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LCCN INVESTIGATION

When the Current Central Basin Attorney is Hired, Brown Act Violations Follow

Victor Ponto's latest violation was at Central Basin Water, but LCCN has found other Brown Act and Government Code violations by Ponto.

By Brian Hews

Current Central Basin Water attorney Victor Ponto, who works for Burke, Williams, and Sorensen, is at the center of a battle between Central Basin Board members while also fighting off a wrongful termination allegation from former Central Basin GM Dr. Alex Rojas, who was placed on administrative leave using two unlawful Board votes sanctioned by Ponto.

But the Rojas vote is not the first public agency controversy for Ponto, who, Los Cerritos Community News has found, was jumping from different pub-

lic agency roles from 2023 to '24 like Leonard DiCaprio in the Steven Spielberg movie Catch Me If You Can.

And when Ponto was hired by an agency, Brown Act and Government Code violations soon followed.

Illegal Vote 1:

In Feb. 2019, the Adelanto City Council, with Ponto as its attorney, placed City Manager Jessie Flores on paid administrative leave pending the results of an internal investigation.

The move was done in closed session with a non-agendized vote. According to the Victorville Daily Press, Ponto was not present for the meeting, although he was on a conference call during closed session.

Ponto later informed the public that the Flores item was an emergency walk-on, requiring

[See PONTO, page 9]



SOROPTIMISTS AWARD \$10,000 AT LIVE YOUR DREAM CEREMONY

Soroptimist International of Artesia-Cerritos hosted its annual awards luncheon celebrating the recipients of the 2024 Live Your Dream Awards with a total of \$10,000 given to seven awardees.

By Diana Needham

Soroptimist International of Artesia-Cerritos hosted its annual awards luncheon May celebrating the recipients of the 2024 Live Your Dream Awards with a total of \$10,000 to seven deserving awardees,

including three from Cerritos College. Christina Gomez, the First-Place Awardee and a Cerritos College student, received \$3,000 along with twelve hours of future career mentoring tailored to her aspirations of becoming an HR (Human Resources) Manager. She was also recognized at the regional level by Soroptimist's Desert Coast Region. Jacqueline Avian, the Second-Place Awardee, received \$2,000, while Ashley Goodlett, the Third-Place Awardee, received \$1,500. Kaylie Crane and Yvette Rodriguez, Fourth-Place Awardees, each received \$1,000, and Jashonda Lucas and Cassandra Serrano, Fifth-Place Awardees, received \$750 each.

The luncheon event took place at Liberty Park in Cerritos and was attended by over 50 guests, including awardees, their children and guests, Soroptimist members, and distinguished guests such as Governor-Elect Bonnie Mendenhall. A highlight of the event was a presentation from Dr. Veronica Bloomfield, an

educator and producer of "This Book Matters," emphasizing the importance of childhood literacy.

All awardees are single mothers pursuing higher education to improve their lives and those of their children. The Live Your Dream Awards specifically recognize women who are heads of households, facing financial challenges, and are committed to achieving their academic and career goals despite significant life obstacles.

The Soroptimist International of Artesia-Cerritos' Live Your Dream Awards Committee, led by Chair Teresita Dillon and including members Barbara Dunstan, Levie Laguitan, Diana Needham, Phibun Ny, Manjula Ramanathan, and Norma Williamson, expressed pride in the awardees' achievements and commitment to supporting their educational and professional journeys.

"We are immensely proud of all our award winners and their progress towards earning

[See AWARD, page 9]

Two Local Rocketry Teams Place in Top 25 in National Competition

By Laurie Hanson

This year's American Rocketry Challenge in Virginia was attended by more than 5,000 students from 922 teams from 45 states including two Irvine

designed, built, and launched model rockets that could safely carry a payload of one raw egg with a target flight duration of 43-46 seconds and an altitude of 820 feet. The teams' accomplishments followed months of prepa-

Led by Coach Binay Panday, Team 2 placed 13th, and Team 1 placed a remarkable 3rd. They earned \$12,500, and their rocketry club was awarded \$1,000.

"AIAA O.C. Section STEM program mentors and supports



WINNERS: The 2024 American Rocketry Challenge 2024 Team 2 from left to right, Team Captain Sawyer Ashland, Ryan Ko, Kai Kwak, Finn Ashland, Lucas Chen, and Rowan Yoo.

Rocketry Club teams.

The ARC, now in its 22nd year, has inspired nearly 95,000 middle and high school students to explore education and careers in STEM fields. Teams at the ARC National Finals competed for a total of \$100,000 in prize money and scholarships.

To qualify for the ARC National Finals, participating teams

ration and testing rockets capable of meeting rigorous mission parameters set by the contest's sponsors, the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA), National Association of Rocketry, and more than 20 industry partners.

As top-25 finishers, both Orange County teams secured invitations to participate in NASA's Student Launch initiative.

6th to 12th grade students in Orange County with rocketry projects," said Pandey. "These students participate in the American Rocketry Challenge (ARC) and the NASA Student Launch Initiative (SLI) program. For the past two years, the AIAA OC Section has been organiz-

[See ROCKETS, page 9]

1st CEB Holds Annual Car Wash



CERRITOS' FRIENDS of the 1st CEB held its annual CEB Car Wash last weekend at Los Cerritos Center. Marines came out and enjoyed the weather while raising funds for the Marines and their families of the 1st Combat Engineering Battalion at Camp Pendleton.

Starbucks in Cerritos Nearing Completion



THE DRIVE-THRU Starbucks on Bloomfield and Del Amo is opening this year bringing new jobs, revenue, convenience and economic development to Cerritos. The only Cerritos Planning Commissioner to vote for the iconic cafe was Gloria Pulido appointed by Councilman Frank Yokoyama. The other Planning Commissioners for some reason voted against it. The Cerritos City Council overrode their appointees and unanimously voted for the new location.

Author Discusses Book on 'The Dirty Dozen'

The Cerritos Library welcomes former Cerritos resident and "New York Times" bestselling author Dwayne Epstein to the Skyline Room on Monday, June 24 at 6 p.m. Epstein will read from his latest book, "Killin' Generals: The Making of 'The Dirty Dozen,' the Most Iconic WW II Movie of All Time." Copies will be available for sale.

Epstein, who spent most of his childhood in Cerritos and attended Cerritos High School and Whitney High School, based

his acclaimed book on exclusive interviews with the surviving cast and crew and family and friends of the stars of the 1967 Oscar-winning movie about convicts training as commandos for a suicide mission during wartime.

The blockbuster film starred the late Hollywood legends Donald Sutherland, Ernest Borgnine and Charles Bronson.

Now a Long Beach resident, Epstein is also the author of the "New York Times" bestseller "Lee Marvin: Point Blank."

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

Ten New Monkeypox Cases Reported in Los Angeles

Staff Report

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is alerting residents and health care providers about a concerning increase in mpox cases, with 10 new cases reported in L. A. County in the past two weeks.

Mpox (previously referred to as Monkeypox) is mainly spread through close contact with body fluids, sores, shared bedding or clothing or respiratory droplets (kissing, coughing, sneezing). Symptoms include rash or unusual sores that look like pimples or blisters on the face, body and genitals, fever, chills, headache, muscle aches or swelling of lymph nodes. Early detection, testing and vaccination are vital to controlling the spread of this disease and protecting the health of LA County residents.

Given the recent increase in cases, Public Health strongly recommends the following actions:

Testing: Anyone who develops symptoms consistent with mpox, such as rash, fever or swollen lymph nodes should seek medical attention and get tested. Health care providers should be aware of the possibility of mpox and promptly report suspected cases to Public Health for appropriate testing and interventions.

Prevention: Vaccination is a safe way to prevent one from getting mpox and may also reduce symptoms. The following can help reduce the risk of getting and spreading mpox:

Ask partners if they have mpox symptoms or feel sick. Individuals should not have sex or other intimate contact if they or their partners have a new or unexplained rash or sores or feel sick until they see a health care provider.

Reduce the number of partners, espe-

cially those whose recent sexual history is unknown.

Make a habit of exchanging contact information with any new partner to allow for sexual health follow-up, if needed.

Limit going to sex parties, circuit parties and other spaces where people are having sex or other intimate contact with multiple people.

Use condoms and gloves.

Do not share towels, clothing, bedding, fetish gear, sex toys or toothbrushes.

Wash hands, fetish gear, towels and bedding. Sex toys should be washed after each use or sex act.

Vaccination: Vaccination is an important tool in preventing the spread of mpox.

Public Health is collaborating closely with health care providers, community organizations and other stakeholders to address the mpox resurgence as swiftly and effectively as possible. Enhanced surveillance, contact tracing and outbreak investigations are underway to identify potential sources of the infection and prevent further transmission. Public Health's mobile vaccination units are providing free vaccination at numerous Pride events this season, Public Health's sexual health clinics found at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/chs/sexualhealthclinics/> and other walk-up vaccine clinics can be found at <https://myturn.ca.gov/>.

A collective response is crucial in mitigating the impact of this outbreak. By increasing vaccination rates, the spread of mpox can be minimized within Los Angeles County to protect the health and well-being of its diverse communities.

For the most up-to-date information and resources, please visit ph.lacounty.gov/mpox or contact the Public Health Call Center at 1-833-540-0473.

Cerritos City Council Adoption of the Annual Combined Financial Program for Fiscal Year 2024-2025



The Cerritos City Council and members of the Successor Agency to the Cerritos Redevelopment Agency will review and consider the following item at a meeting to be held on **Thursday, June 27 at 7 p.m.** in the City Council Chamber:

- Adoption of the Annual Combined Financial Program for Fiscal Year 2024-2025, for the City of Cerritos and the Successor Agency to the Cerritos Redevelopment Agency

Community members are encouraged to participate and review the budget on the City's website, cerritos.us.

For more information, call (562) 916-1315.

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Water Replenishment District Awarded \$25M for Groundwater Cleanup

Staff Report

Lakewood, CA – June 18, 2024 – The Water Replenishment District (WRD) has been awarded a \$25 million WaterSMART grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Reclamation for the construction of a groundwater desalination project - the largest desalination grant awarded in this round.

This project will significantly increase the locally sustainable drinking water supply for the South Bay by doubling the capacity of WRD’s Desalter located in the city of Torrance. The Torrance Groundwater Desalter Expansion project will be designed to extract and purify approximately 10 million gallons a day from a salty groundwater plume. The removal of this salty groundwater will create groundwater storage capacity for excess local freshwater and recycled water for the region to use in future drought years.

The saline plume located under the South Bay is the result of the over-extraction of groundwater in the early 1900s. This caused seawater to intrude into the groundwater basin where it mixed with freshwater; making that groundwater too salty to be used. The expansion will create a new source of clean drinking water for the region.

Joy Langford, President of the WRD Board, expressed her gratitude and optimism for the project, stating “This grant underscores WRD’s commitment to sustainable water management and will continue our efforts to ensure a reliable and resilient water future for southern Los Angeles County.”

Rob Katherman, WRD Board Vice President concurred and stated, “We are excited to continue our collaboration with federal, state, and local partners to deliver innovative drought-proof solutions that meet the needs of our residents and safeguard our precious groundwater resources.”

WRD is committed to ensuring the long-term sustainability and reliability of water supplies for southern Los Angeles County. By reducing the reliance on imported water and developing locally sustainable solutions, WRD is leading the way in innovative water management strategies. For further information on WRD’s Brackish Groundwater Reclamation Program, please visit www.wrd.org/brackish-groundwater-reclamation-program.

La Palma-Cerritos AAUW Installs New Executive Board for 2024-2025

By Edna Ethington

Twenty-two members of the La Palma-Cerritos Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) gathered at Panda Inn in La Palma, California, on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, to install their new Executive Board for the 2024-2025 year.

Gail Ross, as the branch’s Co-Administrator for 2024, recognized the outgoing 2024 board members. She thanked Treasurer Marilyn Forsstrom, Secretary Christine Taxier, and Co-Administrator Joan Pylman for their many years of service. Gail also was recognized for her service as Co- Administrator in 2024 by branch members.

Gail then proceeded to install the new Executive Board members and then presented each person with a specially selected pair of eye-glasses. She said that the glasses would help Treasurer Marilyn Forsstrom to clearly see all her records, and glasses would help Secretary Christine Taxier to see whatever she writes and wants members to see.

Gail gave an extra-large pair of eye-glasses to Administrator Harriet Moses, so that she could see what was needed to conduct meetings, oversee that volunteers



INSTALLATION of officers of the La Palma-Cerritos Branch of the AAUW on June 11, 2024, are, left to right, Installation Officer and 2024 Co-Administrator Gail Ross, New Administrator Harriet Moses, Treasure Marilyn Forsstrom, Secretary Christine Taxier, and Co-Administrator for 2024 Joan Pylman.

follow through with their programs, and that she would be able to see things if anything is underwater or in need of help.

After the Installation of Officers was completed, Treasurer Marilyn Forsstrom presented Certificates of Recognition and Gift Honoree Pins to La Palma-Cerritos AAUW Branch’s Gift Honorees for 2024, Gail Ross and Celia Spitzer for their outstanding service to the branch.

At the end of the event, Gail proposed a fundraiser in 2025; a short cruise from Los Angeles to Catalina, Ensenada in Mexico, in February. A portion of cruises

booked would be donated to the La Palma-Cerritos Branch of the AAUW. Members interested in joining the cruise can contact Gail Ross at 562-619-9816 before January of 2025.

Persons who have an Associate or higher degree from an accredited college or university, are interested in working for equity for women and girls, and also would like to join the La Palma-Cerritos Branch of the AAUW, can contact Administrator Harriet Moses at 714-994-1487 for more information.



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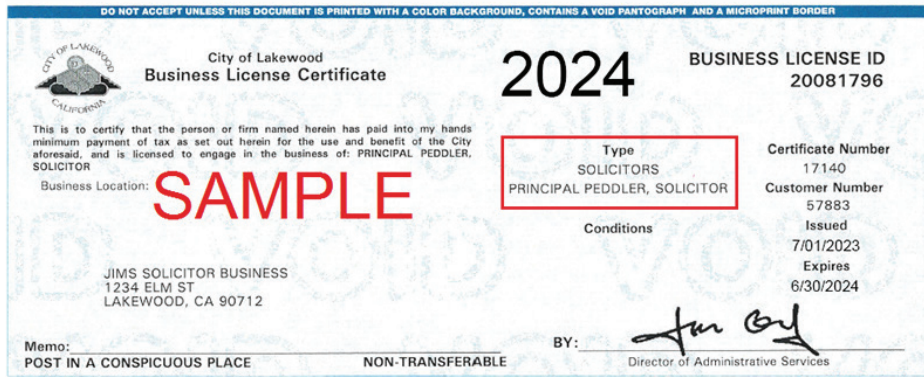
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Lakewood Hit By Unlicensed Solicitor Scam



LEGIT: Above is a sample of a legitimate Lakewood Solicitor's Business License. The city is asking residents to beware of unlicensed solicitors trying to access homes who then try to sell water testing and filtration devices to homeowners.

Staff Report

Lakewood is warning residents that

unlicensed solicitors have been going door-to-door in the city recently offering to come into resident's home to test the

water and then making a pitch to sell a water filtration or similar system.

Reportedly they also falsely claim or imply that they are representing or have the approval of the Lakewood Water Department.

It is a violation of the Lakewood Municipal Code to solicit door-to-door without a city solicitor's license, which includes a background check.

After hearing of the recent reports of these unlicensed solicitors, Lakewood public safety staff quickly investigated and found one of the solicitors, stopped him and issued him a citation.

The fine is \$100 for the first infraction, and the amount increases if there are further infractions.

The city is prepared to investigate and issue further citations if that unlicensed solicitor or others from his company return.

La Mirada Recognizes Women of the Year Recipient



LA MIRADA MAYOR John Lewis pictured with Dr. Cathy Alvarez.

During Women's History Month in March, members of the California Assembly recognized women for their leadership and volunteerism. The La Mirada City Council recognized Dr. Cathy Alvarez for her valuable contributions to the community. Asm. Blanca Pacheco recognized Dr. Cathy Alvarez as one of the 64th Assembly District's Women of the Year.

Cathy is a retired educator and school counselor, who served in the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District for many years. She is a member of La Mirada Kiwanis Club, Norwalk 605 Kiwanis, La Mirada Ebell, Norwalk-La Mirada PTA Council, the La Mirada Community Foundation, and the Community Services Commission. Cathy volunteers at elementary schools for Read Across America and at a local senior center where she entertains others with music, singing, and creating crafts. Cathy enjoys delivering her homemade treats to Benton Middle School staff on a monthly basis to show her appreciation and to VFW Post 9148 to help with fundraising efforts.

51st Annual Let Freedom Ring Celebration Planned

The 51st Annual Let Freedom Ring Celebration will take place on Thursday, July 4 from 4 to 9 p.m. at the Cerritos Civic Center. The event will include entertainment, food trucks, game booths, & rides and a fireworks show at 9 p.m. Barbecues and picnicking are not allowed. Discounted all-day ride wristbands, available for \$35 through 4 p.m. on Wednesday, July 3, can be purchased at the Recreation Services Division counter at Cerritos City Hall (while supplies last). On Thursday, July 4, the wristbands will be \$40. Wristbands will not be sold after 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 4. Individual tickets are \$2 each.

For more details about the celebration, call (562) 916-1254.

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Legendary Actor Donald Sutherland Dies at 88

(KTLA) ~ The entertainment world lost a giant Thursday with the death of legendary actor Donald Sutherland, who parlayed guest spots on television programs throughout the 1960s into appearances in iconic films including "The Dirty Dozen," "M*A*S*H," and "Kelly's Heroes." Sutherland was 88.

"With a heavy heart, I tell you that my father, Donald Sutherland, has passed away," Sutherland's son, actor Kiefer Sutherland, wrote on social media Thursday morning. "I personally think one of the most important actors in the history of film. Never daunted by a role, good, bad or ugly. He loved what he did and did what he loved, and one can never ask for more than that. A life well lived."

Sutherland, who received an honorary Oscar in 2017, was known to younger moviegoers for his more recent work as President Snow in "The Hunger Games." But his resume includes many of the most notable films Hollywood has produced, including "Klute," "Ordinary People," "Pride & Prejudice," "The Day of the Locust" and "Invasion of the Body Snatchers." He won an Emmy Award in 1995 for his supporting work in HBO's "Citizen X." Born in Canada, Sutherland's big film break came when he was cast as a condemned Army prisoner in 1967's war classic "The Dirty Dozen," joining a star-studded cast that included Lee Marvin, Telly Savalas and Charles Bronson, among others.

The success of that film helped him land top billing in another Army film, playing the original Hawkeye Pierce in the big-screen version of "M*A*S*H." Yet another war epic followed with his appearance as the appropriately named



"NEGATIVE VIBES MORIARTY." Donald Sutherland (left) as Sgt. Oddball, a flighty tank squadron commander in "Kelly's Heroes." The behind-the-lines quest for wartime gold also had an all-star cast, led by Clint Eastwood and Telly Savalas. Sutherland is seen here with Supply Sgt. Don Rickles who played Sgt. Moriarty.

Sgt. Oddball, a flighty tank squadron commander in "Kelly's Heroes." The behind-the-lines quest for wartime gold also had an all-star cast, led by Clint Eastwood and including Savalas and Don Rickles.

The following year he appeared opposite Jane Fonda in "Klute."

Sutherland was a nine-time Golden Globe Award nominee, winning in 2003 for his supporting role in "Path to War," chronicling the events leading to U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War.

His other film roles included "Space Cowboys" — re-teaming with Eastwood, "The Italian Job," "Cold Mountain," "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," "Disclosure" and Oliver Stone's "JFK."

He most recently portrayed a judge on the series "Lawman: Bass Reeves."

Sutherland is survived by his wife Francine Racette; sons Roeg, Rossif, An-

gus and Kiefer; daughter Rachel; and four grandchildren. Funeral services are expected to be private.

"I was blessed to direct (Sutherland) in 'Backdraft,'" director Ron Howard wrote on X Thursday. "One of the most intelligent, interesting & engrossing film actors of all time. Incredible range, creative courage & dedication to serving the story & the audience with supreme excellence."

Helen Mirren wrote, "Donald Sutherland was one of the smartest actors I ever worked with. He had a wonderful enquiring brain, and a great knowledge on a wide variety of subjects. He combined this great intelligence with a deep sensitivity, and with a seriousness about his profession as an actor. This all made him into the legend of film that he became. He was my colleague and became my friend. I will miss his presence in this world."

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Grow Some Pain Relief in Gardens and Containers

By Melinda Myers

Ease your way through the busy summer season with the help of some pain-relieving and anti-inflammatory garden produce. Add them to your garden or containers or purchase the produce at your local farmer's market.

Refresh and rejuvenate yourself with a cup of mint-infused tea or ice water. Mint also helps relieve headaches and general aches and pain. Contain this vigorous perennial herb by growing it in a container to prevent it from overtaking your garden beds. Take advantage of these benefits year-round by starting a few plants at the end of the growing season. Root a few cuttings to plant and grow in a sunny window.

Add sage tea to your list of favorite brews. Just harvest a few leaves, add hot water, and brew a bit of sore throat relief. Sage tea has long been used to soothe scratchy and irritated throats and showed positive results in a 2006 clinical trial. Grow this herb in the garden or a container. It thrives in a sunny spot with well-drained soil. Harvest leaves as needed throughout the season. Regular harvesting encourages more growth for future har-

vests. Harvest as much as one-third of the plant, to preserve and enjoy the benefits year-round.

You may have used a topical pain relief cream that contained capsaicin. This is the spicy element in chili, jalapeno, habanero, and cayenne peppers and is a natural pain-fighting tool often used to help treat backaches, arthritis, and muscle pain. Hot peppers are ready to harvest when they are fully colored. Ask friends to share their harvest or purchase hot peppers at a farmer's market if your garden lacks this plant.

Grow and use ginger to help reduce inflammation and combat migraines, muscle pain, arthritis and post-workout or post-gardening soreness. Plus, it helps fight nausea so common during a summer filled with barbecues and celebrations. Grow it in a pot outdoors or sunny window alongside your other indoor plants. Ginger is a tropical plant, but you can find plants or rhizomes, the part you eat, at many garden centers or online plant retailers. Or try rooting the rhizomes you purchase at the grocery store to start new plants.

Sour cherries are credited with managing muscle pain and inflammation. They are loaded with disease-fighting



GROW SAGE in the garden or a container. It thrives in a sunny spot with well-drained soil. Harvest leaves as needed throughout the season.

chemicals and antioxidants and help fight inflammation and relieve pain. Growing a cherry tree may not be practical or possible but purchase plenty when they are in season. Juice, dry, and preserve them to enjoy their health benefits all year. If space allows, consider planting a sour cherry tree in your backyard. Sour cherries do need a cold period with air temperatures between 34 and 45 degrees to initiate flowering for fruit development. Consult your local extension service for help selecting the best variety for your region. It takes several years for cherry plants to start producing fruit, but watch-

ing your tree grow into maturity and bear its first crop is part of the joy of gardening. Just be sure to protect the harvest from hungry birds.

When growing these you'll soon discover it's not just the plants that provide relief. Just the simple act of tending your garden and harvesting can elevate your mood, lower your blood pressure, and start you on the road to feeling better.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' website is www.MelindaMyers.com.



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Pacific Symphony 2024 Symphonic Music Under The Stars

Staff Report

An exhilarating new chapter begins for Pacific Symphony and the Orange County community, when the orchestra settles into its brand new summer home at Great Park Live located in the heart of Irvine.

The Symphony will be in residence during the 2024 SummerFest season for five exciting programs, from the July 4 opening concert through the closing Tchaikovsky Spectacular on Sept. 7.

Season tickets are now on sale for the five-concert series and patrons will enjoy seating at tables of four, where they can enjoy their own picnic or one that they can purchase on-site. Convenient parking will be included in the price of admission.

The exciting return of Pacific Symphony's SummerFest launches with a Fourth of July Spectacular featuring the high-energy music of Brass Transit performing the music of the legendary band Chicago. The concert culminates in a patriotic fireworks display.

On July 27, City of Hope Orange County presents a Concert of Hope, welcoming all whose lives have been touched by cancer.

The Symphony will perform George Gershwin's most beloved work, Rhapsody in Blue, which was composed and premiered 100 years ago. Famed piano soloist Jeffrey Biegel will perform the work. To celebrate the centennial of Rhapsody in Blue, Peter Boyer composed a new work for piano and orchestra inspired by the iconic masterpiece. The new work is

titled: Rhapsody in Red, White & Blue and will be given its California premiere by Jeffrey Biegel accompanied by Carl St.Clair and the Pacific Symphony.

The blockbuster movie Star Wars: Return of the Jedi will be shown on the big screen, with the score performed live by Pacific Symphony accompanying the film (Aug. 10). Principal Pops Conductor Enrico Lopez-Yañez makes his SummerFest debut conducting a program of legendary symphonic film music titled The Magical Music of Harry Potter (Aug. 23). Everyone's favorite salute to summer's end happens on Sept. 9 with the Tchaikovsky Spectacular, bursting with cannons and fireworks for the "1812" Overture and will include excerpts from the Nutcracker and the exhilarating violin concerto performed Philippe Quint. It all promises to be the perfect soundtrack for a perfect summer!

"Inaugurating the stunning Great Park Live stage, Pacific Symphony embarks on a captivating journey through the iconic compositions of John Williams, George Gershwin, and Peter Ilych Tchaikovsky, intertwining them seamlessly with beloved classics like the brass-infused melodies of Chicago. We extend our deepest gratitude to the City of Irvine for steadfastly supporting our three-decade tradition of delivering live musical experiences to the community," expressed John Forsyte, President and CEO of the Pacific Symphony. "We welcome back City of Hope Orange County as our presenting sponsor for SummerFest. Their renowned cancer care, pioneering research and commitment to caring for the whole person aligns beautifully with the healing and uplifting power of music. Together, we anticipate delighting audiences with this summer's exceptional lineup."

Irvine Mayor Farrah Khan explained the genesis of the new venue: "In October

2023, after the Five Point Amphitheatre announced its closure, the City began working to develop a plan to be able to avoid a gap in the delivery of live music in Irvine. After reviewing multiple options, the City Council authorized the establishment of a temporary live music venue that can accommodate a crowd of over 4,000 at the Great Park Sports Complex. The facility will serve as the summer home for Pacific Symphony and for the summer concert seasons in 2024, 2025, and 2026."

"Wherever and whenever Pacific Symphony performs—winter, spring, summer or fall—" says Music Director Carl St.Clair, "we dedicate ourselves to ensuring that our Symphony family has an exciting and rewarding experience. This coming summer will be no exception! As I told our patrons at the end of last summer—I wanted to leave everyone with such a strongly etched memory of how wonderful our summer concerts are that they would follow us anywhere! We

are all so excited to begin our new life at Great Park Live!"

While the location may be new, the Symphony continues to offer the same high-quality, exceptional summer experience, jam-packed with great music performed in the great outdoors. In fact, patrons can expect an even more comfortable and intimate experience at Great Park Live nestled within a casual, inviting atmosphere. Warm, pleasant evenings, picnics overflowing with goodies, surrounded by family and friends, all remain part of the annual Symphony SummerFest experience.

Subscriptions are now available for purchase and five-concert packages starting at \$295. With a variety of food and beverage options available for pre-concert dining—the evening is sure to sound and taste delicious! For more information or to purchase tickets, call (714) 755-5799 or visit www.PacificSymphony.org.



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PREMIER GIRLS FASTPITCH SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA QUALIFIER

Area Softball Athletes Tune Up For End of Summer Top Tournament With Final Qualifier

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on X

IRVINE-For those that don't have a spot in the Premier Girls Fastpitch National Championships in late July, this past weekend's Southern California Qualifier gave teams that one last chance of an automatic berth. While it's possible that teams will still be invited, several area softball players, either recent high school graduates or soon to be juniors and seniors, were with their respective travel teams hoping to get the invitation.

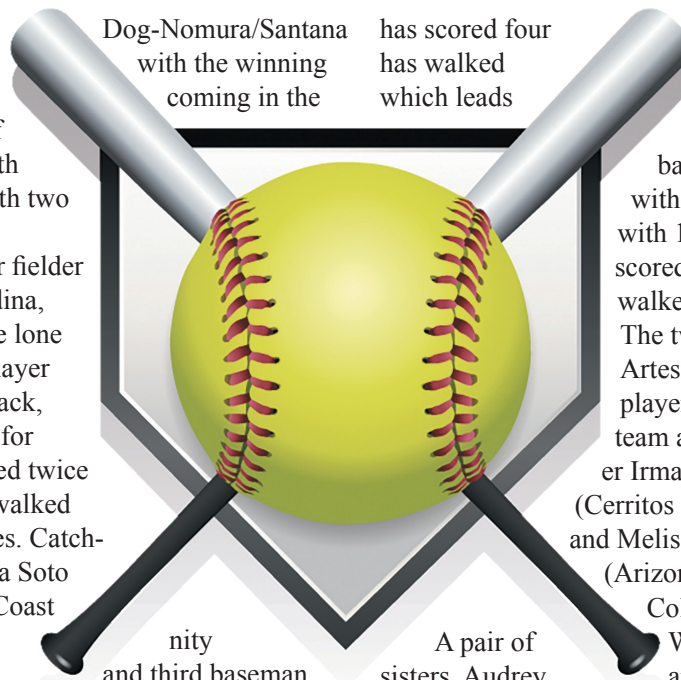
Eleven players on three 18-Under teams were at Harvard Park trying to help their organizations etch their names as Premier Division or Platinum Division participants next month. Here's a look at how those players did this past weekend and how they have done since the end of high school.

The (Lakewood) Southern California Athletics-Rivera/Blank, have four recent Artesia High graduates, another who will be entering her senior year in August, and went 1-2 over the weekend. The team lost to the (Santa Clarita) I-5 Snyder 2-0 last Friday with both runs coming in the top of the sixth inning. Last Saturday afternoon, the So Cal Athletics-Rivera/Blanck edged the (Clo-

vis) Top Gold 7-6 run bottom of the seventh inning with two outs.

Center fielder Alea Medina, who is the lone Artesia player coming back, went one for two, scored twice and was walked three times. Catcher Vanessa Soto (Orange Coast Community College) and third baseman Maya Torres (Whittier College) each went one for three with Soto driving in a pair of runs and scoring once. Later in the evening, the So Cal Athletics were knocked out by the (Oxnard) Southern California Athletics-Tamai 3-2 with both runs coming in the bottom of the sixth and seventh innings. Medina and Torres each went one for three with Medina scoring in the seventh with two outs.

In 11 games this summer, Torres is batting .444 with eight hits, five RBI,



Dog-Nomura/Santana with the winning coming in the

has scored four has walked which leads

runs and nine times, the team.

Medina is batting .381 with eight hits with 10 runs scored and has walked eight times. The two other Artesia graduated players on the team are outfielder Irma Gonzalez (Cerritos College) and Melissa Mendoza (Arizona Western College).

A pair of sisters, Audrey Anyama are on USA Athletics-Garcia 18-Under team, which won a pair of games in the loser's bracket before falling to the (Fresno) Firecrackers-Wallace 5-0 last Saturday night.

The USA Athletics began the qualifier last Friday afternoon with a 4-1 win over the (Burbank) Firecrackers Hollywood-Workman, then was blanked by the (Los Angeles) Athletics Mercado-Gurrola 5-0 later in the evening. Audrey Anyama had a double coming

off the bench in the bottom of the sixth inning.

The next day saw the USA Athletics eliminate the (San Gabriel) Titans Fastpitch-Aspeitia ACC 4-1 and the (Vacaville) Bulldog Softball Club 7-2 before being bounced out of the tournament. In 11 summer tournament games, Audrey Anyama is batting .250 with six hits, a double, a triple and two runs batted in while in nine games, Nuella Anyama is batting .231 with one home run, two runs scored and one RBI.

The USA Athletics are scheduled to participate in the USA Softball Champions Cup next month in Irvine and the Triple Crown Sports World Series in San Diego right after the Champions Cup.

Diana Bravo (John Glenn High/Park University), Sienna Contreras (John Glenn/Park University), Arianna Franco (Artesia/Pacific Lutheran University) and Amber Valdez (La Mirada High/Ottawa University) play for the (Downey) Ohana Tigers-Colenzo which lost both games played. Last Friday afternoon, the Ohana Tigers were defeated by the (Pasadena) California Thunder-LeVier/Milton 3-1 and the next day, were eliminated by the Titans Fastpitch ACC-As-

[See TUNE-UP, page 10]



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TRAVEL SOFTBALL ROUNDUP

Area Players Tune-Up for Premier Girls Fastpitch National Championships

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on X

In the world of travel softball, if you're not in a qualifying tournament for the Premier Girls Fastpitch National Championships, or other such end of the summer tournaments, then you're in one of many showcase tournaments. Numerous area players, either recent graduates or still in high school, were in action this past weekend at multiple locations in the Southland, and even in the heartland of America.

Five players representing four travel teams were at Harvard Park participating in the Southern California Athletics Invitational. Three pools of six teams each played two to four pool play games before the single elimination playoffs began last Saturday night. When it was all said and done, the (Riverside) BSC Bengals-Briggs, with Gahr High graduates Natalia Hill (University of Nebraska) and Rio Mendez (University of Utah), lost to the (Surprise) AZ Storm-Mathis 1-0 in one semifinal game.

The BSC Bengals doubled up the (Chicago) Beverly Bandits Premier-Conroy 4-2 last Friday afternoon before tying the (Santa Clarita) Southern California Choppers-Fausett 2-2 later in the day. In the first game, Hill was walked twice and scored once while Mendez went one for two and drove in a run. In the last game of the day for everyone, Hill went one for three.

Last Saturday, the BSC Bengals blanked the (Mountain View) California Nuggets-Woods 2-0 with both runs coming in the bottom of the first inning. Hill, who was playing second base, drew a walk to begin the inning and three batters, scored on a double from Long Beach State University commit Callie Fitzpatrick. Mendez, who was playing to the right of Hill, was hitless in one official at-bat and was walked once. The BSC Bengals would then fall to the (Los Alamitos) Wildcats-Weil 4-1 as Hill had one of the four hits the team would collect. Again, Mendez went hitless in one at-bat, but was walked once.

In the playoffs, the BSC Bengals posted a 4-0 win over the (Huntington Beach) Explosion Premier this past Sunday as Hill went one for two and was walked once, then knocked off the (Orange) Southern California Athletics-Richardson 4-1. After falling behind 1-0, the BSC Bengals scored all four runs in the top of the fourth. With one out, Mendez drew a walk and two batters later, came home on a triple from Hill, who drove in two of the other three runs. Immediately following the game, the BSC Bengals were limited to four hits by the AZ Storm as the lone run was scored in the top of the fifth. Since June 1, the BSC Bengals, which had already clinched a berth in the PGF National Championships, are 13-4-2. The team will travel to Boulder, CO to participate in the Louisville Slugger Independence Day Tournament, which runs from July 3-7.

Also in the So Cal Athletics Invitational was Gahr's Jackie Gachupin, who plays for the Explosion Premier which went 2-2 in pool play action before falling to the BSC Bengals. Gachupin went two for four in the four games with the hits coming against the (Mission Viejo) California Cruisers-Sievers, a 3-0 loss, and the (Lodi) Sorcerer-Gabales/Rodriguez, a 3-2 defeat.

Kayla Martin, a first baseman who

[See PREMIER, page 10]

AWARD from page 1

college degrees and building successful careers,” remarked Teresita Dillon, Chair of the Live Your Dream Awards. Club President Mary Ann Tipton added, “These awards serve as a significant encouragement for the awardees as they pursue their dreams.”

in the United Nations, Soroptimists actively contribute to various UN committees dedicated to enhancing the lives of women and girls globally. The United Nations has acknowledged the significance of the Live Your Dream Awards as an important international initiative. The mission of Soroptimists is to improve the lives of women and girls through programs promoting economic



LIVE YOUR DREAM AWARDEES with their children from bottom left: Jacqueline Avina, Christina Gomez, Yvette Rodriguez, and Ashley Goodlett. From top left: Kaylie Crane, and Cassandra Serrano. Top right, Dr. Shin Liu, Cerritos College Trustee. Not in photo: Awardee Jashonda Lucas.

“We thank the Soroptimist Club for honoring three of our Cerritos College students with these wonderful awards”, said Dr. Jose Fierro, Cerritos College President and Superintendent. “This program is very dear to my heart and makes me proud to be a Soroptimist member”, said Dr. Shin Liu, Cerritos College Board of Trustees Member and former Board Trustee President.

The Live Your Dream Awards is one of two Soroptimist International’s signature programs, held annually by clubs, districts, regions, and federations worldwide. As an official participant

empowerment.

President Mary Ann Tipton encouraged prospective members to join their dynamic service club, highlighting Soroptimist International of Artesia-Cerritos’ 52 years of service and its substantial contributions totaling over \$30,000 in the 2023-2024 Club year through various Soroptimist programs as well as donations to local organizations and charities, including Su Casa-Ending Domestic Violence and Community Family Guidance Center. For information on becoming a Soroptimist member, contact President-Elect Jennifer Hong via email: JenniferH88@verizon.net.

ROCKET from page 1

ing a Model Rocketry Summer Camp to educate and inspire local young students about rocketry.”

“The AIAA O.C. rocketry team has consistently performed well, regularly qualifying for the American Rocketry Challenge (ARC) National Finals and ranking top 25 in the nation,” Pandey added. “Last year, our ARC team, led by Samagra Pandey, ranked 4th at the National Finals. This year AIAA OC had two teams in the National Finals with Team 1, led by Pratik Kulkarni and Team 2, led by Sawyer Ashland.”

“Congratulations to all the participants and winners of this year’s American Rocketry Challenge,” said Pam Erickson, senior vice president & chief communications officer, RTX. “The dedication and skills they have demonstrated are the foundation for future success in engineering solutions for complex problems.”

“It’s clear we are witnessing the ascent of the next generation of aerospace innovators,” said Aerospace Industries Associ-

ation President and CEO Eric Fanning.

NASA astronaut Warren “Woody” Hoburg, who competed in the inaugural American Rocketry Challenge National Finals in 2003, visited with the students throughout this year’s National Finals. Twenty years after he participated in the American Rocketry Challenge, Hoburg blasted off to space as the pilot of NASA’s SpaceX Crew-6 mission to the International Space Station (ISS).

The O.C. Irvine Rocketry Club’s Team 1 members, all of whom are from Irvine, include Pratik Kulkarni, age 17; Aditya Ranabhor, age 17; Vishruth Satuloori, age 17; Prahasith Satuloori, age 14; Purva Kulkarni, age 12; Haresh Kamalakkannan, age 13; and Kevin Alexander, age 14.

Team 2 members similarly got their start in rocketry from simple beginnings. They include Sawyer Ashland, age 15, from Laguna Hills, Rowan Yoo, age 13, from Irvine, Finn Ashland, age 13, from Laguna Hills, Lucas Chen, age 13, from Irvine, Ryan Ko, age 13, from Irvine, and Kai Kwak, age 12, from Irvine.

Good luck at the NASA’s Student Launch initiative!

ARC 2024 TEAM 1 (3rd Place) Left to Right: Kevin Alexander, Purva Kulkarni, Pratik Kulkarni (Team Captain), Haresh K, Aditya Ranabhor, Prahasith Satuloori, and Vishruth Satuloori. Not pictured is Bob Koepke who inspired and promoted model rocketry in Orange County. Currently, he guides this year’s team for the NASA Student Launch Program.

PONTO from page 1

immediate action without notice. Ponto did not provide a reason for the council’s decision regarding Flores.

The VDP criticized Ponto’s actions, and two council members informed the VDP that they had no knowledge the vote on Flores’ was scheduled for a closed session.

Flores was eventually rehired in an open session. In contrast to when Ponto placed Flores on leave in a closed session, he did not announce that the discussion to reinstate Flores was an emergency walk-on item.

Illegal Vote 2:

The Flores vote was exactly the scenario Ponto used to hire Central Basin’s current GM Elaine Jeng, who, in emails obtained by LCCN, has distinguished herself as a GM who will not abide by chain-of-command rules, already making decisions that are clearly under Board purview.

At a May 2024 Central Basin Special Meeting, Ponto allowed Directors Juan Garza and Martha Camacho Rodriguez to walk on a non-agendized item to hire Jeng.

Just like Adelanto, Ponto defended his decision by calling it an emergency walk on item.

The Brown Act clearly defines that any “walk-on” item cannot be voted on unless the following strict circumstances are met:

1. That the agenda item came to the attention of staff and/or the Board of directors after the agenda was posted;
2. and there is a need to take immediate action.

Following that, the Board must state for the record that both circumstances were met followed by a 4/5ths majority vote to place the item on the agenda; no such actions were taken.

But Ponto allowed the item and Jeng was hired on a 3-2 vote.

In addition to the Brown Act violations, Ponto’s maneuvers at Adelanto and Central Basin violated Government Code 54956 which states, “any action to approve the contract of a local agency executive [Jeng] must be taken at a regular board meeting and cannot be approved at a special meeting of the board.”

Illegal Vote to Hire Ponto:

Prior to becoming Central Basin’s attorney in December 2023, Ponto was already putting a lot of miles on his car as California City’s attorney; “Cal City” is near Mojave City about 120 miles north of Los Angeles off the 14 freeway.

Like Adelanto, Ponto’s hiring at Cal

City occurred under a cloud. Ponto had “been asked to leave” from his position at Los Angeles-based Olivarez Madruga so he moved to Burke, Williams, Sorensen - taking his paying clients with him - and was then hired by the Cal City’s City Council.

The Cal City’s Council vote to hire Ponto was finalized in a special meeting violating the Brown Act. The Mojave Desert News wrote, “an executive position selected to the city attorney must be approved by the City Council in open session at a regular meeting.”

According to the Mojave Desert News, one councilmember said she felt the city was being used as a bargaining chip for the revenue coming with Ponto and that the move was due to the Ponto changing from Olivarez to Burke.

Just a few weeks later, in January 2024, Ponto was appointed as interim City Manager for Cal City when City Manager Michele Martinez resigned citing “concerns for her safety due to threats from outside influencers.”

Similar to the Cal City Council, Ponto was hired in December 2023 under a cloud at Central Basin. After a new board majority led by the now-retired Michael Gualtieri and current Director Juan Garza inexplicably fired Bob Baker, who had guided the agency competently, they hired Ponto.

Illegal vote 4:

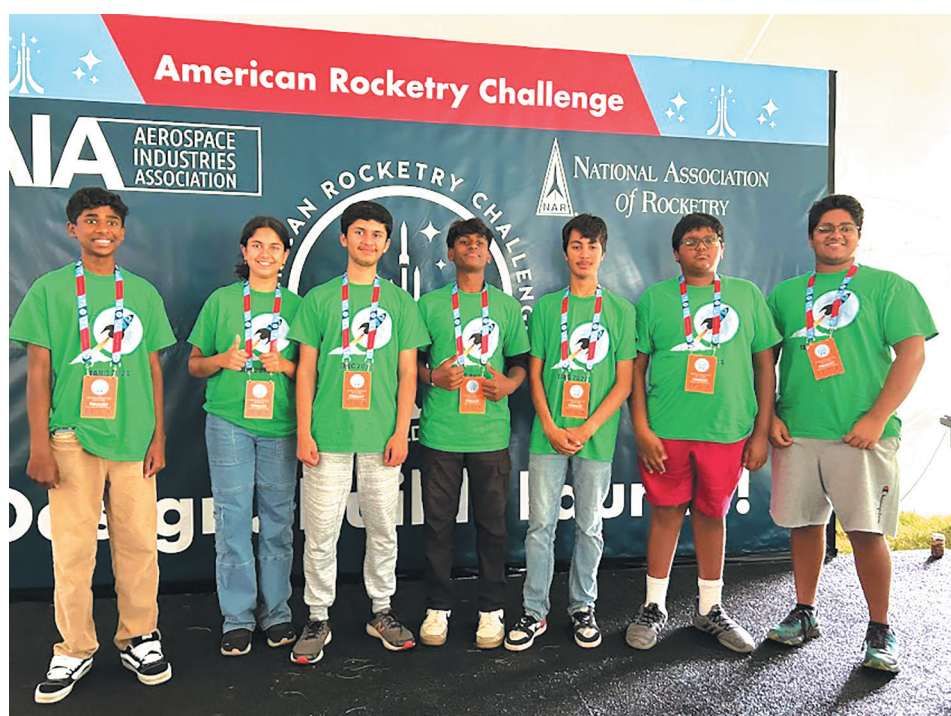
Just weeks later, like he did at Adelanto, Ponto sanctioned an illegal vote to place then-GM Rojas on leave. Under Central Basin’s Administrative Code, the vote required a 4/5ths majority of the board and 6 out of 7 votes under Rojas’ personal employment contract; neither vote number was met.

Yet, just like he did with the hiring of Jeng, Ponto ruled the vote numbers were lawful, allowed the vote, and placed Rojas on leave.

Gualtieri then immediately led the charge to appoint Ponto as Central Basin General Manager.

At that time, Ponto was City Manager-General Manager and General Counsel at three different public agencies.

Catch Me If You Can.



TUNE-UP from page 8

peitia 6-1. In the first game, Franco and Valdez each went one for three with the latter driving in the lone run. In the second game, Valdez went one for two and Franco scored the lone run.

In the 16-U age group, with all games played at Great Park in Irvine, Gahr High right fielder Malaia Huskey and Valley Christian High catcher Brianna Ramirez are on the (Fountain Valley) Explosion-Kim/Adame team that won all five games played to clinch a berth in the PGF National Championships. Last Friday, the Explosion shutout the (West Sacramento) All American-Mizuno Gold-Jackson/Mayfield and the (Vista) Breakers Lab-Blaney by identical 8-0 scores.

In the first game, Huskey drove in a run as the Explosion scored three times in the bottom of the first and five more in the fourth. In the second game, the Explosion put the game on ice with a six-run bottom of the fourth.

Last Saturday afternoon, the Explosion posted its third straight shutout with a 3-0 win over the (Placentia) West Coast Lady Dukes-Blanco. Huskey went one for one and reached on an error in the top of the sixth. Ramirez had earlier entered as a pinch runner, and both would score the second and third runs.

Later in the evening, the Explosion defeated the (Moorpark) Southern California Choppers-Ashley 7-4 as it rallied from a 4-0 deficit after two innings to score six runs in the top of the fourth. Huskey would reach on an error in the fourth, which made it 4-2 and scored one batter later. She would also have one hit in three at-bats.

In the final game this past Sunday, the Explosion crushed the (Downey) Athletics Mercado-Slater 11-0. All the runs were scored in the first four innings with four coming in the top of the second and five more in the fourth. Huskey went three for three, scored three runs and drove in another.

Since the beginning of June, the Explosion has won nine of 15 games with one tie mixed in.

La Mirada Adopts Balanced Budget

The La Mirada City Council adopted a balanced budget for the 2024-25 Fiscal Year at its June 11 City Council meeting. The approved budget supports the City's ongoing commitment to improving the quality of life through public safety, family-friendly recreation and cultural programs, capital improvement projects, and a variety of key services.

General Fund revenues are projected at \$51.45 million and expenditures are set at \$48.12 million. A General Fund budget surplus is expected in the amount of \$3.32 million.

Public Safety remains the City's top priority, with a budget allocation of \$13 million. This investment supports general law enforcement services, traffic safety, emergency preparedness efforts, Neighborhood Watch, and other public safety volunteer programs.

The Public Works Department will receive \$9 million. This department fo-

cuses on maintaining the City's streets, sidewalks, parks, athletic fields, and public buildings. Public Works staff also oversees planned capital improvements.

The remaining budget includes funding for Community Development, Administration, Community Services, and the Theatre for the Performing Arts.

A total of \$26.5 million is allocated for capital improvements at City parks, street repairs, building enhancements, and completion of the Energy Conservation and Infrastructure Renewal Program, among others. The City will use a variety of funding sources, including grants from the county, state, and federal, and a significant contribution from the General Fund.

"The adopted budget reflects the City's commitment to fiscal responsibility and prudent planning," says City of La Mirada City Manager Jeff Boynton. "Reserve funds saved from prior years are available for infrastructure improvements and to address economic uncertainties."

To read the full budget report for Fiscal Year 2024-25, visit cityoflamirada.org. For additional information, contact La Mirada City Hall at (562) 943-0131.

La Mirada Receives Financial Reporting Award

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the City of La Mirada for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

This recognition marks the 35th consecutive year that La Mirada has received this honor. The GFOA states, "the Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management."

"The City of La Mirada is honored to receive this award," says La Mirada Finance Manager Melissa Pascual. "This recognition reflects the City's ongoing commitment to financial transparency and accountability."

PREMIER from page 8

has one more year at Valley Christian High, plays for the (Cerritos) Ohana Tigers Gold-Quarles which went 1-2-1 in pool play action, then lost to the Sorcerer Gabales/Rodriguez 6-1 in the playoffs. Martin, who has committed to Colgate University, played in three games and got a hit in the playoff game.

The final area player who was in the So Cal Athletics Invitational was Marley Cortez of Gahr. The third baseman plays for the Wildcats-Weil, which will also be going to the PGF National Championships. After going 2-2 in pool play action, the Wildcats fell to the So Cal Athletics-Richardson 10-0 in the playoffs. Cortez drew two walks and scored once against the BSC Bengals.

Five more area players on three teams were in the 7-Inning Series, Triple Crown Sports Summer Invitational hosted by the (Ontario) Firecrackers-Brashear with games at La Bonita Park in La Habra. There were 18 teams in six pools of three, highlighted by the (Garden Grove) 5 Star Playmakers-Siofele/Mulipola, the Corona Angels-Tyson and the (Downey) Nemesis

Elite.

La Mirada High's star pitcher, Montserrat Reyes-Cardenas, plays for the Corona Angels, which won both pool play games and were seeded second in the playoffs. But the Angels lost to the (Anaheim) Batbusters-Stith 12-6 to begin the playoffs this past Sunday before bouncing back to get past the (Huntington Beach) Firecrackers Select-Rico/Brashear. In pool play action, the Angels smashed the (Lodi) Batbusters-Gomes 16-0 and blanked the (Ontario) Firecrackers-Brashear/Hicks Gold 6-0.

V.C.'s Zoe Barrett and Choyce Chambers play for the Nemesis Elite which lost to the (Ontario) Firecrackers-Brashear/Hicks Gold 18-2 before clipping the (Corona) Athletics Mercado-Cook 4-3 last Friday. In the playoffs, the 12th-seeded Nemesis lost to the (La Puente) Orange County Batbusters-Lara 11-6 before defeating the Firecrackers-Brashear/Hicks Gold 7-2.

Kaleyse Foster of Artesia High and Larissa Flores (Gahr/California State University, Northridge) are on the 5 Star Playmakers, which lost to the (Anaheim) O.C. Batbusters-Stith Black 10-2 and the (Fontana) Ruthless-Olguin/Rosalez 4-3 last Friday in pool play action, then

defeated the (Riverside) California Lite-Flores 5-4 before falling to the (Pico Rivera) ZT Blaze-Del Campo 4-1.

La Mirada's Angelina Ratzlaff and Katherine Villegas of Cerritos High are on the (Signal Hill) USA Athletics-Rogers Gold 16-Under team that went to Shawnee, KS in the Kansas City metro area to compete in the Maverick Division of the Top Gun Invitational. The USA Athletics lost all five pool play games played, then defeated the (Omaha) Nebraska National Team-Taylor 3-2 before losing to the (Tennessee City) Tennessee Mojo-Lewis 9-6 last Saturday.

Ratzlaff had a run-scoring double in the first pool play game against the Tampa Mustangs last Thursday and drove in a run against the (Greenville, SC) Carolina Elite last Friday.

Catcher Peyton Kingery of V.C. plays for the (Riverside) BSC Bengals-Briggs, which went 2-3 in pool play action, defeated the Corona Angels-Howard 10-3 last Saturday in the playoffs before falling to the (Oklahoma City) Oklahoma Athletics National Team-Madden/Brown 6-4 right after the win over the Corona Angels.

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. CA-24-986542-BF Order No.: FIN-24002627 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 10/20/2016. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. **BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE.** Trustor(s): **Jenny Huisook Park, a widow** Recorded: 10/27/2016 as Instrument No. 20161327353 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of LOS ANGELES County, California; Date of Sale: 7/25/2024 at 9:00 AM Place of Sale: At the Doubletree Hotel Los Angeles-Norwalk, 13111 Sycamore Drive, Norwalk, CA 90650, in the Vineyard Ballroom Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$163,936.82 The purported property address is: 15137 LAS FLORES AVE, LA MIRADA, CA 90638-1451 Assessor's Parcel No.: 8034-017-014 NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. **NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:** The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 800-280-2832 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: CA-24-986542-BF. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. **NOTICE TO TENANT:** You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call 800-280-2832, or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: CA-24-986542-BF to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. **NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE OWNER-OCCUPANT:** Any prospective owner-occupant as defined in Section 2924m of the California Civil Code who is the last and highest bidder at the trustee's sale shall provide the required affidavit or declaration of eligibility to the auctioneer at the trustee's sale or shall have it delivered to QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION by 5 p.m. on the next business day following the trustee's sale at the address set forth in the below signature block. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the Trustee is unable to convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustor, the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attorney. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holders right's against the real property only. Date: **QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION 2763 Camino Del Rio S San Diego, CA 92108 619-645-7711 For NON SALE information only Sale Line: 800-280-2832 Or Login to: <http://www.qualityloan.com> Reinstatement Line: (866) 645-7711 Ext 5318 QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION . TS No.: CA-24-986542-BF IDSPub #0202786 6/21/2024 6/28/2024 7/5/2024**

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the **Cerritos City Council** will review and consider the item listed below at a regular meeting on **Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.: Review and consideration to waive full reading of and adopt Ordinance No. 1045, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CERRITOS AMENDING CHAPTER 2.15 OF THE CERRITOS MUNICIPAL CODE TO EXTEND THE TWO-YEAR TERMS OF OFFICE FOR 2022-24 ADVISORY BOARD, COMMISSION, AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS. City Attorney Summary:** Current City law provides that members of the City's advisory boards, commissions, and committees, who are appointed by the City Council, serve two year terms subject to an automatic extension for not more than 90 days pending the qualification of their successors. The proposed ordinance would amend Chapter 2.15 of the Cerritos Municipal Code to automatically extend the 2022-2024 terms only, for the appointed members of the City's advisory boards, commissions, and committees, for not more than 180 days pending the qualification of their successors. A copy of the full text of this proposed Ordinance can be viewed or obtained by contacting the Office of the City Clerk during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., weekends and observed holidays excepted) at 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90703, city_clerk@cerritos.us, or (562) 916-1248. This meeting will be conducted in person in the 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.us. 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 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 and retained with the official meeting record. 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 meeting in person or by agent and be heard. /s/ Vida Barone, City Clerk

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 6/21/24

**ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOTICE CALLING FOR BIDS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ABC Unified School District will receive up to but not later than 11:00 AM on the 18th day of July 2024 sealed bids for:

Bid # ABC-1659 – Paper Products for Nutrition Services

All bids shall be made and presented on a form furnished by the District. Bids submitted conform to the terms and conditions stated on said form. Bids shall be received in the office of 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. Debarred vendors shall be disqualified. Federal Requirements shall apply.

Los Cerritos News

June 21, 2024
June 28, 2024

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 6/21 and 6/28/24

**SUMMONS
CASE NUMBER
24NWCP00165**

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – NORWALK COURTHOUSE

CITY OF PICO RIVERA, a California Municipal Corporation, Plaintiff and Petitioner vs.
PICO WATER DISTRICT, a public agency/special district; and ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE MATTER CONCERNING PICO WATER DISTRICT'S ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 65 INCREASING WATER RATES EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2024; and
DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, Defendants and Respondents.

TO ALL PARTIES OF INTEREST AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a civil complaint has been filed by the CITY OF PICO RIVERA, a Municipal corporation, in the above-referenced matter for the purposes of invalidating Ordinance No. 65 adopted by PICO WATER DISTRICT on February 15, 2024, increasing water rates by 110% over the next five years. Persons who contest the legality or validity of this matter will not be subject to punitive action, such as wage garnishment or seizure of their real or personal property.

RESPONSE DATE

Publication of the required Summons under CCP § 861.1. is expected to commence on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, and expected to be completed by Wednesday, July 3, 2024. You may contest the legality or validity of this matter by appearing before the judge assigned to this matter and filing a written answer to the complaint no later than ten (10) days after the completion of publication. As such, pursuant to CCP § 861.1, a response is due no later than, **Monday, July 15, 2024.**

CASE SUMMARY

Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 861.1, CITY OF PICO RIVERA ("Plaintiff") hereby provides a detailed summary of the matter that the Plaintiff seeks to invalidate (or "reverse validation") pursuant to Section 53759 of the Government Code. On February 15, 2024, the Board of Directors ("Board") for Pico Water District ("District") approved Ordinance No. 65, Ordinance of Pico Water District Adopting Increased Rates and Charges ushering in a 110% water rate increase over the span of the next five years. Approved by the majority of the Board, Ordinance No. 65 was adopted in violation of Article XIII C and Article XIII D of the California Constitution, also known as Proposition 218, which requires (among other things), proof that the revenues derived from the fee or charge not exceed the funds required to provide the property related services, and that revenues derived from the fee or charge will not be used for any purpose other than that for which the fee or charge was imposed. The District has failed to prove that the fee increase does not exceed the funds required to provide the service. Rather, the main purpose behind Ordinance No. 65 is the District's desire to increase its reserve targets as recommend by a 2023 water rate study conducted by the consulting firm, Water Resources Economics, LLC. The District disputes the City's position and contends that it did not violate Proposition 218.

Attorneys for Plaintiff and Petitioner,
CITY OF PICO RIVERA

Arnold M. Alvarez-Glasman (SBN 80095)

Gloria V. Ramirez (SBN 316993)

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Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 6/13, 6/20 and 6/27/24

CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS

SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 2024-617

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS, CALIFORNIA (1) AMENDING CHAPTER 6.47 (URBAN STORM RUNOFF CONTROL) TO TITLE 6 (HEALTH AND SAFETY) OF THE HAWAIIAN GARDENS MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING URBAN STORM RUN OFF; (2) AMENDING CHAPTER 13.04 (WATER SYSTEM) TO TITLE 13 (UTILITIES) OF THE HAWAIIAN GARDENS MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING WATER SYSTEM; (3) AMENDING CHAPTER 13.20 (LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS) TO TITLE 13 (UTILITIES) OF THE HAWAIIAN GARDENS MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING WATER SYSTEM; AND (4) FINDING THE PROJECT EXEMPT FROM CEQA PURSUANT TO STATE CEQA GUIDELINES

On June 12, 2024, the City Council of the City of Hawaiian Gardens adopted Ordinance No. 2024-617, amending the municipal code to align with the 2021 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) and update the 2021 Low Impact Development (LID) Plan categories. The municipal code updates allow the City to maintain its legal authority to monitor and eliminate pollutant discharges, as well as implement and enforce the requirements contained in the NPDES Permit, to regulate stormwater and non-stormwater discharges to the storm drain system.

The City Council passed and adopted Ordinance No. 2024-617, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: DEL RIO, ROA, VARGAS, DE PAULA
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: FARFAN
ABSTAIN: NONE

Any interested person may obtain a copy of the ordinance from the City Clerk's Office, cityclerk@hgcity.org or by calling City Hall at (562) 420-2641. Also, a copy of the full text of the Ordinance is available on the City's website at www.hgcity.org.

Pablo Rubio, City Clerk

Posted: June 17, 2024
Published: June 21, 2024

Los Cerritos Community News

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 6/21/24

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
AVERILL PERRY AKA AVERILL DEAN PERRY AKA AVERILL D. PERRY
CASE NO. 24STPB04764**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of AVERILL PERRY AKA AVERILL DEAN PERRY AKA AVERILL D. PERRY.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by ESPERANZA ELENA PERRY in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that ESPERANZA ELENA PERRY 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: 07/30/24 at 8:30AM in Dept. 9 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 T. LEBHERZ - SBN 316037
KAMINSKI LAW GROUP, APC
140 DIAMOND CREEK PLACE, STE. 165
ROSEVILLE CA 95747
Telephone (916) 540-7618
6/14, 6/21, 6/28/24
CNS-3820515#
LA MIRADA LAMPLIGHTER

**CITY OF ARTESIA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO PLACE 2024-25
DELINQUENT SOLID WASTE SERVICE CHARGES ON THE
PROPERTY TAX ROLL**

The City of Artesia intends to collect delinquent solid waste service charges on the tax roll at the same time as the general taxes of the City.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN the City Council of the City of Artesia has caused a written report to be prepared and filed with the City Clerk regarding the City's delinquent solid waste service charges for fiscal year 2024-2025. Such report contains a description of each parcel of real property receiving solid waste services furnished by the City and the amount of the delinquent charges for each parcel for fiscal year 2024-2025.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that on July 1, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. the Artesia City Council will conduct a public hearing on the above described report and the placement of the delinquent solid waste charges on the property tax roll. At the public hearing, the City Council will hear and consider all objections or protests to the reports and the placement of the charges on the property tax roll. The hearing will be located at the Artesia City Hall Council Chambers, 18747 Clarkdale Ave., Artesia, CA 90701. The report is on file in the Office of the City Clerk at 18747 Clarkdale Ave., Artesia, CA 90701 and available upon request.

If you wish to provide written comments, please deliver them to the Artesia City Clerk's Office at 18747 Clarkdale Avenue, Artesia, CA, or by email: publiccomments@cityofartesia.us, by 12:00 pm on the date of the public hearing. If you have questions about this notice, please contact the Artesia City Clerk's Office at (562) 865-6262 or by email above.

Jennifer Alderete

PUBLISHED: June 14, 2024 and June 21, 2024

City Clerk

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 6/14 and 6/21/24

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
GLORIA VEGAS
CASE NO. 24STPB05838**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of GLORIA VEGAS.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by OLIBERTO VEGA in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that OLIBERTO VEGA 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: 06/25/24 at 8:30AM in Dept. 11 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
LISA F. COLLINS-WILLIAMS, ESQ. - SBN 176655
LAW OFFICE OF LISA F. COLLINS-WILLIAMS
13658 HAWTHORNE BLVD., STE. #306
HAWTHORNE CA 90250
Telephone (323) 290-6650
6/7, 6/14, 6/21/24
CNS-3819897#
HAWAIIAN GARDENS COMMUNITY NEWS

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE
(UCC Sec. 6105)**

Escrow No. 24-1072-GL
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a bulk sale is about to be made. The name(s), business address(es) to the Seller(s) are: YOUNG HWAN CHO, 9018A-1 ARTESIA BLVD, BELLFLOWER, CA 90706

Doing Business as: STOP BRAKE SHOP
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: JAMES JUNG, 1736 AVIATION BLVD, REDONDO BEACH, CA 90278
The assets to be sold are described in general as: FURNITURES, FIXTURES, EQUIPMENT, TOOLS, GOODWILL, TRADENAME, LEASEHOLD INTERESTS, LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS, ALL TRANSFERABLE PERMITS AND LI-CENSES, AND ALL INVENTORY OF STOCK IN TRADE and are located at: 9018A-1 ARTESIA BLVD, BELLFLOWER, CA 90706

The bulk sale is intended to be consummated at the office of: ACE ESCROW, INC., 3030 W. 8TH ST., SUITE 408, LOS ANGELES, CA 90005 and the anticipated sale date is JULY 12, 2024
The bulk sale is subject to California Uni-form 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 ES-CROW, INC., 3030 W. 8TH ST., SUITE 408, LOS ANGELES, CA 90005 and the last date for filing claims shall be JULY 11, 2024 which is the business day before the sale date specified above.

Dated: 6/11/2024
BUYER: JAMES JUNG
ORD-2446655 LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS 6/21/24

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE
(UCC Sec. 6105)**

Escrow No. 24-16895-TN
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a bulk sale is about to be made. The name(s), business address(es) to the Seller(s) are: THANH CONG NGUYEN, 13311 ARTE-SIA BLVD, CERRITOS, CA 90703

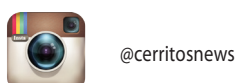
Doing Business as: HEIDY'S VIP NAILS & SPA
All other business name(s) and address(es) used by the Seller(s) within three years, as stated by the Seller(s), is/are: NONE

The name(s) and address of the Buyer(s) is/are: THI THUY LOAN DANG, 13171 WILSON ST, GARDEN GROVE, CA 92844
The assets to be sold are described in general as: ALL FURNITURES, FIX-TURES AND EQUIPMENT, GOODWILL, INVENTORY, LEASE, AND LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS and are located at: 13311 ARTESIA BLVD, CERRITOS, CA 90703

The bulk sale is intended to be consummated at the office of: LUCKY TEAM ESCROW, INC., 13305 BROOKHURST STREET GARDEN GROVE, CA 92843 and the anticipated sale date is JULY 10, 2024
The bulk sale is subject to California Uni-form 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: LUCKY TEAM ESCROW, 13305 BROOKHURST ST, GARDEN GROVE, CA 92843 and the last date for filing claims shall be JULY 9, 2024, which is the business day before the sale date specified above.

Dated: 06-12-2024
BUYER: THI THUY LOAN DANG
ORD-2438031 LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS 6/21/24





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

 562.800.0249

 www.auracademy.org

 admission@auracademy.org

 Building 2, 1600 E Hill St., Signal Hill CA 90755

