain resilience.

The entire list is below:

California Aquatic Therapy Center, \$250,000  
Health Consortium of San Gabriel Valley – \$225,000  
HealthBegins LLC – \$250,000  
Help Me Help You – \$250,000  
Integrative Development Initiative – \$75,000  
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank – \$250,000  
Lundquist Institute, \$400,000  
Pico Union Project – \$125,000  
The Children’s Clinic – \$250,000  
Community Partners 4 Innovation – \$85,000  
Community Services Unlim, \$400,000  
Eastmont Community Center – \$400,000  
Food Forward – \$400,000  
FoodCycle – \$325,000  
God’s Pantry – \$150,000  
Grow2Zero FARMS – \$150,000  
GrowGood, Inc – \$200,000  
Growing Communities, \$400,000  
Hollywood Food Coalition – \$400,000  
Homeboy Industries – \$400,000  
Hope the Mission – \$300,000  
Japanese Amer. Community Center – \$400,000  
LA Family Housing – \$400,000  
Los Angeles USD, \$400,000  
South Bay Outreach Center – \$275,000  
St. Barnabas Senior Center, L.A.\$400,000  
Thai Community Development Center – \$400,000  
The Midnight Mission – \$400,000  
The WOW Flower Project – \$119,000  
Union Station Homeless Services – \$400,000  
Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC) – \$400,000  
Westside Food Bank – \$400,000

## Lakewood Pan American Association Honors 15 Scholars

### LCCN Staff Report

The Lakewood Pan American Association [LPAA] is a longstanding civic organization that provides diverse cultural and educational opportunities for residents of Lakewood.

Since its creation, the scholarship program has awarded over \$250,000 to recipients to help with their higher education costs.a

The LPAA’s annual scholarship program invites high school seniors who reside in Lakewood, regardless of where they go to school, to apply for scholarships ranging from \$750 to \$2,000 to help pay for future college or trade school costs.

This year, the LPAA honored 15 high school seniors from Lakewood who have:

- Demonstrated good citizenship and respect for human values.
- Volunteered in their community and school.
- A sincere desire to complete a post high-school education.
- Excelled academically.

The 2025 scholarship recipients (photo above)

**Back row, from left:**



**HONORED:** The LPAA’s annual scholarship program invites high school seniors who reside in Lakewood, regardless of where they go to school, to apply for scholarships ranging from \$750 to \$2,000 to help pay for future college or trade school costs.

- |                                                |                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mischa Jill Obias (Artesia High School)        | Cassidy Alvarez (Lakewood High School)                                                                                            |
| Andrew Ricaldai (Saint John Bosco High School) | Adanze Nnodim (Mayfair High School)                                                                                               |
| Ejiro Ojose (Mayfair High School)              | <b>Not pictured:</b>                                                                                                              |
| Cali Koepke (Los Alamitos High School)         | Ethan Overholt (Lakewood High School)                                                                                             |
| Olivia Brown (Mayfair High School)             | Isabella Powell (Saint Joseph High School)                                                                                        |
| Roan Gutierrez (Saint John Bosco High School)  | Ava Suppiphatvong (Saint Joseph High School)                                                                                      |
| <b>Front row, from left:</b>                   | Scholarship winners served as Pan American Ambassadors during Lakewood’s week-long celebration of Pan American friendship in May. |
| Talon Camarillo (Lakewood High School)         |                                                                                                                                   |
| Sofia A. Moe (Millikan High School)            |                                                                                                                                   |
| Aoife Niles (Wilson High School)               |                                                                                                                                   |
| Avery Vasquez (Lakewood High School)           |                                                                                                                                   |





# AURA ACADEMY

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ACADEMY  
9<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup> HIGH SCHOOL, AN AUTHORIZED INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) WORLD SCHOOL

## Early College Program (ECP)

Shorten your Bachelor’s degree up to 1.5 years

- STEAM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics
- Christian values
- Scholarship Opportunities
- Develop Critical Thinking
- Learn a New Language
- Global Perspective
- IB Authorized

## New 2024-2025 Scholarships:

One Full Scholarship, if eligible, up to USD 60,000  
9th and 11th grades only, one each

 **562.800.0249** **www.auracademy.org** **admission@auracademy.org** **Building 2, 1600 E Hill St., Signal Hill CA 90755**



# Memorial Day: A Call to Remember, A Call to Honor

Memorial Day is more than the unofficial start of summer—it is a sacred moment of national pause, a day steeped in remembrance, reflection, and reverence.

It’s a time when we set aside our daily routines to honor the brave men and women who gave their lives to defend something larger than themselves: the enduring promise of American freedom.

These fallen heroes did not ask for glory. They did not seek praise or spotlight. Yet their courage led us through our darkest hours, and their sacrifice paved the road we walk today.

Whether they served in the trenches of Europe, the jungles of Vietnam, the deserts of the Middle East, or anywhere duty called, their lives were given so ours could continue.

Their voices may be silent, but their service speaks volumes. It tells a story of valor, duty fulfilled, and freedoms secured.

Throughout Southern California, communities will gather for flag-raising ceremonies, wreath layings, and quiet

moments of tribute. You can find a list of local cities on page three of this newspaper. These local commemorations are not simply symbolic but essential acts of civic memory.

In remembering the fallen, we reaffirm our collective identity and our shared values: democracy, unity, and peace.

This Memorial Day, let us do more than barbecue or head to the beach.

Let us teach our children about the meaning of sacrifice. Let us fly our flags not out of habit, but with purpose.

Let us speak the names of the fallen, tell their stories, and live lives worthy of their gift.

Because the greatest honor we can give them is not just remembrance—but resolve. A resolve to never take for granted the freedoms they died to protect. A resolve to be better stewards of the nation they loved. A resolve to never forget.

editor@cerritosnews.net

# From the Mayor’s Desk: May 23, 2025

By Cerritos Mayor  
Frank Aurelio Yokoyama

Each year, the State of the City provides residents with information on recent projects and new initiatives in Cerritos that are making positive impacts on our residents and business community. I am excited to invite you to this year’s State of the City, which I will be presenting on Tuesday, June 24 at 11:30 a.m., inside the Sierra Room at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts. Refreshments will be provided.

Admission to the State of the City is free and open to the public. I want to ensure that all residents, our business community, and City employees have the opportunity to learn about the



Cerritos Mayor  
Frank Aurelio Yokoyama

tremendous work that we’re doing in Cerritos. Your partnership helps move us forward.

This City has lot to be proud of, from crime prevention and response strategies, awesome shows at the CCPA, eight new dual-use pickleball courts at Liberty Park, and so much more. It is important that our residents, staff, and business community have a clear understanding of the work that is being done to improve our quality of life, business climate, and potential for growth. At the State of the City, guests will receive a comprehensive overview of such activities over the past fiscal year and future activities that will continue to propel Cerritos.

I hope you’ll be able to join us on June 24. Please note that in order to accommodate all guests, RSVPs are encouraged by June 10 at 5 p.m. You can submit your RSVP by contacting the City’s Community Services Division at communityservices@cerritos.us or (562) 865-8101.

Thank you for all you do to make Cerritos special. I look forward to seeing you on June 24 for the State of the City.

## LETTERS

**Re: Libray funding and closures**  
Dear Editor:

Libraries are one of the most important resources that have supported me to this day. My love for travelling to other worlds in my favorite books, having free access to audiobooks, and accessing my childhood favorites, are only a few of the things I can do utilizing my local library. I’ve had a library card since I was 7 and gained a love for reading like no other.

Being severely bullied and isolated since elementary school, books have given me an outlet that not only was safe, but allowed me to grow into a newer and better person into my future dream career with a burning passion of a thousand suns. Taking this potential away from other lonely kids with big dreams is a sin to our freedom and mission as a country.

Without libraries, I would not be as successful or imaginative as I am today. Books are growing expensive, inacces-

sible, or downright continuously halted in printing. We desperately need to keep these resources open. Libraries provide so much to us like printing services, classes, a safe space, and so much more. We cannot stand idly by and let that be taken away from us. We urge everyone to stand together and push to maintain library funds for other lonely kids out there.

Sincerely,  
Kaila Ganzon  
La Mirada

**Re: Infrastructure in Cerritos**  
Dear Editor:

I have lived in Cerritos for 25 years. It is going down. The City services are half they were in the 1990s . If you would have a column on the conditions in the City with the Sheriff Dept. staffing that we pay for.

The thefts in Gridley Park of copper for the lighting has been stolen 8 times that I can remember. If you call after 4 and ask

# Standing Between Democracy and Authoritarianism

While witnessing the most corrupt administration of my lifetime, there has never been a time more urgent than now to be heard, seen and to act boldly. However, it is we, the American people, who stand between Democracy and Authoritarianism. Our steadfast action or passive indifference will determine the course our country will take. Our resolute conviction or lack thereof will shape whether or not we steer our nation away from authoritarianism or toward an unchartered, unprecedented dictatorship.

If we value our democracy, institutional checks and balances, basic freedoms, constitutional safeguards, common humanity, global allies, and adherence to the rule of law, then we must raise our voices and show up to protest against Trump’s corrupt regime. In Lincoln’s famous Gettysburg Address, he reminds us, “We are a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.”

Unhinged corruption, demonstrated by the dismantling of our federal agencies, removal of social and health services, weakening of our democratic institutions, the demonization of the press, media and universities, the blatant disregard for our U.S. Constitution and voting rights, and the mass deportation of immigrants- some U.S. citizens- without due process, collectively sow the seeds of social, economic and political instability and discontent. Undeniably, this marks America’s downward path toward authoritarianism. If we turn a blind eye to this imminent threat, then we have on one to blame other than ourselves.

Project 2025, the Heritage Foundation’s systematic playbook for upending democracy, haphazardly being implemented by Trump and Musk, and further legislatively being backed by the GOP’s scheming bills- “The Big, Beautiful Bill Act” and The No Roque Rulings Act- concertedlly aim to weaken democracy as we know it.

“The Big Beautiful Bill Act” aims to cut Medicaid for over 8 million Americans. As a Baby Boomer in dire need of healthcare and tasked with caring for a critically ill family member- coupled with my firm belief that even the poor need adequate healthcare- forces me to resist Trump’s inhumane agenda which will do immeasurable harm to American families.

In a sneaky attempt to pass their Big Beautiful Bill Act, while most Americans were fast asleep, the House of Representatives passed Trump’s legislation. The GOP Budget office estimates cutting approximately \$715 billion from Medicaid and possibly \$300 billion in Medicare- spanning cuts over a decade. Several other policy cuts include halting food stamps and food lunch programs for children. Increasing the army of border patrol agents by 10,000, along with loosening gun control measures, hurts American families.

The second conniving piece of legislation, aimed to advance Trump’s political agenda, is The No Rogue’s Rulings Act. Essentially. It weakens the power of federal district courts by preventing the issuance of nationwide injunctions against Trump’s corrupt policies. Coupled with his presidential immunity, why would the GOP hand over to

Trump limitless authority over the courts? And why are they meekly relinquishing their responsibility of enforcing constitutional checks and balances? Think about it.

By contrast, The No Kings Act, introduced by Chuck Schumer, did not pass and was not enacted into law. It would have halted immunity from criminal prosecution for illegal actions that violate U.S. laws. Essentially, those serving the highest office of the land are not above the law. The No Kings Act would have reasserted accountability for Congress to hold the President and Vice President accountable for corruption and criminality against our nation’s constitutional laws.

With the pending Senate passage of both The Big Beautiful Bill Act and The No Rogue Ruling Act- intended to advance Trump’s corrupt agenda while protecting him- we, the people have had enough and are finally pushing back. More importantly, people are holding on to HOPE in our fight to save our democracy.

As a proud parent of a USC alum, Jane Fonda’s, May 2025 USC Commencement speech resonated with me when she said, “It is when we take action that HOPE comes alive.”

She quoted Vaclav Havel, the former president of Czechoslovakia, who reminds us of the oppressive weight of authoritarian rule his country suffered during the 20th century; and subsequently fought decades to finally regain its democracy during the late 1980s. Havel aptly validates for Americans the importance of holding on to HOPE:

“Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out.” -Vaclav Havel

Fonda’s entire speech makes complete sense. Resounding voices of resilience from present and past leaders speak truth to power. Courageously each speaks out against the societal and political ills of corruption, injustice, hatred, racism and authoritarianism.

“There is no virtue in remaining silent in the face of injustice for it can be interpreted as approval of what we don’t like.” -Joan Chittister

“There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.” – Elie Wisel

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” -Martin Luther King Jr.

If we choose to be heard; if we choose to be seen; if we choose our human rights over authoritarian oppressive rule; if we choose hope and freedom over authoritarianism, then let us heed these spoken truths. Let us raise our voices in peaceful protest. In solidarity, let us show up on Saturday, June 14th at one of many No Kings Mass Protests, locally or nationally. Remember, the GOP is banking on a silent, indifferent, apathetic electorate. However, we, the people, will not be complicit nor remain silent- for we are the bearers of HOPE- resolute in saving our democracy.

Sandy Mercado  
Downey

## LETTERS

for any [Sheriff’s] Dept. head you will not get a response. Ask the Parks dept how many times they repair the water valves their staff has run over with the mowers and truck.

I have spoken to twenty people on the block and they all wish there was a forum to fight city hall.

You could be a leader and a great value to both the residents of Cerritos and your paper. Thank you for listening to my problems

Mike Leahy  
Cerritos

## WRITE US! LET YOUR OPINION BE KNOWN!

Send letters to  
Editor@cerritosnews.net.  
Letters can be edited.  
Opinions expressed here are not necessarily the views of the editor.



# State Farm Will Hike Rates in California, Citing Wildfire Risk

By Brian Hews

State Farm, the largest property insurer in the United States, has announced a significant rate increase for homeowners in California, adding to the growing list of insurance woes for residents already struggling with the cost of living and climate-related challenges.

The company confirmed it will raise rates on over 700,000 California homeowners insurance policies by an average of 20 percent, beginning this summer. The move comes amid escalating financial pressures tied to catastrophic wildfires, rising reinsurance costs, and increased construction prices throughout the state.

In a statement, the company said the decision was “difficult but necessary” to ensure long-term financial health in California’s volatile insurance market. “We continue to face inflation, catastrophe exposure, and reinsurance costs at historically high levels,” State Farm said. “Our goal is to continue serving California customers, but we must operate sustainably.”

The California Department of Insurance approved the hike in early May, following months of industry lobbying and a growing number of policy non-renewals across the state. The rate increase comes less than a year after State Farm stopped writing new homeowners insurance policies in California altogether, citing similar financial pressures.

California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara, who has been under intense scrutiny from both consumer advocates and the insurance industry, acknowledged the challenges posed by climate change. However, he also emphasized the need for insurers to remain in the state and offer coverage. “Our job is to strike a balance between consumer protection and market stability,” Lara said. “We are working to modernize regulations while protecting homeowners from unjustified premium spikes.”

Consumer groups argue that the rate hike reflects a troubling trend: major insurers pulling back or raising prices in areas most impacted by wildfires, leaving many residents with few affordable options. “This is another blow to families living in fire-prone areas who are being priced out of coverage,” said Carmen Balber, executive director of Consumer Watchdog.

The news follows similar actions by other major insurers, including Allstate and Farmers, who have scaled back or adjusted offerings in California.

As insurance becomes harder to obtain or afford, more Californians are turning to the state’s FAIR Plan, a last-resort option offering limited coverage at higher costs. Enrollment in the FAIR Plan has surged in recent years, with more than 350,000 policies in force as of early 2025.

Homeowners in vulnerable areas are now facing a difficult choice: pay steep premiums, reduce coverage, or risk going uninsured.

For many, the once-stable insurance landscape in California has become another front in the broader climate crisis—where wildfires are not just destroying property but also reshaping entire markets.

State Farm’s rate hike is expected to go into effect in July, barring any delays or legal challenges.

# Lakewood’s Mounted Sheriff’s Patrol



LAKEWOOD RECENTLY got the benefit of extra Sheriff’s personnel on patrol, specifically with three Deputies on horseback patrolling the Nature Trail, San Gabriel River bed and even riding down the streets of Lakewood neighborhoods in that area.

By Brian Hews

In a move straight out of a modern-day Western, Lakewood residents might do a double take when they spot a new kind of patrol in their neighborhoods—Deputies on horseback. Yes, actual horses, trotting along the Nature Trail, cutting through the San Gabriel River bed, and even clip-clopping down residential streets like it’s 1885 with Wi-Fi.

The mounted patrol is part of the city’s continued effort to beef up public safety.

Lakewood already maxes out its spending on extra Sheriff’s patrols—in cars, not saddles—limited only by the number of deputies the department can assign.

And just to make sure nothing slips through the cracks, the city will soon install 68 high-tech Flock Safety cameras at key intersections and entry points.

With horses on the ground and cameras in the sky, Lakewood’s message is clear: We’ll see you coming—whether it’s on four wheels or four hooves.

# LBMA Exhibit: The Art of Food

The Long Beach Museum of Art is set to open *The Art of Food*, from the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation on May 24, 2025.

This exhibition will feature over 100 works in various media—including paintings, prints, photographs, sculptures, and ceramics—by renowned artists such as Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Ed Ruscha, Jenny Holzer, and Enrique Chagoya.

It will be on view through September 30, 2025, at the museum’s main location at 2300 E Ocean Blvd.

# GRADUATES from page 1

ola’s spring commencement ceremony, where both men will walk the stage together, cheered on by family, friends, and members of the campus community.

As for what comes next, Craig said he plans to continue teaching and mentoring others in the church. Will is considering further academic pursuits and remains committed to using apologetics to engage young people in conversations about faith.

“It’s never too late to learn,” Craig said. “And it’s always the right time to lead by example.”

Los Cerritos Community News'

23rd Annual Graduation Special Publication

Supporting ABC, El Rancho, and Norwalk/La Mirada Unified School Districts!

• Publishing over 10,000 High School Graduates names!

Includes Graduates from ten area high schools and eight cities:

ABCUSD-Artesia, Cerritos, Gahr, Valley Christian, Whitney, Tracy, El Rancho

NLMUSD-Norwalk, John Glenn, Southeast Academy La Mirada, El Camino

• An additional 5,000 over run for all high schools

•86,000 weekly circulation, all home delivered

•4,000 copies delivered to over 155 local area businesses every week

•Delivered to Artesia, Cerritos, Commerce, Hawaiian Gardens, Lakewood, La Palma, La Mirada, Norwalk and Pico Rivera.

Deadline June 13!

Publishing Date June 9.

We Have Rates To Fit Every Budget!

• Full Page .....\$1,400

• Half Page .....\$899

• Quarter Page.....\$699

• Eighth Page.....\$499

Premium positions available- Inside Front, Center pages (2), Inside Back and Back Page

Call today, we'll even design the ad for you for FREE! (800) 901-7211



# C-SPAN Visits La Palma to Honor Local ‘StudentCam’ Documentary Winners

LCCN Staff Report

C-SPAN visited Walker Junior High School in La Palma on May 20 to celebrate and honor Mollie Saddul, Giselle Guillermo and Arya Patel for their prize winning entry in C-SPAN’s annual student video documentary competition, StudentCam.

C-SPAN and Spectrum representatives joined the community in recognizing Mollie, Giselle and Arya, as well as their teachers, Tina Alvahuante and Valerie Armijo, who served as their StudentCam advisers, at an assembly of classmates, teachers, family members, and elected officials.

Mollie Saddul, Giselle Guillermo and Arya Patel, seventh graders, won Honorable Mention and \$250 for their video, *Beyond the Rainbow; Ban Synthetic Dyes*

This year, C-SPAN, in cooperation with its cable and satellite television partners, asked middle and high school students to address the theme — “Your Message to the President: What issue is most important to you or your community?” In response, C-SPAN received over 1,700 entries and nearly 3,500 students participated from 42 states and Washington, D.C.

“Congratulations to all of the incredibly talented young students who

won awards in this year’s competition! Through in-depth research and interviews with an array of topical and technical experts, you have crafted impactful short stories that capture issues of wide public interest and importance,” said C-SPAN’s Director of Education Relations Craig McAndrew.

“Your documentaries set a very high bar for future StudentCam filmmakers, and you should be proud knowing your work will inspire your peers and foster thoughtful consideration from all audiences. We can’t wait to see what you do next.”

C-SPAN is funded by America’s cable and satellite television companies as a commercial-free public service.

In La Palma, C-SPAN is available through Spectrum, our local partner in StudentCam.

“As a long-time supporter of StudentCam, we are continually inspired by the curiosity and creativity students bring to C-SPAN’s annual competition,” said Adam Falk, Senior Vice President of State Government Affairs for Spectrum.

“The program provides a unique opportunity for young people to showcase the critical thinking, problem solving and civic engagement skills essential for informed and active communities.

We celebrate this year’s winners and look forward to watching Mollie, Giselle and Arya continue to follow their passion for storytelling through this medium.”

Now in its 21st year, this project-based learning experience asked students to explore and analyze matters of personal, local or national importance.

The most popular topics addressed were:



**WALKER JUNIOR HIGH** students in la Palma will be honored at ceremony, in collaboration with Spectrum and local officials.

- Climate, Environment, and Land Use (11%)
  - K-12 Education Policies and the Cost of College (10%)
  - Health Care and Mental Health (10%)
  - Gun Violence, School Safety, and Firearm Policies (9%)
  - Inflation, Taxes, Government Spending, and the Economy (9%)
- In addition to the grand prize and first prize winners, C-SPAN is awarding 16 second prizes, 32 third prizes and 97 honorable mention prizes. These winning videos will receive cash awards of \$1,500, \$750, and \$250, respectively.
- The StudentCam competition has

awarded over \$1.6 million in prizes since 2004. You can watch all 150 winning videos from this year’s competition at StudentCam.org.

C-SPAN Classroom uses the network’s programs on public affairs, coverage of Congress, nonfiction books and American history to create free digital tools for teachers, students, and the public to use in classrooms, in projects or for research.

C-SPAN Classroom’s website provides social studies teachers with access to thousands of free resources, including short current events videos, Lesson Plans and Bell Ringers, plus Constitution Clips and On This Day in History events. Engage with C-SPAN Classroom on X/Twitter and Facebook.



GARDENS CASINO

JACKPOT



POKER JACKPOTS JUST GOT BETTER! UP TO

\$100,000

BONUS JACKPOT HOURS 10AM-1PM | 5PM - 8PM | 11PM - 2AM

#THEGARDENSCASINO • WWW.THEGARDENSCASINO.COM

(562) 860-5887 • 11871 E. CARSON ST. HAWAIIAN GARDENS, CA 90716

All participants must be 21 years of age or older and have valid ID. Hawaiian Gardens Casino reserves the right to cancel or modify promotions at any time and any game rules as approved in advance by the Bureau of Gambling Control. For more information, see a CSR.

PROBLEM GAMBLING? CALL 1-800-GAMBLER (426-2537) GEGA 001477



# Cerritos Teen Wins International Video Prize

Washington, DC — Kelly Guo, a 9th-grader at Gretchen Whitney High School in Cerritos, is catching eyes on the global stage after winning Honorable Mention in the World of 8 Billion International Student Video Contest—a competition that drew thousands of entries from teens in 67 countries around the world as well as from 45 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

Kelly’s 60-second video, Education for New Generations, addresses the wellbeing of children through education-focused solutions: specifically paying families in low-income countries to send their children to school and investing in teacher training institutes to enhance the quality of learning. The greater the number of years a child is in school, the more they will earn in a lifetime, increasing financial security for them and their family. “I enjoyed using my creativity to bring attention to an important topic in a fun and interesting way,” she says.

Kelly loves biology and learning about how things work. She volunteers with a community food distribution organization and thinks about child wellbeing when she sees families picking up food. She takes part in the STEM club and the fiber arts club and has collected a number of medals as part of her school’s science Olympiad team. Her parents are her biggest role models.

This year’s contest challenged students to explore how population growth intersects with three critical global issues:

Child Wellbeing: The physical, mental, and emotional state of children greatly depends on their access to resources, the safety of their communities, and the reliability of the services around them.



Whitney Student Kelly Guo

Rainforest Ecosystems: Climate change, mining, agriculture, and deforestation threaten the biodiversity and health of rainforests, which not only provide habitat for wildlife, but critical resources that humans rely on and benefit from.

Sanitation: People have always struggled for proper sanitation - access to clean water for drinking and cleaning, as well as a system for safely handling human waste. It is crucial for public health and has been recognized as a human right.

More than 4600 students participated in the annual contest, organized by Population Connection’s Population Education program, and judged by a panel of educators, filmmakers, and experts in sustainability. With compelling messages and creative approaches, winners proposed innovative solutions such as solar-powered toilets, farm-to-family partnerships, agroforestry, and reimagining public transit, all in one powerful minute

Prizes for high schoolers are \$1,200 for first place, \$600 for second, and \$300 for honorable mention for high schoolers. Middle school first- and second-place winners received \$600 and \$300, respectively.



CITY OF CERRITOS

## Have a Request or an Issue to Report?

From requesting a pothole repair to reporting a traffic signal outage, the City is committed to responding to your needs and resolving issues.

Call or make a request online:

Call (562) 860-0311 (business hours)  
Call (562) 860-0044 (non-business hours)  
Visit [cerritos.gov/request](https://cerritos.gov/request)

Download the mobile app



iPhone



Android

DIRE STRAITS

BROTHERS IN ARMS

CLASSIC ALBUMS LIVE

performs

Dire Straits' Brothers in Arms

NOTE FOR NOTE CUT FOR CUT

30 | MAY  
8 PM

CLASSIC ALBUMS LIVE

performs

The Who's Who's Next

NOTE FOR NOTE CUT FOR CUT

31 | MAY  
8 PM

THE POLICE

EXPERIENCE

01 | AUG  
8 PM

GET READY TO ROCK  
AT LA MIRADA THEATRE

TICKETS LaMiradaTheatre.com





CIF-SOUTHERN SECTION DIVISION 4 BASEBALL PLAYOFFS

Lacking Key Hits, Valley Christian Succumbs to Woodbridge in First Round

By Loren Kopff

IRVINE-Valley Christian High, with senior pitcher Riley Jones on the bump, gave the CIF-Southern Section’s Division 4 top-ranked team all it could handle this past Friday in a first round playoff game. But the Defenders, who were hot coming into their first playoff game since 2021 with seven wins in their last eight games, needed another hit or two to possibly pull off an upset.

Instead, it was Woodbridge High’s Alex Johnson that came up with a key two-out, two strike single that was the beginning of a rally in the bottom of the fourth inning, eventually giving the Warriors a 4-1 victory at Ryan Lemmon Stadium. V.C. ends a remarkable 15-11 season which includes a second place finish in the Olympic League.

“We had goals coming into the season and the young men accomplished those goals, so much so that we started out as a Division 6 school and we end up playing in the Division 4 CIF playoffs,” said V.C. first-year head coach Eric Slater. “That’s a testament to their hard work to their perseverance, and for them to really build upon a tough start...and slowly we started building up wins.”

“I think of it as any other game,” said Jones. “I know the gravity of it, and every pitch I tried to put my best foot forward. I tried to do anything that I could to get this team to win.”

The game took on an ominous look for the Defenders as the first three batters all struck out without their bats touching the ball thrown by Vincent DeMarco. He threw 11 pitches in the inning, five of which were swings and misses, four were looking and the other two went for balls.

In the bottom of the inning, and with one out, Caden Camacho doubled down the third base line and two batters later scored the game’s first run when DeMarco was safe on a fielder’s choice. It was the first time Jones had allowed a first inning run since Feb. 20, the third game of the season and his second start. In that game, he gave up two runs in the top of the first against Esperanza

High, which proved to be the difference in a 5-4 loss for the Defenders.

“I have to realize my days in high school are short and even though I gave up a run [in the first inning], I can’t let that eat at me because I’m doing the team a disservice,” said Jones. “It’s a matter of refocusing and then completing the inning, limit the damage and going back out and putting up zeros like I’m supposed to do.

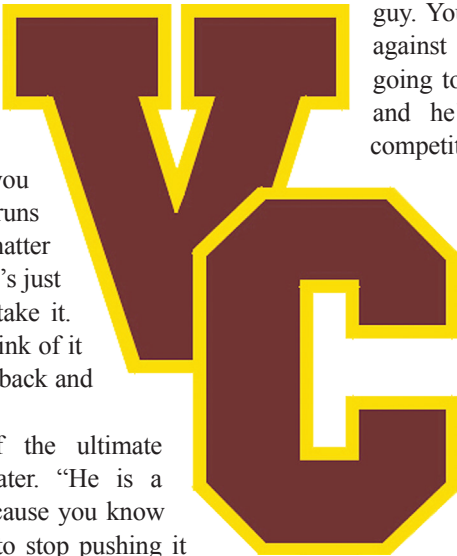
“As a pitcher, you have to realize that runs will happen no matter what,” he later said. “It’s just a matter of how you take it. For me personally, I think of it as a challenge, so I go back and reset myself.”

“Riley is one of the ultimate competitors,” said Slater. “He is a coach’s best friend because you know that he’s never going to stop pushing it 100 percent as hard as he possibly can. He knows that he’s going to come out and he gets hit with some adversity, he knows that he’s going to fight through and persevere through that adversity.”

DeMarco would continue to hold V.C. at bay for the next two innings despite senior center fielder Austin Abrahams being stranded at second base after a one-out single in the second inning and three more runners getting on base in the third without further damage.

DeMarco walked junior catcher Nolan Dietz and with one out, was standing on third base after a double from junior second baseman Nico Villafana. Sophomore first baseman Quintin Ekstrom then reached on a fielder’s choice but on the same play, Dietz was caught in a rundown for the second out.

The Defenders finally got on the board with a two-out rally in the next inning as junior designated hitter R.J. Estrada tripled to the right field corner and scored on a wild pitch. DeMarco would then walk junior left fielder Max Douglas, who advanced to third before a line drive out ended a chance for the Defenders to grab the lead. After that, three of the next six runners would reach



base over the next two innings, none getting past second base,

“DeMarco is a talented young man, and he’s put nothing but great numbers up,” said Slater. “We’ve been going through a lot of his stats and taking a look at some of his sequences, and we knew we had to come out swinging against this guy. You’re not going to walk against him a whole lot; he’s going to throw a lot of strikes and he’s going to be very competitive.

“We struggled early on; that’s no secret,” he continued. “But I knew, and this is something that I’ve always felt about these guys. I knew that we would start getting to him. I knew that we would start getting some baserunners. We always talk about competing every at-bat every inning, and we did. We just fell short a couple of times on a couple of big hits that we needed, and that was the difference in today’s ballgame.

Meanwhile, Jones was doing all he could to keep his team in the game. But after striking out Vaughn Tase and Dylan Mutuc to begin the bottom of the fourth, Johnson singled to right on a 1-2 count. Four pitches later, Caleb Camacho tripled to the same location as Estrada and would make it 3-1 when Nevan Namgoong singled to center.

The final run of the game came with two outs in the sixth when Jones walked Caleb Camacho, ending his time as a high school pitcher. Back to back singles from Namgoong and Caden Camacho made it 4-1.

“[We needed] one or two big hits and when you’re facing guys who can throw at that level, it’s tough,” said Slater. “It’s not an easy thing to do at this level, especially when you’re in the playoffs. These are teams who are battle-tested, and you have to tip your hat to their coaching staff and the ball players over there because they fought just as hard as we fought.”

Jones pitched into the sixth inning, allowing eight hits and striking out five while walking a pair. V.C.’s offense was stymied as it collected three hits. Only twice did the Defenders get two hits in a game-Feb. 25 against Mayfair High in a 2-0 loss and May 2 against league champion Maranatha High in a 2-0 victory. Jones, who received several offers from junior colleges and some Division 2 and Division 3 institutions, has decided to attend Long Beach City College in the fall.

“When I took him out of the ballgame, it was one of the hardest things that I had to do,” said Slater. “I just wanted to make sure that he understands that it was a special moment for me; being out there on that field to see him come out of his last game at Valley Christian. You don’t replace that; we’re not going to have another Riley Jones. We’re not replacing that at all. But I will tell you that we have a lot of youngsters who are coming up that have seen what he can do; understand his work ethic, understand his perseverance. If they can join on to work towards his goals and the same things that he’s pushing for...we have a lot of hope in the years to come at Valley Christian High School. Even though his pitching days are over at Valley, that legacy is going to continue to stick around for a long time. I know that for sure.”

Jones had pitched a pair of complete games through the team’s first 12 games and at that point, the Defenders were sitting at 5-7. But he and junior Josh Hulse combined for three straight complete games. Then came league action and after the Defenders split a pair of games with Village Christian High, Hulse and Jones went the distance in five straight games, all victories, as the team stormed back to post a 13-9 record when the calendar reached Apr. 24.

“Even at that time, I knew there was something special in these young men, and it started to come,” said Slater when the team was sitting at 4-7. “They fought through some of our injuries, our adversities and it just became a team that I would be willing to battle with at any possible time. I’m very, very proud of these young men.”

CIF-SOUTHERN SECTION DIVISION 7 BASEBALL PLAYOFFS

Norwalk’s Pitching, Defense Holds Off Western Christian in Second Round

By Loren Kopff

The plan was simple for Norwalk High first-year head coach Jose Rodriguez when his team hosted Western Christian High in a CIF-Southern Section Division 7 second round game. He wanted to use his top two pitchers and limit them each to under 75 pitches.

The goal was met and now Norwalk is on its way to the quarterfinals for the second time in the last three seasons as the host Lancers held off a furious rally from Western Christian in the second half of the game to escape with a 4-3 victory this past Tuesday. Norwalk will travel to top-seeded Channel Islands on Friday.

“We got to 73 pitches with our number two, and I decided to go with the freshman, Gio Ramirez, and he came in and got some big outs for us,” said Rodriguez. “I thought that was going to carry us to our number one, and he was having issues. He couldn’t throw strikes; he started cramping up, came out with an injury and then we went to the pitcher of the year for the season, [junior] Jesus [Sanchez], who is a good strike thrower. He was able to give us three outs and give us the [victory].”

Early on, it didn’t look like a crisp game

from sophomore David Ibarra, who gave up a leadoff triple to Will Stradley to begin the game. But he would strike out a pair of batters around a lineout to prevent further damage. Then, the third place representative from the Mid-Cities League grabbed the early lead in its half of the inning.

Senior catcher Israel Molina singled on a full count, moved to second on a balk and went to third on a sacrifice fly from freshman shortstop Marcus Castillo. But a throwing error allowed Molina to score the game’s first run.

On the next pitch, junior designated hitter Corey Brammer was hit by a pitch and scored when junior left fielder Daniel Albidrez doubled to the left field gap. But in the next inning, Ibarra threw 32 pitches, 19 of them for strikes, and yielded a two-out, two-run double to Stradley as Western Christian tied the contest.

Norwalk (17-8) regained the lead in the third when Molina was hit by a pitch, stole

second, went to third on an error and came home on a two-out single from Brammer. An insurance run was added in the fifth when Ibarra tripled to the right field gap with one out and scored on a sacrifice fly from Castillo. The purple and gold was hoping to put more runs on the board in the sixth, but a one-out double from senior third baseman Cesar Urueta was wasted when freshman pinch runner Steven Cordova was caught in a rundown and freshman second baseman Jared Brammer was stranded at second after a single and stolen base.

Meanwhile, Ibarra was doing all he could to maintain the lead his offense had given him despite a not so generous strike to ball ratio. After falling behind Eric Gallo 2-0 with one out in the top of the fourth, he was replaced by Ramirez, who proceeded to strike out Gallo and get Bobby Young to pop up. Ibarra threw 74 pitches with 44 going for strikes.



“The guys were really struggling with their command,” said Rodriguez. “I just think it’s the playoff atmosphere and their emotions getting too high. They were actually able to calm down when it matter the most. It took a lot of encouraging from the dugout, but they got the job done.”

Albidrez, the team’s number one pitcher, began the fifth by walking Jacob Casas and hitting Stradley before getting two quick outs. He would walk James Mack to load the bases but got Dylan Martinez to fly out to senior right fielder Angel Martinez. In the next inning, Reece Peters reached on an infield single and one out later, was thrown out at third by Molina. But a walk to Young and singles from Casas and Stradley loaded the bases for Josh Turner, who drove in Young with an infield hit.

However, Albidrez struck out Ethan Scofield to keep it a one-run contest. Sanchez would then work a perfect seventh on a dozen pitches thrown for Norwalk’s second save of the season. Western Christian would strand nine runners and went four for 12 with runners in scoring position.

“That just goes to the guys; they were able to buckle down and close those innings out without getting too much dam-



## CIF-SOUTHERN SECTION DIVISION 5 SOFTBALL PLAYOFFS

### Ceron Recovers From Rocky Start as Cerritos Ends Opening Round Jinx

By Loren Kopff

Cerritos High may be the queens of 605 League softball, winning six straight titles and losing just twice in the circuit since its inception, but when it comes to the CIF-Southern Section divisional playoffs, the Dons haven't had much luck recently.

The program had not won a playoff game since 2021 since defeating Whittier Christian High 4-3 in the quarterfinals. Since then, the Dons had lost four straight postseason games by a combined nine runs. And after the first two innings against Mira Costa High last Thursday, it looked as if that number would be five straight playoff losses.

But Cerritos, seeded third in the division, erupted for four runs in the bottom of the fourth inning and eight more in the sixth as the Dons crushed the Mustangs 14-5 in a Division 5 first-round game. Coupled with an 11-1 win at Valencia High last Saturday, the team improved to 16-6 as it hosted Canyon Springs High in the quarterfinals. Cerritos already has the most wins since going 22-2 in 2021.

Mira Costa scored twice in the top of the first inning off junior pitcher Ava Ceron, who faced seven batters and threw 13 pitches. In the next inning, she tossed 15 pitches and gave up two more runs while facing six batters. After that, she settled down despite scattering six more singles.

"Something about this team that is special is they have very short-term memories," said Cerritos' first-year head coach Michelle Steck. "They're really quick at flushing the mistakes or flushing what's going on, staying loud, just playing Cerritos softball and coming back to find ways to win."

"We had to stay up; we had to fight

back," said Ceron. "That's something about our team. We always know how to keep it going even if we're behind. I just felt like I was keeping my pitches too high. I usually am like a low [ball] pitcher, and the low balls produce flyouts and ground balls. I felt like I was kind of missing my spots, but I made the adjustments to produce the outs that we needed."

Mira Costa was up 2-0 and had the bases loaded in the first when Sam Ure hit a ball that was caught by senior center fielder Anaya Granflor, who threw a dart to senior catcher Aliana Calderon, where she tagged out Maelie Fasano for the double play.

The Dons scored their first run in the third inning when Granflor was safe on one of nine Mira Costa errors, stole second, and scored on Ceron's one-out groundout. Freshman right fielder Demi Lagare was also safe on an error and made it 4-2 by coming home on a passed ball.

After seeing the Mustangs, who won eight games in the regular season, tack on a run in the fourth inning, Cerritos continued the momentum in its half of the frame. Calderon, who at 4' 11" is one of the shortest players on the team, singled off the glove of Fasano and scored on a double from senior third baseman Michelle Meza. Two more errors allowed senior shortstop Katherine Villegas to get to second with Meza scoring and freshman left fielder Noelle Martinez

doubled down the left field line to plate Villegas.

Two outs later, Clara Wilcox walked Lagare, who stole second and went to third on an infield single. That set the stage for Ceron, who redeemed herself by placing an infield single in front of shortstop Madelyn Riethmiller, bringing in Martinez for the eventual game-winning run.

"They were just telling us to stay focused; keep doing what we know we could do," said Ceron of the coaches. "Ali is a little catalyst on this team, and she gets really frustrated with herself if she doesn't get that big hit, which everyone wants," said Steck. "I just have to keep reminding her that whatever it takes. I don't care if it's the ugliest bunt on the planet; it looks like a line drive in the books. We need to remember that it truly doesn't matter. We just need something to get base runners in that situation."

Ceron would leave runners at second and third in the fifth and yielded a two-out single in the sixth. But the Dons put the game out of reach in the bottom of the sixth by sending 12 to the plate. And just like Mira Costa was connecting on the first or second pitch thrown by Ceron in the early innings, the Dons were doing the same off Wilcox on the sixth.

With runners on first and second to begin the onslaught, Ceron, who is the leadoff batter, sophomore first baseman Zoe

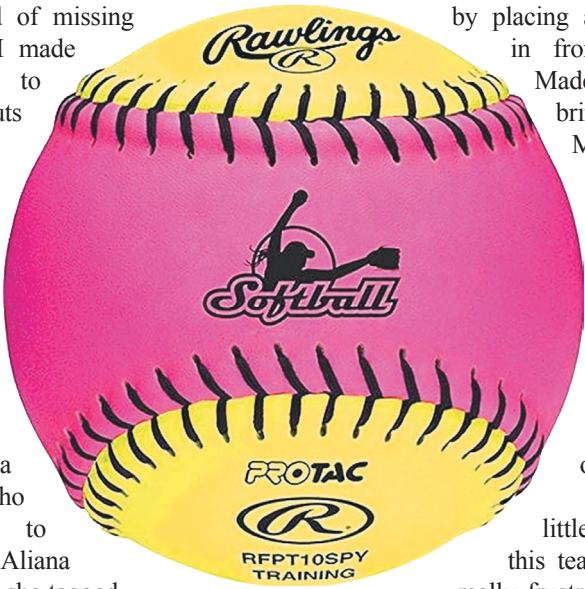
Corrales, Calderon, and Meza connected on a combined seven pitches, either getting a hit or a run-scoring groundout. A double from Villegas on an 0-2 count plated Meza to make it 10-5. That was followed by first-pitch singles from Martinez and Granflor, then a one-strike base hit from senior second baseman Lana Javier.

When it was all said and done, eight starters had at least a hit and drove in at least a run, while seven starters scored at least a run. Ceron went two for five and drove in a pair while Martinez, Meza, and Villegas all had two hits. And, while she did not have a strikeout, Ceron still survived a 12-hit attack by the Mustangs, who stranded nine runners.

This was the third time this season Cerritos had rallied from an early deficit to win. It trailed Kennedy High 8-2 after one and half innings on Mar. 17 and rallied for a 9-8 win and was down to Oxford Academy 6-2 after two innings on Apr. 11 before coming back for a 13-6 victory. That was the beginning of an eight-game winning streak heading into the quarterfinals. The Dons also scored a run in the bottom of the seventh against Mark Keppel High on Feb. 27 to win 7-6 after allowing three runs in the top of the seventh.

"We've done it kind of off and on all season [and] this was definitely a different situation, being that this was the first round of the CIF [playoffs]," said Steck of the rallies. "We haven't been out of the first round of CIF for quite some time. We know that, but I think it's not something I'd like to say we're used to, but it's something that they're familiar with."

"That was definitely our goal coming into the year," said Ceron. "We wanted to get at least past round one, and we have such a great group of girls. I'm really happy that we were able to do it."



## CIF-SOUTHERN SECTION DIVISION 1 SOFTBALL PLAYOFFS

### La Mirada Softball Runs Out of Steam in Ninth Inning, Falls to Ayala

By Loren Kopff

La Mirada High's softball team scored early against Ayala High, and in the seventh inning to send the game into extra frames during its CIF-Southern Section Division 1 quarterfinal contest at Jennie Finch Field. But in between, the Matadores were stymied by Allie Lukaszewicz while the Bulldogs chipped away, tied the game, then took a lead before winning in extra innings.

Ayala, the fourth-seeded team in the division, collected four hits, took advantage of an outfield blunder and scored four times in the ninth inning to knock out the Matadores 9-5 this past Wednesday. La Mirada finishes one of its finest seasons at 25-5.

Sophomore pitcher Alison Ortega seemed to have set the tone by throwing four pitches in the first inning, then watched her offense score three runs in the bottom half of the frame on three hits. Senior shortstop Amanda Urbina, headed to the University of Oregon, was hit by a pitch and sophomore first baseman Reese Hilliard singled to center. Two batters later, senior third baseman Angelyna Conde, a Texas Tech University commit, doubled down the left field line to drive in a pair of runs. That was followed by a base hit from senior second baseman Alyssa Avila, who is headed to Duke University, bringing in Conde for the third run.

"We did what we were supposed to do," said La Mirada head coach Brent Tuttle. "Our top of the lineup has been

solid all year long, and we got those three [runs]. Then their pitching settled down a little bit and held us down and it was five scoreless innings. We did what we had to do in the seventh to put us in a good situation. We just didn't get the job done."

After Lukaszewicz retired 15 of 17 batters from the second inning to the sixth and got the first two outs in the seventh, junior right fielder Bettie Mae Acevedo singled to left on a full count and Urbina smacked a home run over the left field fence on a 1-2 count to tie game. Hilliard then got her second base hit of the game before sophomore catcher Riley Hilliard, her twin who is 30 seconds younger, struck out to send the game into extra innings.

Lukaszewicz retired all six batters she faced in extra innings while the Bulldogs teed off on senior pitcher Montserrat Reyes-Cardenas in the ninth. The future San Diego State University athlete gave up a one-out single to Taelor Walker and a double to McKenzie Becerra. Following a groundout, the wheels came off as Jocelyn Escobedo singled to center, then a ball hit to shallow center by Jordyn Balingit dropped in between a pair of players, allowing two more runs to score. Two pitches later, Viviana Jilek completed the rally with a double to left, driving in Balingit for the last run of the game.



As good as Ortega was in the first two innings, getting ahead 0-2 on the first four batters she faced in the second, she was the opposite in the third. She fell behind 2-0 in the count to the first four batters she faced but only yielded a one-out home run to Jayden Tamura.

The Bulldogs would get six hits and strand five runners on base from the second inning through the fifth inning. But in the sixth, Ayala tied the game when Lilianna Acosta reached on an error and pinch runner Zoey Hipolito scored on a double from Escobedo and took the lead in the seventh when Becerra hit her team-leading seventh home run, a two-run shot off Reyes-Cardenas.

"Their hitters are good; their three-four-five are tough hitters," said Tuttle. "She hung a pitch and [Becerra] hit that home run in the seventh. But other than that, I thought [Reyes-Cardenas] did a good job. We had that miscommunication [in the outfield] and that just really flips the script there, being down four versus being down one."

Ortega pitched the first six innings, throwing 92 pitches and allowing eight hits while walking one and striking out one before Reyes-Cardenas came in to begin the seventh.

Tuttle said he and his coaching staff was going by feel when the pitching change was made. The two combined to

give up 16 hits, the most any opponent has collected on La Mirada this season.

The Matadores were limited to seven hits with Avila also getting a pair. But the offense grounded out 10 times and struck out five times after the first inning. Five other outs were recorded by the outfielders.

"We were hitting the ball," said Tuttle. "It's just they made great plays. Their shortstop is tough; she made a lot of good plays. They played good defense."

Before the Ayala game, the Matadores had let a 3-0 first inning lead evaporate three times, only to rally for a victory. It happened against La Cueva High on Mar. 8 in the final game of the Dave Kops Tournament of Champions Tournament, Apr. 1 at Gahr High in a wild 16-8 affair and Apr. 10 at Downey, an 8-7 victory. This was also the first time since 2022 La Mirada had advanced past the first round of the playoffs.

"It was a really good team," said Tuttle. "Most of these girls have been with me for four years and I'll be seeing them play on [television], hopefully pretty soon here. It's been a really good run with them, and I couldn't be prouder of any group of kids."

"It's a great season," he continued. "There's only one team that can win it all. You can't dwell on your last game. It comes down to only four teams beating us this year. We lost to [Orange Lutheran] twice, and then Norco and Millikan and now a good Ayala team."



NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF DONALD LANE CAMPBELL  
Case No. 25STPB04287

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of DONALD LANE CAMPBELL

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Ruby Pearl Campbell in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Ruby Pearl Campbell be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on June 26, 2025 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 29 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:  
RICHARD SAMUEL PRICE ESQ  
SBN 208603  
ROSA M MARQUEZ ESQ  
SBN 313405  
PRICE LAW FIRM APC  
454 CAJON ST  
REDLANDS CA 92373  
CN117072 CAMPBELL May 23,30, Jun 6, 2025

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property pursuant to Sections 21700–21716 of the CA Business and Professions Code, Section 2328 of CA Commercial Code, Sections 1812.600 –1812.609, Section 1988 of CA Civil Code and Section 535 of the CA Penal Code.

The undersigned will be sold at public auction conducted on [www.storagetreasures.com](http://www.storagetreasures.com) ending on Monday, June 9th, 2025 at 10:00am. The personal property including: general household goods, electronics, tools, personal effects, and/or miscellaneous items are stored at: Cerritos Self Storage, 16515 Valley View Ave., Cerritos, County of Los Angeles, State of California by the following:

Name	Unit #
Brittany Bowen	E26
Alix Cole	H68
Alisha Lynne Scott	H24

Purchases must be made in CASH ONLY and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Sale is subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party.  
Self Storage Management Company, Bond #: WL11254152

Publishers at LCCN 5/23 and 5/30/25

Extra Space Storage, on behalf of itself or its affiliates, Life Storage or Storage Express, will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at location indicated. **10753 Artesia Blvd., Cerritos, CA 90703 on 06/04/2025 at 11:00 a.m.**

**Ryan Frederick**  
**Rose Hadley**  
**Marina Gamboa**  
**Terry White**  
**Israel Ortiz**  
**Gabriel Caranza Mora**  
**Elsa Rico**  
**Jeanette Moreno**  
**Hovanes Arutyunyan**  
**Vincent Jimenez**  
**Danny Vazquez**  
**Kim Bradley**

The auction will be listed and advertised on [www.storagetreasures.com](http://www.storagetreasures.com). Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

Publishers at LCCN 5/23/25

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF NICHOLAS ANTHONY FLENGHI AKA A. FLENGHI, NICHOLA A. FLENGHI, NICHOLAS ANTHONY FLENGHI, NICOLAS A. FLENSHI  
Case No. 25STPB03481

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of NICHOLAS ANTHONY FLENGHI AKA A. FLENGHI, NICHOLA A. FLENGHI, NICHOLAS ANTHONY FLENGHI, NICOLAS A. FLENSHI

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by County of Los Angeles Public Administrator in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that County of Los Angeles Public Administrator 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 on June 12, 2025 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 5 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:  
BRETT WAKINO  
DEP COUNTY COUNSEL  
SBN 162417  
DAWYN HARRISON  
OFFICE OF COUNTY COUNSEL  
500 WEST TEMPLE ST  
STE 648  
LOS ANGELES CA 90012  
CN116538 FLENGHI May 9,16,23, 2025

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:  
CUAUHTEMOC GARCIA  
CASE NO. 25STPB04149

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of CU-AUHTEMOC GARCIA.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by MICHELLE BOUMA in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that MICHELLE BOUMA be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 06/26/25 at 8:30AM in Dept. 44 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  
ERIC F. BECKER - SBN 150803  
JUSTIN D. BARNES - SBN 357401  
LAW OFFICES OF ERIC BECKER  
18881 VON KARMAN AVE., STE. 810  
IRVINE CA 92612  
Telephone (949) 334-3500  
BSC 226768  
5/9, 5/16, 5/23/25  
CNS-3921561#  
LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:  
KYUNG SHIL HONG  
CASE NO. 25STPB04875

to all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of KYUNG SHIL HONG. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by STEVE HONG in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES, 111 N. HILL ST, LOS ANGELES CA 90012, IN THE PROBATE COURT AT THE STANLEY MOSK COURT HOUSE.

THE PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION requests that STEVE HONG be appointed as special administrator with general powers 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 in this court as follows: 5/30/25 at 8:30AM Dept. 4 in Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES, 111 N. HILL ST, LOS ANGELES CA 90012, IN THE PROBATE COURT AT THE STANLEY MOSK COURT HOUSE.

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.

Party Without an Attorney  
STEVE HONG, PRO PER  
250 NORTH FIRST STREET, UNIT 334  
BURBANK, CA 91502  
949-413-5751  
STEVE.HONG@GMAIL.COM  
SELF-REPRESENTED  
LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS 5/9, 5/16, 5/23/25

NOTICE OF INTENDED SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE(S)  
(B & P 24073 et seq.)  
Escrow No. 25-2042-DK

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following licensee(s) whose name(s) and business address(es) are: LONG BEACH WILLOW INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION, 11804 CARSON STREET, HAWAIIAN GARDENS, CA 90716

Intend to sell, assign and transfer the following applicant(s) whose names, and mailing address, are: G&M OIL CO., LLC, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, 16868 A LANE, HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA 92647

The alcoholic beverage license(s) hereinafter described and now issued for the premises located at: 11804 CARSON STREET, HAWAIIAN GARDENS, CA 90716

Pursuant to such intention, application is being made to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control for issuance and transfer of the following alcoholic beverage license(s): LICENSE #: 20-622840

For the premises located at: SAME

That the consideration in connection for the transfer of said license(s), is the sum of \$10,000.00, which consideration has been deposited in escrow and is evidenced as follows: DESCRIPTION, AMOUNT: CASH \$10,000.00; ALLOCATION-SUB TOTAL \$10,000.00; ALLOCATION TOTAL \$10,000.00

Said transfer will be consummated on or after JUNE 11, 2025 at the escrow department or office of: ACE ESCROW INC

It has been agreed between the parties, as required by Sec. 24073 et seq. of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act, that the consideration, if any, is to be paid only after the transfer has been approved by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

Dated:  
LONG BEACH WILLOW INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION, Seller(s)/Licensee(s)  
G&M OIL CO., LLC, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, Buyer(s)/Applicant(s)  
ORD-3763778 LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS 5/23/25

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE  
(UCC Sec. 6105)  
Escrow No. 25-2041-DK

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a bulk sale is about to be made. The name(s), business address(es) to the Seller(s) are: LONG BEACH WILLOW INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION, 11804 CARSON STREET, HAWAIIAN GARDENS, CA 90716

Doing Business as: LONG BEACH WILLOW INC.

All other business name(s) and address(es) used by the Seller(s) within three years, as stated by the Seller(s), is/are: NONE

The location in California of the Chief Executive Officer of the Seller(s) is: NONE

The name(s) and address of the Buyer(s) is/are: G&M OIL CO., LLC, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, 16868 A LANE, HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA 92647

The assets to be sold are described in general as: FURNITURES, FIXTURES, EQUIPMENTS, TOOLS, GOODWILL, TRADENAME, ALL TRANSFERABLE PERMITS, LICENSES AND INVENTORY OF STOCK IN TRADE and are located at: 11804 CARSON STREET, HAWAIIAN GARDENS, CA 90716

The bulk sale is intended to be consummated at the office of: ACE ESCROW INC, 6871 BEACH BLVD, BUENA PARK, CA 90621 and the anticipated sale date is JUNE 11, 2025

The bulk sale is subject to California Uniform Commercial Code Section 6106.2.

[If the sale is subject to Sec. 6106.2, the following information must be provided.] The name and address of the person with whom claims may be filed is: ACE ESCROW INC, 6871 BEACH BLVD, BUENA PARK, CA 90621 and the last date for filing claims shall be JUNE 10, 2025, which is the business day before the sale date specified above.

Dated:  
BUYER: G&M OIL CO., LLC, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY  
ORD-3763747 LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS 5/23/25



By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** First, read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. The words are found in all directions - vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it off the list. The letters are often used more than once so do not cross them out. It is best to find the big words first. When you find all the words listed in the clues you'll have a number of letters left over that spell out the WONDERWORD. To see the answer use the link below the puzzle.

**Mega Supermarkets**

N	T	C	V	D	I	S	C	O	U	N	T	N	K	
E	S	H	E	L	V	E	S	A	C	N	I	R	C	L
Z	A	E	G	G	S	L	Y	O	E	D	E	A	L	A
O	F	L	E	S	S	L	A	I	B	D	T	D	H	W
R	R	P	T	O	N	U	L	C	O	S	E	E	S	C
F	U	N	A	V	E	C	P	M	L	U	F	M	R	A
S	I	S	B	U	L	C	S	P	N	E	U	A	O	R
M	T	E	L	N	S	E	I	M	L	M	R	R	E	S
E	I	G	E	I	C	N	D	O	I	Y	E	K	A	C
L	E	U	S	T	C	H	A	N	G	E	A	N	S	S
L	N	H	I	A	T	A	I	E	S	B	T	I	E	L
S	O	O	R	H	A	M	S	Y	B	A	E	R	S	L
P	N	T	T	O	I	R	A	H	C	M	V	D	A	A
D	O	O	F	R	E	S	H	C	A	E	R	E	L	M
N	O	I	S	E	S	I	D	N	A	H	C	R	E	M

Armful, Baker, Beans, Boss, Cake, Carton, Case, Cash, Chain, Change, Chariot, Clerks, Client, Clubs, Deal, Demos, Discount, Display, Drink, Eggs, Fast, Food, Fresh, Frozen, Fruit, Hams, Help, Huge, Mall, Mart, Merchandise, Minimum, Mints, Modern, Money, Name, Noise, Reach, Sale, Save, Section, Sees, Sell, Serve, Shelves, Shop, Smells, Stack, Supply, Trademark, Unit, Vegetables, Walk.

**Solution on page 14**

**Solution: 10 letters**



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Date:

May 15, 2025

Subject:  
Report

Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact (EIR) for the Washington Boulevard Transit Oriented Development Specific Plan

Project Title:

Washington Boulevard Transit Oriented Development Specific Plan Project (WBTODSP)

State Clearing House No.:

2023090527

Lead Agency:

City of Pico Rivera  
Community & Economic Development Department  
6615 Passons Boulevard  
Pico Rivera, CA 90660

The City of Pico Rivera (City), as Lead Agency has prepared a Draft EIR for the Washington Boulevard Transit Oriented Development Specific Plan in conformance with CEQA (Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15000, et seq.). This Notice of Availability has been issued to notify interested parties that the Draft EIR and Draft Specific Plan is available for public review during the public comment period from **May 23, 2025**, through **July 11, 2025**. The City is requesting comments on both drafts from responsible and trustee agencies, interested public agencies, organizations, and the general public.

**Project Location:** As shown in Figure 1, Specific Plan Project Area, the WBTODSP area is approximately 305 acres and is bound (generally) by Washington Boulevard (to the north), Rosemead Boulevard (to the east), Paramount Boulevard (to the west), and a BNSF Pico Rivera rail yard (to the south). The Project area is composed of 96 legal Assessor’s Parcel Numbers (APNs), as shown in Table 1: WBTOD Specific Plan Assessor Parcel Numbers.

6369006032	6369006028	6369004011	6378017004	6370025009	6369002006
6369006013	6369006034	6369004018	6378018900	6370024033	6369002005
6369006038	6369027022	6369004010	6378018002	6370024026	6369006028
6369006033	6369027006	6369004002	6378018003	6370030016	6369006034
6369006037	6369006039	6369004003	6378019072	6348026027	6369027001
6369006035	6369027900	6369004021	6378019067	6378017004	6369027020
6369006042	6369006027	6369004012	6378019053	6378018900	6369006026
6369006043	6369006802	6369004013	6378019037	6370021001	6369006025
6369006044	6348026026	6369004006	6370027013	6370022025	6369006024
6369006049	6370030015	6369004007	6370024033	6381014007	6369006032
6369006045	6378019068	6369004017	6378019071	6370013014	6369006013
6369006048	6381014006	6369004016	6378019058	6378017001	-
6369027023	6381014011	6369005009	6378019019	6369004011	-
6369027021	6381014010	6369005008	6378019052	6369004018	-
6369027019	6369006901	6370013021	6370027021	6369002004	-
6369027018	6378019900	6370013033	6370027018	6369002900	-
6369027002	6369002012	6370013032	6370027014	6369002007	-

Source: Washington Boulevard Transit-Oriented Development Specific Plan

None of the Project sites are included on any list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to California Government Code Section 65962.5.

**Project Description:** The WBTODSP encompasses approximately 305 acres with the primary goal of promoting future revitalization and reuse of the Washington/Rosemead Boulevard area to compliment the future E Line extension (formerly Gold Line) through the City of Pico Rivera. The City seeks to establish this Specific Plan to create a compact multi-modal, mixed-use, and sustainable environment that is a focal point for community activity. The Specific Plan would establish a vibrant, interconnected community-oriented environment that reinforces and compliments reuse, revitalization, and community health. The Specific Plan will be used as a policy and regulatory guide for subsequent Project-specific reviews and approvals when Project-level proposals within the Specific Plan area are submitted to the City. The Specific Plan assumes a maximum buildout of 2,336 new residential units and approximately 5,889,747 square feet of new non-residential (commercial, retail, office, public facilities, etc.) uses. A General Plan Amendment to update the land use map and a Municipal Code Amendment to update the zoning map will be processed in conjunction with

the proposed Specific Plan.

**Environmental Determination:** The Draft Environmental Impact Report evaluates the proposed Project’s potential individual and cumulative-level environmental impacts on the following resource areas: aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, noise, population and housing, public services, transportation, utilities and services systems, wildfire, and energy.

The Draft EIR indicates that implementation of the proposed Project could result in significant and unavoidable impacts related to Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Future development projects within the Specific Plan area have the potential to exceed South Coast Air Quality Management District established thresholds for pollutant emissions during construction and operation, in conflict with the 2022 Air Quality Management Plan. Additionally, due to the size of the Specific Plan area, potential GHG emissions associated with construction and operation of future development projects have the potential to exceed City thresholds despite the implementation of feasible mitigation measures. In order to reduce impacts to air quality and GHG emissions, the Project would require air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, and health risk assessments for future, applicable development projects; and prohibit residential and mixed-uses near existing, incompatible land uses.

Additionally, mitigation measures are identified in the Draft EIR that would minimize potentially significant impacts to biological resources, cultural resources, tribal cultural resources, Geotech, hazards and hazardous materials, tribal cultural resources, and noise not to less than significant levels.

**Responses and Comments:** Please indicate a contact person for your agency or organization and send your responses and comments to: Jazmin Faccuseh, Senior Analyst; Email: [jfaccuseh@pico-rivera.org](mailto:jfaccuseh@pico-rivera.org); Mailing Address: City of Pico Rivera, Department of Community & Economic Development, 6615 Passons Boulevard, Pico Rivera, CA 90660. Website: <https://www.pico-rivera.org/washington-blvd-transit-oriented-development-specific-plan/>.

**Document Availability:** Electronic copies of the Draft EIR and Specific Plan are available for download on the City’s website at <https://www.pico-rivera.org/washington-blvd-transit-oriented-development-specific-plan/>. Also, all materials are available electronically at the State Clearinghouse via the CEQAnet Web Portal (<https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/>).

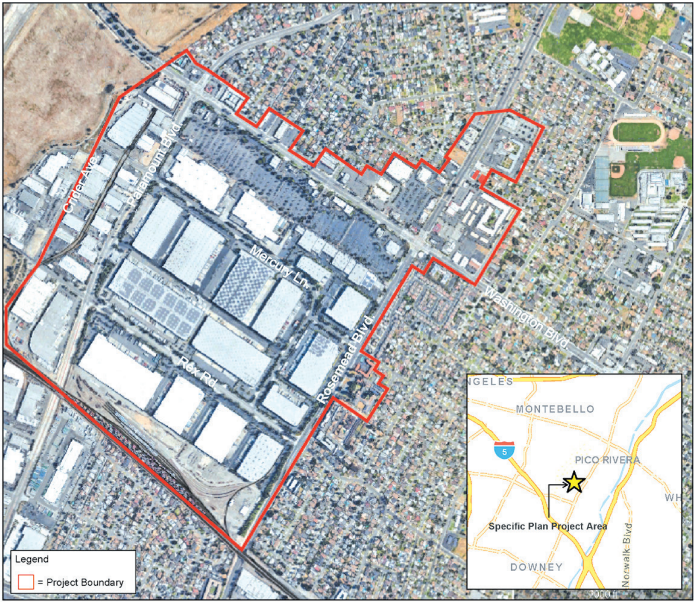




FIGURE 1: Specific Plan Project Area and Regional Location  
Washington Boulevard Transit-Oriented Development Specific Plan, City of Pico Rivera

 Not to scale



Published at Los Cerritos Communty Newspaper 5/23/25

NOTICE AND SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 25-967  
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARTESIA AMENDING CHAPTER 7 OF TITLE 1 AND CHAPTER 1 OF TITLE 5 OF THE ARTESIA MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO THE ABATEMENT OF PUBLIC NUISANCES

Notice is hereby given that on June 9, 2025, the City Council of the City of Artesia will consider the adoption of Ordinance No. 25-967 making certain amendments and additions to the Artesia Municipal Code related to the abatement of public nuisances. The following is a summary of the proposed Ordinance:

The Abatement of Public Nuisances Ordinance introduces several updates aimed at modernizing and strengthening administrative procedures for abating public nuisances. Key changes include:

- Updated Definitions:** Amended the definition of “Responsible Persons” to encompass individuals or entities with ownership, control, or legal responsibility for a property or business involved in a code violation (Chapter 7 of Title 1).
- Enhanced Service and Enforcement of Administrative Citations:** Strengthened enforcement procedures by clarifying service requirements for responsible persons residing at the subject property, eliminated a newspaper publication requirement for serving administrative citations, and authorized violations to be prosecuted as infractions or misdemeanors unless otherwise specified (Chapter 7 of Title 1).
- Streamlined Notice Procedures for Public Nuisances:** Revised the Service of Notice process for nuisance abatement to consolidate multiple notice procedures into a single, consistent method, eliminating two previously conflicting notice procedures (Chapter 1 of Title 5).
- Clarified Hearing Procedures for Public Nuisances:** Revised language related to the review and decision process of the Hearing Officer and the issuance of orders of abatement to improve clarity and better protect the City’s interests (Chapter 1 of Title 5).
- Abatement of Nuisance Prior to City Action Procedures:** Clarified provisions that allow Responsible Persons to abate nuisances prior to City action, encouraging voluntary compliance, and standardized language regarding property entry via warrant to ensure consistency and to safeguard the City (Chapter 1 of Title 5).
- Updated Cost Recovery Provisions:** Added a provision where the City may recover administrative costs and expenses related to nuisance abatement through special assessment or abatement lien (Chapter 1 of Title 5).

Please note that the above is simply a summary of the Ordinance. To obtain a full understanding of the Ordinance it should be read in its entirety. A copy of the full text of the Ordinance is posted in the City Clerk’s office at 18747 Clarkdale Avenue, Artesia, California 90701.

**PUBLISHED:** May 23, 2025                      Jennifer Alderete, City Clerk

Published at Los Cerritos Communty Newspaper 5/23/25

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
NOTICIA PARA UNA AUDIENCIA PUBLICA

CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS PLANNING COMMISSION

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

<b>HEARING BODY:</b> <b>DATE OF HEARING:</b> <b>TIME OF HEARING:</b> <b>LOCATION OF HEARING:</b>	Planning Commission June 4, 2025 6:00 P.M., or soon thereafter City Hall, Council Chambers City of Hawaiian Gardens 21815 Pioneer Boulevard Hawaiian Gardens, CA 90716
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Case No. PLNG2025-0042, a request submitted by The Gardens Casino, requesting an amendment to a previously approved CUP (Case No. PLNG2014-0108). The proposed project consists of upgrading the existing double-sided pylon sign by removing the existing LED display and replacing it with a larger and higher resolution display. The project is located at 11871 Carson Street.

**CEQA DETERMINATION:** The proposed project is Categorically Exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per Section 15311 (Class 11 – Accessory Structures) of the CEQA guidelines. Based on Staff’s analysis, the request to modify an existing pylon sign will not result in any changes in land use and will not have a significant effect on the environment. Thereby the request qualifies for an exemption.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the Hawaiian Gardens Community Development Department at (562) 420-2641 Ext 246. Si desea obtener mas informacion, llame al Departamento de Desarrollo de la Comunidad al (562) 420-2641 Ext 246.

Elise McCaleb, Community Development Director

Published: Los Cerritos Community News 05/23/2025

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 5/23/25



NORWALK from page 10

age,” said Rodriguez.

Norwalk won for the ninth straight time in which Albidrez. Ibarra and Uru-eta combined for five straight complete games, allowing 14 hits and one run. It must also be noted that the team has seven freshmen and three returning players from last season’s 3-17 campaign. A win over Channel Islands would put the Lancers in the semifinals for the first time in over 27 seasons where they would face either

fourth-seeded Garden Grove High or Mary Star of the Sea High.

“For me, being a first-time varsity coach, it feels good,” said Rodriguez. “I’ve been in playoffs games when I played and stuff, but as a coach, it feels good because now I can see the guys fight. We’ve talked to them throughout the whole season about being gritty and doing whatever it takes to win a game. And they proved it today; they did what it took, and that’s all I asked from the guys.”

LEGALS: YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW!

CITY OF ARTESIA  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the City Council of the City of Artesia will hold a Regular City Council Meeting at the City Council Chambers located at 18747 Clarkdale Avenue, Artesia, CA, at **7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 9, 2025**, to conduct a Public Hearing for making amendments to Vacant Properties Registration Fee. The Council will also consider a finding that this project is not subject to CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b) (4).

Members from the public who would like to address the City Council may appear at the public hearing during the consideration of this item and state their opinion. If you have written comments that you wish to submit, please deliver them the Artesia City Clerk’s Office at 18747 Clarkdale Avenue, Artesia, CA, or by **email: publiccomments@cityofartesia.us**, by 12:00 pm on the day of the public hearing, If you have questions about this notice or the proposed fees and charges, please contact the Artesia City Clerk’s Office at (562) 865-6262 or by email above.

If you challenge any of these proposals in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in the notice, or in written correspondence delivered at, or prior to, the public hearing.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in the meeting, please contact Jennifer Alderete, City Clerk. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. (28 CFR 35. 102-35.104 ADA Title II)

**PUBLISHED:** May 23, 2025 Jennifer Alderete, City Clerk

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 5/23/25 and 5/30/25

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

COUNCIL CHAMBERS UPGRADES AND ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS  
PROJECT  
CIP NO. 50074

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the City of Pico Rivera, California (“City”) invites Bids for the Project. Bids will be received electronically only through Planet Bids system (<https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/41481/portal-home>). A bid received after the time set for the bid opening shall not be considered. Bidders are required to **submit (upload) all items listed in the BIDDER’S CHECKLIST including acknowledgement of all addenda**. Bids will be received prior to **2:00 p.m. on June 25, 2025**, at which time they will be publicly opened on the City’s approved electronic procurement platform.

**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 **Sixty (60) 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 at the rate of \$1,000 per calendar day** will strictly be 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 “B” Contractor’s License** issued by the California State Contractors License Board.

**NON-MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING:** All potential bidders are encouraged to meet for a non-mandatory site visit and pre-bid meeting to be held at **10:00 AM on Tuesday, June 3, 2025**, in the City Hall Chambers located at 6615 Passons Boulevard, Pico Rivera, CA 90660. Requests for separate pre-bid site meetings are discouraged. The City has no obligation to arrange for a separate pre-bid site meeting, however requests for separate visits may be considered in special circumstances and at the City’s sole discretion.

**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 Tuesday, June 10, 2025**. Any materials substitutions or questions uploaded after the deadline, or asked by email or by telephone, will not be answered. The City will post on the PlanetBids System any applicable Addenda and/or supplemental information by 4:00 pm on Wednesday, June 17, 2025. 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: Gene Edwards; Contact Number: 562-801-4225; E-mail address: gedwards@pico-rivera.org

By: Noe Negrete May 20, 2025  
Public Works Director Date

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 5/23/25

PUZZLE ANSWER: CONVENIENT

RESOLUTION NO. 7405

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PICO RIVERA, CALIFORNIA, DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO LEVY AND COLLECT THE ANNUAL ASSESSMENT WITHIN THE PARAMOUNT/MINES LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 PURSUANT TO THE LANDSCAPING AND LIGHTING ACT OF 1972, PART 2 OF DIVISION 15, OF THE CALIFORNIA STREETS AND HIGHWAYS CODE, AND SETTING THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE HEARING ON OBJECTIONS THERETO**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has, by previous Resolutions, formed the Pico Rivera Paramount/Mines Landscape Maintenance Assessment District (hereinafter referred to as the "District"), and initiated proceedings for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, pursuant to the provisions of the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972, Part 2 of Division 15 of the Streets and Highways Code of California, beginning with Section 22500 (hereinafter referred to as the "Act") that provides for the levy and collection of assessments by the County of Los Angeles for the City of Pico Rivera to pay the maintenance and services of all improvements and facilities related thereto;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Pico Rivera, as follows:

**SECTION 1.** The boundaries of the District are the boundaries of Tract Map No. 52915 and Tract Map No. 53042, both lying within the boundary of the City of Pico Rivera.

**SECTION 2.** That in order to maintain public landscaping within the District for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, it is the intention of the City Council to levy and collect assessments pursuant to the provisions of the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972 (Part 2 of Division 15 of the Streets and Highway Code) for the maintenance and servicing of landscaping within street medians and parkways.

**SECTION 3.** That reference is hereby made to the Report of the Engineer on file with the City Clerk and available for public inspection for a detailed description of the improvements, the boundaries of the Assessment District, and any zones therein, and the proposed assessments upon assessable lots and parcels of land within the District.

**SECTION 4.** The afore-referenced Engineer's Report analyzed District needs, associated costs, the benefit to properties within the District and determined that the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 assessment need should be based in proportion to the estimated benefits to be received by such properties.

All benefiting properties, including public agencies, will be assessed their proportionate share of the costs of the District.

**SECTION 5.** NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council hereby fixes Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., in the Pico Rivera City Hall Council Chambers, located at 6615 Passons Boulevard, Pico Rivera, California, as the time and place for hearing protests or objections to the proposed improvements, and to the levy and collection of the proposed assessment for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. All interested persons shall be afforded the opportunity to hear and be heard.

Pursuant to the 1972 Act, protests may be in writing or oral. Written protests must be filed with the City Clerk, or any person having previously filed a protest, may file a written withdrawal of the protest prior to the conclusion of the public hearing. Any such protests shall state all grounds of the objection, and if filed by the property owner, shall contain a description sufficient to identify their property.

**SECTION 6.** The City Clerk shall cause notice of the hearing to be given by causing this Resolution of intention to be published and posted in the manner required by the 1972 Act.

**SECTION 7.** The Mayor is hereby authorized to affix her signature to this Resolution indicating City Council's approval.

**SECTION 8.** That the City Clerk shall attest to the passage of this resolution, and it shall thereupon be in full force and effect.

**APPROVED AND PASSED this 13th day of May, 2025.**

<hr/>	
John R. Garcia, Mayor	
<b>ATTEST:</b>	<b>APPROVED AS TO FORM:</b>
<hr/>	<hr/>
Cynthia Ayala, City Clerk	Arnold M. Alvarez-Glasman, City Attorney
<b>AYES:</b> Camacho, Lara, Lutz, Sanchez, Garcia	
<b>NOES:</b> None	
Published at Los Cerritos Community News 5/23/25	

ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NOTICE CALLING FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ABC Unified School District will receive up to but no later than **4:00 PM** on the **4th day of June 2025** sealed bids for:

Bid # ABC – 1678 Transportation Charter

All bids shall be made and presented on a form furnished by the District. Proposals submitted conform to the terms and conditions stated on said form. Proposals shall be received in the Purchasing Department at 16700 Norwalk Blvd., Cerritos, CA., 90703 and shall be opened and publicly read aloud at the above stated time and place.

Bid documents will be available by request to Esthela Perez at (562) 926-5566 x 21218.

Los Cerritos News	May 16, 2025 May 23, 2025
-------------------	------------------------------

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 5/16/25 and 5/23/25

Break Away  
from Elon  
Musk! Go to  
BLUESKY!



@cerritosnews.bsky.social





CITY OF SANTA FE SPRINGS ORDINANCE NO. 1159	
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA FE SPRINGS AMENDING SECTIONS 155.862, 155.863, AND 155.813 OF THE SANTA FE SPRINGS MUNICIPAL CODE TO CHANGE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICING REQUIREMENT FROM TEN (10) TO TWENTY (20) DAYS	
<p><b>WHEREAS</b>, effective January 1, 2025, Assembly Bill 2904 (“AB 2904”) requires local governments to increase public hearing noticing from ten (10) days to at least twenty (20) days before conducting a Planning Commission public hearing on a proposed zoning ordinance or zoning ordinance amendment that affects a permitted use of real property; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b>, because this Ordinance does not affect the use of real property, only ten (10) days public notice is required in advance of City Council review; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b>, the City finds it necessary to amend the Santa Fe Springs Municipal Code to enact provisions that comply with the new state noticing law under Government Code Section 65854.</p> <p>THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA FE SPRINGS DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:</p>	
Section 1.	The foregoing recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein by this reference
Section 2.	Section 155.862 of Chapter 155 (Zoning) of Title VX (Land Use) of the Santa Fe Springs Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows: "Notice of the time and place of the public hearing shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the city at least ten days prior to the public hearing. However, notice shall be published at least twenty days prior to the public hearing when the item to be considered is a proposed zoning ordinance or zoning ordinance amendment that affects a permitted use of real property."
Section 3.	Section 155.863 of Chapter 155 (Zoning) of Title VX (Land Use) of the Santa Fe Springs Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows: "(A) At least ten days prior to the public hearing, the Director of Community Development shall cause a notice of the public hearing to be sent first-class mail to all owners.  (B) Notice in Section (A) shall be mailed at least twenty days prior to the public hearing when the item to be considered is a proposed zoning ordinance or zoning ordinance amendment that affects a permitted use of real property."
Section 4.	Section 155.813 of Chapter 155 (Zoning) of Title VX (Land Use) of the Santa Fe Springs Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows: "(A) If the Commission or Council intends to revoke any permit or approval granted by said Commission or Council, written notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be sent by registered mail to the owner or operator of the premises involved at least ten days prior to said hearing. (B) Notice in Section (A) shall be mailed at least twenty days prior to the Planning Commission public hearing when the permit or approval can only be revoked by zoning ordinance."
Section 5.	In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) (Pub. Res. Code § 21000 <i>et seq.</i> ) and CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 <i>et seq.</i> ) the City Council determines that this Ordinance is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) (Common Sense Exemption), because the approval of this Ordinance does not authorize specific physical improvements or developments, and future projects would be subject to environmental review under CEQA. Therefore, it can be seen with certainty that the adoption of this Ordinance would not result in direct or indirect environmental impacts and would not have a significant effect on the environment.
Section 6.	Any provision of the Code of Santa Fe Springs inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance, to the extent of such inconsistencies and no further, is hereby repealed or modified to that extent necessary to affect the provisions of this Ordinance.
Section 7.	If any section, subsequent subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance and each section, subsection, phrase, or clause thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more section, subsections, phrases, or clauses may be declared unconstitutional or invalid.
Section 8.	This Ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after its final passage by City Council, after which the City Clerk of the City of Santa Fe Springs shall certify the same be published in the same manner required by law.
I, Fernando Muñoz, City Clerk of the City of Santa Fe Springs, do hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance was adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council held on the 20th day of May, 2025, and was carried by the following vote:	
AYES:	Councilmembers Mora, Martin, Rodriguez, Mayor Pro Tem Zamora, and Mayor Rounds
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	None
Published at Los Cerritos Community News 5/23/25	

# CLASSIFIED LISTINGS

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**IF YOU HAD KNEE OR HIP REPLACEMENT SURGERY** and suffered an infection due to use of a Bair Hugger (Blue Blanket), between 2020 and the present time, you may be entitled to compensation. Call attorney Charles H. Johnson (800) 535-5727 (Cal-SCAN)  
**PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES TODAY WITH A GENERAC HOME STANDBY GENERATOR.** Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-844-439-5645 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move. (Cal-SCAN)  
**ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING FOREVER! LEAFFILTER, THE MOST ADVANCED DEBRIS-BLOCKING GUTTER PROTECTION.** Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-424-7581 (Cal-SCAN)

**AUTOS WANTED**  
**DONATE YOUR VEHICLE** to fund the SEARCH FOR MISSING CHILDREN. FAST FREE PICKUP. 24 hour response. Running or not. Maximum Tax Deduction and No Emission Test Required! Call 24/7: 1-877-434-6852 (Cal-SCAN)  
**GOT AN UNWANTED CAR???** Your car donation to Patriotic Hearts helps veterans find work or start their own business. Fast free pick. Running or not! Call 24/7: 1-877-529-0495. (Cal-SCAN)  
**TIENE UN VEHICULO NO DESEADO? DONELO A PATRIOTIC HEARTS!** Recogida rápida y gratuita en los 50 estados. Patriotic Hearts ofrece programas para ayudar a los veteranos a encontrar trabajo o iniciar su propio negocio. Llama ahora: 1-844-244-5441 (24/7) (Cal-SCAN)  
**GET A BREAK ON YOUR TAXES!** Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-844-491-2884 today! (Cal-SCAN)

**BOOKS/PUBLICATIONS**  
**BECOME A PUBLISHED AUTHOR.** We want to Read Your Book! Dorrance Publishing-Trusted by Authors Since 1920 Book manuscript submissions currently being reviewed. Comprehensive Services: Consultation, Production, Promotion and Distribution Call for Your Free Author's Guide 1-877-538-9554 or visit dorranceinfo.com/Cali (Cal-SCAN)

**CABLE/SATELLITE TV**  
**DIRECTV Sports Pack** 3 Months on Us! Watch pro and college sports LIVE. Plus over 40 regional and specialty networks included. NFL, College Football, MLB, NBA, NHL, Golf and more. Some restrictions apply. Call DIRECTV 1-888-641-5762 (Cal-SCAN)  
**DIRECTV OVER INTERNET** - Get your favorite live TV, sports and local channels. 99% signal reliability! CHOICE Package, \$84.99/mo for 12 months. HBO Max and Premium Channels included for 3 mos (w/CHOICE Package or higher.) No annual contract, no hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call IVS 1-855-404-2509 (Cal-SCAN)

**FINANCIAL SERVICES**  
**STRUGGLING WITH DEBT?** If you have over \$10,000 in debt we help you be debt free in as little as 24-48 months. Pay nothing to enroll. Call Now: 1-877-435-4860 (Cal-SCAN)

**HEALTH/MEDICAL**  
**STROKE AND CARDIOVASCULAR SCREENING** Stroke and Cardiovascular disease are leading causes of death, according to the American Heart Association. Screenings can provide peace of mind or early detection! Contact Life Line Screening to schedule your screening. Special offer - 5 screenings for just \$149. Call 1-888-892-5598 (Cal-SCAN)  
**DENTAL INSURANCE** from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-844-203-2677 www.dental50plus.com/calnews #6258 (Cal-SCAN)  
**ATTENTION: VIAGRA AND CIALIS USERS!** A cheaper alternative to high drugstore prices! 50 Pill Special - Only \$99! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW: 1-888-256-9155 (Cal-SCAN)

**HOME IMPROVEMENT**  
**JACUZZI BATH REMODEL** can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, we're waiving all installation costs in half and offering a FREE safety upgrade! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 3/31/24 Call 1-833-985-4766 (Cal-SCAN)  
**SAFE STEP. NORTH AMERICA'S #1 WALK-IN TUB.** Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-888-989-5749 (Cal-SCAN)

**INSURANCE**  
**SAVE BIG on HOME INSURANCE!** Compare 20 A-rated insurances companies. Get a quote within minutes. Average savings of \$444/year! Call 1-844-410-9609! (M-F 8am-8pm Central) (Cal-SCAN)  
**CANCER INSURANCE** Lump Sum Benefit of up to \$50K Affordable Coverage Don't wait for the unexpected. Call us Today 805-683-3636 CA Lic# 0773817(Cal-SCAN)

**INTERNET**  
**FREE HIGH SPEED INTERNET** for those that qualify. Government program for recipients of select programs incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet service. Bonus offer: Android tablet FREE with one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping & handling. Call Maxsip Telecom today! 1-855-480-0769 (Cal-SCAN)  
**CONSUMER CELLULAR** - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-844-908-0605 (Cal-SCAN)

**MISCELLANEOUS**  
**UNLIMITED TALK AND TEXT:** Switch and save up to \$250/year on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. For more information, call 1-844-908-0605 (Cal-SCAN)

**ADVERTISE!**  
The difference in winning and losing market share is how businesses use their advertising dollars. CNPA's Advertising Services' power to connect to nearly 13 million of the state's readers who are an engaged audience, makes our services an indispensable marketing solution. For more info call Cecelia @ (916) 288-6011 or cecelia@cnpa.com

**PETS**  
**PET SUPPLIES**-If veterinary care is unavailable or unaffordable, ask for Happy Jack® ItchNoMore® or Skin Balm® to treat skin allergies on dogs & cats. At Tractor Supply®.  
**DID YOU KNOW** Newspaper-generated content is so valuable it's taken and repeated, condensed, broadcast, tweeted, discussed, posted, copied, edited, and emailed countless times throughout the day by others? Discover the Power of Newspaper Advertising. For a free brochure call 916-288-6011 or email cecelia@cnpa.com (Cal-SCAN)

**REAL ESTATE LOANS**  
**RETIRED COUPLE \$\$\$\$** for business purpose Real Estate loans. Credit unimportant. V.I.P. Trust Deed Company www.viploan.com Call 1-818-248-0000. Broker-principal DRE 01041073. No consumer loans. (Cal-SCAN)

**SERVICES**  
**BATH & SHOWER UPDATES** in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-877-252-9868 (Cal-SCAN)  
**DON'T PAY FOR COVERED HOME REPAIRS** Again! Our home warranty covers ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES. We stand by our service and if we can't fix it, we'll replace it! Pick the plan that fits your budget! Call:1-855-411-1731 (Cal-SCAN)  
**WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION:** A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-888-248-0815. Have zip code of service location ready

**Pre-printed Flyers** Inserted in  
**Our Paper & Delivered Around Your Store**  
**Only 6 cents**  
**Per Insert! 562.407.3873**  
**sales@cerritosnews.net**

**RETIRED COUPLE**  
**HAS \$1MIL TO LEND ON CA. REAL ESTATE\***  
**V.I.P. TRUST DEED COMPANY**  
Buys T.D.s and Buys/Lends on Partial Interests

**OVER 40 YEARS OF FAST FUNDING**  
Principal **(818) 248-0000** Broker  
**WWW.VIPLoan.COM** \*Sufficient equity required - no consumer loans

Real Estate License #01041073 CA Department of Real Estate, NMLS #339217  
Private Party loans generally have higher interest rates, points & fees than conventional discount loans



MENDEZ from page 1

Sources told LCCN that the filing was difficult, as Mendez ran away from the process server several times before finally taking the subpoena.

According to court documents exclusively obtained by Los Cerritos Community News, the complaint, filed April 22, 2025, alleges that Mendez forfeited his position as WUHSD Trustee when he was sworn in as a Director—and now Vice President—of the CBMWD in December 2024.

The WUHSD’s legal action comes under California Government Code §1099, which prohibits any individual from holding two public offices simultaneously if those offices carry the potential for conflicting duties or divided loyalties. The law mandates that one forfeits the first office upon assuming the second.

According to the legal filing, “Defendant’s office as Trustee for the WUHSD Board is incompatible with his office as Director for the CBMWD Board based on the powers and jurisdiction of the offices, which create the possibility of a significant clash of duties or loyalties between the offices.”

The complaint continues: “Since Defendant was sworn into his second office as Director of the CBMWD Board on December 18, 2024, when he was already a Trustee of the WUHSD Board, Defendant has usurped, intruded into, and unlawfully held and exercised the office of Trustee for the WUHSD.”

The district points to the fact that WUHSD buys its water through vendors who source directly from Central Basin, making any rate increases or conservation mandates by CBMWD a direct financial concern to the school system. Both agencies also possess eminent domain powers over the same geographic areas, raising serious concerns about potential conflicts of interest.

“There is a clear possibility that the Defendant could have divided loyalties,” the complaint argues, especially when voting on CBMWD actions that impact school district operations.

The lawsuit seeks a judicial ruling declaring that Mendez is ineligible to continue holding his trustee seat and an order removing him from office. WUHSD also requests attorney’s fees and costs be reimbursed under Code of Civil Procedure §809.

Mendez was elected to the WUHSD Board in November 2022 and to the Central Basin Board in November 2024. His term as trustee would normally expire in 2026, but WUHSD contends he is now unlawfully holding that office.

The district’s Superintendent, Monica Oviedo, verified the complaint under penalty of perjury.

As LCCN previously reported, the quo warranto legal challenge follows a deeper investigation into Mendez’s conduct that revealed he continued to operate a defunct nonprofit—California Youth Martial Arts Academy and Education Foundation (CYM)—after both the IRS and California Franchise Tax Board suspended the organization in 2021. Despite the suspensions, Mendez solicited and received funding from government agencies under the guise of CYM’s revoked nonprofit status, an act that may carry civil and criminal liability under IRS codes.

In a lengthy email, Mendez responded to the mounting evidence by announcing the abrupt shutdown of all CYM programs across Los Angeles County, blaming LCCN’s reporting for the decision.

If a public official knowingly misrepresents or continues operating under a revoked 501(c)(3), the consequences can include IRS fines, civil penalties, or criminal prosecution for fraud.

Pico Rivera Sheriff’s Hosts First Civilian Community Academy



CIVILIAN COMMUNITY ACADEMY aims at strengthening the Sheriff’s relationship with residents,

LCCN Staff Report

In a recent move to enhance public safety and community trust, the LAC Sheriff’s Department-Pico Rivera Station began its first Civilian Community Academy last month.

Aimed at strengthening the Sheriff’s relationship with residents, the Citizens Academy fosters greater transparency and builds trust between the local

police and the community by providing residents with a deeper understanding of law enforcement operations.

These programs also offer an opportunity for citizens to engage directly with deputies, ask questions, and learn about the challenges and complexities of modern policing.

For more information can the Pico Rivera Sheriff’s Station, at 562.949.2421.

CLOSURES from page 1

feeder areas, district staff recommended the following closures:

Aloha Elementary: Students would be reassigned to Melbourne and Willow Elementary.

Ferguson Elementary: Students would move to Hawaiian and Melbourne Elementary.

Juarez Elementary: Students would attend Burbank or Kennedy Elementary.

Stowers Elementary: Students would be redistributed to Gonsalves and Cerritos Elementary. This move is contingent on shifting 6th graders to middle schools.

Whitney High Reconfiguration: Whitney would expand to include a new 6th–8th grade middle school housed at the current Stowers campus, allowing for increased enrollment and out-of-district permits.

Each school closure is projected to save the District approximately \$850,000 annually, largely from reduced administrative staffing. Teachers and support personnel would transfer to new assignments with their students.

Equity Impact Analysis: AB 1912 Compliance

Under Assembly Bill 1912, the District conducted a formal nine-point Equity Impact Analysis, reviewing the effects of each proposed closure through the lens of community fairness, access, and school conditions. The findings revealed:

All schools are structurally sound and modernized—none are being closed due to poor conditions.

Receiving schools have enough space to accommodate transferred students without crowding.

Special programs such as Head Start, Magnet, and Special Education will be relocated—not eliminated.

Transportation needs will be addressed through free busing, with minimal added cost due to the proximity of the reassigned campuses.

No significant demographic shifts are expected as a result of the closures.

Officials added that unused campuses could be repurposed for community centers, sports complexes, employee housing, or future educational use if enrollment trends reverse.

Community Voices: Support with Reservations

In March, the District conducted a comprehensive survey, reaching out to over 1,400 residents, staff, and families to gauge their reaction to the plan. More than 83% of respondents live within the District, with the majority supporting school consolidation if it means preserving academic programs and cutting administrative overhead.

However, many voiced concerns about the emotional impact on students, larger class sizes, and reduced program access. Key factors identified by families included distance to the new schools, the quality of current programs, and the social-emotional toll of disruption.

Preparing for Transition  
To ensure a smooth rollout, the District outlined a multi-pronged transition plan that includes:

Prioritized enrollment for impacted families

Counseling and transportation services

New attendance boundaries

Creation of a transition committee to oversee implementation

A cap on open enrollment to prevent overcrowding at receiving schools

Changes will be implemented before fall 2026, giving the District over a year to prepare.

A Fork in the Road  
The District’s conclusion was clear: “While the closure or consolidation of schools due to declining enrollment is unfortunate and often difficult, it may be necessary to ensure the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of the ABC Unified School District.”

At Wednesday’s meeting, which lasted five hours, thirteen cards were submitted for public comment, and all, as expected, voiced anger over the proposed closures. After public comment, each board member expressed empathy and concern to the parents and those attending the meeting but recognized that “something has to be done.”

In the end, the board voted to accept the conclusions of the consolidation enrollment report by a 7-0 vote but then added the report to the next ABCUSD Board agenda as an item for discussion. Board member Soo Yoo motioned for the report to be added, and Vice-president Francisco Noyola seconded. The item would be an “information item” for discussion only. That motion passed 7-0.

ABUSE from page 1

just four.

In many cases, staff skipped required de-escalation techniques and resorted immediately to physical or chemical control. Investigators noted that College Hospital personnel frequently used sedating drugs to control behavior instead of providing appropriate therapeutic intervention.

“Patients with Dual Diagnoses are Trapped and Forgotten”

College Hospital houses several locked units specifically for patients with “dual diagnoses”—those who have both intellectual or developmental disabilities and significant mental illness. Many of these patients enter during a mental health crisis and are meant to receive short-term stabilization before transitioning into community-based settings.

However, the DRC found that due to the hospital’s widespread failure to create individualized behavioral plans or conduct regular assessments, many of these patients remained institutionalized indefinitely. Records were filled with boilerplate language and lacked critical therapeutic strategies. In effect, patients were left without a roadmap to recovery.

“The hospital’s failure to provide treatment plans amounts to forced warehousing,” the report states.

“An Outdated and Inhumane Facility”

The hospital environment itself was described as restrictive, outdated, and “not trauma-informed.” DRC investigators who toured the facility, conducted interviews and reviewed thousands of pages of patient records and video footage found little evidence of any meaningful therapeutic programming. They also found no accommodations for race, disability, trauma history, or economic background in the hospital’s clinical approaches.

“The environment is not one where patients feel safe enough to engage and develop the necessary skills to succeed in the community,” the report noted.

Dead-End Discharges  
and No Path Forward

Perhaps most disturbing was the hospital’s complete failure to adequately plan for discharging patients. DRC found that many patients were unaware of what they needed to do in order to be released. In some cases, they were kept in the facility because there was no individualized transition plan in place—violating federal mandates and state best practices.

No Accountability—Yet

Despite the extensive evidence gathered and the serious nature of the violations, the California Department of Public Health has not fined or sanctioned the hospital. Instead, it has merely required College Hospital to submit corrective action plans, a response DRC has called insufficient.

Advocates are now urging state and federal officials to take stronger steps, including potential cuts to Medicare and Medicaid funding until College Hospital comes into full compliance.

“Corrective plans won’t fix a system this broken,” said one advocate. “We need oversight, transparency, and accountability—not another slap on the wrist.”

College Hospital has disputed the findings, claiming that its patient population is “clinically complex” and that restraints are used only as a last resort. However, the hospital has not issued a formal response regarding DRC’s findings. The facility did not return requests for comment from Los Cerritos Community News.

The full report is available at [disabilityrightsca.org](https://disabilityrightsca.org).