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~Dick Cheney  
Former Vice President

Serving Cerritos and ten other surrounding communities • October 11, 2024 • Vol. 38, No. 45 • LOSCERRITOSNEWS.NET

## Firm Claims Financial Misconduct by Central Basin GM, Then Admits the Numbers 'Could Be Incorrect'

The accounting firm was paid \$400,000 for an audit. At the end the firm backtracked and called it an 'examination.'

By Brian Hews

A few weeks ago, Los Cerritos Community News exclusively reported that Central Basin Municipal Water District's (CB) cash on hand had dropped \$3 million in only seven months after attorney Victor Ponto, who was appointed, took over for Dr. Alex Rojas after the CB Board illegally placed Rojas on leave.

Two weeks later, LCCN exclusively reported that some CB Directors, after they appointed Ponto, immediately began taking thousands more in payments to attend dubious "meetings."

One meeting claimed by the biggest recipient of additional meeting cash was Director Juan Garza. In May, Garza got paid for having dinner with MWD Chief Adan Ortega.

The blatant misuse of public funds was (and is) costing CB rate-payers thousands every month.

Surprisingly, no other Los Angeles-based print media companies picked up the LCCN stories.

This past week, a report on CB was released by the firm Carr, Riggs & Ingram (CRI) alleging "lax oversight" of CB finances during the tenure of General Manager Dr. Alex Rojas, whom Ponto took over for in February.

Interestingly, the Whittier Daily News was at-the-ready to

[ See EXAMINATION, page 6 ]

## Norwalk Could Lose Access to State Housing Funds After Shelter Ban

By Brian Hews

Norwalk could lose its state funding after it extended a ban on new emergency shelters and supportive housing developments. In a statement last Thursday, Newsom announced that Norwalk "failed to come into compliance with the state's housing element law, which sets specific housing building and planning standards for city and county governments. Because of that, Norwalk is no longer eligible for essential state housing and homelessness funds and cannot deny specific affordable housing projects.

The Norwalk ban prohibited new shelters while also putting a moratorium on convenience stores, laundromats, car washes, and payday loan providers, saying all these facilities "may have detrimental effects" on the community.

"Governor Newsom has also announced that the state may sue the city if they refuse to change course," the statement read.

According to reports, Norwalk has received over \$29 million for housing and other resources for homeless people over the last five years.

However, the city has failed to meet state goals for providing enough housing, issuing permits for just 3.5% of the housing units it was assigned in the most recent state cycle.

"Norwalk has failed to meet its housing goals and now has violated state law by banning shelter and other housing for those at risk of homelessness. After the state has provided unprecedented funding to address the homelessness crisis, it's beyond cruel that Norwalk would ban the building of shelters while

[ See NORWALK, page 7 ]



## ARTESIA HOSTS ITS ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL STREET FAIR

**HUGE TURNOUT:** Artesia Mayor Tony Lima with Mayor pro tem Ali Sajjad Taj and Councilmembers Melissa Ramoso, Monica Manalo and Rene Trevino take a moment to accept a proclamation from L.A. County Supervisor Janice Hahn's office. The city's International Street Fair & Diversity Festival drew over 30,000 people who enjoyed cultural and band performances, tried the diverse foods and treats and shopped at the craft vendor booths. Plans are already underway for 2025. Photo courtesy city of Artesia.

## Bankrupt EV Startup Fisker's La Palma Headquarters in 'Complete Disarray'

By Andy Kalmowitz

Bankrupt EV startup Fisker has left its abandoned headquarters in 'complete disarray.'

Lawyers say they're not even sure who owns all the junk left inside Fisker's former headquarters.

Fisker can't seem to do anything right – and that includes closing up shop.

Apparently, the La Palma, California headquarters of the now-dead automaker was abandoned and left with full-size clay models, automotive equipment, EV batteries and hazardous waste left behind.

This all comes from the facility's landlord in a new filing submitted to Fisker's Chapter 11 bankruptcy docket, according to TechCrunch.

Tony Lenzini, a representative for Shamrock Properties II, said his client "now faces tens of thousands of dollars in cleanup costs, damage repairs, and what appears to me to be hazardous waste removal."

This is all part of an effort to stop Fisker's attempted lease abandonment because of all the stuff that has been left behind.

Matters get even more confusing when you realize it isn't even clear who owns this stuff anymore.

TechCrunch reports that Shamrock says Fisker sold some of the on-site assets to an auction house called Heritage Global Partners.

However, it isn't clear if that actually ever happened, so now no one knows whose stuff this is.

about, and hazardous waste drums and shelves filled with car parts.

Lenzini says in his declaration that representatives for Fisker accompanied him on a walkthrough of the La Palma facility, on September 24.

Fisker shifted its headquarters to this facility after it closed its shiny main Manhattan Beach office in May.



**FISKER'S** now-dead headquarters was abandoned and left with full size clay models, automotive equipment, and batteries.

Photos show a number of full-sized clay models for Fisker's planned upcoming vehicles like the Ronin sports car and Alaska pickup.

Trash can be seen strewn

He says they assured him that Heritage Global Partners "would have everything removed" by September 27 — the date Fisker was slated to hand over the prop-

[ See FISKER, page 5 ]

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## Friends of the La Mirada Library Earn \$2,700 From Fall Book Sale



OVER TWENTY VOLUNTEERS worked together to put on the semi-annual book sale for the Friends of the La Mirada Library on Oct. 4-5. Photo by Stepheny Gehrig.

By Stepheny Gehrig

The Friends of the La Mirada Library hosted its semi-annual book sale for the fall on Oct. 5, generating approximately \$2,700 to fund the bookstore inside the La Mirada Library and other library activities.

Located at the La Mirada Activity Center, tables filled with books, magazines, CDs, and DVDs were on sale, ranging from \$1 to \$2. This sale had a specialty table of board games and puzzles that sold between \$2 to \$5.

The sale began on Friday, Oct. 4, for Friends of the Library members who were able to get first pick and early ac-

cess to merchandise. On Saturday, Oct. 5, the sale was opened to the public. The Saturday portion of the sale is always highly anticipated throughout the community because, at the final hours, the sale transforms into a \$4 bag sale. Attendees could purchase a reusable bag for \$4 and fill it with books, CDs, DVDs, and board games.

Each round of the semi-annual book sale follows the same routine when it comes to setting up. Starting at 8:00 a.m. that Friday, volunteers start sprinkling in moving boxes of books from the basement of the La Mirada Resource Center to the activity center. Within these boxes are books that are categorized by genre and style and separated based on physical attributes, such as

large print, hardcover, or paperback. Volunteers had only six hours to remove the books from boxes, display the books at their respective tables, and prepare the area for the foot traffic of community members. At 3:30 p.m. on Friday, the book sale opened to the Friends of the Library members for two hours.

On Saturday, a similar routine was followed as volunteers showed up at 8:00 a.m., grabbed a coffee and bagel donated by Panera Bread in La Mirada, and got to work reassembling everything. Volunteers maintain the aesthetic of the sale by perfecting the books by reorganizing and filling in gaps.

The proceeds of the book sale go to fund the Friends of the Library bookstore that resides inside the La Mirada Library, and it also goes to fund events at the library such as the seed program in the library and the drone program for children, or to supply items for checkout at the library such as board games.

Not only does the book sale provide for the community through fundraising, but this year, the books that were not sold were donated to prisons, sent to the Philippines, and picked up by Don King, who donates, repurposes, or gifts the books.

The Friends of the Library Bookstore accepts donations of books, DVDs, CDs, and video games in person. The Friends of the Library hosts a book sale twice a year, once in May and once in October. The Spring Book Sale currently has a tentative date for the last weekend of April 2025, which is pending the approval of La Mirada City Council.

For more information regarding the Spring Sale or the bookstore, connect with the Friends of the Library on Facebook or through email at [Lamirada-FOL@gmail.com](mailto:Lamirada-FOL@gmail.com).

## Hahn Against Plan to Purchase Downtown Skyscraper and Abandon Civic Center

Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn has come out against a plan for the County to purchase the 54-story Gast Company Tower office building located at 555 W 5th street in Downtown Los Angeles and move County employee offices out of the Hall of Administration in the Civic Center. Yesterday, she voted against approving the County's Notice of Intention to Purchase the property for a purchase price not to exceed \$200 million.

Hahn argued against the County abandoning the Civic Center and lamented what would happen if the County chose to shutter buildings around Grand Park rather than retrofitting them and investing in the Civic Center's future.

"This is a major purchase and if it goes forward will not only impact thousands of LA County employees but will fundamentally change how the public views LA County government.

If this purchase happened, it would kick off a plan to move County employees and departments out of the Hall of Administration and to this skyscraper -- perhaps leaving just this Board Room and a few offices behind.

I think there is value in a civic center in a city -- a singular place where people know to go when they need help from their government.

I don't think that LA County should abandon Grand Park and our Civic Center.

I think we have to think bigger and think about the future we want for the Civic Center, for our LA County employees, and for how LA County residents see their government."

## Help Shape the Future of Cerritos!

The City of Cerritos is developing a Strategic Plan to guide efforts for the next three to five years. Your input will help inform the priorities that shape our City's future.

### Attend a Workshop:

#### Workshop #1

Saturday, October 19  
9-11 a.m.

City Hall Council Chamber  
18125 S. Bloomfield Avenue

#### Workshop #2

Wednesday, October 23  
6-8 p.m.

Cerritos Park East Community Center  
13234 E. 166th Street

All Cerritos residents and business owners are encouraged to attend. Both workshops will cover the same content, so you can choose the time that best fits your schedule.

### Share your feedback online:

Can't make it in person? You can still participate by filling out the community questionnaire online.

Online Questionnaire: [cerritos.gov/strategy](http://cerritos.gov/strategy) →



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For more information: [tinyurl.com/BellflowerOilRecycling](http://tinyurl.com/BellflowerOilRecycling) or 562-804-1424 x228



## Health Fair Held at the Cerritos Senior Center



**ADVICE ON AGING:** Booths at the Cerritos Senior Health and Wellness Fair offered older adults the opportunity to learn more about finances, health and medical wellbeing.

By **Stephany Gehrig**

Cerritos hosted its annual Senior Health and Wellness Fair at the Cerritos Senior Center on Friday, Oct. 4, which was free for attendees. The fair, open from 8:30 a.m. to noon, was a comprehensive resource hub for the senior community, covering a wide range of topics including finances, health, and transportation.

The health fair offered attendees community information such as the city's library, theater, and sheriff's station. These booths gave information to attendees regarding how to get involved, purchase tickets to the theater, apply for a library card, or ways to contact the sheriff's station.

Information regarding both one's physical health and financial health was offered. Guides discussed the importance of maintaining a healthy and balanced diet, and booths provided education regarding the nature of financial scams and gave insight into gaining control over

one's finances.

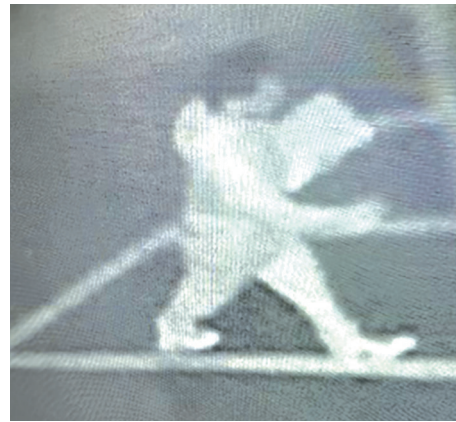
The health fair also presented a room full of booths that provided advice on finances, insurance, medical finances, and transportation through Metro. Booths for medical and emergency health providers were available, and free screenings were offered for attendees ages 50 and over. Among the screenings offered were balance testing and cognitive testing.

The health fair didn't just offer immediate resources, but also paved the way for future learning. Lifestyle courses were available, encouraging seniors to take control of their independence.

As an incentive to the health fair, attendees were given a free meal ticket, which was valid for a fruit cup, granola bar, and a water bottle or coffee.

Free events like the senior health fair are essential to any community because they give people a starting point for garnering resources that might be difficult to find. It also provides community members with information on topics that might not be accessible.

## DIRTY POLITICS HITS TINY ARTESIA



**ILLEGAL:** an unidentified man placed a derogatory hit piece-flyer aimed at Councilwoman Monica Manalo on all cars at a recent candidates forum in Artesia.

In mid-September, a larger national organization affiliate held a city council candidates forum at the Artesia D.E.S. Hall.

After the forum, a derogatory hit piece against incumbent Councilwoman Monica Manalo was found on all the cars parked at the Hall.

Under the Political Reform Act, FPPC, all campaign materials need to identify the responsible party's name, but the hit piece did not have a committee identification.

LCCN has obtained a picture from the parking lot camera of an individual brazenly placing the flyer on cars at approximately 6:55 pm, right before the start of the forum.

If you recognize this man, please email LCCN at [editor@cerritosnews.net](mailto:editor@cerritosnews.net). Your email will be completely confidential, and the sender will not be identified in any way.

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**St. Irenaeus' Health Ministry's Holds Mission Retreat**



**RETREAT:** Jennifer Martin, JoAnn Pyne (back), Terry Arenz, Lennie Arazo-Davis, Jennifer Dagarag, & Rita Caira.

By Rosemary Lewallen

St. Irenaeus' Health Ministry held its first retreat on Saturday, October 5th in the Parish Hall. This event renewed our commitment to our mission and showed appreciation for the hard work of Board Members and volunteers. Health Ministry includes several ministries: Care Centers, Sunshine, Women's Cancer Support, Homebound, Rosary Warriors, Shawl Ministry, Labyrinth Walk Ministry, Funerals, Vigils and Memorial Masses, Grief-share, Mental Health Ministry, Bridge of Light: Human Trafficking to Human Triumph, Careportal, and Publicity. Jennifer Dagarag, RN and Faith Community Nurse began by demonstrating how to take a cleansing breath to calm our minds and focus on our present condition. Then, Jennifer introduced Sr. Annette Figueiredo, PBVM, our keynote speaker.

Sr. Annette, a Presentation Sister,

spoke about our role as "light bearers" as we serve others. She reminded us that Mary said "yes" when an angel asked her to bear the son of God. Similarly, Venerable Nano Nagle, the founder of the Presentation Sisters, chose to renounce her wealth and serve the poor. She started helping the poor in France, and later returned to her native Ireland to train an organization of women who taught catechism, reading, and writing.

After a delicious lunch from The Loft, attendees played a word game that spelled out the St. Irenaeus Mission Statement; "St. Irenaeus, as a Catholic community, brings people to an encounter with Jesus that makes them disciples fully alive."

If you have questions or are interested in the various services of Health Ministry, please contact Nurse Jennifer at 714-826-0760, Ext. 124, or [jdagarag@sticypress.org](mailto:jdagarag@sticypress.org).



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### Downey's Spooky Pop-Up Festival

This Halloween, Downey will host the Get Spooky Pop-Up, a fall-themed market and festival featuring fun and activities for the entire family.

The Downey Chamber of Commerce and the Downey Collective will present the event as a way for the community to enjoy the upcoming season of ghouls, ghosts, and trick-or-treating. The Downey Collective is an event organizing company that specializes in offering free pop-up events of various themes and interests.

The Get Spooky Pop-Up will be the second annual event hosted by the Downey Collective. It will feature a variety of food vendors offering a range of cuisine and flavors. There will also be a Halloween costume contest for the kids, as well as for any pet owners wishing to enter their dogs in a separate dog costume contest. There will also be a kids' zone complete with games, activities, and arts and crafts for the little ones. Vendors interested in vendor space and booths can contact Downey Collective for more information.

Vendors participating in seasonal festivals like this often utilize such an occasion to connect with new potential customers. As such, bringing along a supply of business cards may help vendors in their endeavors.

The Halloween pop-up will take place on Saturday, October 26 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. It will be held at Stonewood Center, which is located at 251 Stonewood Street.

### La Mirada's Fall Farmer's Market

No trick, all treats! Fall into the spirit of the season at the Farmers Market. Enjoy fresh produce, packaged artisan and ready-to-eat specialty foods, and locally made crafts and gifts every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. On every first Saturday of the month, the Farmers Market will have its monthly kick-off featuring live music, crafts for kids, and giveaways.

The Farmers Market includes 20 to 25 vendors each week in the City Hall parking lot by Civic Center Drive. La Mirada businesses interested in becoming a vendor should contact VenaVer Events at [venaverevents@gmail.com](mailto:venaverevents@gmail.com).

For more information, call (562) 943-7277.

### La Mirada's Paper Shredding, E-waste Collection, and Mulch Distribution Event

La Mirada and EDCO have partnered to offer La Mirada residents a free paper shredding, e-waste collection, and mulch distribution event. The event will take place **Saturday, October 12** from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the La Mirada Community Gymnasium parking lot, located at 15105 Alicante Road. Household hazardous waste will not be collected at this time.

Residents will have the opportunity to shred up to three banker boxes of personal information and have unwanted electronics collected on site.

The mulch distribution will be a self-loading service. Residents must bring their own cans/bags and shovel, and there will be a limit of three cans/bags per vehicle. Participants are requested to bring a tarp to cover material if bringing an open truck or trailer.

This event is limited to La Mirada

residents only. Proof of residency (i.e., driver's license or utility bill) will be required.

For additional information, contact the La Mirada Public Works Department at (562) 902-2385.

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### FISKER from page 1

erty — and that “the building would be cleaned as thoroughly as possible.”

Over those few days, though, Lenzini describes a manic scramble. He says people were “pulling items out of the office and warehouse and loading up trucks and cars” and claims no one was logging what was taken.

Meanwhile, HPG President Nick Dove tells TechCrunch that his firm, which purchased some office equipment, furniture and related items, had an agreement with Fisker that was supposed give them access until September 30. However, the company and its moving crew wasn't not allowed into the building September 30 to retrieve those items. He also says the “chemicals and batteries were not part of our transaction” with Fisker.

On September 27, Lenzini says he “witnessed people hurriedly removing property from the building and loading vehicles with various items” but adds that he had “no idea who these people were — whether they were Fisker employees, HGP, Huron staff, or friends of either.” Lenzini says these people were “throwing debris everywhere, taking tools, computers, automotive parts, and more, and then returning for another load.”

And yet, Lenzini says, the La Palma facility “has been left in complete disarray.” He says there are two 50- to 55-gallon drums, one which references containing oil and another which says contains coolant. He says there are “approximately 20 automotive sized batteries” left on site, too. It isn't clear if those are electric vehicle battery packs or more typical 12-volt car batteries. Lawyers for Shamrock wrote that Fisker vehicles “were left parked” in the lot outside the facility, but did not specify if they are Ocean SUVs.

“My concern is that I do not know what chemicals have been left at La Palma,” Lenzini writes.

To make matters even worse, lawyers for Shamrock say folks have broken into the facility “attempting to set up residence when the Premises were left vacant and not secured.”



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**EXAMINATION** from page 1

publish an article about the CRI report. The report, which, according to sources, cost CB an eye-opening \$400,000, concluded that \$123,000 was misspent, including more than \$75,000 in “inflated salary” extra pay and benefits that went to Rojas.

However, the report did not cover the period between February and July 2024 when Ponto was in charge, and the agency burned through \$3 million in cash, including paying nearly \$200,000 to Ponto’s firm Burke, Williams, Sorenson.

The report alleged Rojas:

- (1) Influenced the selection of vendors and bypassed competitive bidding processes.
- (2) Pushed for alterations to his pay

and benefits that resulted in an unauthorized \$25,000 raise.

(3) Ordered tens of thousands of dollars in extra leave payments, retirement contributions and paid tuition.

CRI blamed CB for “lack of documentation maintained by Central Basin, deletion of Central Basin records and lack of cooperation by certain individuals/entities related to the district.”

The findings came with a caveat, with CRI admitting the numbers could be incorrect, yet they leveled the allegations anyway.

Despite the disclaimer, the findings prompted board member Martha Camacho Rodriguez and appointed board member Juan Garza to call for criminal investigations.

Camacho Rodriguez and Garza were among the CB board members who illegally placed Rojas on leave and replaced him with the inexperienced Ponto and then, as a majority, presided over a \$3 million drop in cash while receiving significant increases in monthly meeting payments for eating dinner.

Camacho Rodriguez sent a copy of the CRI report to the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office. At the same time, Garza, who is always on hand for comment, told the Whittier Daily News, “We don’t have subpoenas. These findings demonstrate that the authorities that do have those powers are going to need to look into these findings further.”

Accuse but do not interview or corroborate?

In an email, Rojas and his attorney responded to WDN questions, and strongly denied any wrongdoing. Rojas also went on the record claiming that CRI never interviewed him for the audit.

Shockingly, the CRI report claimed the auditors interviewed Rojas.

Rojas and his attorney responded, “The report misleads the board into thinking that Dr. Rojas was interviewed, but he was never called, I repeat, never called in to discuss these matters or asked questions.”

CRI officials have not answered LCCN questions about the apparent lie.

LCCN has also learned that CRI did not interview a number of officials who were with CB during the examination time window.

President Art Chacon, Directors Jim Crawford, Leticia Vasquez-Wilson, Noe Negrete, Bob Apodaca, John Ouskui, and attorney Robert Baker were not interviewed.

CRI officials have not answered questions about excluding CB board member interviews.

Rojas and his attorney continued, “The important thing is that the report states that there is no finding of fraud, unknown accounts, or other financial mismanagement regarding the district finances and that all district banking records and funds are accounted for.”

Answering allegation (1) of influencing the selection of vendors, bypassing competitive bidding processes, approving sole-source contracts, and overriding staff members, Rojas and his attorney wrote, “regarding sole source contracts, during Dr. Rojas’s time with the District, he never issued any sole source contracts.

CRI questioned several payments made under Rojas’ \$25,000 spending authority, alleging he split contracts into smaller amounts to avoid taking the contracts to the board for approval.

CRI reviewed 13 apparent sole-source contracts approved under Rojas’ watch and found that only one was procured correctly. However, in his emailed response, Rojas and his attorney denied that any of those contracts were actually “sole source.”

“The report does not provide any evidence that Dr. Rojas overturned, or overrode, any staff member’s denial, rejection, or approval of anything related to district business.”

CRI also looked at financial records and “found that Dr. Rojas overrode Central Basin’s internal controls and/or limited Central Basin’s internal controls in multiple respects on numerous occasions. As a result, Rojas (2) received compensation and/or benefits that he may not have otherwise received.”

Rojas and his attorney responded, “Dr. Rojas does not have the system access or any other authority over his personnel records or files. The report does not provide examples of how Dr. Rojas supposedly interfered with or overturned any staff data entry or processing.”

CRI also alleged Rojas received (3) extra leave payments, retirement contributions, and tuition.

Rojas and his attorney responded, “His compensation and employment contract are reviewed annually by independent outside auditors. Interestingly, the CRI report fails to mention that two independent annual auditors reviewed these same payments and found no issues or noncompliance, I repeat, found no issues

or noncompliance, with district policy or Dr. Rojas’ employment agreement.”

Central Basin President Art Chacon offered the same criticism of CRI. “The report does not mention that his compensation and employment contract are reviewed annually by our independent outside auditors and there have been no findings in the last two audits submitted to the board.”

In regards to his retirement, Rojas and his attorney wrote, “The items regarding his retirement were identified and corrected in consultation with general counsel, the business department, the human resources department, and outside agency compliance staff. Dr. Rojas cannot make those types of changes to his records.”

The CRI report also claimed that Rojas paid for tuition without proper authorization; however, the report fails to cite the language in Rojas’ contract that states the District will pay for professional development, including university courses for its employees.

CRI concluded the examination stating that “significant errors” were found in the District’s internal accounting amounting to \$2.4 million, which made investigators conclude that the District’s bank reconciliation records were “unreliable.”

The WDN reported that, “auditors raised complaints about missing and incomplete records in the past. One auditor, Harshwal & Co., became ‘so fed up’ that the auditors quit before finishing the fiscal year 2021-22 audit.”

Sources have told LCCN that Harshwal quit over an accounting-posting conflict between CB’s contract accountant Ken Pun, his assistant Peggy Williams, and Harshwal auditors over the alleged “missing” \$2.4 million that CRI reported.

Finally, CRI told the WDN that the investigation “was not an audit.” However, a LCCN examination of the Request for Proposal CB sent out clearly stated that CB was asking for an audit (the scope of work), and CRI answered the RFP as if they were going to audit the agency.

Interestingly, the WDN did not report on questionable actions that CB attorney Ponto and current GM Elaine Jeng took related to the CRI report.

Ponto went to court - without board consent - and asked a judge to declare CRI’s report not privileged and, therefore, public record. The action stopped the CB Board from reviewing and discussing the report in closed session to avoid possible litigation.

In an email to CB Board members, Ponto wrote, “I attached the tentative ruling issued by Judge Fujie related to the treatment of CRI’s work product. The Court’s ruling determined that CRI’s work-product is not privileged.”


Hours after that declaration, the Whittier Daily News reporter sent emails out for comment about the CRI report.

“Nobody authorized Ponto to do that,” said President Art Chacon.

Jeng, ironically using the \$25,000 spending authority and a no-bid, sole-source contract that CRI blasted Rojas for allegedly using, hired the law firm of Seki, Nishimura & Watase, LLP to “support the board with its review of the CRI report.”

“Nobody authorized Jeng to do that either,” said President Art Chacon. We paid \$400,000 for CRI, which I did not authorize, why did we need a law firm?”

Chacon finished, “This report, due to its inaccuracies and unfounded accusations, actually creates a potential defamation or libelous situation for the District. It is not what we expect from a firm that has been paid nearly \$400,000.



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# Project 2025 Proposes Eliminating Aid for Families and Businesses Rebuilding After Storms

In the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Helene and now Milton, the Southeast is tasked with the difficult work of rebuilding homes, businesses, and lives. Federal agencies play a critical role in providing swift support to these families and businesses reckoning with extreme weather events.

One such resource is the Small Business Administration's (SBA) disaster loan program—the federal government's largest source of disaster recovery funds for survivors, which provides low-interest direct loans to small-business owners and households who need to repair and rebuild their properties.

Southern states on the Gulf Coast, such as Texas, Florida, and Louisiana, are often hit the hardest by extreme weather events; and new analysis from the Center for American Progress finds that the disaster loan program also disproportionately aids affected individuals in those states.

Yet Project 2025—a far-right road map that would gut the country's nearly 250-year-old system of checks and balances—proposes, on page 750, an “end to SBA direct lending disaster loan program.” Project 2025 suggests privatization.

The proposal by Project 2025 would force families and businesses facing some of the hardest moments of their lives—including those in Hurricane Helene's path

—to bear even more of the costs associated with natural disasters. Project 2025 would abandon American families and small businesses in a time of crisis, leaving them with fewer tools and resources to rebuild their lives.

Eligibility for many disaster recovery resources and aid from the federal government, including the SBA's disaster loan program, hinge on federal disaster declarations. Since 1980, the number of disaster declarations has steadily increased.

From 1980 to 1989, the federal government declared 286 disasters, whereas in the past 10 years—from 2014 to 2023—that number more than quadrupled to 1,267, an increase of 443 percent.

Yet in its section on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Project 2025 proposes FEMA increase the threshold for disaster declarations, thereby making it more difficult for states and localities—and, by extension, the families and businesses—to qualify for federal aid after disaster strikes.

The SBA's disaster loan program and FEMA is an increasingly relevant resource as climate change makes extreme weather events not only more common but also more intense and more costly.

The National Centers for Environmental Information estimates that since 1980, there have been 391 confirmed extreme weather and disaster events where losses



**WOULD BE CUT OFF:** Project 2025 would cut off SBA disaster funds for homeowners and businesses to rebuild and proposes FEMA increase the threshold for disaster declarations, thereby making it more difficult for states and localities—and, by extension, the families and businesses—to qualify for federal aid after disaster strikes.

reached at least \$1 billion, an average of 8.7 costly storms each year. But in the past five years, that average has more than doubled to 20.4. And a new record was set in 2023, with 28 storms reaching the billion-dollar mark.

Yet, according to Project 2025's own analysis, 90 percent of this disaster aid goes to homeowners, as opposed to small businesses. So the program that 2025 wants to cut not only helps local economies bounce back, but the the loans play an even more critical role in helping

individuals and families begin the long road to recovery.

The program serves every state in the country, but those in areas facing intensifying climate risks are more likely to rely on this assistance to rebuild. Since 2017, three Republican states on the Gulf Coast—Florida, Texas, and Louisiana—consistently benefited the most in terms of number of disaster loans. In total, the trio of states had the highest number of loans approved and received the most aid. In every year, one of these three states topped the list for most aid received.

However, loans also go to families and businesses facing disasters that get far less national attention. In 2024 alone, loans were made available to Michiganders in Kalamazoo and other neighboring counties after an EF2 tornado struck on May 7. Some residents in South Carolina were also eligible for loans after a thunderstorm with winds as high as 80 mph struck Berkeley and neighboring counties on June 10.

No one can stop disasters like Hurricane Helene from striking, but we can expect our government to be prepared to act swiftly and efficiently when they do—especially as these tragedies become more common and more devastating due to climate change. Instead, the far-right architects of Project 2025 would abandon American families and small businesses in a time of crisis, leaving them with fewer tools and resources to rebuild their lives.

## NORWALK from page 1

people are living on the city's streets,” Newsom said in a statement.

Norwalk City Attorney Arnold Alvarez-Glasman countered, “It was always the city council's first priority to take action to protect and preserve the safety of the city's residents and neighborhoods.”

“We feel confident that the city has it backward here,” David Zisser, assistant deputy of housing policy with California's Department of Housing and Community Development told the LA Times.. “Getting people off the street and into affordable safe housing is good for public safety and public health, not bad for it.”

In a statement, HCD deputy director of communications Pablo Espinoza said the department is looking at potential next steps. “HCD has many tools at our disposal to bring about accountability, and we are evaluating next steps, including referral to the CA Attorney General.”



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## Artwork by Whittier Union Alum Provides Inspiration for Students and Staff

### LCCN Staff Report

WHITTIER – At Pioneer High School (PHS), the images greet students and staff as they navigate the hallways on their way to class.

Portraits of Bob Marley and Emilio Zapata, a mountainside paradise, an Aztec calendar, the penetrating eye from George Orwell's "1984."

These are images that beautify the campus and provide a nurturing environment for learning.

The artwork is the product of Pioneer High Class of 2012 graduate Domingo Perez.

Perez's meticulous craftsmanship and collages have become a daily source of inspiration and Titan pride.

Perez's sublime portraits and artistic flourishes adorn nearly a dozen classroom doors at Pioneer, part of an ongoing project that began when Perez was still a PHS student painting his friend's backpacks for fun.

"Domingo Perez's work is amazing," Pioneer High principal Mary Chapman said.

"His murals enhance the learning environment and help students build connections to learning. I am in awe of the detail Domingo achieves in such a small space and I am so grateful to have an alumni use his talents in a way that positively gives back to the school community."

As a Pioneer High student, Perez excelled in many subjects, including En-

glish and math.

Joining the Art Club as a junior, Perez began drawing attention for his backpack art, decorating his friend's backpacks with depictions of the Incredible Hulk, Frankenstein's bride, and the Shepard Fairey "OBEY" giant.

Perez's work caught the attention of his English teacher Jae Shin-Perez, who brought him back to campus after he had graduated to paint the cover of "The Great Gatsby" on her classroom door.

Several years later, Perez asked Shin-Perez if he could return and repaint the door.

What resulted were stunning recreations of William Faulkner's "As I Lay Dying" and Toni Morrison's "Beloved," among others.

"I had Domingo as my student for several years and I saw his phenomenal growth, as a student and artist," Shin-Perez said.

"He has integrity and commitment and is painstakingly modest. His murals have had such a positive impact on my students. When they see the books on the door they ask, 'will we get to read these?' And once my colleagues saw his work, they wanted Domingo to paint their doors as well."

Perez, who is currently pursuing a math degree at Cal State Long Beach and works as a tutor for Mathnasium, said he feels a great sense of pride in his work.

He really enjoys the work when the classroom doors are opened to face the Pioneer quad and the full beauty of the images can be seen, though he is quick to downplay any praise directed toward his art.

"I think it's great that students are getting inspired to learn by seeing my art in their classrooms," Perez said.

"There was one student who painted a



**PIONEER HIGH SCHOOL** Class of 2012 graduate Domingo Perez admires a classroom mural he painted, depicting Mexican history and folklore. Perez's sublime portraits and artistic flourishes adorn nearly a dozen classroom doors at Pioneer, part of an ongoing project that began when Perez was still a Pioneer student painting his friend's backpacks for fun.

door mural a year before I started painting mine and I thought that was cool. It made the class more interesting. But to me, these are just simple projects. I paint what people want."

What motivates Perez the most is the opportunity to give back to his old school, Ada S. Nelson Elementary School in Los Nietos School District.

Perez's dream is to paint a mural as a gift to his old alma mater.

To that end, Perez said he is saving money to buy all the supplies and paint necessary to complete the job.

Before Perez gets a chance to do that, he will continue to hone his craft at Pio-

neer High.

With at least four more requests for door murals ahead of him, plus interest from other Whittier Union schools he will be very busy.

"Looking at Domingo's artwork at Pioneer High is like viewing a vivid full-color time capsule of history, with images of heroes and folklore that greatly resonate with our students," Superintendent Dr. Monica Oviedo said.

"My wish is that Domingo's work can inspire more students to pursue their passions and believe that they can make a positive impact on their community."

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# Casa Romantica Celebrates Reopening of Historic Main Salon After 2023 Slide

## LCCN Staff Report

On Saturday, September 21, 2024, Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens hosted its annual fundraising gala, Toast to the Casa, welcoming over 200 guests.

This year's medieval-inspired theme, Renaissance, offered a night of entertainment, fine dining, and community support.

Guests were treated to a special unveiling of Casa Romantica's newly restored Main Salon, which has now officially reopened to the public as of last week.

Closed for nearly 18 months following the April 2023 landslide, the heart of Casa Romantica is once again open for visitors. Toast to the Casa attendees were the first to experience the newly restored space, which now houses the estate's latest exhibitions.

"Casa Romantica has always been a place where the arts and human experience come together," shared Kylie Travis, Executive Director of Operations and Programming. "As we continue to recover from the damage of last year's landslide, we find ourselves in a period of optimism and rebirth—much like the Renaissance, which celebrated art and culture after a time of crisis.

"The support from our community and donors makes this possible, and we are grateful to everyone who helps keep the arts thriving here."

The annual fundraising event celebrated Casa Romantica's future plans, which include restarting field trips for local stu-



CASA ROMANTICA officials and San Clemente City Council at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the grand reopening of the Main Salon. Photos courtesy of Casa Romantica.



MAIN SALON PATIO: the cement on the other side of the netting fell during the slide.

dents, launching new children's programming, and expanding exhibition experiences. Additionally, the highly anticipated garden rebuild will further enrich the estate's cultural landscape in the coming year, made possible by the generosity of donors and community members.

This year's Toast to the Casa raised \$205,000 for Casa Romantica's upcoming season of arts and cultural programming. "The funds raised at Toast to the Casa are essential in supporting our year-round cultural and educational programs," said Jacqui Groseth, Executive Director of Resource Development and Administration.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony in collaboration with the San Clemente Chamber of Commerce and the city of San Clemente officially marked the grand reopening of the Main Salon.

Local leaders, supporters, and Casa Romantica staff gathered for the ceremonial moment as Kylie Travis and Jacqui

Groseth cut the ribbon, symbolically welcoming the public back into this historic space that has long served as a hub for arts and culture.

Funds raised during Toast to the Casa will support a wide range of arts and educational programs throughout the year, including music, dance, literary arts, and visual arts events, furthering Casa Romantica's mission to enrich the lives of the community through the arts.

For more information about Casa Romantica's programming, upcoming events, and the reopening of the Main Salon, please visit [CasaRomantica.org](http://CasaRomantica.org).

With free family activities, art exhibitions, live music, coffee concerts, dance classes, and art workshops, Casa Romantica has something for everyone. For a complete list of events or to purchase tickets, visit [CasaRomantica.org](http://CasaRomantica.org) and follow @CasaRomanticaSC on social media.

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## GATEWAY LEAGUE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

# La Mirada Stays Alive For Playoffs While Gahr Needs A Miracle To Reach Postseason

By Loren Kopff  
@LorenKopff on X

The bottom two girls volleyball teams in the Gateway League, Gahr High and La Mirada High, knew there was little margin for error if they wanted to move on to the CIF-Southern Section playoffs in two weeks. They hooked up last Thursday at Gahr with the hosts trying to avenge an earlier five-set loss to the Matadores.

The match featured an offensive display from two of the top seniors in the circuit, Gahr outside hitter Kyla Jones and La Mirada middle blocker Natalie Ojeisekhoba, both of whom combined for over 40 kills. And on this day, it was La Mirada which prevailed 25-16, 24-26, 25-21, 25-16 to improve to 10-11 overall, 2-4 in league action, a game behind third place Norwalk High.

"It's been kind of a tough season," said La Mirada head coach Kimberly Mahan. "We have a lot of talent, but we start off strong and we just can't finish. But today was exciting. I feel like we played as a team. We were doing better on defense and our serve receive was a lot better, too."

"Obviously, we went on a long playoff run last season and we were hoping to try to recreate some of that success," said Gahr assistant coach Alex-Quan Madrid. "We feel we've built up a lot, but the younger [players] are further behind than we wanted them to be. We were relying on them a lot. I think our pathway to the playoffs kept dwindling, and though there's still a possible pathway, this

one certainly shut the door on the most possible [path]."

La Mirada led the entire way in the opening set as Gahr trailed by a point six times in the opening rotation. But after a serve into the net, senior libero Angelyna Conde had an ace, followed by a kill and a block from Ojeisekhoba as La Mirada opened a 17-10 lead.

She had half a dozen kills in the set and was on her way to another superb match. Meanwhile, Gahr wasn't backing down and got kills from five players, including four each from Jones and junior outside hitter Genesis Islas.

One of the biggest changes Mahan made for the match was having Ojeisekhoba be the last server in each rotation. Throughout most of the season, she had been serving somewhere around the middle of the rotation.

"We changed our rotation from the rotation we started because I feel like we were starting off getting a lot of points, then we backtrack," said Mahan. "So I figured, we start [Ojeisekhoba] in the back row and now, we have her playing all the way around. We were able to utilize her a lot more with hitting, and her defense has improved tremendously."

In the second set, there were four ties and two lead changes in the early moments and the Matadores were looking good at 13-8. But a serving error ended

the first rotation, and Gahr sophomore setter Lauren Blanco responded with a pair of aces sandwiched around a kill from freshman outside hitter Violet Hackworth. Then Gahr took a 16-15 lead when sophomore libero Jayden Sydenham had consecutive aces, but towards the end of the second rotation, the Matadores regained the lead when senior setter Kiersten Mahan served her third ace of the set. A serve into the net put the Matadores a point away from going up 2-0, but Jones had two kills and senior defensive specialist Layla Garcia had an ace to even the match.

"I think we got stuck in a couple of rotations with serve receive, and that's what killed us," said Kimberly Mahan. "That's happened all season. We would get up four or five points, and then we would have a bad serve receive and we go down."

"I've just been emphasizing that they have nothing to lose and to go out there and play hard with heart and passion," she later added.

Just like the first set, Gahr never led in the third set, but was able to forge four ties, the last coming at 18-18 on a kill from Jones. Up to this point, La Mirada's largest lead was only four points. But Ojeisekhoba pretty much gave the Matadores the win with a kill, then served

five straight points with three aces, a kill from Kiersten Mahan and a block from senior middle blocker Maleah Diaz.

Gahr's inability to string together a lot of points at a time has been a problem throughout most of the season. The team had no more than two straight points in the first set, no more than four straight points in the second and third sets and no more than three straight points in the fourth set.

"It's hard because at moments, it feels like, yes, this team absolutely can do it," said Quan-Madrid. "But when we give up huge chunks of points...a little bit of attention to detail on key plays is the difference in a game. Every team has been competitive that we've played. We feel like we've been competitive with all of them even though the record doesn't reflect that, and that's what makes it so frustrating."

In the fourth set, Gahr had leads of 5-1 and 6-4, then sophomore setter Khari Julio had an ace to tie the set at 6-6, then another ace gave La Mirada the lead for good at 7-6. Jones tried to rally her team in the second rotation with four kills. But it was too little, too late as Gahr dropped to 15-17, 0-5 and will need to win its last three matches to have a slight chance as an at-large representative.

"There comes a point in the game where you start to feel the momentum start to shift," said Quan-Madrid. "As a coach, you're trying to tell the players, 'hey, play the whistle because it's still doable if you come back and get three or four serves in a row'. But at some point, they have to want it; they have to be willing to play every single point one at

{See LA MIRADA pg. 12}

## NEWS AND NOTES FROM PRESS ROW

# Playoffs Nearing For Girls Flag Football, Girls Volleyball, While Football League Games Underway

By Loren Kopff  
@LorenKopff on X

Anywhere from one to two matches remain for the area girls volleyball teams and as many as six of the eight area teams have a legitimate shot of the CIF-Southern Section divisional playoffs, which begin on Oct. 23. The regular season also ends on Wednesday for girls flag football with the playoffs beginning on Oct. 23.

### GIRLS VOLLEYBALL 605 LEAGUE

Cerritos High clinched second place in the league with a 25-20, 25-21, 25-9 win over Artesia High this past Tuesday to improve to 16-11, 6-2 while the Pioneers fell to 7-8 overall, 4-4, tied with Oxford Academy for third place. Artesia visits league-leading Whitney High on Friday before hosting last place Pioneer High on Tuesday while Cerritos goes to Pioneer on Friday and John Glenn High on Tuesday. In the event there is a tie for third place, a tie-breaker match will be played on Wednesday.

Whitney swept Glenn 27-25, 27-25, this past Tuesday to notch its 20<sup>th</sup> victory, the most the program has had in more than 27 seasons. The Wildcats (20-7, 8-0) also won a league title for the first time since 2000 and will travel to Oxford Academy on Tuesday to end the season, while Glenn (12-9, 2-6) can't earn an automatic playoff berth, but is alive for an at-large berth as the Eagles will go to

Oxford Academy on Friday.

### GATEWAY LEAGUE

Gahr High was officially eliminated from the playoffs when league-leading Downey High swept the Gladiators 25-22, 25-19, 25-17 this past Tuesday, putting Gahr's record at 15-18, 0-6 as it visited Warren High on Oct. 10 before hosting Norwalk High on Tuesday.

La Mirada High's 25-16, 24-26, 25-21, 25-16 win over Gahr last Thursday enabled the Matadores to go to 10-11, 2-4 and move to within a game of third place and the final automatic playoff berth. La Mirada went to Downey on Oct. 10 and will host Warren on Tuesday and will need to beat both in order to potentially tie Norwalk for third place.

Warren swept third place Norwalk 25-18, 25-22, 25-23 this past Tuesday to fall to 12-14, 3-4 and if the Lancers defeat Gahr on Tuesday, will clinch third place.

### OLYMPIC LEAGUE

Valley Christian High went out of the league to face Pacifica Christian High of Orange County this past Tuesday and posted a 25-19, 26-24, 25-22 victory The Defenders, who lost to first place Village Christian High 25-20, 25-19, 22-25, 26-24, are 19-5 4-2 in the Olympic League as they hosted Heritage Christian High on Oct. 10 and will conclude the regular season at Maranatha High on Tuesday. The Defenders can do no worse than third place.

### GIRLS FLAG FOOTBALL

Artesia blasted Whitney 47-0 this past Monday to complete a season-

series sweep and improve to 6-5 in its first season of fielding a team. The Pioneers hosted a doubleheader against this past Wednesday and will travel to Pioneer on Monday for a season-ending doubleheader.

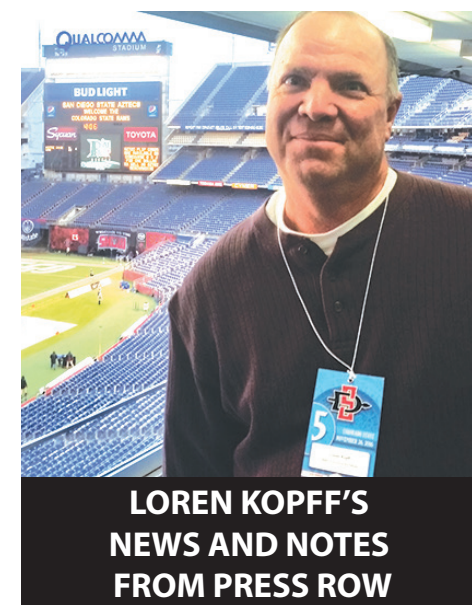
Gahr dropped to 10-4 overall following a 39-12 loss to Downey on Sept. 30. The Gladiators defeated La Mirada 13-6 and faced Dominguez High this past Wednesday to improve to 11-4, 1-2 as they will visit Mayfair High and Warren on Monday and Wednesday, respectively.

Glenn, another first-year team, lost to Pioneer 14-12 and 24-20 this past Monday to drop to 3-11. After facing Artesia, the Eagles will close the season on Monday at Whitney while La Mirada (4-9, 1-4) hosted Warren this past Wednesday. The Matadores will then go to Dominguez and Paramount High on Monday and Wednesday, respectively.

Norwalk, also in its first season, lost to Mayfair 20-6 this past Monday and is 8-10, 1-3. The Lancers hosted Paramount on Oct. 9 and will end the season at Warren on Monday and at Bellflower High on Wednesday.

### FOOTBALL

**Don Lugo High (2-4) @ Cerritos High (4-2)**-After a well-deserved week off, Cerritos gets back into action on homecoming night in its final non-league contest of the season. The Dons cruised past Westminster High 32-7 on Sept. 27, snapping a two-game skid. Senior wide receiver Ruben Castro caught a



**LOREN KOPFF'S  
NEWS AND NOTES  
FROM PRESS ROW**

pair of touchdown passes from junior quarterback Justin Sagun. Sagun is completing 61 percent of his passes and has passed for 605 yards and five touchdowns. The Dons have rushed for over 1,000 yards, but no one has reached the 500-yard mark. Senior running back Dikshanta Adhikari leads all Cerritos players with seven touchdowns while Sagun and senior running back Josiah Ungos each have found the endzone four times. Castro is the leading receiver with 452 yards on 39 receptions with five scores.

In the four Cerritos victories, the Dons have yielded 21 points and have posted a pair of shutouts. Junior lineman Makai Ortiz has four of the team's six sacks.

{See NEWS AND NOTES pg. 12}



## IRONWOOD LEAGUE FOOTBALL

# Valley Christian's Rare Undefeated Start To A Season Continues As Abrahams Shines Again

By Loren Kopff  
@LorenKopff on X

To Valley Christian High head football coach Brendan Chambers, the Ironwood League opener last Friday against Capistrano Valley Christian High was personal. He played and coached football at Saddleback Valley Christian High, which would beat up C.V.C. over the years.

And in his first opportunity to face his former South Orange County rival as head coach for V.C., the Defenders had the upper hand in a 33-13 home victory last Friday.

"Our school's founder also founded Capo Valley Christian," he said. "So the school I went to in high school spawned off Capo Valley Christian [and] I competed against them in football, basketball and baseball. We were two miles apart, so it was a huge rivalry. It's a little bit personal for me to come and have this win. I lost in my freshman year and haven't lost to them since. I told the boys this was personal for me. I also know the head coach over there; I coached his younger brother as well. It was a personal connection."

The defense set the tone on the third play of the game when junior defensive back Oliver Boateng picked off Nate Richie at the V.C. 37-yard line and returned it 17 yards. From there, senior quarterback Austin Abrahams and senior running back Jayce Shields each had three carries as Abrahams punched it in from five yards out for the quick lead less than four minutes into the contest.

After the Eagles were held on downs near midfield, the Defenders went 51 yards, mixing running and passing plays and ending a nine-play drive with Abra-

in terms of plays and time but came away with nothing when a 30-yard field goal attempt from Caleb Lund was unsuccessful, ending an 11-play, 56-yard drive. The Defenders parlayed that opportunity into their third touchdown when, on fourth and six, Abrahams launched a 51-yard strike to junior wide receiver Dylan Teays.

A quick three and out and subsequent punt put the ball at the V.C. eight-yard line where the Defenders used nearly the remaining 2:32 of the half with another Abrahams passing score. This time, he found senior wide receiver Seth Dahlenburg for eight yards. V.C. did not face a third down on the drive and for the first half, it was two of three on third down conversions as the hosts built a comfortable 27-0 lead.

V.C. was nearly a balanced team in the first 24 minutes with 150 yards through the air and 134 yards on the ground and scoring on all four possessions. Five players gained at least a yard on the ground while Abrahams threw to five different receivers. In addition, V.C. played a nearly perfect half, being penalized three times for 15 yards while the Eagles had four plays of negative yardage while Richie was six of 12 for 46 yards. One of those incompletions came right before the punted when a wide open Rocco Windham couldn't catch a pass from Max Krosky off a trick play.

"I would say it reminded me very much of the Cerritos game," said Chambers. "I felt like we played a very good half of football against Cerritos. This was probably slightly better, especially with that three-minute drive at the end of the half to get an extra score in there; kind of a two for one because we got the ball to begin the second half. But across the board, we were able to throw the ball a little bit and we ran the ball really, really well."



PHOTO BY STEVE FERICEAN

**CAPISTRANO VALLEY CHRISTIAN** wide receiver Max Krosky goes up for one of his 11 receptions, only to be greeted by Valley Christian High junior defensive backs Oliver Boateng (#1) and Dylan Teays in the second half of last Friday's Ironwood League opener. V.C. was victorious, 33-13 and improved to 6-0.

hams tossing a 10-yard touchdown pass to junior tight end Lucas Witt on third and eight. It was the second third down conversion of the drive.

Capistrano Valley Christian would then put together its longest drive of the night

The Defenders were held on downs to begin the second half, and the Eagles finally hit paydirt with 4:25 left in the third quarter on a 10-yard pass from Richie to Joshua Monroe. Capistrano Valley Christian would have two possessions in the sec-



PHOTO BY STEVE FERICEAN

**VALLEY CHRISTIAN HIGH** senior quarterback Austin Abrahams reaches for the goalline to score on a five-yard run early in the first quarter of last Friday's game against Capistrano Valley Christian High. Abrahams would score again in the fourth quarter as the Defenders won 33-13 in the Ironwood League opener.

ond half with the second one coming early in the fourth quarter.

A 10-play, 70-yard drive that took nearly four minutes ended with Krosky hauling in a four-yard pass from Richie. Before that drive, the Defenders added their final touchdown of the night when Abrahams scampered in from three yards out. He would complete 15 of 18 passes for 207 yards and rush for another 38 yards on nine carries. He has accounted for 26 of the 29 touchdowns the Defenders have scored this season.

"He's a human highlight reel," said Chambers of his quarterback. "He just comes out here and just competes. We try to get the ball in his hands as much as possible. So, anytime we're running the football, we have something often where he can either throw it or run it himself. He's just a lot of fun to watch."

Abrahams admitted he was skeptical coming into this season playing quarterback because he had played wide receiver his entire life. He didn't know what to think about being a starting quarterback, but now, he confesses it's going great, and this is the best season he could have dreamed of.

Shields rushed seven times for 48 yards and caught a pair of passes for 24 yards, junior running back Karsen Wesley rushed for 46 yards on 10 carries while junior running back Tyson McNeese added 31 yards on eight touches. Witt was the top receiver with 71 yards on six catches while Dahlenburg had four receptions for 39 yards. on defense, junior linebacker Cole Hefner led the way with 11 tackles followed by Witt with half a dozen and junior tackle Isaac Morales with four.

"It starts in practice with all those guys," said Abrahams. "Our whole team just works so hard, so those guys are able to get better, and I'm able to work with all of them in practice. I've known basically a lot of these guys since elementary school, and we've all played together."

The Defenders were coming off their bye week where they had relative ease with the first five opponents, winning by an average of nearly 20 points in four of the victories and edging Baldwin Park High by a point. On defense, V.C. allowed 89 points.

"It was great; it gave us an extra week to prepare for [Capistrano Valley Christian]," said Abrahams. "So, we were able to go over formations in practice earlier and become a lot more familiar with their offense and defense. And the guys were able to get healthy."

"We got some guys a little bit healthy," said Chambers. "We had a senior retreat,

so we were able to only practice a couple of days. We actually went bowling over the bye week; kind of got these guys away to have them be focused for these next five weeks and kind of emphasized that the last five weeks don't really matter. Now that we're in league play, the next five teams are going to be the best five teams we've seen all year.

"We knew we were going to have a tough opponent [tonight]," he continued. "But I think the extra week kind of helped us gear up [for Capistrano Valley Christian], and we know we have an uphill climb the rest of the way with the next four."

But the one stat that stands out is that V.C., which had lost seven straight season openers, have now started a season with six straight victories for the first time since 2002 when that team finished 12-2, falling to Carpinteria High 26-22 in the Division IX finals. The only other loss that season was to Gahr High, a 20-19 setback in the seventh game as the Gladiators rallied from a 19-12 deficit entering the fourth quarter. V.C. also began the 2000 season with six straight wins. And, after winning just three games last season, the Defenders need at least one in their last four games to get some at-large consideration for the CIF-Southern Section playoffs.

"I did not," said Chambers if he thought V.C. would be 6-0 to start the season. "To be 6-0...I keep telling them they're making history. If you go back on MaxPreps.com, there hasn't been a season since MaxPreps.com started where we started 6-0. So, they know that it's been something that as we've gone on each milestone, we've been looking forward to that next one to see how far we can push this. It's just been exciting. I think these kids have bought in to the coaching staff and to themselves and to this community and this culture that we have going right now. We have a tough one ahead of us, but we're going to relish in this 6-0 right now."

"It's awesome; it's just really great to be able to win," said Abrahams. "We've gone 3-7 [in the regular season] the past two years and to go 6-0, it feels great. The boys...we just have this special bond this year that we really haven't had in the past."

V.C. will travel to San Bernardino on Friday to face Aquinas High, a team that has won 33 consecutive league games between the Ambassador League and Ironwood League. Before last season, the Falcons had won at least 10 games in six straight seasons.



LA MIRADA from page 10

a time to the best of their ability. I don't know if we did that tonight, at least when it came down to those crucial points."

"I feel like they're very similar to us," said Kimberly Mahan. "They have a lot of talent, too, and they have a very strong hitter like we have a very strong hitter. But it's just playing as a team and having everything work out in your favor. But they're a strong team."

Jones led everyone with 26 kills while Hackworth added 11 more. Junior middle blocker Jessalyn Ecevedo led the Gladiators with five aces while Garcia had four. But the story of the season has been on the outgoing Jones, and the emergence of Hackworth, two other freshmen and the trio of sophomores.

"She's been fantastic," said Quan-Madrid of Jones. "Just all the things that she brings to the team; the energy and the consistency that she brings. I think she did a lot to really highlight our program to show that we're serious out here."

"We're really excited about Violet," he later said. "I feel like she has certain level of seriousness, drive, motor, character and discipline. All these things that are intangible that are very difficult to coach, she's coming into [our program] as a freshman. She doesn't play like a freshman at all; she looks like a high school junior playing, and she's committed to training and getting stronger and everything."

After hosting league-leading Downey High on Oct. 8 and going to second place Warren High on Oct. 10, Gahr will end the regular season at home against Norwalk on Tuesday. Even if the Gladiators win all three matches, they need help from La Mirada, Norwalk and Warren just to get into the playoffs.

"Obviously we have a big coaching

staff, and I feel like we've put a lot into leveling up everyone to where they were," said Quan-Madrid. "But I think there's some aspects of it that just takes time, and I think the core of our team... the culture of our team just hasn't had enough time. With this development, to see where we were at the beginning of the season to where we are playing now is night and day. So, we're really proud of the leveling up that all our players have done."

As she has done most of her career, Ojeisekhoba led the Matadores with 17 kills and six aces. She will leave La Mirada as one of the best athletes the school has had, not just the program. She currently has 605 kills, which could be a school record, according to Kimberly Mahan, 154 blocks, 140 digs, 74 aces and a .384 hitting percentage. She is one of nine seniors off a team of 13 players and according to the coach, has verbally committed to the University of Hawai'i-Hilo. But Kimberly Mahan says she has meant more than just to the team the past three seasons.

"Oh my gosh, not just the program, but the school," said Mahan. "I was talking to [former La Mirada head coach Linda Reich] and I think she has the most kills as far back as I could go in school history. She's a phenomenal middle. We've never had a player like her; we've never had a middle like her, or some of the hits as well. As she's grown, too, she's been able to read the court."

La Mirada goes to Downey on Oct. 10 and will host Warren on Tuesday, needing to win both matches and have Norwalk lose its final two matches.

"I think we can, I think we can," said Kimberly Mahan. "If we play our best, we can. But my girls have to want it. They cannot be afraid to play, and they just have to put everything out there."

NEWS AND NOTES from page 10

The defense will need to have a big game because Don Lugo has scored an average of just over 26 points.

The Conquistadores lost to Brentwood School 31-21 last Friday for their fourth loss in the last five games. The Q's have allowed 10 more points than they have scored, and their two victories have been one-possession outcomes.

Don Lugo is clearly a passing team as Kalib Pacheco has thrown for 1,726 yards and 16 touchdowns, but also has eight interceptions. The team have rushed for only 413 yards, and no one has more than 156 yards on the ground. On the other side, four players have caught at least 24 passes and all four have over 260 yards.

Prediction: Cerritos 35, Don Lugo 21

GAME OF THE WEEK

Gahr (3-3, 1-0 in the Mid-Cities League) @ Norwalk (5-1, 1-0)-This is a pivotal Mid-Cities contest, and the winner will have a leg up on potentially claiming the title. Gahr defeated Lynwood High 31-7 last Friday and has won three of its last four. Senior running backs Markell Slaughter (11 carries, 126 yards, one touchdown) and Ja'Shon Wallace (27 carries, 145 yards, three touchdowns) paced the Gladiators. They also combined for all three completions thrown by junior quarterback Roman Acosta for 49 yards. However, Gahr's defense, which has given up at least 35 points in four games and recorded five sacks for 28 yards in losses against Lynwood, will be reintroduced to Norwalk's double wing offense.

The Lancers thrashed Compton Early College 56-6 last Friday, the third straight game they have scored over 50 points. Norwalk also scored 49 and 48 points, respectively, in its first two games of the season and for the season has put together close to 300 points.

Senior running back Ezra Meuller had 212 yards and four touchdowns against Compton Early College, and for the season has over 1,200 yards with 15 scores. Junior running backs Diego Cerritos and Derek Sandoval each scored twice last Friday and for the season have combined for over 1,100 yards and 17 touchdowns. The defense also had five sacks for 31 yards in losses plus two interceptions.

Gahr stunned the Lancers two seasons ago at Norwalk, 26-6, forcing a three-way tie for first place in league with Bellflower High. The Gladiators also won the 2005 meeting (10-7) and the 2004 meeting (26-14), but this will be Norwalk's homecoming game with more incentive to win.

Prediction: Norwalk 42, Gahr 21

La Mirada High (1-5, 0-1 in the Gateway League) @ Dominguez High (2-4, 1-1)-La Mirada's league opener didn't go so well as the Matadores were trounced by Downey High 45-7 last Friday. Junior wide receiver Aaron Castro caught a 21-yard touchdown pass from junior quarterback Santino Garcia on fourth and three for the game's first points in the second quarter.

He came into the game with close to 900 yards through the air with three touchdowns.

Dominguez lost to Warren High 17-0 last Friday and enters the contest on a four-game losing streak in which the Dons have been outscored 116-70. They began the season with two shutouts and a combined 56 points.

Entering the Warren game, quarterback Mikaele Fitu-Ahkui was 50 of 93 for 796 yards and six touchdowns, but five interceptions and 26 carries for 274 yards and five more touchdowns. Running back Kahmi Williams is second in the rushing department with 26 carries, 206 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

The positive for the Matadores is that they have won the last three meetings with Dominguez-21-14 last season, 43-21 in 2022 and 38-13 in a 2015 playoff contest.

Prediction: La Mirada 31, Dominguez 24

Valley Christian (6-0, 1-0 in the Ironwood League) @ Aquinas High (4-2, 1-0)-If there was ever a time for Valley Christian to record a big time upset, it would be against the kings of the Ironwood League for the past few seasons. V.C. is coming off an impressive 33-13 win over Capistrano Valley Christian High, in its first season in the league. Senior quarterback Austin Abrahams was masterful again, completing 15 of 18 passes for 207 yards and three touchdowns. He threw to six different receivers while the Defenders had five different ball carriers rush for 183 yards. V.C. has scored 100 more points than they have allowed and might have some success over the Falcons.

Aquinas notched a 27-13 win over Ontario Christian High last Friday in which it was 13-13 at the half. The Falcons use two quarterbacks and Malachi Jones was three of three for 47 yards and a touchdown while Charlie Reyes was eight of 11 for 128 yards and a touchdown last Friday. As a team, the Falcons rushed for 101 yards against the Knights with Jusyes Solis gaining 52 yards on half a dozen touches.

Aquinas is on a four-game winning streak, outscoring its opponents 151-37 over that stretch. But in the two losses, the Falcons scored just 15 points. The San Bernardino-based team blanked the Defenders 48-0 last season and won the 2022 game 50-14.

"Aquinas is a really tough football team," said V.C. head coach Brendan Chambers. "They play a tough schedule. They have some big boys up front and that defense is [tough]. The offense is doing well with two quarterbacks and that running back they have. We know we have a tough task and an uphill climb. But we're going to go up there and compete and give it our best shot, and at the end of the day, let the pieces fall where they may."

"It's definitely the toughest team we'll probably see all year," said senior quarterback Austin Abrahams. "This is going to be a tough week, and we know coming into that, but we're going to give it our all and just prepare the best we can."

Prediction: Aquinas 24, V.C. 21

Last week's predictions: 5-1 Season to date: 29-11

CROSS COUNTRY

The Cerritos boys had five runners finish in the top nine and picked up 28 points as the Dons won the Cerritos Invitational on Oct. 2. Freshman Vincent Valenzuela had a time of 16:13 and after Mayfair had a pair of runners claim the next two spots, senior Howard Lee finished in fourth place with a time of 16:46. Mayfair came in second place with 41 points and Downey was third with 57 points.

Rounding out the top 10 for Cerritos was sophomore Allan Woolley (seventh, 17:46), senior Alton Chan (ninth, 17:57) and senior John Gillespie (18:16).

Sophomore Anna Field was the top runner for the girls with a time of 17:40, but Downey would have five runners finish within the next seven places to pick up 28 points. Cerritos had 31 points, followed by Mayfair (85 points). Sophomore Daisy Lee (20:34) and junior Dani Romero (20:36) finished in fourth and fifth place, respectively).

The next two Cerritos runners were sophomore Nandini Panchal (13th, 21:55) and sophomore Yuying Sun (18th, 22:22).

**WONDERWORD** By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** 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.

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Puzzle solution on page 14 Solution: 7 letters



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**V.I.P. TRUST DEED COMPANY**  
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OVER 40 YEARS OF FAST FUNDING  
 Principal **(818) 248-0000** Broker  
**WWW.VIPLAN.COM** \*Sufficient equity required - no consumer loans

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



NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. CA-24-992407-CL Order No.: 3134454 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 4/9/2007. 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 to 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): OLGA URIARTE AND OSCAR URIARTE, MARRIED TO EACH OTHER Recorded: 4/11/2007 as Instrument No. 20070867685 and modified as per Modification Agreement recorded 10/8/2015 as Instrument No. 20151245084 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of LOS ANGELES County, California; Date of Sale: 11/14/2024 at 9:00:00 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: \$753,348.13 The purported property address is: 14806 FACETA DRIVE, LA MIRADA, CA 90638 Assessor's Parcel No.: 8064-001-020 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 1-800-280-2832 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-24-992407-CL. 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 1-800-280-2832, or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: CA-24-992407-CL 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: 1-800-280-2832 Or Login to: <http://www.qualityloan.com> Reinstatement Line: (866) 645-7711 Ext 5318 QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION . TS No.: CA-24-992407-CL IDSPub #0224614 10/11/2024 10/18/2024 10/25/2024

T.S. No. 123474-CA APN: 704902010 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 5/8/2014. 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 On 11/12/2024 at 10:30 AM, CLEAR RECON CORP, as duly appointed trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded 5/16/2014 as Instrument No. 20140508181 of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Los Angeles County, State of CALIFORNIA executed by: LYNN D. GREEN AND CATHLEEN A. GREEN, HUSBAND AND WIFE AS COMMUNITY PROPERTY WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK DRAWN ON A STATE OR NATIONAL BANK, A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, OR A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, SAVINGS ASSOCIATION, OR SAVINGS BANK SPECIFIED IN SECTION 5102 OF THE FINANCIAL CODE AND AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN THIS STATE; BEHIND THE FOUNTAIN LOCATED IN CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, 400 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, POMONA, CA 91766 all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State described as: MORE ACCURATELY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 11122 BERTHA PLACE, CERRITOS, CA 90703 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be held, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, condition, or encumbrances, including fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to pay the remaining principal sums of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$560,913.56 If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned or its predecessor caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (855) 313-3319 or visit this Internet website [www.clearreconcorp.com](http://www.clearreconcorp.com), using the file number assigned to this case 123474-CA. 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 Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: Effective January 1, 2021, you may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (855) 313-3319, or visit this internet website [www.clearreconcorp.com](http://www.clearreconcorp.com), using the file number assigned to this case 123474-CA 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. FOR SALES INFORMATION: (844) 477-7869 CLEAR RECON CORP 3333 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 225 San Diego, California 92108. 9/27, 10/4, 10/11/24

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ABC Unified School District will receive up to but not later than **11:00 AM** on the **6th day of December, 2024** Bids for:

ABC Bid # 1663 E-Rate Wide Area Network (WAN) Circuits

There will be a Pre-Bid Meeting on October 24, 2024 at the Purchasing Department **16700 Norwalk Blvd., Cerritos, CA 90703**. All bids shall be made and presented on a form furnished by the District. Bids submitted shall conform to the terms and conditions stated on said form. Bids shall be received in the office of the **Purchasing Department no later than the time and date stated above** and shall be opened and publicly read aloud at the above-stated time and place. Bidders may request for Bid Documents by calling (562) 926-5566 x 21218 Esthela Perez.

In compliance with the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 45 – Public Welfare, Subtitle A – Department of health and Human Services Part 92 – Uniform Administrative Requirement for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments, the District endeavors to solicit bids from small and minority firms, women's business enterprise and labor surplus area firms General Contractors are encouraged to do the same for subcontractors.

This is an E-Rate Project, bidder must Be thoroughly familiar with all rules or regulations regarding the E-Rate program. SPIN number is required at the time of bid opening and shall be listed on the bid documents.

Los Cerritos News

October 11, 2024  
October 18, 2024

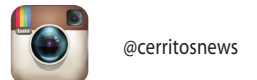
Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 10/11 and 10/18/24

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE**

(SECS. 6104, 6105 U.C.C.)  
Escrow No. 7310-EY  
Notice is hereby given to creditors of the within named Seller that a bulk sale is about to be made of the assets described below. The name(s) and business address(es) of the Seller(s) are: SOPHEAR SAM, 20941 NORWALK BLVD, LAKEWOOD, CA 90715  
The location in California of the chief executive office of the Seller is: 20941 NORWALK BLVD, LAKEWOOD, CA 90715  
As listed by the Seller, all other business names and addresses used by the Seller within three years before the date such list was sent or delivered to the Buyer are:  
The name(s) and business address(es) of the Buyer(s) are: SOPHANY TY AND ANNENN NOU, 20941 NORWALK BLVD, LAKEWOOD, CA 90715  
The assets to be sold are described in general as: FURNITURE, FIXTURES, GOODWILL, LEASE & LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENT AND COVENANT NOT TO COMPETE of a certain DONUT SHOP business known as DONUT CITY and which are located at: 20941 NORWALK BLVD, LAKEWOOD, CA 90715  
The anticipated date of the bulk sale is OCTOBER 29, 2024 at the office of: SAPHIRE ESCROW, 17100 PIONEER BLVD., SUITE 110, ARTESIA, CA 90701  
This bulk sale is subject to California Uniform Commercial Code Section 6106.2.  
If so subject, the name and address of the person with whom claims may be filed is: SAPHIRE ESCROW, 17100 PIONEER BLVD., SUITE 110, ARTESIA, CA 90701, and the last date for filing claims shall be OCTOBER 28, 2024, which is the business day before the sale date specified above.  
Dated: OCTOBER 1, 2024  
BUYER: SOPHANY TY AND ANNENN NOU  
2855491-PP LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS 10/11/24

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE**

(UCC Sec. 6105)  
Escrow No. 240464-SP  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a bulk sale is about to be made. The name(s), business address(es) to the Seller(s) are: LET ME SEA, INC, 17901 PIONEER BLVD. STE C, ARTESIA, CA 90701  
Doing Business as: LETS SEA BAG N ROLL  
All other business name(s) and address(es) used by the Seller(s) within three years, as stated by the Seller(s), is/are:  
The name(s) and address of the Buyer(s) is/are: EL REY MAGPAYO, 17901 PIONEER BLVD. STE C, ARTESIA, CA 90701  
The assets to be sold are described in general as: ALL STOCK IN TRADE, FIXTURES, EQUIPMENT, GOODWILL, TRADENAME, LEASE, LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS, AND COVENANT NOT TO COMPETE and are located at: 17901 PIONEER BLVD. STE C, ARTESIA, CA 90701  
The bulk sale is intended to be consummated at the office of: TEAM ESCROW BP, INC, 6025 BEACH BLVD, BUENA PARK, CA 90621 and the anticipated sale date is OCTOBER 30, 2024  
The bulk sale is subject to California Uniform Commercial Code Section 6106.2.  
[If the sale is subject to Sec. 6106.2, the following information must be provided.] The name and address of the person with whom claims may be filed is: TEAM ESCROW BP, INC, 6025 BEACH BLVD, BUENA PARK, CA 90621 and the last date for filing claims shall be OCTOBER 29, 2024, which is the business day before the sale date specified above.  
BUYER: EL REY MAGPAYO  
ORD-2854921 LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS 10/11/24



**PUZZLE SOLUTION: FINANCE**

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**CITY OF CERRITOS, NOTICE TO BIDDERS, Project Identification: GRIDLEY PARK PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT/RESURFACING, PROJECT NO. 25103, BID NO. 1554-24. Project Description:** The work or improvement to be performed generally consists of providing all labor, material, tools and equipment necessary to remove existing playground equipment, install new playground equipment, remove existing rubberized surface and install new rubberized playground surfacing at Gridley Park and other items as specified in the Bid Sheet. Gridley Park is located at 19734 Gridley Road in the City of Cerritos. The play equipment installer shall be a certified installer of Game Time Playground Equipment. **Bids must be received on or before: 11:00 A.M., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2024. Place of bid receipt:** Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, First Floor, Cerritos, California 90703. Bids must be marked: **"GRIDLEY PARK PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT/RESURFACING, PROJECT NO. 25103, BID NO. 1554-24."** It is the responsibility of the bidder to ensure that the bid is received in the appropriate location by the deadline. Bids not received in the Office of the City Clerk by the deadline provided will not be considered. All bids shall be made on the form furnished by the City and shall be opened and publicly read aloud at the above-stated time in the Office of the City Clerk of the City of Cerritos, City Hall. Any requests for information regarding opened bids shall be directed to the Office of the City Clerk via a formal Public Records Act request. The City has determined that opened bids are confidential and therefore the negotiations process outweighs the public interest in prematurely disclosing such records (Gov. Code § 7922.000). **Obtaining Contract Documents:** A set of Contract Documents, including plans and specifications can be obtained by contacting Cerritos Engineering Division at (562) 916-1219. Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid security referred to in the Contract Documents and by a list of proposed subcontractors. Evidence of current City Business License (applies to contractor and all subcontractors), insurance, a Performance Bond, a Labor and Material Payment Bond, and Warranty Bond, as specified in the Contract Documents, will be required prior to execution of the contract. In accordance with Public Contract Code Section 22300, the bidder who is awarded the contract may substitute securities for retention money withheld by a public agency to ensure performance under the contract. The procedure and requirements for substituting said securities are set forth in Public Contract Code Section 22300, which is incorporated by this reference as set forth herein. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or portions thereof, or to waive any informality or irregularity in a bid to the extent allowed by law. No bid will be accepted from a contractor who has not been licensed in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 9, Division III of the California Business and Professions Code. The contractor must possess a license of the following classification at the time the contract is awarded (and must maintain this license classification through completion of the project): **"A."** The bidder's attention is also directed to Section 7028.15 of the Business and Professions Code for further reference. Only a contractor or subcontractor who currently is registered with the California Department of Industrial Relations ("DIR") to bid on public works contracts in California, pursuant to Labor Code Section 1725.5, shall be permitted to submit or be listed on a bid. No bid shall be accepted, nor any contract or subcontract entered into, without proof of the contractor or subcontractor's current registration to perform public work pursuant to Labor Code Section 1725.5. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 1770, et seq., of the California Labor Code, the DIR has determined the general prevailing rate of wages and employer payments for health and welfare, vacations, pensions and similar proposes applicable to the work to be done. These rates shall be the minimum rates for this project. Copies of the prevailing wage rates are on file at City Hall, located at 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, California, 90703, and shall be available to any interested party upon request. In addition, rates may be obtained by visiting <http://www.dir.ca.gov/OPRL/pwd/>, calling the DIR, Division of Labor Statistics and Research's Prevailing Wage Unit at (415) 703-4774, faxing the Prevailing Wage Unit at (415) 703-4771 or writing to DIR, Division of Labor Statistics and Research, Prevailing Wage Unit, P.O. Box 420603, San Francisco, CA, 94142. The contractor to whom the contract is awarded, and the subcontractors under him, must pay not less than these rates for this area to all workers employed in the execution of the contract. The bidder's attention is further directed to Section 9204 of the Public Contract Code regarding the claims resolution process for all public works projects. Any dispute or claim against the City under a public works project shall be processed in accordance with Section 9204 of the Public Contract Code and any other applicable law. On March 4, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-6-22 (EO) regarding sanctions in response to Russian aggression in Ukraine. The EO is located at <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/3.4.22-Russia-Ukraine-Executive-Order.pdf>. All contractors shall comply with economic sanctions imposed in response to Russia's actions in Ukraine, per this order and other federal executive orders identified by the U.S. Department of Treasury. Failure to comply with these orders shall result in the termination of contract. By order of the City of Cerritos.

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 10/11/24

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:**  
 BARBARA MCKINNEY  
 CASE NO. 24STPB09283  
 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of BARBARA MCKINNEY.  
 A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by IVAN FREEMAN in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.  
 THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that IVAN FREEMAN be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.  
 THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.  
 THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.)  
 The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
 A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 10/30/24 at 8:30AM in Dept. 2D 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  
 FRANK O. FOX - SBN 117780  
 THE LAW FIRM OF FOX AND FOX  
 4262 WILSHIRE BLVD THIRD FLR  
 LOS ANGELES CA 90010-3505  
 Telephone (323) 937-4422  
 9/27, 10/4, 10/11/24  
 CNS-3853876#  
 LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**NOTICIA PARA UNA AUDIENCIA PUBLICA**

**CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS PLANNING COMMISSION**

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

<b>HEARING BODY:</b>	Planning Commission
<b>DATE OF HEARING:</b>	October 16, 2024
<b>TIME OF HEARING:</b>	6:00 P.M., or soon thereafter.
<b>LOCATION OF HEARING:</b>	City Council Chambers 21815 Pioneer Boulevard Hawaiian Gardens, CA 90716

**PUBLIC HEARING: Case No. PLNG2024-0082.** The Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing to review an amendment to Section 18.90.080 of the Hawaiian Gardens Municipal Code to comply with new limits on local authority to regulate Accessory Dwelling Units ("ADUs") and Junior Accessory Dwelling Units ("JADUs"), and make minor revisions as requested by the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

**INVITATION TO BE HEARD**

Those who wish to testify in favor of or in opposition to the item listed above will have an opportunity to do so at the public hearing. If you challenge the above-listed 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 submitted to the Planning Commission at, or prior to the public hearing.

Elise McCaleb, Community Development Director

Published: 10/04/2024

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 10/11/24

**CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS**  
**NOTICE OF NOMINEES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the following persons have been nominated for the offices designated to be filled at the General Municipal Election to be held in the City of Hawaiian Gardens on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

<b>For Member of the City Council</b>	Vote for no more than <b>Two</b>
Victor Farfan	
Jesus Mendoza	
Jesse Alvarado	
Ernie Vargas	

Pablo Rubio, City Clerk

Posted: October 10, 2024  
 Published: October 11, 2024  
 Los Cerritos Community News

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 10/11/24

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:**  
 ROBERT L. CHERRY  
 CASE NO. 24STPB10397  
 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of ROBERT L. CHERRY.  
 A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by BRANDY DICKSON in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.  
 THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that BRANDY DICKSON 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: 10/24/24 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  
 ANDREA E. HAMUD - SBN 268993  
 HAMUD LAW GROUP, APC  
 100 SPECTRUM CENTER DR. SUITE 900  
 IRVINE CA 92618  
 Telephone (949) 812-4821  
 BSC 225779  
 9/27, 10/4, 10/11/24  
 CNS-3854356#  
 LA MIRADA LAMPLIGHTER

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE**  
 (Division 6 of the Commercial Code)  
 Escrow No. 001447-JK  
 (1) Notice is hereby given to creditors of the within named Seller(s) that a bulk sale is about to be made on personal property hereinafter described  
 (2) The name and business addresses of the seller are: POLARIS DENTAL LAB GROUP, INC., 16737 PARKSIDE AVE, CERRITOS, CA 90703  
 (3) The location in California of the chief executive office of the Seller is: SAME  
 (4) The names and business address of the Buyer(s) are: CKEJ GROUP INC, 16737 PARKSIDE AVE, CERRITOS, CA 90703  
 (5) The location and general description of the assets to be sold are: FURNITURE, FIXTURE AND EQUIPMENT, COVENANT NOT TO COMPETE, GOODWILL, TRADE-NAME, LEASE AND LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS of that certain business located at: 16737 PARKSIDE AVE, CERRITOS, CA 90703  
 (6) The business name used by the seller(s) at said location is: POLARIS DENTAL LAB GROUP  
 (7) The anticipated date of the bulk sale is OCTOBER 29, 2024 at the office of: ETECH ESCROW CO., 6301 BEACH BLVD., #315 BUENA PARK, CA 90621, Escrow No. 001447-JK, Escrow Officer: JUNE KIM  
 (8) Claims may be filed with Same as "7" above  
 (9) The last date for filing claims is: OCTOBER 28, 2024.  
 (10) This Bulk Sale is subject to Section 6106.2 of the Uniform Commercial Code.  
 (11) As listed by the Seller, all other business names and addresses used by the Seller within three years before the date such list was sent or delivered to the Buyer are: NONE.  
 DATED: SEPTEMBER 26, 2024  
 TRANSFEREES: CKEJ GROUP INC, A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION  
 2859060-PP LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS 10/11/24





# ARTESIA CEMETERY

# DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

## MOVIE NIGHT



**Kids Art Activity**

**Costume Contest  
(12 & Under)**

**Bring Lawn Chair**

**Food By  
Mr. Rosewood**

**Saturday  
November 2  
2024**

**5 - 9 PM**

**Program @ 6pm  
Movie Starts @  
6:30pm**



LA COUNTY SUPERVISOR

**JANICE HAHN**

**SPONSORED BY**  
**Artesia Cemetery**  
1142 Artesia Blvd.  
Cerritos, CA 90703  
562-865-6300



**FREE ENTRANCE & FREE PARKING**  
Park next door @ Amberwood Business Park

