



**EXCLUSIVE:**

## Central Basin and Whittier Union Trustee Operating Nonprofit With a Revoked License

By Brian Hews

Last week, Los Cerritos Community News published an exclusive story concerning a letter, dated January 10, 2025, from the L.A. County Office of Education (LACOE) General Counsel, addressed to the Whittier Union High School District Board President and its Superintendent concluding what Los Cerritos Community News has been writing about since his election; that Trustee Gary Mendez is holding incompatible offices.

Mendez is both a WUHSD

Trustee and a Central Basin (CB) board member, having won his WUHSD seat in 2022 and subsequently won the CB seat in 2024. Central Basin services the WUHSD by selling its water to WHUSD, which sells it to other customers. The relationship was confirmed by LACOE, which is why they concluded that Mendez holds incompatible offices. The next step is to sue Mendez under quo warranto and remove him from his WUHSD seat.

Now, an LCCN investigation has revealed additional unethical actions by Mendez.

[ See **MENDEZ**, page 4 ]

## California Cardrooms Submit Court Filings in Battle Against Greedy Tribal Casinos

By Brian Hews

Earlier this year, seven of California's wealthiest gaming Tribes filed the "Agua Caliente Lawsuit" against nearly every cardroom in the state, including The Gardens Casino in Hawaiian Gardens and the Commerce Casino in Commerce.

The greedy tribes even included cardrooms that had not been operational for years.

The lawsuit was a result of the enactment of State Senator Josh Newman's (D-Fullerton) Senate Bill 549, a special interest bill that was sponsored by the state's wealthiest gaming Tribes, who pumped hundreds of millions into getting the bill passed, aiming to shut down tax-paying cardrooms by terminating their ability to offer Department of Justice approved player-dealer games.

SB 549 began as Prop. 26, which 74% of Californians voted down. It was a bill dealing with education, but in June 2023, Newman lifted almost word for word the verbiage from Prop. 26, called gut and amend, and authored SB 549.

SB 549, known as the Tribal Nations Access to Justice Act, was later signed into law by a seemingly out-of-touch Governor Gavin Newsom, in September 2024 even though SB 549 would cut \$500 million in tax revenue statewide, local commu-

nities would lose \$5.6 billion in economic output generated by cardrooms and 32,000 good-paying jobs that generate \$1.6 billion in wages annually.

The potential consequences are dire. Some cities would be forced to implement draconian cuts or get pushed into bankruptcy. In Hawaiian Gardens,

the Gardens Casino provides 78% of the city's revenue; in Commerce,

the Commerce Casino provides 50% of the city's revenue. The ripple effect of these closures would be felt far beyond the gaming industry, affecting the livelihoods of many and the fabric of these communities.

The lawsuits contend that card rooms circumvent the law by employing third-party proposition player services [TPPPs] to simulate house-banked games, thereby infringing upon tribal gaming exclusivity.

A TPPPs is a business that provides services to cardrooms under an agreement with the cardroom.

The TPPPs takes on the role of the banker. The house charges fees or a seat rental to players and the third-party bank but does not directly risk or win money from bets.

California cardrooms, which have operated for over 150 years, do so under strict regulatory oversight from both the Califor-

nities would lose \$5.6 billion in economic output generated by cardrooms and 32,000 good-paying jobs that generate \$1.6 billion in wages annually.

[ See **CARDROOMS**, page 4 ]

## Hawaiian Gardens Elementary 6th Grade Reading Olympic Winners



**WINNERS:** The Hawaiian Gardens City Council honored the 6th graders at a recent meeting. Front row (l-r), Mia Rios, Samuel Zepeda, Gorge Ramirez, Rubi Colon, Isabella Panazza, Skyler Zamora, Steve Marin. Second row (l-r), Joshua Pech Louise Reyes, Jesus Guerra, Kimora Camacho, Adamarys Lopez, with teachers Ms. Exikia Sanchez and Ms. Ashley Wilson along with, from (l-r), HG Elementary Principal Maria Perez-Brena, Councilmember Victor Farfan, Mayor Dandy De Paula; Mayor Pro Tem Maria Teresa Del Rio; Prottem and Councilmember Luis Roa. Courtesy city of Hawaiian Gardens.

## Artesia's 6th Annual Mariachi Festival May 10th

Attendees can enjoy traditional ballet folklórico performances by three different bands.

By Brian Hews

Artesia will hold its 6th Annual Mariachi Festival on Saturday, May 10th, from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM at Artesia Park at 18750 Clarkdale Avenue, Artesia, CA 90701.

This exciting, family-friendly event celebrates the rich tradition of Mariachi music and Mexican culture with an evening of live performances, delicious food, and community spirit.

Historians place the origin of mariachi music in the western part of Mexico, likely in an area encompassing the states of Jalisco, Nayarit, Zacatecas, Aguascalientes, Guanajuato, Michoacán, and Colima.

Some historians place mariachi origin as far north as Sinaloa and Durango, while others trace its roots farther south in Guerrero.

Early mariachi ensembles were rural and consisted of string instruments like the vihuela, guitarrón, harp, and violin. The name "mariachi" likely comes from an Indigenous word, though a long-debunked myth claimed it derived from the French word marriage

[ See **MARIACHI**, page 16 ]

## Trump's War on the Arts: Southern California Creatives Slam NEA Cuts as 'Cultural Sabotage'



**A PRODUCTION** still from 'Walking Water', a site-specific performance by Cornerstone Theater Company. The Los Angeles based arts organization was among the hundreds of groups that lost funding from the National Endowment for the Arts this week.

From the Bay to Boyle Heights, artists and institutions reel from what critics call "a direct assault on democracy, diversity, and the American imagination."

By Brian Hews

LOS ANGELES — The Trump administration's latest budget bombshell landed squarely on the nation's cultural soul, proposing a total elimination of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and Humanities (NEH) — a move that has sent shockwaves through Southern California's vibrant creative community.

"This isn't just a funding

cut," Kate Fowler of Richmond-based Studio Two Three told NPR, "this is a scalpel to the throat of the American arts ecosystem."

Following the budget proposal, the NEA swiftly canceled numerous grants nationwide. Recipients, including theaters, publishers, and community arts groups, received sudden notifications of funding withdrawal, leaving many projects in limbo.

Trump's cuts follow his overall goal of affecting organizations serving marginalized groups. According to the SF Chronicle, groups like the New Conservatory Theatre Center and Frameline, which focus on LGBTQ+ narratives, had their

[ See **NEA**, page 5 ]



# La Palma-Cerritos Branch of AAUW Elects New Board Members for 2025-2026

By Edna Ethington

The La Palma-Cerritos Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) elected new Board Members for the 2025-2026 at their meeting on April 17, 2025, at the ABCUSD Adult School Auditorium at 20122 Cabrillo Lane in Cerritos. Administrator Harriet Moses called the meeting to order at 6:56 p.m. and began to conduct the branch business meeting. She said that the Game Night Program would follow the business meeting.

Minutes of the General Meeting of March 20, 2025, were approved by the 18 members present. All members present voted unanimously to elect the Slate of Officers for 2025-2026 as Administrator Ce-

lia Spitzer, Secretary Christine Taxier, and Treasurer Marilyn Forsstrom. Members also voted to approve an amendment to Article XV, Section 2, that there will be at least five general meetings each year instead of seven. The new board will be installed later, with more information about the time and place to be determined.

Harriet announced that two of our branch members, Thea Siegel and Dorothy Edwards, received Honorary Life Member Certificates from National AAUW for their commitment to education and equity for women for 50 years. They are now entitled to complimentary lifetime membership in National AAUW. Members applauded the women for their awards.

Administrator Harriet then received Committee Reports from committee chairs.

Public Policy Chair Sondra Cohen reported that a future ABCUSD Board Meeting will be broadcast on Zoom regarding issues such as curriculum, book banning, and LGBTQ+. Sondra said that members will receive more details through the branch e-mails when she receives more definite information.

Academic Achievement Awards Chair Joan Pylman reported that the two recipients for the branch's Academic Achievement Awards have been chosen and will be revealed at the Branch General Meeting on May 15, 2025, at the ABCUSD Adult School Auditorium. Invitations have been sent to professors of the recipients, the Cerritos College Board of Trustees, and to five area officials. The officials, or their representatives, may present Certificates of Recognition to the women of academic achieve-



**50 YEARS:** Thea Siegel (left) and Dorothy Edwards, holding Honorary Life Member Certificates from National AAUW, which they received for their 50 years of continued membership in AAUW.



**PICTURED** at the April 17, 2025, meeting of the La Palma-Cerritos Branch of the AAUW at ABCUSD Adult School Auditorium in Cerritos is Game Night Coordinator Thea Siegel at the head of the table with Left Right Center game players seated, left to right, Christine Taxier, Mary Ann Quinn, Thea Siegel, Harriet Moses, and Joan Flax. Photos by Edna Ethington.

ments. The women will receive \$1,500 after enrolling in a 4-year college or university in Fall 2025.

AAUW Fund Restaurant Coordinator Gail Ross announced that there would be a fundraiser at Black Bear Restaurant in Buena Park on May 13, 2025. More details will be included in a flyer from the restaurant that is being prepared. Proceeds from the fundraiser will be sent to National AAUW for fellowships and grants to help graduate women as they work for higher degrees in their education.

Game Night Coordinator Thea Siegel prepared prizes for winners of the night's three games: Bunco, Mah Jongg, and Left Right Center. It was the first time that some

members had the opportunity to meet socially and learn how to play these games! It was an enjoyable learning experience! Members thanked Thea for all her work and for providing prizes for the winners of the games. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

The Next General Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 15, 2025, at the ABCUSD Adult School Auditorium at Cabrillo Lane in Cerritos, with Social time at 6:30 p.m. and "REVEAL" of Academic Achievement Award Winners at 7:00 p.m. followed by a business meeting.

For more information about the La Palma-Cerritos AAUW, contact Administrator Harriet Moses at 714-994-1487.





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Friends of the La Mirada Library Earns Over \$3,000 at Sale Event



**WELCOME:** Members Sandy Barker and Julie Burrows volunteered at the spring 2025 Friends of the La Mirada Library book sale on April 25 and 26 at the La Mirada Activity Center.

By Stepheny Gehrig

On April 25 and 26, the Friends of the La Mirada Library hosted their semi-annual book sale at the La Mirada Activity Center. The book sale was created and prepared by a group of volunteers working within the city library’s bookstore.

The semi-annual sale earned over \$3,300 through cash, card, and check transactions. These earnings did not simply come from book sales but also from membership sales.

The first day of the sale was open to Friends of the Library members from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. and featured various genres of novels and reference books, DVDs, CDs, a table with board games and specialty books, and handcrafted bookbags.

The second day of the sale, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., featured the much-anticipated bag sale. For the final two hours of the sale, shoppers purchased bags for \$4 each and could fill them up with any media on sale. Before the bag sale, shoppers could look around and buy items at full price.

The Friends of the La Mirada Library is a nonprofit organization that thrives on the dedication of its volunteers. Both days of the book sale saw a total of 40 volunteers, who set up tables of books, aided shoppers in finding specific novels, staffed the register, oversaw the holding table, and helped shoppers pack their cars with boxes and bags of books.

Julie Burrows, a volunteer with the Friends of the La Mirada Library since 2019, said, “I have met some very nice people through FOL. I enjoy the responsibility of working in the bookstore, sorting books, and setting up for the book sale. Volunteering with the Friends of the Library is good for my mental health, and it’s nice to see that people enjoy the store and the events the library provides.”

The money raised through the sale is invested in the various programs that the La Mirada Library provides. Among the most notable programs were a drone demonstration and a board game loan service, which can be accessed through the library’s front desk.

“You never know what you’re doing or what it means to somebody,” said volunteer Gina Garcia. “There is such a caring, loving group of volunteers that work together so well. If we can put a book in a child’s hand, who knows what impact we have encouraging literacy or what kind of legacy we’re going to leave.”

Donations make a significant impact in keeping the Friends of the Library afloat. They take donations of books, magazines, CDs, and DVDs sold within the bookstore or during their semi-annual sales.

If you are interested in volunteering, visit the bookstore to get connected or follow the Friends of the La Mirada Library on Facebook. The bookstore is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, with limited hours.

LA Metro Names Chief to Lead New Public Safety Department

Veteran law enforcement leader to launch Metro’s first dedicated police department in decades, advancing holistic approach to transit safety built on accountability, community trust

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) today announced that William “Bill” Scott has been selected to serve as the agency’s first Chief of Police and Emergency Management. With more than 35 years of law enforcement experience, including eight years as Chief of Police in San Francisco and 27 years with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Scott returns to the city where he built his career to lead one of the most significant public safety transitions in LA Metro’s history.

Scott joins Metro to lead its new public safety department, which was approved by the LA Metro Board last June as the Transit Community Public Safety Department (TCPSPD), will unify and oversee all LA Metro’s safety operations under one command structure. As Chief, Scott will be responsible for building the department from the ground up, overseeing everything from command staff selection, training standards, to uniforms, technology systems, and deployment strategies.

“This moment demands a leader like Chief Scott, who brings vision and integrity to this important role,” said Metro Board Chair and Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn. “He understands that real public safety is about more than enforcement, it’s about trust, transparency and working with the community to make every rider feel safe.”

During his tenure in San Francisco, Scott was nationally recognized for his implementation of 21st Century policing reforms, completing all 272 recommendations issued by the U.S. Department of Justice. Under his leadership, San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) significantly reduced use-of-force incidents, prioritized de-escalation training and improved violent crime clearance rates well above national averages. He also introduced innovative tools like Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) cameras and drones to address organized retail theft and property crime. As chief of SFPD, he oversees safety and security on San Francisco’s Muni system, and over his tenure, crime on their transit system has decreased precipitously – just 2.3 crimes per 100,000 miles of travel in March 2025. Scott’s law enforcement philosophy is rooted in community policing, fairness and results.

Chief Scott will officially assume his role June 23, 2025.

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LA Coliseum to Host Opening and Closing Ceremonies

This week, Los Angeles County Supervisor and Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Commissioner Janice Hahn is applauding the decision that the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum will host Opening and Closing Ceremonies for the 2028 Olympic Games.

Hahn has been outspoken about the importance of the Coliseum to Los Angeles Olympic history and the need to host the Opening Ceremonies in the iconic venue and light its historic Olympic torch.

“Olympic history at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum goes back nearly 100 years—with its Olympic torch and rings, the legacy of the Olympics is literally built into the venue,” said Hahn. “The Coliseum hosted the Opening and



Closing Ceremonies in 1932 and 1984, and it is only right that this iconic venue will once again welcome the world to Los Angeles in 2028.”

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grants rescinded. These organizations are now grappling with financial shortfalls right in the middle of projects.

Here in SoCal, the impact is immediate and brutal. Los Angeles’ Cornerstone Theater Company had its NEA-funded performance “Walking Water” abruptly defunded.

A Political Ploy Disguised as Budget Reform

According to news articles, the Trump administration placed the NEA and NEH on a chopping block labeled “small agency eliminations,” under the guise of fiscal conservatism. Yet critics say the savings are negligible, and the message unmistakable.

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) had an annual budget of approximately \$180 million, which accounts for about 0.003% of the federal budget, or roughly 55 cents per American per year.

To put that in perspective, the NEA’s budget is about the cost of three F-35 fighter jets; Trump’s proposed birthday parade will cost well over \$100 million.

“This is a cultural cleansing,” said Erin Harkey, CEO of Americans for the Arts, in a statement to NPR. “It’s short-sighted, reckless, and detrimental to our nation.”

Southern California’s iconic creative institutions — from the Broad Stage in Santa Monica to community organizations in East LA — are now scrambling during mid-season and mid-production.

“We’re staring at layoffs, canceled programs, and shuttered community projects,” said one executive director at a mid-sized nonprofit in Long Beach, speaking on background to Los Cerritos Community News. “Trump pulled the rug — and then threw it out the window.”

A lawsuit recently filed by Rhode Island Latino Arts and The Theater Offensive, backed by the ACLU, challenges the new funding restrictions as unconstitutional.

Southern California Fights Back

The proposed NEA elimination hits especially hard in Southern California, where arts generate billions in economic activity annually.

Al Vincent, Jr., executive director of the Actors’ Equity Association, told NPR, “The arts are a massive job creator — actors, stagehands, designers, teachers. This is a death blow cloaked as accounting.”

According to online research, arts and culture are a \$234 billion industry supporting over 700,000 jobs in California alone.

Cities like Los Angeles, Santa Monica, and Long Beach rely heavily on NEA-backed programs to fund community theater, school partnerships, and neighborhood art projects. Many small organizations operate on budgets where a \$10,000 NEA grant can be the difference between survival and shutdown.

Local leaders, including Los Angeles City Council members, have vowed to fight back. Emergency town halls, grant-patching coalitions, and fundraisers have surged across the region.

According to the Associated Press, L.A. Mayor Karen Bass and the City Council have appealed to state and federal authorities for additional funding to mitigate the impact of the NEA cuts. This includes seeking disaster recovery aid to address the broader budget shortfall affecting various city services, including arts programs.

Los Angeles city officials are working closely with the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture, which has announced over \$31 million in awards

to arts, cultural, and equity-building organizations. This partnership ensures that local arts organizations continue to receive support despite federal funding challenges.

Trump’s proposed defunding of the NEA isn’t just a budget line. To artists, educators, and cultural workers across Southern California, it’s a loud, clear message: your stories don’t matter.

And the response? Just as loud. “We’re not just resisting,” said one East LA muralist in a community meeting. “We’re painting our protest on every wall, stage, and screen we can find.”

The elimination of NEA funding represents a significant challenge to the sustainability of Southern California’s arts ecosystem, with far-reaching consequences for employment, education, and cultural enrichment in the region.

Those hit the hardest by the cuts were Cornerstone Theater, LA — “Walking Water,” \$45,000; \$22,000 taken from the 18th Street Arts Center in Santa Monica; \$35,000 from the Watts Village Theater Company, and \$50,000 from LA Opera educational outreach.

In a statement, California Senator Adam Schiff criticized the abrupt termination of NEH funding, emphasizing its importance to various institutions, “Supporting the NEH is not merely an investment in cultural preservation; it is also a crucial investment in community health, education, social development, and economic vitality.”

Mark Pulido to Run For 67th Assembly Seat

This past week, Cerritos City Councilman Mark Pulido announced his candidacy for the 67th Assembly District currently represented by Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva.

Now in his twentieth year in elective public office, Mark Pulido is a former two-time Cerritos Mayor, and former ABC Unified School District Board President. He was the top vote-getter in all of his five at-large elections. Cerritos and the ABC Unified School District make up more than one-fifth of the 67th district, and holds the majority of the base of the Democratic registration and voters.

“Mark Pulido is the best candidate for Assembly in the 67th. His deep roots in the community, long record of accomplishment improving schools, building housing and businesses, improving our infrastructure, and keeping neighborhoods safe is exactly what California and the communities of the 67th district need,” said Rep. Alan Lowenthal. “I wholeheartedly and enthusiastically support him.”

California Attorney General Rob Bonta stated, “We have serious issues facing

our state and communities, which is why we need experienced, results oriented legislators like Mark Pulido in the Assembly. For more than 20 years, Mark has served the City of Cerritos. From School Board, to City Council, to twice serving as Mayor, Mark is an exemplary public servant who puts his constituents first. I was proud to be one of Mark’s first endorsers early on in his public service career, and I enthusiastically endorse him for Assembly District 67 now.”

Pulido’s record of accomplishment includes improving and upgrading local schools and parks, a reduction of 35% in residential crimes, the creation of jobs and income for the community, and significant investments in local infrastructure, including the repair of streets and sidewalks, and trimming of over 15,000 trees.

Pulido has been endorsed by the Democratic Party and AFL-CIO in every one of his previous elections. He has already earned the early endorsement of over 150 elected, appointed and community leaders from the 67th District, California and across the nation.

Mark Pulido lives in Cerritos with his wife Gloria and two children. He grew up in the city and is a 53-year resident of the district. The son and grandson of U.S. Navy and Army Veterans, and local small business owners, he graduated from local schools, then attended UCLA where he was elected Student Body President and editor of Pacific Ties, the nation’s oldest collegiate Asian Pacific newsmagazine. He earned his Masters Degree in Public Policy at the University of Chicago and then returned to Cerritos to raise his family.



Mark Pulido





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# From the Mayor’s Desk: May 9, 2025

By Cerritos Mayor  
Frank Aurelio Yokoyama

The City of Cerritos is comprised of unique and inspiring individuals, businesses, and services.



Cerritos Mayor  
Frank Aurelio Yokoyama

Whether it be during City Council presentations, ribbon cuttings, or various events, my Council colleagues and I are proud to frequently celebrate the individuals and organizations that make our community special.

Last month, I was thankful for the opportunity to provide opening remarks at L.A. County’s UbeFest, promoting Filipino heritage to people of all backgrounds through food and art.

The event was held in Cerritos at Don Knabe Community Regional Park, and it occurred the same day as the City’s annual Spring Fling & Fireworks Spectacular at the Cerritos Sports Complex.

There, we celebrated the City’s 69th birthday and its tremendous growth through music, food, and entertainment.

This month, the City joins communities across the country in observing Asian-American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, as well as Jewish-American Heritage Month.

Cerritos is thankful for the contributions of our friends, neighbors, and colleagues who have helped to enrich the City’s cultural diversity.

We also regularly celebrate the cultural influence and service impact of the City’s businesses through our monthly business spotlight.

Featured businesses are those that have chosen Cerritos as their home and whose story highlights the benefits of locating in Cerritos.

The aim of this program is to showcase local businesses and foster pride in Cerritos’ thriving business community and strong local economy.

On May 26, a longstanding tradition of recognition in our City returns.

You’re invited to join us at our annual Memorial Day Ceremony to honor those who have given the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation’s freedom.

The event will feature patriotic selections performed by the Cerritos Community College Band, City Council and dignitary comments, wreath laying, dove release, and a moment of silence.

The ceremony begins at 10 a.m. near the Veterans Memorial at the Cerritos Civic Center.

These activities, along with many others throughout the year, symbolize Cerritos’ commitment to serving others and our appreciation for their impact on countless individuals locally and beyond.

Our City staff, my Council colleagues, and I are proud to serve you. Thank you for making Cerritos a special place to live, work, and support each another.

# Trump/DOGE Cuts Public Radio: A Lifeline During Southern California Disasters

As wildfires, earthquakes, and severe weather events escalate across Southern California, one institution has consistently proven itself to be not just relevant but absolutely essential: public radio.

In moments of crisis—when cell towers go dark, Wi-Fi fails, and power grids collapse—public radio remains on the air, calmly delivering life-saving information while other media channels go silent.

When Santa Ana winds down power lines or wildfires blanket freeways in smoke, public radio stands as the unwavering beacon of reliable communication for millions, instilling a sense of security in the midst of chaos.

Unlike streaming services or social media platforms that depend on broadband and cell service, public radio is engineered for resilience.

Its analog signals reach far beyond urban centers, and many stations operate with redundant systems and backup power sources that allow them to stay live even when the grid fails.

Public radio isn’t just surviving disasters—it’s leading in them.

During recent fire seasons, including the Saddleridge Fire in 2019, local public stations such as KPCC/LAist (89.3 FM) sprang into emergency mode, broadcasting evacuation orders, real-time road closures, and air quality alerts in both English and Spanish. That coverage wasn’t just timely—it was trusted. While national networks offered generic coverage, public radio zoomed in on neighborhoods, schools, and streets that mattered to Angelenos.

KCRW (89.9 FM), based in Santa Monica, also pivoted quickly during regional blackouts and atmospheric river storms, providing coastal communities with accurate updates while local governments scrambled to coordinate responses. And these are just two examples. Dozens of NPR-affiliated stations across California—from the Central Coast to the Inland Empire—serve as de facto emergency command centers when disaster strikes.

In rural areas, where local newspapers have folded and television coverage barely

scratches the surface, public radio emerges as the sole source of consistent local journalism. These stations don’t just report news—they build trust over years of proximity, context, and community engagement, keeping the audience informed and connected.

However, today, these stations face a different kind of threat—not from nature, but from Washington. This looming danger should concern us all and spur us into action to protect this vital institution.

Last week, former President Donald Trump signed an executive order targeting the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, aiming to defund both NPR and PBS. His administration claims these outlets are biased. In reality, the cuts are a cynical attempt to silence watchdogs that question power and amplify voices outside the political mainstream. It’s important to note that public radio has historically enjoyed bipartisan support, and these cuts threaten a service that benefits all Americans, regardless of political affiliation.

At stake are critical funds that keep local journalism alive. LAist, for example, receives approximately 4% of its operating budget—about \$1.7 million—from federal CPB grants. That money helps pay a dozen journalists, maintain equipment, and fund local investigations that would otherwise never see the light of day.

KCRW issued a stark warning: “The elimination of these funds represents an existential crisis to independent public radio.” That’s not hyperbole. Without federal support, many smaller stations will be forced to cut coverage, lay off reporters, or go dark entirely—just when we need them most. The potential consequences of these cuts are dire, and we must act now to prevent them.

Public radio is not a luxury. It is infrastructure. It is emergency response. Like newspapers, it is democratic accountability. It is one of the last trusted institutions in American life.

If Congress allows these cuts to go through, Southern California—and the nation—will lose far more than a radio signal. We’ll lose a lifeline.

~HMG-LCCN

# Trump Targets Library Funding

By Anita Chabria

President Trump has made it clear since his first term that he’s no fan of libraries, or books for that matter.

In addition to attempting to cut their funding, he created a frenzy over drag queen story hours hosted by some libraries and backed book banning in school facilities.

Like so much of the Trump 2.0 agenda, it turns out that was just the warm-up. In the last month, Trump, primarily through DOGE, has gutted the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the federal organization that supports the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums, and demolished the congressionally approved grants that fund them. California will be especially hard hit.

So what exactly did Trump do? In March, DOGE put on leave the entire IMLS staff. Then, in early April, the agency sent out letters canceling those 2024 grants even though libraries were already using the funds, claiming the way the money was being spent was “unfortunately inconsistent with IMLS’ priorities.”

Cindy Hohl, the president of the American Library Assn., said that priorities in April include planning for summer reading programs for young kids that help with early literacy and preventing learning loss in older kids while school is out. Some of those programs even provide lunches for children who may otherwise go hungry.

Rebecca Wendt, the deputy state librarian of the California State Library, told me the cancellation of the grants was an instant loss of about \$3 million for California. The state library was awarded \$15.7 million for the year and was still owed the \$3 million. The grants are given to state libraries, which then go to local facilities. The money represents up to 6% of local budgets, she said.

And it got worse. Applications for next year’s grants were sent out in mid-April. The grants have been sliced in half.

With both Los Angeles and California facing budget crunches, it’s uncertain how the loss of the federal funds would be handled. But more than that, Hohl sees the federal actions as another attack on the fabric of American society. “When you look at the [banned] book list every year, it’s the same titles, and it shows you a very clear picture. If they happen to be Black, Indigenous, a person of color, or representative of the LGBTQIA+ community, those are the titles that are targeted and attacked repeatedly.”

Hohl said her organization has filed a federal suit against the IMLS, DOGE, and others to stop the cuts. Since Congress mandates the funds, the suit argues that Trump can’t just slash them on his own.

Whether it works, the attack on libraries isn’t going to end. Truthful information has become an enemy to the MAGA contingent, and our once-quiet librarians, Hohl said, are “intellectual freedom warriors” ready for a long and loud fight.

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# Haylie Wang and Kendrick Tan Signing Day at Whitney HS



**SIGNED:** Haylie Wang (top) seated surrounded by her basketball teammates and coaches will attend Claremont-McKenna College. Kendrick Tan, seated, surrounded by his golf teammates and coaches will attend Chapman.

Whitney High School held its annual Signing Day Event on May 1st for two high school seniors, Haylie Wang and Kendrick Tan, who will be continuing their athletic journey next year at Claremont McKenna College and Chapman University, respectively. The celebration took place on campus at Whitney High School in front of the school administration, the student body, family and friends. Wang, a member of the girls basketball team, was the 2025 605 League MVP, the Hews Media (Community News) MVP, and was the CIF Southern Section Division 3A First Team selection. Wang also led the Whitney High School basketball team to its first ever Division 4 state championship in 2025 and was named the MVP of the state tournament. Tan was the 2023 605 League MVP and League Champion for boys golf and led Whitney High School to its first ever boys golf league title in 2023. For 2025, Tan's scoring average is currently ranked 36th in

the CIF Southern Section which is comprised of over 3,200 golfers. Both Wang and Tan commented during the day that they enjoyed the tightknit community and support that they received while at Whitney High School which allowed them to succeed both academically and athletically. These traits were also echoed by Principal Tuesday Stoffers who spoke glowingly that both Wang and Tan represented the best that Whitney has to offer. As for the future? Wang is looking forward to challenging herself both academically and athletically in a new community at Claremont McKenna College and is excited to play again with her older sister Kylie Wang, who is also a member of the Claremont McKenna basketball team. Tan is looking forward to the new connections and opportunities he will experience at a distinguished university such as Chapman University and can't believe that he will continue playing the game he loves at the next level.

# Cerritos Named a Tree City USA

For the 26th year, the City of Cerritos has been named a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation.

The recently announced honor, awarded for calendar year 2024, is given to select cities throughout the country for their outstanding community forestry programs and commitment to their urban forest. Among the program requirements are the existence of a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive forestry program, and an Arbor Day observance.

Since the City's incorporation in 1956, the Public Works Department has planted more than 30,000 trees along City sidewalks and medians, next to freeway ramps, and throughout the City's many parks and recreation facilities. In Cerritos, nearly every home has a City tree planted in its parkway. Approximately 250 young trees are planted each year to replace those that are damaged by storms, age, or accidents. Trees help clean the air and have also been shown to increase property values.

Residents are encouraged to properly care for the trees in their front and back yards.

For more information on proper tree care, call the Public Works Department at (562) 916-1220 or visit [cerritos.gov/tree-care](http://cerritos.gov/tree-care).

# One-Day Book Sale at the Cerritos Library

The Friends of the Cerritos Library will hold a one-day book sale from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 17 in the Cerritos Library. The sale will be held on the first floor, near the Craftsman area. A great

selection of fiction and nonfiction books in English and foreign languages, plus multimedia items, will be available at bargain prices. Come early for the best selection.

The Cerritos Library is located at 18025 Bloomfield Avenue in the Cerritos Civic Center. For more information about the book sale, call (562) 916-1342. Funds raised by the Friends of the Cerritos Library help support the Summer Reading Program and art and writing contests for students.

# Pan American Fiesta at Mayfair Park

The Pan American Fiesta is returning to Mayfair Park in Lakewood with its classic mix of new attractions combined with Lakewood traditions now through Sunday, May 11. Some of the features of the 2025 Pan Am Fiesta include food trucks and food booths, with creative and popular menus; exhilarating attractions...and lots of carnival rides, for young kids, teens and adults; live music on Friday and Saturday night; a traditional flag presentation ceremony of the United States and all countries of the Americas; a children's cultural booth and Pan Am Fiesta historical display, and arts and crafts vendors offering unique gifts.

**Friday, May 9:** Open 5 to 10 p.m. with food, carnival rides, and entertainment.

**Saturday, May 10:** Open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. with food, carnival rides, craft show, cultural booths, historical display and entertainment.

**Sunday, May 11:** Carnival rides all day from 12 to 9 p.m.

**Free shuttle service on Sat., May 10**  
On Saturday, May 10 from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. a free shuttle runs every 15 minutes from Lakewood City Hall (Clark/Del Amo) east parking lot to the Pan Am Fiesta entrance.

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## Aloe Blacc, Train and Lenny Kravitz Highlighted the Redondo Beach Beachlife Festival

By Stepheny Gehrig

With a variety of yacht-rock and rock and roll features, the BeachLife Festival in Redondo Beach outshined even with the gloomy skies. The festival took place on May 2 through May 4 with a setlist of seven acts across two stages each day. Most notably, the festival highlights were Lenny Kravitz and Train on May 2; Sublime, Pretenders and Sugar Ray on May 3; and Alanis Morissette and The Beach Boys with John Stamos on May 4. The festival was complete with food and drink vendors, booths with free merchandise, continuous live music on both stages, patios to hang out at and free karaoke. Booths included Grillo’s Pickles, which had a mechanical pickle that attendees could ride and receive a free hat along with free pickle samples, pins, stickers and magnets; Skechers, which had an activities for festival-goers with the chance to win a free pair of slides; and BeatBox, which gave out samples to guests over 21

years of age and had free merchandise like bucket hats and bandanas. There were two main stages: High Tide, which were the main headliners, and Low Tide, which were acts who were not as well-known. The High Tide stage was on top of grass offering attendees a stable standing environment, whereas the Low Tide stage was atop the beach’s sand, making it a little difficult for attendees to keep their balance. Each stage was standing room only, however some festival-goers brought along beach blankets or towels to reserve some seating prior to the concert’s start. Opening the mid-afternoon on Friday, Aloe Blacc hyped up the crowd with a combination of popular 2010s tracks like the 2013 track “The Man” and soon-to-be new releases. Train took the stage soon after performing a combination of both original music like “Save Me San Francisco”. and covers such as “Lose Control”. Train’s Pat Monahan was not the only vocalist on stage — 13 year-old son Rock Monahan The evening brought out Lenny



**THOUSANDS ATTEND:** The festival was complete with food and drink vendors, booths with free merchandise, continuous live music on two stages, patios to hang out at and free karaoke. Photo by Stepheny Gehrig.



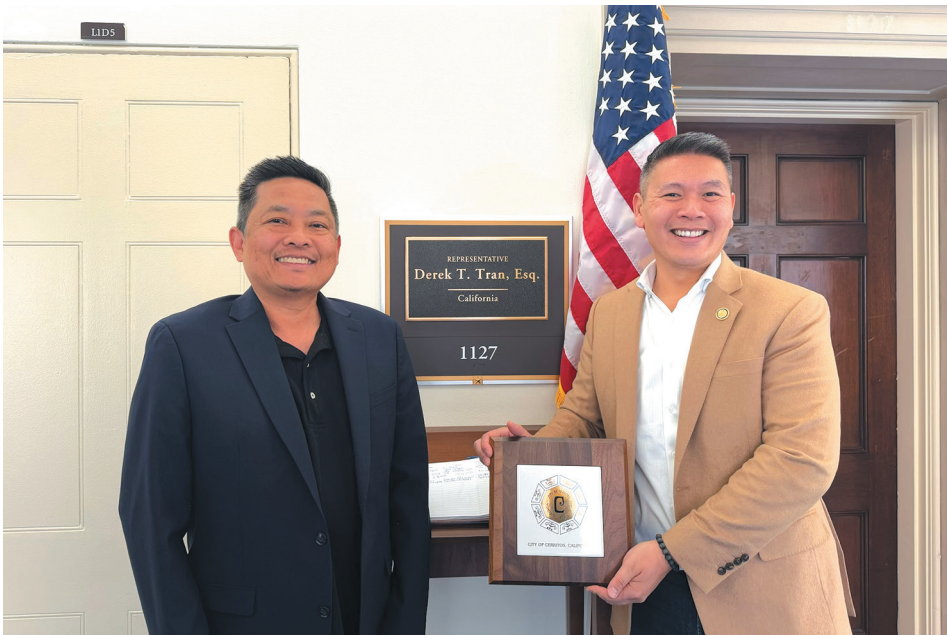
Kravitz who sported a leather jacket and lowrise jeans on stage with his band. With the most visually interesting and vocally stunning performance of Friday night, Kravitz had the crowd jumping, singing and dancing along. Performing hits like “It Ain’t Over ‘Til It’s Over” and “Fly Away”, Kravitz and band created and maintained the aesthetic that Beachlife Festival was reaching for. Over all, the weekend was stacked with an interesting mix of performances

**LENNY KRAVITZ (L),** Train, Sublime, Pretenders,,Sugar Ray, Alanis Morissette and The Beach Boys played at the event.

that truly showed out. The ability to explore the High Tide and Low Tide stages, along with activities, merchandise and food and drinks throughout the day gave attendees the chance to maintain a relaxed vibe. Although food and drinks were on the pricier end, around \$17 to \$30 for drinks or food, individually, the venue and acts throughout the night made the show worthwhile. Festival-goers were not able to leave and come back to the venue and security was strict on what was allowed within the gates, so if you plan to go to the next Beachlife Festival, make sure you set aside a good chunk of money to spend on food and drinks.



Rep. Derek Tran Receives First City Tile From Cerritos



**CERRITOS FIRST:** Cerritos Mayor Frank Yokoyama (left), during the NLC Congressional City Conference in Washington DC, with Congressman Derek Tran at his DC office. After discussing federal funding requests for Cerritos, Yokoyama presented Tran with the Official City of Cerritos Tile for his office, the tile was the first City Tile that Congressman Tran received.

New Businesses in La Mirada

Golf Plus

**Golf Plus** is a premier indoor golf facility located at 15020 La Mirada Boulevard, which held a ribbon cutting ceremony in January. The venue offers state-of-the-art golf simulation technology, providing golfers with immersive virtual experiences that replicate courses worldwide. Golf Plus features a full-service kitchen and bar with expansive menu offerings, making it an ideal spot for social gatherings. Private rooms accommodating up to 10 people are also available for events and group activi-

ties. Golf Plus is open Sunday through Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. For more information, visit [golfnplus.com](http://golfnplus.com).

Five Below

Five Below is known for its wide variety of trendy and affordable products, located at 15743 Imperial Highway. Shelves are filled with an array of products, including toys, games, technology accessories, snacks and candy, beauty products, home décor and much more. Five Below is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.



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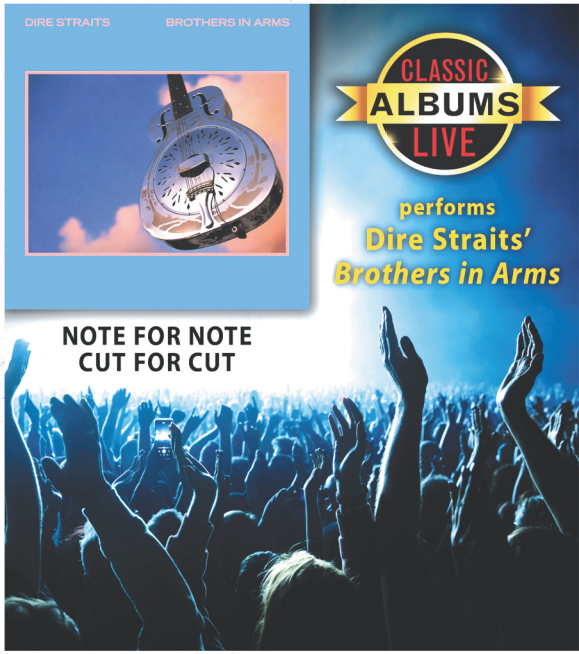
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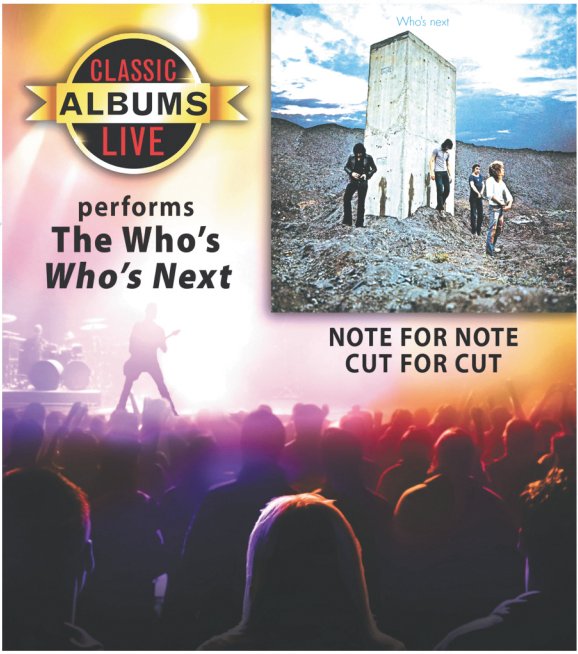
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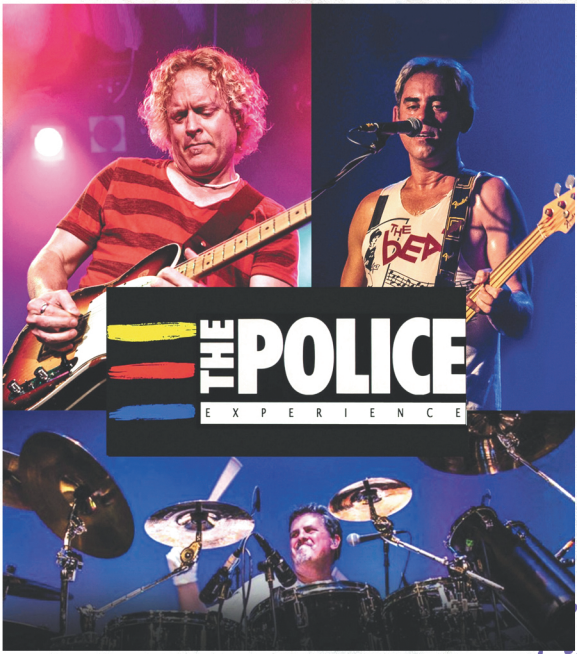
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OLYMPIC LEAGUE SOFTBALL

Valley Christian Displays Offensive Attack Early and Often Against Whittier Christian

By Loren Kopff  
@LorenKopff on X

LA HABRA-In one of its biggest offensive showings of the season, Valley Christian High not only snapped an 11-game losing streak to Whittier Christian High, the queens of the Olympic League, they showed no mercy with the bats. The Defenders broke an early 1-1 tie with five runs in the top of the second inning and after adding a run in each of the next two innings, pounded out six more in the fifth.

The result was an emphatic 14-1 victory over the Heralds last Thursday, keeping V.C.'s hopes of a rare Olympic League title alive at the time. V.C. was hoping for a miracle and got it earlier this past week. By virtue of a 13-2 win at Village Christian High this past Monday and a 16-0 win against Maranatha High this past Tuesday, coupled with Heritage Christian High upsetting Whittier Christian, the Defenders jumped over the Heralds for first place and captured the program's first league title since 2014 and eighth since 2003.

"Obviously, we all know they're a good team, but we picked up on something last time we played them; off [Whittier Christian pitcher] Bobbi Lozano's arm for us offensively as far as her pitch sequence," said V.C. head coach Chet Kingery. "We played a little game with them; acted like we knew what they were calling, but we had no idea what they were calling. We really worked on that in [batting practice] all week, and we found the barrel and hit the ball hard off them."



VALLEY CHRISTIAN HIGH sophomore pitcher Rachel Zhang delivers one of her 66 pitches in the bottom of the first inning against Whittier Christian High. She allowed just two hits, both in the inning and on consecutive pitches as the Defenders posted a 14-1 victory. Zhang struck out four and walked two in the five-inning contest. Photo by Steve Fericean.

V.C. (15-5-1, 7-1) set the tone on the second pitch of the top of the first inning when junior center fielder Choyce Chambers sent a Lozano pitch over the left center fence for a home run. The Heralds answered back in their half of the inning when Rylee Cull singled with one out and scored on the next pitch when Sofia Hernandez tripled down the right field line. Those would be the only two hits sophomore pitcher Rachel Zhang allowed in the five-inning contest. In fact, three other runners would reach base; two on walks and the other on an

error, while Zhang struck out four batters and threw 66 pitches. But the story of the game was the offense, and a lot of it. The Defenders batted around in the second, aided by a pair of errors that put junior designated player Brianna Ramirez and freshman third baseman Molly Douglas on base. Two batters later and now with two outs, Chambers singled to left to drive in a pair of runs. Then junior catcher Peyton Kingery brought in Chambers with a double to the left field fence. Lozano walked senior first baseman Kayla Mar-

tin and on the next pitch, a double from senior shortstop Britton Brown plated freshman courtesy runner Jewel Malae and Martin to chase Lozano from the circle. But even with a 6-1 lead this early in the game, Chet Kingery said he would not be comfortable until the final out of the game. "Just because I know how they are as a team," he said. "They hit the ball very well and they're a very good team. No lead is safe against a team like that." Sofia Gonzalez walked senior left fielder Zoe Barrett to lead off the third and after a wild pitch, scored on another error to make it 7-1. In the next inning, Chambers led off with a single to center, stole second, went to third on a wild pitch and stole home.

Barrett and Ramirez began the fifth inning with base hits and after both were moved over on a sacrifice from Douglas, junior second baseman Aubrielle Ramirez drove in two runs with a single to right. After the second out, Kingery singled to right followed by a walk to Martin and a double from Brown. The final hit of the game was a two-run single from sophomore right fielder Tallulah Ireland. Brown and Chambers each had three hits while Kingery and Ramirez each added a pair. Every starter, plus Malae either had a hit, drove in a run or scored and eight of the 10 players touched home plate at least once. The 14 runs scored were the sixth most at the time and the 13 hits collected were the fifth most at the time in any game this season.

{See VALLEY, page 12}

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VALLEY CHRISTIAN HIGH junior designated player Brianna Ramirez safely slides into second base after reaching on an error in the top of the second inning last Thursday against Whittier Christian High. She would later score the eventual game-winning run on a single from junior center fielder Choyce Chambers as the Defenders pounded the Heralds 14-1. Photo by Steve Fericean.

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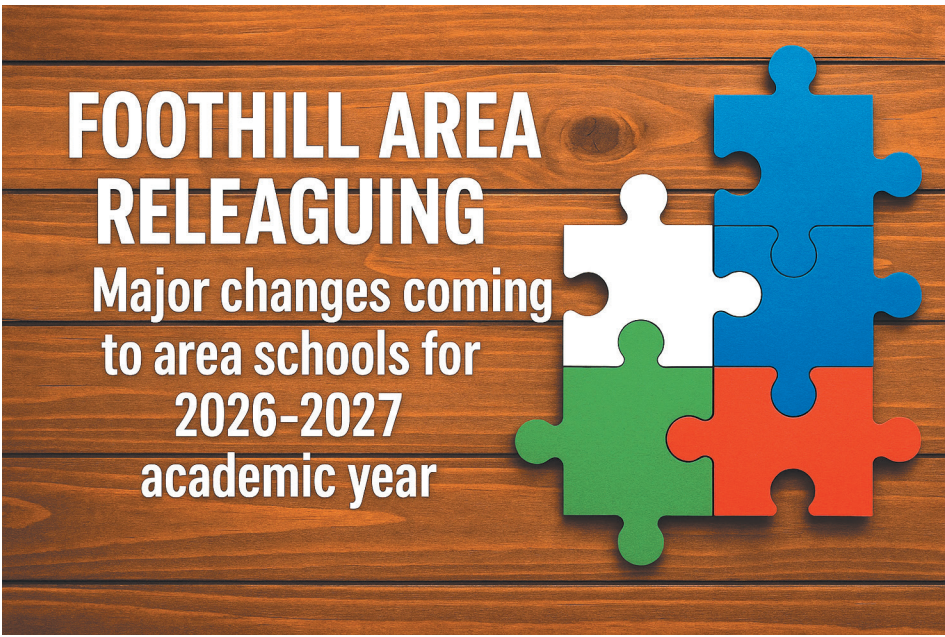
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By Loren Kopff  
@LorenKopff on X

The dominoes keep falling for the shifting of leagues as seven area schools were part of 55 schools that voted on re-leaguering for the beginning of the 2026-2027 academic year. The voting occurred last Thursday at the Whittier Union High School District office.

Six different proposals were submitted, and after four rounds of voting, Proposal C came out on top, 34-20.

The proposal calls for the 605 League, Almont League, Del Rio League, Foothill League, Mission Valley League, Pacific League, Rio Hondo League, and the Suburban Valley Conference (Gateway League and Mid-Cities League) to condense into four leagues ranging anywhere from seven schools to twenty schools. All the schools involved are from the Foothill Area, with the addition of Gabrielino High and Marshall Fundamental High.

The league, consisting of twenty schools, involves the current 605 League, Del Rio League, Gateway League, and Mid-Cities League, which currently have a combined 22 schools.

Dominguez High, part of the Suburban Valley Conference, will move into another league not part of the Foothill Area, and El Rancho High, from the Del Rio League, will partner with schools currently in the Almont League and Mission Valley League.

Names of the new conference and/or leagues will be revealed sometime during the 2025-2026 school year. This is the third time since the 2018-2019 school year that the seven area schools have been part of such a change. It began with the defection of Artesia High, Cerritos High and John Glenn High from the Suburban League, Oxford Academy and Whitney High from the Academy League and Pioneer High from the Del Rio League. Those six schools formed the 605 League, leaving the Suburban

League with Bellflower High, La Mirada High, Mayfair High and Norwalk High.

Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, the four Suburban League schools joined forces with the six San Gabriel Valley League schools-Dominguez, Downey High, Gahr High, Lynwood High, Paramount High and Warren High plus Firebaugh High, and branched into two leagues with the top five in each sport based off their records from the previous season being put into the Gateway League and the other six in the Mid-Cities League.

Proposal A, which garnered 20 votes in the final round, would have called for the 605 League and Del Rio League to join forces with the Suburban Valley Conference while adding El Rancho to the Almont League and Blair High to the Pacific League.

Whitney principal Tuesday Stoffers, the 605 League president, had submitted another proposal that was voted 6-0 but according to co-athletic director Virginia Brice, one proposal was just as good as the next.

“We were going to have the same results no matter which proposal came about,” she said. “We weren’t invested in any one of the proposals more than the other when we came here.”

After the first round, Proposal A had 26 votes to 23 for Proposal C with the 605 League voting for the former while Gahr and Norwalk voted for Proposal C. La Mirada was the only school which voted for another proposal which lasted two rounds.

Proposal C was the leader after the second round, 31-21 and 37-17 after the third round. Artesia voted for Proposal A in the first three rounds and Cerritos in the first two rounds while John Glenn and Whitney switched to Proposal C

after the first round. Gahr and Norwalk were the two area schools to vote for Proposal C in every round while La Mirada voted for Proposal C in the final three rounds.

The hope for the new conference/leagues is to allow more opportunities for teams that have been struggling to finish in the upper halves of their leagues to get them that automatic berth in the CIF-Southern Section playoffs. It will also increase the chances of teams winning league titles instead of finishing in third, fourth, or even fifth place.

“Hopefully, this will allow us to have more competitive equity for each sport,” said Brice. “We have some sports, for example girls water polo...we’re not even in a league right now. So, being in a conference would allow our girls water polo team to be in a league.”

Another example Brice used was tennis, which as she puts it, is split between ‘very high performing schools’ and ‘very low performing schools’. The new conference would give the ‘very high performing schools’ better opportunities to play more ‘high performing schools’ while the ‘lower performing schools’ would play more equitable schools.

Brice hopes this would give Whitney a middle ground from not only playing more superior schools but limiting the distance its teams were subjected to when the Wildcats were in the old Academy League and Delphic League. While in those two leagues, Whitney would have had to travel as far south as San Juan Capistrano or as far north the San Fernando Valley for league games.

She also said that the number of leagues will be determined next year will be based off participation per

{See LEAGUE, page 12}

605 LEAGUE BASEBALL

Bench Player Puts Artesia in Playoffs  
With Walk-Off Hit as Pioneers Edge Glenn

By Loren Kopff  
@LorenKopff on X

Third place in the 605 League and an automatic berth in next week’s CIF-Southern Section divisional playoffs was on the line when Artesia High hosted John Glenn Hogh last Friday. While the game may have meant more for the visiting Eagles as they were under .500 for the season, the Pioneers, with a loss, didn’t want any part of waiting to see if they got in as an at-large representative since they had a winning record.

Well, there won’t be any hoping, waiting and wondering ahead of Saturday’s bracket release as junior pinch hitter Juan Pablo De Avila, once down 0-2 in the count, fouled off three straight pitches from senior Brandon Rivera before depositing a base hit to left with the bases loaded to drive in junior short-stop Devon Torrez and give the hosts a 5-4 victory. Artesia, which would fall to Anaheim High 5-3 the next day in a non-league contest, began the week at 16-8-1, 5-4-1.

“He’s done it three times already this year where he comes in to pinch hit and clutches up,” said Artesia head coach

Jose Serrano. “He did it Tuesday against Glenn; he’s the one who got the first RBI. He never complains and just plays hard. I had to go with the hot hand.”

De Avila’s RBI on May 29 tied the game 1-1 in the top of the fifth inning and the Pioneers went on to win that game 4-1. But in the bottom of the seventh last Friday, junior Bert Rodriguez walked Torrez, who advanced on a



wild pitch, and intentionally walked senior center-fielder Jose Garcia. After a sacrifice from junior first baseman Adrian Romero, another intentional walk loaded the bases before the pitching change.

“I’m just really proud of them,” said Glenn first-year head coach Ken Mason. “I’ve been proud of them all season. We talked about making adjustments; we struggled at the plate early and then slowly we started figuring it out. We started squaring up some balls...we made some adjustments in the last inning and battled. I’m really sad for my players that we came up short.”

Early on, both starting pitchers had escaped what could have been an early barrage of scoring. Artesia senior Angel

{See ARTESIA, page 12}

NEWS AND NOTES FROM PRESS ROW

Regular Season Ends While  
Some Sports Have Begun the Playoffs

By Loren Kopff  
@LorenKopff on X

Graduation for the area schools is anywhere from two weeks away to the first week of June and for those senior athletes, this is the last chance to compete for a CIF-Southern Section divisional championship, or a team title in certain sports. Here’s a rundown of what happened the previous week and what’s on the docket in the upcoming week or so.

BASEBALL

Artesia High ended the regular season with a 3-1 win over Santiago High this past Tuesday and enters the playoffs with an overall record of 17-8-1. The Pioneers finished in third place in the 605 League with a 5-4-1 mark. They are looking up at league champion Oxford Academy and second place Cerritos High, which went 14-13, 7-3 after getting swept by the Patriots in the last week of the season. This is the first time since 2018 the Dons have not had a piece of the 605 League crown.

Gahr High has been in playoff mode since the first game of the season and that included this past week when the Gladiators fell to Orange Lutheran High 4-3 this past Tuesday and Huntington Beach High 13-6 this past Wednesday. Gahr, the second place team from the Gateway League, enters the postseason at 16-12, 9-3 in league.

Gateway League champion La Mirada High wrapped up the regular season with a come from behind 7-5 win over Arcadia High this past Tuesday and a 4-1 victory over Tesoro High the next night.

The Matadores (21-6, 10-2) lost both league games to Gahr.

Norwalk High bounced back from a disastrous 2024 season by going 15-8 this season and won 11 of 15 Mid-Cities League games, good enough for third place.

At one point, Valley Christian High was 4-7 before bouncing back in Olympic League play to finish in second place, a game behind Maranatha High. The Defenders (15-10, 6-2), shutout Maranatha 2-0 last Friday, then edged Bishop Montgomery High 5-4 this past Tuesday as they enter the postseason winners of seven of the last eight games and 11 of 14.

The playoff brackets will be released on Monday at 10:00 a.m.

SOFTBALL

Cerritos doesn’t know anything about finishing somewhere other than first place in the 605 League because all the Dons have done is win league title after league title. Six full seasons since the birth of the league and six straight first place showings is what the program has done. Cerritos blanked Oxford Academy last Friday and Artesia this past Tuesday by identical 10-0 scores to go undefeated in 10 league games for the fourth time since 2021.

Gahr blanked Downey High 4-0 this past Tuesday to end the regular season 13-12-2, 6-2 in the Gateway League. The Gladiators have yet to move two games north of .500 and their longest winning streak is three games, accomplished

{See NEWS, page 12}



VALLEY from page 10

“That just goes to the work we put in during the week,” said Chet Kingery. “We work hard on the defensive side, but we work equally as hard on the offensive side. You still have to hit to win, and your lineup is always good as the backup player. We try to make everybody equal across the board so we don’t have a weak link in our chain.”

While nothing was clinched by the time the game was over, there was a brief message sent to the team as it still had two more league contests to play before the end of the regular season.

“Celebrate your hard work today, but back to the drawing board tomorrow for Monday,” said Chet Kingery.

The CIF-Southern Section divisional playoff brackets will be released on Monday and according to the latest power rankings that came out this past Tuesday, the Defenders are ranked 78th.

ARTESIA from page 11

Estrada allowed a two-out single to junior third baseman Josiah Alcalá in the top of the first before getting a ground-out to end the frame. Estrada then walked senior catcher Raymond Acosta to lead off the second and after striking out junior pitcher Evan Perez, yielded a single to Rivera. But that’s all Glenn got in the inning.

Meanwhile, the Pioneers began their first inning strong as sophomore second baseman Michael Nava singled, and Torrez was safe on an error. After a sacrifice, Perez walked Romero to load the bases. But a pop-up and a strikeout kept the game scoreless. When it was all said

and done, Artesia had stranded nine runners while Glenn left eight runners on base.

“That’s what has been going on with us this year,” said Serrano. “We’ve had the bases loaded so many times this year and we can’t figure it out. Like I told the kids, you can’t give up. It’s frustrating having the bases loaded with one out, or none out and not scoring. But it’s just keep grinding, keep grinding and finally, one out, bases loaded and look, base hit to win the game.”

In the third, Nava beat out an infield single and Torrez had a base hit to the left field gap to set the stage for senior center fielder Victor Sanchez, whose double to the left field gap made it 2-0. In the next inning with one out, senior third baseman Daniel Carbajal was walked, and senior catcher Daniel Loera was safe on an error. Carbajal would later come home on another error and a fielder’s choice from Torrez made it 4-0.

The Eagles would finally get to Estrada in the fifth when senior right fielder Angel Aguilar was safe on an error and scored when Rodriguez laced a single to left that glanced off the glove of Torrez. In the seventh, and with junior Emmanuel Rocha on the mound for the Pioneers, Aguilar doubled to the right field gap and one out later, Alcalá singled down the right field line and advanced on an error, making it 4-2. Rodriguez and Acosta followed with singles, the latter making it 4-3 and the former tied the game by stealing home.

“It’s not a matter of our players... their heart is there; they’re trying,” said Mason. “We’re just not quite there as a team. So, we’re just going to have to keep working at it. They haven’t been in this situation that often, and so it’s

difficult when you get into that pressure situation. Moving forward, we have to learn how to handle the pressure a little bit better. I think that’s what it comes down to.”

Alcalá went three for three while Rivera and Rodriguez each had a pair of hits while Nava had two of the five hits collected by Artesia. Estrada went six strong innings, allowing five hits and striking out five while walking three.

“Oh my god, that kid...last year I think he was our number one if you ask me and this year, he’s been struggling,” said Serrano. “His confidence has been down, but man, today he just came out and just showed his true self and threw strikes. He jumped ahead; didn’t fall behind much, so it’s a big difference when you throw strikes and that’s what he did today.”

Artesia, which ended the regular season this past Tuesday against Santiago High, advances to the playoffs for the fourth straight season and the 16 wins are already the most since the 2007 team went 16-12. Meanwhile, after going 13-9 in a dramatic turnaround 2024 season, the Eagles fell to 7-16, 4-6 and will miss the playoffs for fifth straight season. They hosted Estancia High this past Tuesday.

“All the respect to Glenn,” said Serrano. “It seems like this year, they did an amazing job and just battled with every team. It made it hard for everyone, but in the last inning, one bad pitch here, one bad pitch there. They battled; they put the ball in play and made something happen. I think that was the difference there.”

“It’s real difficult,” said Mason. “I’m real sad for my five seniors. I really wanted them to experience [the playoffs]. For the first two years, their freshmen and sophomore years, they were the doormat of the 605 League, and we just struggled to get that clutch hit. We let games slip away that we should have won in league. If we would have had two clutch hits, we wouldn’t have been in this situation today, in a must-win.”

LEAGUE from page 11

sport. There’s some speculation that the 20-school league will most likely be divided into three leagues. But it’s possible it could be a four-league conference. One thing to keep in mind as it relates to the major sports is that Oxford Academy and Whitney do not field football programs.

“All sports will not be the same,” said Brice. “But that’s what next year is for. That hasn’t been decided yet.”

NEWS from page 11

twice.

The champions of the Gateway League once again is La Mirada, which moved to 23-4, 8-0 after an 11-3 win at Mayfair High. The Matadores lost consecutive games after winning four straight to begin the season and a few games later, went on a 15-game winning streak and half their losses came to Orange Lutheran.

Norwalk had an up and down season and at one point, was struggling at 2-8-1. But two days later came the beginning of Mid-Cities League action and just like that, the Lancers begin the playoffs with a 12-13-1 record, 8-2 in league and second place. Norwalk has not been above .500 all season.

A little late season surprise propelled Valley Christian to an Olympic League title. Last Wednesday, the Defenders were in second place in league with a 4-1 record, trailing Whittier Christian High, which was 6-0. V.C. then crushed Whittier Christian 14-1 last Thursday and defeated Village Christian High 13-2 and Marantha High 16-0 this past Monday and Tuesday, respectively while Heritage Christian High surprised Whittier Christian earlier in the week. V.C. would fall to El Segundo High 9-2 this past Wednesday to conclude the regular season at 15-6-1, 7-1.

The playoff brackets will be released on Monday at noon.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

A pair of area teams advanced to the second round of the playoffs, but neither could pull off a victory. Norwalk fell to El Toro High in four sets in Division 6 action while in a Division 7 match, Whitney High lost to Jurupa Valley High in four sets as well.

BOYS TENNIS

First round matches began this past Wednesday and Whitney got past El Dorado High 11-7 in Division 2 action. The Wildcats will host Great Oak High on Friday while Cerritos cruised past Yucaipa High 16-2 in Division 5 action and will face Trabuco Hills High on Friday. The Mustangs slammed V.C. 16-2.

In Division 6 action, La Mirada tied Arroyo High 9-9, but prevailed in games won, 85-75 and will host Heritage High on Friday while in Division 7 action, Gahr knocked off Palmdale High 13-5 on the road to earn a home match against Elsinore High on Friday.

TRACK AND FIELD

Many athletes will be all over Southern California in the CIF-SS preliminaries all day Saturday. Cerritos and Norwalk will compete in Division 2 at Ontario High, Artesia, Gahr and La Mirada will be at Yorba Linda High in Division 3 competition while Carpinteria High is home to Division 4 schools, including John Glenn High, V.C. and Whitney.

SWIMMING AND DIVING

Whitney sophomore Trisha Lapidario had a score of 321.80 in the Division 2 1-meter diving event. She was one of 14 divers who competed in the event last Wednesday at the Marguerite Aquatic Complex and picked up six points that will go towards her team score once the swimming events have been completed. The Division 2 and 3 preliminaries were this past Wednesday with the finals on Friday while the Division 4 finals were held on May 8. The preliminaries and finals are at Mt. San Antonio College.

In the Division 4 prelims this past Tuesday, Gahr senior Carlos Valderrama had the top time in the 200-yard IM (1:56.10) and in the 100-yard butterfly (49.60).



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.

**It's Organic**

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

Adds, Calories, Caution, Chew, Coating, Cook, Cuts, Diet, Drink, Eating, Fats, Feed, Fill, Flavor, Food, Fork, Free, Fruit, Good, Grain, Heavy, Labs, Lights, Liquid, Make, Meat, Medicine, Mill, Minerals, Oils, Plain, Plants, Pour, Prepare, Processed, Protein, Pure, Recipe, Research, Rich, Safe, Sale, Salt, Sell, Side, Soaps, Sprays, Straight, Sugar, Taste, Toxic, Trend, Waist, Washed.

Solution on page 14

Solution: 11 letters



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

CITY OF BELLFLOWER

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

REGARDING CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT CASE NO. CU 24-08 AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW CASE NO. DR 4-24-15216

TAKE NOTICE that the Bellflower Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, May 19, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at 16600 Civic Center Drive, Bellflower, CA 90706 to consider a Conditional Use Permit (“CUP”) and a Development Review (“DR”) to allow the construction of a 3,780-square foot restaurant with a drive-through component within the General Commercial (“C-G”) zone on property located at 10355 Alondra Boulevard.

The City reviewed the environmental impacts of the proposed project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code §§ 21000, et seq. “CEQA”) and the regulations promulgated thereunder (14 Cal. Code of Regs. §§ 15000, et seq., the “CEQA Guidelines”). CEQA Guideline § 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures) provides an exemption in urbanized areas, up to four such commercial buildings not exceeding 10,000 square feet in floor area on sites zoned for such use if not involving the use of significant amounts of hazardous substances where all necessary public services and facilities are available, and the surrounding area is not environmentally sensitive. This project proposes the construction of a 3,780-square-foot restaurant building.

The City of Bellflower invites members of the public to review and comment on this item. Copies of the staff report and supporting documents regarding this matter may be inspected by the public on the City’s website at [www.bellflower.org](http://www.bellflower.org), or by appointment in the Planning Division’s Office at Bellflower City Hall, 16600 Civic Center Drive, Bellflower, California, telephone number (562) 804-1424, extension 2314. All written comments concerning this may be submitted to Kathryn Brun at 16600 Civic Center Drive, Bellflower, CA 90706; or by email at [kbrun@bellflower.ca.gov](mailto:kbrun@bellflower.ca.gov).

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

ELIZABETH C. OBA  
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 5/9/25

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING/PROPOSED ORDINANCE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Cerritos City Council will conduct a public hearing at a regular meeting on Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. on the following matter: Review and consideration to waive full reading of and introduce AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CERRITOS AMENDING TITLE 2 OF THE CERRITOS MUNICIPAL CODE BY ADDING CHAPTER 2.22, ESTABLISHING AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION.\* Review and consideration to waive full reading of and adopt A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CERRITOS PROVIDING FOR THE ORGANIZATION, MEMBERSHIP, AND DUTIES OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION. \*Pursuant to Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15378(b)(5) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, this administrative activity is not a “project” under CEQA, and even if it were, the proposed amendment is exempt from CEQA review. City Attorney Summary: This proposed ordinance will establish the economic development commission, an advisory body subordinate to the City Council, and made up of five commissioners who either reside or own a business in the City of Cerritos. The purpose of the economic development commission will be to attract, retain, and enhance economic development opportunities within the City. Each member of the economic development commission will be appointed by a member of the City Council, and it is proposed that the administrative functions and operations of the economic development commission will be handled by the Department of Community Development. This public hearing will be conducted in-person in the Cerritos City Council Chamber, 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, California, 90703. The meeting will also air live on Cerritos TV3 and will be streamed over the City of Cerritos website at [www.cerritos.gov](http://www.cerritos.gov). A copy of the related agenda report will be available for download from the website on the Friday prior to the public meeting. Public comments can be provided during the meeting or via email to [city\\_clerk@cerritos.us](mailto:city_clerk@cerritos.us) or by hard copy to the Office of the City Clerk no later than 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Please identify the agenda item number in the subject line of the email or hard copy document. All written correspondence received by the 3:00 p.m. deadline will be distributed to the legislative body prior to the meeting. If you challenge the above mentioned item and related actions in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence emailed to the Office of the City Clerk prior to the public hearing. Any person interested in this matter may contact the Office of the City Clerk at (562) 916-1248 for additional information and/or appear at the hearing in person or by agent and be heard. /s/Cynthia Nava, City Clerk

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 5/9/25

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF BELLFLOWER

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND 30-DAY COMMENT PERIOD

DRAFT 2025-2029 CONSOLIDATED PLAN, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2025-2026 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

**Public Hearing:**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Bellflower City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, June 9, 2025, as follows:

In accordance with the City's current Citizen Participation Plan, the City hereby notifies the general public of a public hearing on **June 9, 2025 at 7:00 p.m., or thereafter**, held at **City Council Chambers, Bellflower City Hall, 16600 Civic Center Drive, Bellflower, CA 90706** to accept comments on the City's five-year 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and FY 2025-2026 Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) program. As an entitlement jurisdiction, the City is required by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to complete the Consolidated Plan every five years to receive its allocation of CDBG and HOME funds.

- **The Consolidated Plan** is a five-year plan for the use of CDBG and HOME funds.
- **The Annual Action Plan** is submitted to HUD on an annual basis and identifies how the City plans to use the federal funds during the next fiscal year to meet the goals and objectives approved by City Council in the five-year Consolidated Plan.

Although the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has not yet released the City's funding allocations for the fiscal year 2025-2026, the City is working with estimated allocations based on the amounts it received last year from HUD. Once the actual allocations are released by HUD, the budgets for all proposed activities will be proportionately increased or decreased to align with these actual amounts. For FY 2025-2026, the City estimates it will receive approximately \$897,114 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and \$357,302 in HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) funds.

The City has approximately \$77,300 (\$76,300 previous year + \$1,000 program income) in CDBG funds and about \$2,286,201 in HOME funds that will be carried over from previous fiscal years. For the FY 25-26 Annual Action Plan, the total anticipated available funds for CDBG programming is \$974,414, and for HOME programming is \$2,643,503. Recommendations for fund allocation for FY 2025-2026 are outlined in the Annual Action Plan, which is now available for public review and comment.

Priority Funding for CDBG activities are given activities that:

- Affirmatively further Fair Housing
- Public Services
- Economic Development
- Neighborhood Preservation
- Construction - Public Facilities & Infrastructure Improvements
- Planning and Administration

Priority Funding for HOME activities are given activities that:

- Improve and Conserve Existing Affordable Housing
- Development of Affordable Housing
- Planning and Administration

**Public Review and Comment Period:**

The 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and the FY 2025-2026 Annual Action Plan will be available for a 30-day public review and comment period beginning on **May 9, 2025**, and ending on **June 9, 2025**. This document will be available for public review on the City's website ([www.bellflower.org](http://www.bellflower.org)).

Questions and written comments regarding the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and the FY 2025-2026 Annual Action Plan may be addressed to the following: City of Bellflower, Economic Development Department, Attn: Management Analyst II, Karla Pineda, 16600 Civic Center Drive, Bellflower, CA 90706 or email [kpineda@bellflower.org](mailto:kpineda@bellflower.org)

Those desiring further information should contact Management Analyst II, Karla Pineda, at (562) 804-1424 Ext. 2013 or [kpineda@bellflower.org](mailto:kpineda@bellflower.org)

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Cerritos City Council will conduct a public hearing at a regular meeting on Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. on the following matter: Review and consideration to waive full reading of and adopt A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CERRITOS APPROVING AN UPDATE TO THE CITY OF CERRITOS TITLE VI PROGRAM, WHICH PROVIDES FOR NONDISCRIMINATORY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES (CERRITOS ON WHEELS AND DIAL-A-RIDE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS). This public hearing will be conducted in-person in the Cerritos City Council Chamber, 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, California, 90703. The meeting will also air live on Cerritos TV3 and will be streamed over the City of Cerritos website at [www.cerritos.gov](http://www.cerritos.gov). A copy of the related agenda report will be available for download from the website on the Friday prior to the public meeting. Public comments can be provided during the meeting or via email to [city\\_clerk@cerritos.us](mailto:city_clerk@cerritos.us) or by hard copy to the Office of the City Clerk no later than 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Please identify the agenda item number in the subject line of the email or hard copy document. All written correspondence received by the 3:00 p.m. deadline will be distributed to the legislative body prior to the meeting. If you challenge the above mentioned item and related actions in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence emailed to the Office of the City Clerk prior to the public hearing. Any person interested in this matter may contact the Office of the City Clerk at (562) 916-1248 for additional information and/or appear at the hearing in person or by agent and be heard. /s/Cynthia Nava, City Clerk

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# Memorial Day Ceremony

REMEMBER AND HONOR

Please join us as we remember and honor those brave men and women who have given the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation.

Friday

May 23, 2025

Artesia Cemetery

11142 Artesia Blvd. Cerritos CA 90703

10 AM Program

Refreshments will be served

For More Information

Call 562-865-6300



## MARIACHI from page 1

(marriage).

“This year’s festival promises to be the most exciting yet, featuring a stellar lineup of mariachi ensembles and a ballet folklórico performance that will bring the energy and color of Mexican heritage to life,” said Artesia Mayor Ali Taj.

Attendees can enjoy a traditional ballet folklórico performance by Ballet Folklórico El Lucero. Ballet Folklórico El Lucero is an independent Mexican

folk dance company founded and directed by Maestra Lucero Vázquez.

Live mariachi performances by Mariachi Juvenil Lluvia y Fuego, Mariachi Folklore, and Mariachi Premier desde El Grullo Jalisco para el Mundo

Mariachi Juvenil Lluvia y Fuego is a youth mariachi ensemble based in Pa-coima, California, operating under the Lluvia y Fuego Mariachi Academy umbrella.

Mariachi Folklore is a professional mariachi ensemble based in Santa Ana, California, dedicated to preserving and celebrating the rich traditions of Mexi-

can music and culture, led by Director Oscar Garibay.

Mariachi Premier is a distinguished mariachi ensemble originating from El Grullo, Jalisco, founded in 2015 by director and arranger Edgar González, also known as “El Prieto”. Comprising thirteen talented musicians, the group is renowned for their authentic and passionate performances of traditional Mexican music.

Attendees can also enjoy food trucks serving up a variety of Mexican foods and desserts, local vendors with handmade crafts and cultural goods, and a

Beer Garden hosted by local Artesia restaurant, Oaxaca Village.

Admission is free, and guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets to enjoy the performances under the stars.

Artesia’s free electric bus service, known as Artesia Transit, will be running until 11:30 PM on May 10th in order to provide free transportation to the event for residents.

For more information, please contact the City of Artesia Parks and Recreation Department at (562)860-3361 or visit [www.cityofartesia.us](http://www.cityofartesia.us).