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COUNCILWOMAN SWORN IN AT LA MIRADA CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DISTRICT 2: Michelle Velasquez Bean received the highest number of votes and will now serve as the new representative for Council District 2. Ms. Velasquez Bean was sworn in as La Mirada's newest Councilmember at the regular Council meeting held on December 10. Also serving on La Mirada City Council are (l-r) Councilmember Anthony Otero, Mayor John Lewis, Ms. Velasquez Bean, Mayor pro tem Ed Eng and Councilmember Steve De Ruse. Photo courtesy City of La Mirada.

Los Angeles Controller Audit Slams Los Angeles Homeless Services

LCCN Staff Report

One in four city-funded shelter beds went unused between 2019-2023, costing Los Angeles taxpayers over \$218 million, City Controller Kenneth Mejia announced this past Tuesday.

Mejia's office released the findings of an audit evaluating the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's performance in transitioning people from interim to permanent housing. In that span of five years, only one in five interim shelter residents were placed into permanent housing, while more

than half returned to homelessness or unknown outcomes, data showed.

"This is unjustifiable, especially given that there's a massive bed shortage," Mejia said in a statement. "Any bed that goes unfilled means an unsheltered person living on the streets is waiting longer than they need to move into a safer space and begin their path to permanent housing."

Officials have cited several challenges preventing homeless residents from acquiring permanent housing. Mejia noted that when a person receives a voucher or subsidy to secure permanent

housing, they often face discrimination that makes it harder for them to get a lease.

"Local lawmakers should pass legislation that would prevent landlords from requiring credit checks for people using vouchers or subsidies — this is something that has already been proposed at the state level but has not been implemented," Mejia continued. "It would eliminate an unnecessary barrier to permanent housing."

Zach Seidl, spokesman for Mayor Karen Bass, said in an email to City News Service the issues raised in the audit were serious, "which is why when the mayor and her team identified them two years ago, we took urgent action that has now resulted in yesterday's announcement that permanent housing move-ins have doubled compared to the year before she was sworn in, and thousands more have entered interim housing than the year before."

"That is why the mayor ran for office — to fix a system we know

[See **AUDIT**, page 15]

UNUSED: One-in-four beds went unused in city-funded shelters like the Weingart Center, left.



Cerritos Mayor Solanki and Mayor Pro Tem Chuong Vo Withdraw From 2025 Election

No reason from Vo, who blows off yet another Mayor stint. Solanki wants to "spend more time with family."

BREAKING: Former Mayor Mark Pulido will run.

By Brian Hews

Los Cerritos Community News has learned that Cerritos Mayor Naresh Solanki and Mayor Pro Tem Chuong Vo have withdrawn from the City's March 2025 City Council election, throwing the upcoming contest into a real competition where three seats will now be open.

The revelation will be particularly insulting to Cerritos residents who had to watch helplessly as Solanki, Vo, and Bruce Barrows, who was appointed, not elected, voted

3-2 in 2023 to extend their City Council terms one year.

At the time, current Cerritos Councilman Frank Yokoyama blasted Solanki, Vo, and Barrows in an exclusive statement to LCCN, "The three Republican councilmembers, including appointed Councilmember Barrows, selfishly extended their City Council terms almost one year. I voted no. I see no meaningful benefit to Cerritos residents. There is no legal reason for changing the City Council election date. Rather, this election date change lowers voter turnout and increases wasteful spending of taxpayers' dollars. This is simply petty partisan, self-serving Republican election manipulation."

The process to move the election from March 2024 to March 2025 was full of hastily

[See **ELECTION**, page 13]

Pico Rivera Approves Whittier Blvd. Vision Plan



VISION: The Plan intends to take a more comprehensive approach to the corridor's transformation from east to west and build upon existing planning efforts while introducing new strategies to promote affordable housing, create more public spaces, and foster local economic growth by supporting small businesses.

By Brian Hews

At its recent City Council meeting, the Pico Rivera City Council made a significant decision voting to approve the Historic Whittier Boulevard Vision Plan [HWB Vision Plan] which will guide the long-term development and transformation of Whittier Boulevard.

El Camino Real, or the King's Highway, Whittier Boulevard is a major east/west thoroughfare from the Brea to Los Angeles. In between those two cities, approximately a mile and a half of Whittier Boulevards lies within the City limits of Pico Rivera.

For decades, Whittier Bou-

[See **PICO RIVERA**, page 15]

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Pico Rivera Appoints Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem



REORGANIZATION: Mayor John R. Garcia (right) and Mayor Pro Tem Gustavo Camacho at the city’s reorganization event. Courtesy Pico Rivera.

Staff Report

Pico Rivera announced the appointment of John R. Garcia as the new Mayor following the annual reorganization of the City Council.

In a unanimous decision by the City Council, Garcia was selected to lead the city as Mayor, taking over the responsibilities of the office. Mayor Garcia brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to public service to his new role.

“I am deeply honored to assume the role of Mayor for the coming year, and I thank my fellow council members for their trust and support,” said Mayor Garcia. Together, we have an incredible opportunity to impact our city meaningfully.

Assuming the role of Mayor Pro Tem is Gustavo Camacho. As a 15-year veteran of the city council and a lifelong resident of Pico Rivera, Camacho has dedicated his life to service to his community through extensive volunteerism, youth coaching, assisting veterans, and serving on numerous boards and commissions over the last two decades.

“I am deeply honored to be appointed Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Pico Rivera,” said Camacho. “This role represents an incredible opportunity to serve our vibrant community with dedication, integrity, and a shared vision for a brighter future. Together, we will continue to build upon our city’s strengths, address our challenges, and create a place where all residents can thrive.”

New Lakewood Water Treatment Plant Opened



THE LAKEWOOD CITY COUNCIL and staff at the water treatment opening. Front row (l-r) Councilman Jeff Wood, Vice Mayor Cassandra Chase, Mayor Todd Rogers, and Councilmembers Steve Croft and David Arellano.

By Brian Hews

Lakewood City Council members recently joined city Water Department staff in celebrating the opening of a new water treatment plant on Palo Verde Avenue just north of Del Amo Boulevard.

Drinking water in California is routinely treated and disinfected to be safe after being pumped from the ground and before being sent to households for consumption.

The new Lakewood water treatment plant system allows the city to produce up to 1.3 million gallons of water per day from a well that pumps water from aquifers immediately below Lakewood.

Some common methods of treating water are: filtration which removes sediments, sand, and particulates that may

be suspended in groundwater. Chemical Treatment: which includes disinfection using chlorine or chloramines to kill bacteria, viruses, and other pathogens and pH adjustment using lime or soda ash to prevent corrosion in pipelines.

Advanced treatments like activated alumina, reverse osmosis, or coagulation and filtration are used for arsenic.

Lakewood gets all of its drinking water from aquifers beneath the city, instead of having to buy expensive imported water from the Colorado River or Northern California. The city has invested regularly in its water infrastructure, like this water treatment plant, so its water system can continue to provide customers with safe and secure, locally-sourced water at some of the lowest prices in the region.

FROM THE CITY OF PICO RIVERA

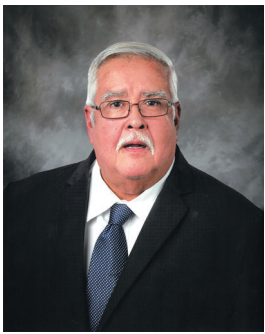
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Norwalk Council Selects Mayor and Vice-Mayor



MAYOR Tony Ayala and Vice Mayor Jennifer Perez were unanimously selected by colleagues to carry out one year mayor and vice mayor roles,

LCCN Staff Report

This past Tuesday, December 10, the Norwalk City Council held its City Council Reorganization and by a unanimous vote, Councilmember Tony Ayala was selected as the new mayor and Councilmember Jennifer Perez was selected as the vice mayor. They will respectively serve these roles for one year.

"I am honored by the support from Vice Mayor Perez and Councilmembers as we strengthen the safety net for families this next year," said Mayor Ayala.

"The City Council will address the frequent challenges faced by many multigenerational Norwalk households, such as childcare assistance, employment support for working-age residents and nutrition services for seniors. Norwalk has done a fantastic job building a strong economic foundation — now it's time to ensure families are part of Norwalk's growth."

Mayor Ayala was first elected to the City Council in 2017. He has served as Vice Mayor in 2020 and 2023.

Vice Mayor Perez was first elected to the City Council in 2017. She served as Mayor in 2018 and 2020.

Cerritos Overnight Parking Restrictions Eased for Holidays

Out-of-town guests visiting family and friends in Cerritos for the holidays are welcome to park overnight on Cerritos streets without a permit during the City's annual holiday parking moratorium.

No parking permit will be required from Saturday, December 7 through Monday, January 6 for the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays.

Permits are normally required to park on City streets between 3 and 5 a.m. to help keep streets clear and allow residents and deputies to quickly spot suspicious vehicles.

Overnight parking permit renewals are taking place now.

For more information, call the Community Safety Division at (562) 916-1266.



@cerritosnews

Cerritos Nomination Period Closes, Former Mayor Mark Pulido Will Run

By Brian Hews

With yesterday's close of the official Candidate Nomination Period, Cerritos has qualified all candidates who will be listed on the March 4, 2025 ballot.



Mark Pulido

There are ten (10) total candidates. The list of candidates are in ballot order, which was determined yesterday by the Secretary of State's randomized alphabet drawing, is as follows:

- Adrian Ayub
- Jennifer Hong
- Hao (Ricky) Huynh
- Esther Hwang
- Riaz Surti
- Mark E. Pulido
- Rocky Pavone
- (Pat) Ashok Patnaik
- "JC" Jignesh Chokshi
- Sophia Tse

Central Basin Attorney and Directors Want to Retain Search Firm to Hire Yet Another Crony GM

By Brian Hews

Central Basin (CB) General Manager Elaine Jeng may not be the tool some CB Directors want her to be, or maybe she was not properly vetted by then-President Michael Gumatieri and VP Juan Garza when she was hired earlier this year.

At yesterday's meeting, Central Basin's Administrative and Finance Committee (AF), whose members are Juan Garza, Jim Crawford, and Nem Ochoa, will, under the advice of CB attorney Victor Ponto, consider the implementation of a lengthy and expensive search for a new General Manager.

The AF agenda item reads, "The Central Basin Municipal Water District Board of Directors placed its General Manager on administrative leave in February 2024. On November 1, 2024, the Board terminated the employment with General Manager Alex Rojas and directed the General Counsel to commence the effort to recruit for a General Manager using the services of a professional search firm." [sic]

The agenda item failed to mention that the November 1 firing of Rojas violated both a 2015 California State Audit Mandate and Central Basin's Administrative Code.

The Audit mandated that if the Board wanted to fire the CB GM, it needed six votes. Rojas's personal employment con-

tract also mandated a 7/8 vote of the Board, which is also six given the current board configuration.

Yet only four CB Directors were present at the November 1 meeting, and two of them were recently appointed, Golden State Water GM Nem Ochoa and Vernon Civil Engineer Joanna Moreno; and both knew about the audit mandate and Rojas's employment contract along with Juan Garza and Martha Camacho-Rodriguez who also voted to fire Rojas.

Ponto proposed "the scope of work for the professional search firm," a costly proposition given that a search firm charges upward of \$100,000 plus a percentage of the negotiated salary of the person hired.

Ponto "advises" that a Request for Proposal be released on December 17, 2024, with a submission deadline of January 17, 2025, and hiring of the search firm by January 27, 2025.

The AF Committee cannot vote to hire a search firm; it only recommends a course of action to the CB Board. The item is then voted on and must be passed by a majority, currently four votes.

Sources are telling LCCN that Director Crawford likely will not support the search, Garza and Ochoa did not return an earlier email.

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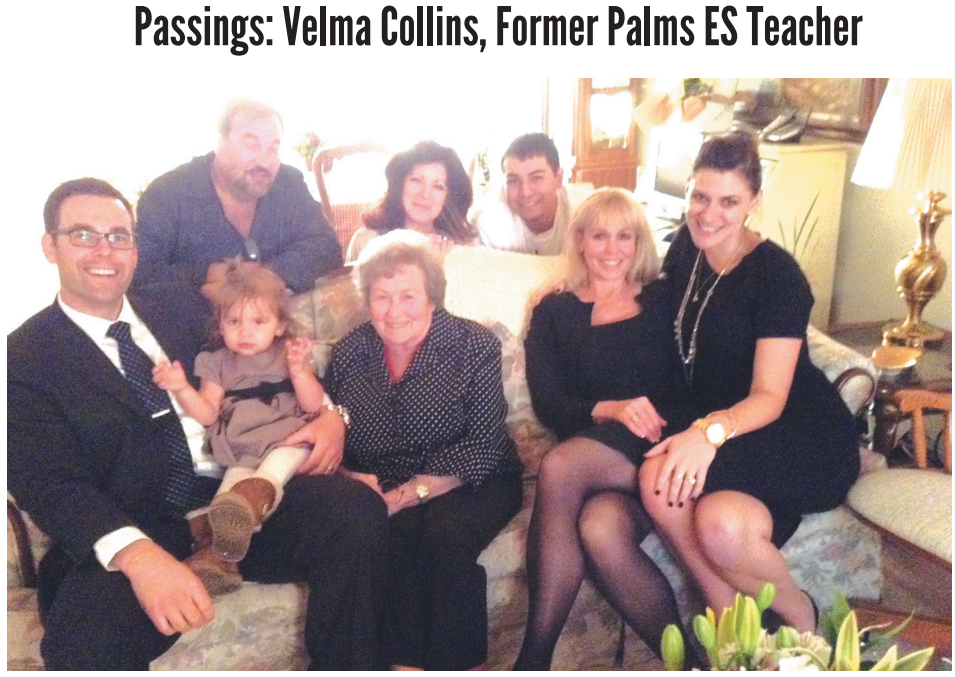
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LONGTIME ABC TEACHER: Velma Collins, center seated, was a longtime ABC Teacher at Palms Elementary. She is surrounded by her immediate and loving family here in January 2014, after the Memorial Services for her husband, Eddie. She passed away in Prescott, Arizona on December 10, 2024.

By **Linda J. Hernández**

I met Velma Collins in 1970 on my first day of teaching in ABC at Palms Elementary in East Lakewood. We immediately bonded as friends and I learned so much from her as a new first grade teacher. She was definitely a teacher's teacher and was highly admired and respected by all. Velma's husband Eddie was a principal at Melbourne and Cerritos Elementary and Tetzlaff Middle School. They were both natives of Missouri and brought Midwestern values and strong ethics with them. After many years living in the Rossmoor area, they moved to a brand new home in Laguna Niguel. They both kept in touch with their many friends in the local area. Both

were longtime members of Lakewood First Baptist Church, where Eddie was a Deacon. I always told Velma that I want to be like her when and if I ever grow up. I sincerely mean that and those who knew her have lost an excellent role model, teacher, parent, grandparent and friend. As her daughter Corinne said, "This world lost an Angel, but now God has gained a new one in Heaven." Services are tentatively scheduled for early February in Lake Forest, CA, where her beloved husband Eddie was laid to rest with Military Honors as a Veteran of World War II. Longtime local friends and family are expected, but also some from Arizona, Washington, Missouri and Tennessee.

Pico Rivera Lands Part of \$135M Grant for Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles

This week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that it has tentatively selected 13 California applicants to receive \$135.2 million total in grants to help purchase 455 zero-emission vehicles through the EPA's new Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Grant Program.

"Heavy-duty vehicle pollution contributes to dangerous air quality across the country, especially here in California," said EPA Pacific Southwest Regional Administrator Martha Guzman. "By replacing dirty heavy-duty vehicles with clean, zero-emission models, this funding will reduce air pollution, improve health outcomes in nearby communities, and advance the campaign to tackle climate change."

Included in the award was Pico Rivera, which has been tentatively selected to receive over \$762,000 to replace three diesel vehicles—a bucket truck, a vacuum truck, and a dump truck—with zero-emission models to reduce the emissions of nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, and greenhouse gases. The project will directly improve air quality for community members, decrease climate pollution, and reduce city transportation costs.

Also included was Los Angeles Unified School District's Transportation Services Division which has been tentatively selected to receive an anticipated \$20.3 million to replace 50 fossil fuel-powered school buses with zero-emission electric models and install supporting electric charging infrastructure. This project will significantly reduce emissions that contribute to poor air quality and support workforce development activities to train and recruit local community members for zero-emission technology-related jobs.

EPA's Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Grant program, created by the Inflation Reduction Act, will replace existing internal combustion engine heavy-duty vehicles nationwide with zero-emission vehicles, while also supporting the build-out of clean vehicle infrastructure as well as the training of workers to deploy these new zero-emission technologies. Together, the selected projects across the U.S. announced today will reduce harmful emissions from heavy-duty vehicles, support good-paying jobs, and improve air quality in communities across the country, particularly in those that have been disproportionately harmed by air pollution.

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Pico Rivera to Offer Program for Small Business Owners

Pico Rivera wants to help local entrepreneurs who dreamed of having or growing a business through an 8-week program for small business owners.

The City is teaming up with Asocia-cion de Emprendedor@s to host a FREE program that will cover to the basics on starting, growing and operating a business.

This course will be held in person with sessions every Wednesday from March 5 to April 23, 2025, from 5 to 7 pm at Pico Park, 9528 Beverly Boulevard. The workshops are taught exclusively in Spanish. Registration is limited to 30 people, register as soon as possible to secure your spot today. To register, call 714.640.6908.

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Armed Carjacking in Cerritos, Suspect Barricades, SWAT Called to House

By Brian Hews

Los Cerritos Community News has learned additional information about the carjacking and subsequent barricade incident that occurred in Cerritos Monday night near 183rd and Carmenita.

According to a Sheriff's spokesperson, the incident started at 7:25 PM when a Cerritos resident pulled her sedan into her driveway at her home.

A 35-year-old male suspect from Los Angeles ran up, pulled a handgun out, yelled at her to get out of the car and took her car. Shaken, the woman was still able to call Cerritos Sheriffs to report the incident; when the deputies were at her house, they got a call regarding a crash at Carmenita and the 91 freeway in Cerritos involving the woman's stolen car.

At the crash, the suspect fled the scene and attempted to hijack a second car but failed, running into the neighborhood behind the US Post Office near 183rd and Carmenita.

By then, the sheriff's helicopter was overhead and located the suspect in a backyard on the 13400 block of Elgers. The suspect ran down the street, broke a sliding glass door, and barricaded himself in the house; the owner was able to escape safely.

The deputies surrounded the house and took evacuation measures on the block. They tried to talk the suspect out of the house with no success, so the deputies



called in the Sheriff's Special Weapons and Tactics along with hostage negotiators, but the suspect refused to come out.

Finally, SWAT used a drone to look into the house, where they found the suspect in a back room. The SWAT team rushed the house and took the suspect into custody without incident.

The incident took nearly 12 hours, ending at 5 AM.

La Mirada

Dec. 2-Dec. 8, 2024

Notable Arrests

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

• Four suspects were arrested for robbery.

Robbery

• A daytime robbery occurred on the 12000 block of Santa Gertrudes Ave. Four suspects were later located and arrested.

• An afternoon robbery was reported on the 15700 block of Imperial Hwy. This incident is still under investigation.

Residential Burglary

• An afternoon burglary occurred on the 16500 block of Murphy Rd.

Vehicle Burglary

• Tools and a catalytic converter were stolen on the 14800 block of Gray-

ville Dr.

• Two vehicle burglaries were reported on the 14300 block of Firestone Blvd.

Grand Theft

• A daytime theft was reported on the 14200 block of Gannet St.

• Tires were reported stolen on the 14600 block of Jalon Rd.

• An afternoon theft occurred on the 15900 block of Imperial Hwy.

• A catalytic converter theft was reported on the 14600 block of Sunny-mead Dr.

• A catalytic converter was reported stolen on the 15500 block of Phoebe Ave.

• Copper wiring was stolen on the 13400 block of Beach Blvd.

• A theft of copper wiring was reported on the 15700 block of Imperial Hwy.

• A catalytic converter was stolen on the 14600 block of Rosecrans Ave.

• A theft of a catalytic converter occurred on the 14700 block of Firestone Blvd.

Grand Theft Auto

• A sedan was reported stolen on the 14400 block of Gardenhill Dr.

• An attempted vehicle theft was reported on the 14900 block of Barnwall St.

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Trump's First Department of Justice Spied on Congress and Journalists

During the first Trump administration, the Justice Department launched four sprawling leak investigations that ultimately targeted two Democrats in Congress, dozens of congressional staffers from both parties, and eight reporters at three national outlets, as described in a report from the top DOJ watchdog on Tuesday.

The Justice Department's inspector general found prosecutors never notified courts that they were seeking email and phone records for sitting members of Congress and their aides.

The DOJ also did not follow its own rules around spying on journalists, according to the report.

The report is a grim reminder that agency rules are ineffective to check abuses.

With Trump weeks away from returning to the White House and packing the DOJ and FBI with loyalists, the report is a grim reminder that agency rules are ineffective to check abuses, especially when the rules themselves are unclear or leave considerable discretion to individual prosecutors about whether and how they apply.

"The Inspector General's revelations are beyond disturbing," said Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., in an emailed statement. "It is particularly concerning that the Department of Justice hoodwinked a judge into signing off on secret surveillance on both Democrats and Republicans in Congress."

"As these abuses demonstrate, there are few guardrails preventing a lone prosecutor or the Attorney General, the Department of Justice or even state or local law enforcement from spying on Congress and threatening our constitutional system of checks and balances," Wyden said.

Press freedom advocates were disturbed but not surprised at the inspector general's findings. Seth Stern, advocacy director at Freedom of the Press Foundation, said Congress needs to step in and protect journalists and their sources through legislation like the PRESS Act, which has been sitting in the Senate after passing the House of Representatives unanimously in early 2024.

"We don't need to waste ink on years-late 100-page reports to confirm that the DOJ disregards these policies at its whim. We already know that," Stern told The Intercept. "We need to pass the PRESS Act."

Investigating Members of Congress

The report offers a detailed but account of four leak investigations, which were all launched in 2017 under Trump's first attorney general, Jeff Sessions, and continued under his successor, Bill Barr. They aimed to identify the leakers behind stories published by the Washington Post, CNN, and the New York Times.

Barr declined to be interviewed by the inspector general's office. But a lower DOJ official told investigators that both Sessions and Barr had "made it very clear leak investigations were a priority of the Department," per the report.

The investigations became public during the Biden administration, which set off a flurry of protest from Congress and the media. The inspector general launched a review in summer 2021.

"The Department did not charge anyone in these investigations with unauthorized disclosure of classified information, and all four of the investigations are now closed," according to the report.

The inspector general did not name the two members of Congress whose records were seized, but the report indicates both were Democrats.

Rep. Adam Schiff of California, who was chair of the House Intelligence Committee, previously acknowledged that the DOJ subpoenaed Apple for his data in 2018, as did Rep. Eric Swalwell, another Californian on the same committee. When

the subpoenas first came to light in 2021, Democrats suggested the Justice Department was targeting prominent Trump critics.

"We did not find evidence of retaliatory motivation by the career prosecutors who issued the compulsory process for records of Members of Congress and congressional staffers, or that they sought the compulsory process based on party affiliation," the report reads.

The 43 congressional staffers who came under investigation worked for both parties: 21 in Democratic positions and 20 in Republican ones, plus 2 in nonpartisan roles. Their posts included the intelligence and judiciary committees in both chambers, as well as House and Senate leadership roles.

In addition to demanding records from Apple, Google, and other service providers — for which investigators often don't need a warrant or other court order, under the federal Stored Communications Act — prosecutors also asked judges to impose gag orders that prohibited the providers from notifying the targets.

"Spying on phone records should require a court order," said Wyden, who has called for reforming U.S. surveillance laws. "Gag orders should only be issued when absolutely necessary and should not last forever. Surveillance targets should eventually be told they were surveilled."

In dozens of filings, prosecutors also did not disclose to judges that the surveillance targets were members of Congress or their staff.

Snooping on Reporters

In contrast to the dearth of rules about surveilling Congress, the DOJ has long had guidelines that, on paper, limit federal surveillance of journalists. Those rules, however, are not enforceable in court.

The Obama administration overhauled the guidelines. The updated rules typically required the DOJ to notify media in advance of any surveillance demands, so that journalists and press outlets could challenge them in court or negotiate the scope. The guidelines also required a committee of high-ranking DOJ officials to consider plans to subpoena reporters and for the attorney general to personally sign off.

Despite these changes in response to recent scandals, the Trump DOJ did not fully follow the department's guidelines, the inspector general found.

"We were troubled that these failures occurred only a few years after this overhaul," the office said in a statement accompanying the report.

In 2020, the DOJ sought records from service providers regarding a total of eight reporters at the Washington Post, CNN, and the New York Times, according to the report. Barr personally signed off on all of the record demands, as required, authorizing the Washington Post demand on his last day in office in December 2020.

But the demands for journalists' materials never went before the DOJ committee as required, the inspector general found, nor did Barr expressly authorize gag orders that DOJ sought for the subpoenas to service providers.

Rather than notifying reporters in advance that their materials were being seized, prosecutors asked Barr's permission to delay notification to all three outlets, which he granted under a provision in the DOJ guidelines regarding the "substantial threat" to the integrity of the investigations.

The Biden administration updated the DOJ guidelines again in 2022 in response to revelations about the Trump DOJ's leak investigations. But the next Trump administration can scrap those updates just as easily or simply disregard the guidelines, as happened during Trump 1.0.

Election Consequences Trump's FBI Director Has an Enemies List

17 on Kash Patel's list worked under or were appointed by Trump in his first administration.

Kash Patel, Trump's pick to lead the FBI, has a list and has threatened to come after people who are on it.

Who are these conspirators? In his 2022 book, *Government Gangsters*, Patel names them; they number 60. President Donald Trump has nominated for FBI director someone who compiled and publicized his very own enemies list.

What kind of person keeps a list of enemies? It is not unreasonable to question Patel's mental stability on these grounds alone. The most famous enemies list, you'll recall, was President Richard Nixon's, and not even Nixon's allies considered it a sign of robust mental health.

You can't fault Patel for partisanship, though. Counting conservatively, 17 percent of his list consists of people that Trump himself either appointed or nominated during his previous term.

That doesn't speak particularly well of our president-elect. How exactly did Trump happen to elevate at least 10 people to higher office who turned out to be enemies of the state?

Or maybe they're just enemies of Patel, Patel he in his enemies list two actual bosses, National Security Council Chairman John Bolton and Mark Esper.

More conventionally, Patel includes on his enemies list the last three Democratic nominees for president: Kamala Harris, President Joe Biden, and Hillary Clinton.

Patel favors legislation that allows the president to fire civil servants directly. But almost all the people on Patel's enemies list are political appointees, who by definition come and go with new administrations and are therefore more properly categorized as the Shallow State.

Maybe Patel hesitated to punch down, though such considerations didn't keep him from including 27-year-old Cassidy Hutchinson, the former assistant to Trump chief of staff Mark Meadows who gave testimony damaging to Trump before the January 6 committee. More likely, Patel is just as clueless as most Trump loyalists about what it is government employees do all day and why they do it.

No member of Congress made his enemies list, except for Senator-elect Adam Schiff and Representative Eric Swalwell. When he compiled this list, Patel knew that in a future Trump administration he might score a Cabinet or sub-Cabinet nomination requiring Senate confirmation; that obstacle course now lies before him.

Most cruelly, Patel includes in his enemies list no members of what he calls

the "fake news mafia press corps." Perhaps somebody tipped him that journalists prize such designations more highly than the Pulitzer. Patel also neglects Hollywood. Nixon included on his list Shirley MacLaine, Herb Alpert, Paul Newman, and Carol Channing, who said she considered it the highest compliment of her career.

What's Taylor Swift, chopped liver? Maybe Patel didn't want to load too many of his own names knowing that Trump was sure to have a little list of his own.

Here's Patel's list, *17 worked under or were appointed by Trump in his first administration*.

Michael Atkinson (former inspector general of the intelligence community)
Lloyd Austin (defense secretary under Biden)
Brian Auten (intelligence analyst, FBI)
James Baker (former attorney for the FBI)
Bill Barr (former Trump attorney general)
John Bolton (national security adviser Trump)
Stephen Boyd (chief legislative affairs, FBI)
Joe Biden (president of the United States)
John Brennan (former CIA director Obama)
John Carlin (acting deputy attorney general)
Eric Ciaramella (NSC Obama and Trump)
Pat Cippolone (Trump White House counsel)
James Clapper (Obama intelligence director)
Hillary Clinton
James Comey (former FBI director)
Elizabeth Dibble (deputy chief U.S. Embassy)
Mark Esper (Trump secretary of defense)
Alyssa Farah (Trump comms. director)
Evelyn Farkas (Obama asst sec. of defense)
Sarah Isgur Flores (Trump DOJ comm. dir.)
Merrick Garland
Stephanie Grisham (Trump press secretary)
Kamala Harris
Gina Haspel (CIA director under Trump)
Fiona Hill (National Security Council)
Curtis Heide (FBI agent)
Eric Holder (FBI director under Obama)
Robert Hur (investigated Joe Biden)
Cassidy Hutchinson
Nina Jankowicz (under Biden)
Lois Lerner (IRS director under Obama)
Loretta Lynch (attorney general under Obama)
Charles Kupperman (Trump security adviser)
Gen. Kenneth Mackenzie, (former commander of United States Central Command)
Andrew McCabe (Trump FBI deputy director)
Ryan McCarthy (Trump sec. of the Army)
Mary McCord (Obama assistant AG)
Denis McDonough (Obama chief of staff)
Gen. Mark Milley, retired (former chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff)
Lisa Monaco (Biden deputy attorney general)
Sally Myer (former supervisory attorney, FBI)
Robert Mueller (former FBI director)
Bruce Ohr (Trump associate deputy atty)
Nellie Ohr (former CIA employee)
Lisa Page (legal counsel at FBI under Obama)
Peat Philbin (Trump White House counsel)
John Podesta
Samatha Power (Obama UN ambassador)
Bill Priestap (Obama FBI counterintelligence)
Susan Rice (former national security adviser)
Rod Rosenstein (Trump deputy AG)
Peter Strzok
Jake Sullivan (Biden national security adviser)
Michael Sussman (DNC atty)
Miles Taylor (Trump DHS official)
Timothy Thibault (special agent, FBI)
Andrew Weissman (Atty. in Russiagate probe)
Alexander Vindman (Infantry)
Christopher Wray (Trump FBI director)
Sally Yates (former deputy AG) 8 Strategies

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Whittier Union Freshmen Experience ‘Virtual Ocean’



LA SERNA HIGH School freshmen biology students examine ocean species such as squid, sea stars, and sea urchins inside the Natural History Museum’s “An Ocean Experience” mobile museum exhibit. The museum, which simulates a submersible taking a deep-sea dive in the San Pedro Channel, allowed La Serna students to explore the Pacific Ocean and learn about the obscure yet vital organisms that live there.

WHITTIER – La Serna High School freshman biology students took their first steps as marine biologists, with a deep dive through the San Pedro Channel and observing the Pacific Ocean ecosystem, through a unique, immersive multimedia experience brought to campus by the Natural History Museum’s (NHM) “An Ocean Experience” Mobile Museum program.

Inside the mobile museum, meticulously transformed into the submersible DSV Sea Nettle to simulate a deep-sea expedition, students received a closer look at underwater species, including squids, sea turtles, sharks, shellfish, and myriad other obscure yet vital organisms that live in the ocean.

The program was brought to La Serna by biology teacher Yvonne Medina, who first saw a virtual demonstration of the museum in 2021. Although the NHM Mobile Museum is used exclusively throughout Los Angeles Unified, Medina applied for and received a grant to bring the program to Whittier Union on a pilot basis.

“By exploring Southern California’s marine biodiversity, we hope to inspire students to engage in authentic scientific inquiry, appreciate the significance of museum collections, and consider future careers in marine science,” Medina said. “Students really enjoy these types of hands-on activities. It stimulates their interest in science and encourages collaboration.”

The NHM Mobile Museum staged 12 virtual deep-sea dives over two weeks for La Serna College Prep and Honors freshmen biology students. Medina hopes to expand the experience to all freshmen biology students for the 2025-26 school year.

To prepare for the Ocean Experience program, students engaged in fieldwork that simulated the real-world experiences of a marine biologist, asking open-ended questions, and then exploring complex

ideas to support their conclusions with evidence.

“The Ocean Experience program challenges students to develop original, open-ended scientific inquiries based on their direct observations,” Medina said.

For La Serna freshman Genevieve Connlee, the virtual tour and classroom lesson were eye-openers.

Connlee said she was fascinated by the diversity of ocean creatures, eager to touch the marine animals held in specimen jars, and wowed by the fact that a baby whale’s ribs are as big as her entire body.

“The mobile museum was a really fun experience,” Connlee said. “I am interested in a career in marine biology, either as a mycologist or a toxicologist. I think learning about the different types of mushrooms and the different types of poisons is cool.”

Also included inside the mobile museum was an “Investigation Station,” which included dozens of specimen jars of ocean species the students were allowed to examine and handle, including the hagfish, a slimy eellike fish that is the only known animal to have a skull but no spine, and can absorb organic matter through its skin and gills.

The NHM Ocean Experience also included a classroom lab section, where students got an introductory lesson on biology research and learned about taxonomy (the study of naming organisms) and the difference between vertebrates and invertebrates. “The Mobile Museum is an amazing and impressive learning experience. NHM staff are friendly, knowledgeable, and connect well with our students,” La Serna Principal Griselda Castro said. “Thank you to Yvonne Medina for all her hard work in bringing this innovative and exciting program to La Serna. We look forward to seeing it again next year.”

Santa’s Holiday Workshop at Miller Children’s & Women’s Hospital



THE HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY team at Miller Children’s & Women’s brought the holiday magic as Santa’s Elves, hosting a festive booth filled with holiday stickers, fun prizes, and plenty of cheerful smiles for patients and families.

On Friday, Dec. 6, MemorialCare Miller Children’s & Women’s Hospital Long Beach transformed its auditorium into a festive “Santa’s Workshop,” bringing holiday cheer to hospitalized children. The event offered a morning filled with joy as patients and their families explored holiday-themed booths to collect toys and gifts. Special guests – including the Avengers, Star Wars characters, and cheerful snowmen – added excitement and magic to the celebration. All made possible due to the generosity of hospital staff, Turner Construction, and community organizations.

Santa Claus himself joined in the festivities, spreading warmth and cheer by listening to children’s wish lists and joyfully handing out presents, brightening spirits throughout the hospital.

By engaging in festive holiday activities, patients experience a sense of normal-

cy, emotional uplift, and the simple joys of being a child.

“Santa’s Workshop is one of the most magical events we host each year,” says Rita Goshert, director, Chere Mari Laulhere Child Life Program, MemorialCare Miller Children’s & Women’s Hospital Long Beach. “Many of our patients miss out on holiday traditions because they’re in the hospital, so we bring the holiday spirit to them.”

The Chere Mari Laulhere Child Life Program at Miller Children’s & Women’s Hospital was developed to help make the hospital experience more positive for children of all ages. Child Life Specialists help to cultivate an environment for patients and families that is fun, engaging and child-friendly – especially during the holiday season. Santa’s Workshop is made possible by Turner Construction.

Happy Holidays

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Artesia Cemetery

La Mirada Recognizes Library Bookmark Contest Winners



LA MIRADA MAYOR John Lewis pictured with third grade winner Abbie Ginsberg from Eastwood Elementary School.

The La Mirada branch of the LA County Library recently held its 45th annual bookmark contest.

Representatives from the La Mirada Arts Colony, the Friends of the La Mirada Library, and La Mirada City staff served as judges.

The winners of the contest have advanced to the County Library's system-wide contest. The Board of Supervisors will announce the Grand Prize winners from each District in February. The Grand Prize bookmark will be published on the County Library's website.

The following winners were selected among hundreds of entries:

- Kindergarten – 2nd Grade:**
Ayla Alberga – 1st grade, La Pluma Elementary School
- 3rd – 5th Grade:**
Abbie Ginsberg – 3rd grade, Eastwood Elementary School
- 6th – 8th Grade:**
Catherine Yee – 8th grade, iLead Exploration
- 9th – 12th Grade:**
Kimberly Uriarte – 9th grade, California High School

La Palma Moving on Median Island Projects



THE PROJECTS are along Walker Street, between Orangethorpe Avenue and Bransford Drive; Moody Street, between Houston Avenue and Crescent Avenue and La Palma Avenue, between Denni Street and Valley View Street.

Staff Report

The La Palma City Council approved additional funding for the Various Median Island Project, slated for completion in February 2025, at its December 10, 2024, Regular Meeting.

The additional funds will cover the installation of a river rock bed, additional concrete "sleeves" between median islands, as well as contingency funds for unforeseen expenses that may arise during the final construction phase. The delay in the project and subsequent

funding reallocation, was due in part to a discrepancy in the project documents that addressed the purchase and installation of the river rock bed. Other issues arose during the project — which is common for large street projects — that were covered by the contingency budget authorized by the City when the contract was signed in early 2024.

The projects are along Walker Street, between Orangethorpe Avenue and Bransford Drive; Moody Street, between Houston Avenue and Crescent Avenue and La Palma Avenue, between Denni Street and Valley View Street.

For more information and updates please visit:
cityoflapalma.org/198/Street-Medians



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Artesia Cemetery District Hosts its First Annual Heroes' Holiday Tribute for Veterans

The Artesia Cemetery District will hold its inaugural Heroes' Holiday Tribute for Our Veterans, a community event to honor the sacrifices of our nation's veterans and their families during the holiday season. The event will be held at the Artesia Cemetery in Cerritos, and is expected to draw participation from local veterans, organizations, community members, students, and elected officials.

This program is designed to provide a moment of reflection and gratitude, reminding us of all of the service and sacrifices made by those who protect our freedoms. The event serves as a gesture of appreciation to our nation's fallen heroes while fostering a deeper understanding among the younger generation about the enduring value of freedom and the costs associated with it.

"Our goal is to ensure that the individuals who have served to protect our nation's liberties are never forgotten," said Mike Laughin, Chair of the Artesia Cemetery Board of Trustees. "This event is an opportunity for the community to come together in patriotic commemoration, to honor the fallen, and to teach future generations about the true meaning of freedom."

The Artesia Cemetery District remains committed to creating opportunities for remembrance and education. The Heroes' Holiday Tribute reflects a broader mission of connecting the community through acts of patriotism and gratitude. The event marks a new chapter in the cemetery's efforts to honor veterans and build community awareness of their legacy. The Artesia Cemetery District invites all to join in this poignant tribute to those who have given so much for our nation.

MAKE YOUR HOLIDAY MEALS POP WITH POMEGRANATES

By Melinda Myers

(BPT) - Are you planning your menu for an upcoming holiday dinner? There are so many recipes to choose from when deciding on the main dish, sides and desserts.

This year, make your holiday dinner pop by adding pomegranates to your holiday menu. These ruby-like seeds are eye-catching and add a juicy sweetness to any dish.

Why pomegranates?

California-grown pomegranates are harvested from October to January. The season may be short, but it's oh-so-sweet, just like the fruit. Because the pomegranate season is perfectly aligned with the holidays, there's no shortage of festive ideas to make snack time and recipes pop with color, flavor and nutrition.

Best of all? Pomegranates are high in vitamin C and potassium, a great source of fiber and low in calories. If you have wellness goals this holiday season, eating pomegranates can help! Pomegranates are chock full of vitamin C, polyphenols, potassium and other necessary nutrients.

How to incorporate pomegranates into holiday meals

So, how can you incorporate pomegranates into your holiday meals? The possibilities are practically endless.

"From a gorgeous cheese platter to a holiday ham, the pomegranate's bright, juicy, red arils elevate any dish. Not to mention, they make a fabulous centerpiece!" said Tara "Teaspoon" Bench. Tara served as the former food editor of Martha Stewart Living, and knows a thing or two about creating show-stop-



YUMMY GOODNESS: Baked ham with pomegranate glaze is a crowd pleaser.

ping holiday meals.

To celebrate the season, Bench has partnered with the Pomegranate Council to help you create a holiday dish that will have your friends and family asking for seconds. Check out her recipe for baked ham with pomegranate glaze that features these stunning ruby red fruits.

Baked Ham with Pomegranate Glaze

Garnish your holiday ham with a burst

of freshness using vibrant pomegranate arils! Whether it's Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's or Sunday dinner, this ham is sure to impress with a sweet pomegranate glaze.

Prep time: 30 minutes; Cook time: 2 hours 15 minutes; Yield: 12-16 servings

Ingredients

- 1 (7-pound) bone-in, spiral-cut smoked ham
- 1/2 cup low-sodium chicken broth

- 2 cups 100% pomegranate juice (divided)
- 2/3 cup light brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 cup pomegranate arils
- Herbs for garnish (if desired)

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 325°F. Place ham in a large roasting pan and pour in chicken broth along with 1/2 cup of pomegranate juice.
 2. In a medium saucepan, bring remaining 1 1/2 cups of pomegranate juice, brown sugar and lemon juice to boil over medium-high heat. Lower heat and let mixture simmer until it slightly thickens, about 10 minutes.
 3. Stir in mustard and ginger and continue simmering until sauce reduces to about 1 cup, approximately 5 more minutes.
 4. Pour half of glaze over ham, cover with foil and roast for 1 1/2 hours, basting occasionally. Internal temperature should reach 125°F in thickest part of ham.
 5. Remove foil, brush ham with remaining glaze and roast uncovered for another 30 minutes until top is lightly caramelized.
 6. Transfer ham to cutting board and carve it off the bone. Arrange slices on a platter, garnish with fresh herbs and sprinkle with pomegranate arils.
 7. If desired, pour pan juices into a bowl to serve alongside ham. Leftover ham can be kept in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to one week.
- Want to know more about pomegranates and how to incorporate them into your holiday meals? Visit www.Pomegranates.org or www.TaraTeaspoon.com.



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GIRLS BASKETBALL

La Mirada Unable to Cash in on Free Throws, Layups as Matadores Fall to Oxford Academy

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on X

CYPRESS-It's been an unexpected slow start to the season for the La Mirada High girls basketball team, especially coming off last season's historic 22-7 campaign. But when the Matadores visited Oxford Academy last Friday, a second half collapse was just one component in a 31-25 loss.

In any game, a six-point loss hurts even more when you shoot 15 percent from the field, and you miss 12 free throws. On top of that, La Mirada went scoreless for 6:09 from late in the third quarter to just past the midway part of the fourth quarter.

"I told the girls after the game it was completely based off...we missed a lot of shots right under the basket; easy points, and free throws," said La Mirada head coach Victoria Luong. "Free throws alone would have made the difference in this game."

Neither team led by more than two points in the first quarter as there were three ties and a pair of lead changes. To make matters worse, the Matadores turned the ball over four times within the first two minutes of the game. But with 5:21 left in the half, an offensive putback from senior Simran Sahota gave the visitors a 12-9 lead. However, they managed to make one basket the remainder of the half, and that didn't come until sophomore Jordin Shaw's steal and subsequent basket made it 14-13. That lead lasted 20 seconds as Emma Noble gave her team a 16-14 half-time lead.

La Mirada shot four of 22 from the field

in the first half, connected on six of 13 free throws, turned the ball over 18 times, but had 18 rebounds and eight steals in the first 16 minutes. In addition, it led for 5:34 in the half compared to the Patriots having a lead for six and a half minutes.

It was more of the same in the second half as Shaw scored the first points of the half over two minutes in to put La Mirada in front for the seventh time in the

throws to end the scoring for the third quarter with 1:48 remaining. La Mirada wouldn't score again until there was 3:13 left in the contest as Sahota hit the team's last basket and Shaw added a free throw, making the score 26-25.

"I tell the kids a lot of times it's a mental game," said Luong. "And they get into their own heads when we're down, even by two points...they have to play every

team has lost four of its last five games after an opening-season, five-point win over Pacifica High. La Mirada's other win was on Dec. 4 against Costa Mesa High, a 55-53 decision. To go even further, none of the nine seniors have scored more than 12 points in any game while Shaw scored 21 points against Costa Mesa. After Arreguin, Gonzalez and Shaw, the scoring drops off significantly.

"I think it was just getting into the rhythm of things, and these girls have a history of it the last four years of getting adjusted and kind of starting off strong," said Luong. "It's just taking a little too long [this season], turnovers and not rebounding."

"Even though we lost only one senior last year, it was our number one shooter," she later added. "She was our biggest star, and [we] have to make sure the other girls step up to the plate, and make sure that they fill in her shoes. I know that it's not going to be one player that fills in her shoes. Everybody has to do their part to build up what we're missing."

The Matadores, who defeated Fullerton High 54-24 this past Monday, before falling to Savanna High 51-36 this past Tuesday, hope to turn around things on Friday when they visit Valley Christian High. La Mirada will also host Rancho Alamitos High on Tuesday and Gahr High on Thursday.

"The girls are more than capable; they have the skillset to do so," said Luong. "I think it's just a matter of getting their mental game on point so that they finish off what they started and stop having these ups and downs every single game."



game. Oxford Academy, which started three sophomores and two juniors, went on an 8-0 run, the longest by either team, to lead 24-17 with 2:31 remaining in the third quarter. The scoring spree was aided by consecutive three-pointers from Ashley Ventura and Chloe Chen.

But Shaw drained a trifecta of her own and senior Jael Arreguin hit a pair of free

single possession."

Shaw led the Matadores with 11 points while Arreguin added 10 points and Sahota the other four, along with 11 rebounds. Senior Emily Gonzalez also had 11 rebounds and Arreguin had five steals as the game marked the first time La Mirada had only three players in the scoring column.

The 25 points were a season-low as the

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Cerritos, Gahr, Valley Christian Football, Whitney Girls Volleyball Shine During Fall Season

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on X

There must be something brewing in the water in the City of Cerritos as all three city high school football teams had stellar 2024 seasons with one advancing to the CIF-Southern Section Division 13 championship game, one winning another 605 League title, and a third beginning the season with six straight wins. On the court, a trio of area teams battled for the final automatic playoff spot in the Gateway League while Whitney High snapped Cerritos High's supremacy in the 605 League. Here are the members of the 2024 HMG-Community News Fall All-Area Teams.

FOOTBALL

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

QB-Austin Abrahams (Valley Christian)
RB-Dikshanta Adhikari (Cerritos)
RB-Ezra Mueller (Norwalk)
WR-Ruben Castro (Cerritos)
WR-Alexander Gutierrez (Gahr)
UTL-Charlie Lopez (Artesia)
LT-Alex Duenas (Gahr)
LG-DeAngelo Tucker (Artesia)
C-Tristian Romero (Norwalk)
RG-Andre Romo (John Glenn)
RT-Isaac Morales (Valley Christian)

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

DL-Alex Duenas (Gahr)
DL-Charlie Dowlin (La Mirada)
DL-Marc Saldana (Gahr)

DB-Oliver Boateng (Valley Christian)
DB-Max Rankin (La Mirada)
DB-Ja'Shon Wallace (Gahr)
DB-Malachi Williams (Gahr)
LB-Gavin Dionne (La Mirada)
LB-Tyler Ky (Cerritos)
LB-Evan Lucena (Gahr)
LB-Isaiah Portillo (Gahr)

Maximus Garcia (Artesia)
DL-Isaac Morales (Valley Christian)
DB-Sean Bouma (Valley Christian)
DB-Devyn Chantha (Cerritos)
DB-Alexander Gutierrez (Gahr)
DB-Eduardo Ordaz (Artesia)
LB-Spencer Ammons (La Mirada)
LB-Cole Hefner (Valley Christian)
LB-Ezra Mueller (Norwalk)

HONORABLE MENTION

DEFENSE
DL-Juan Campos (Norwalk)
DL-Max Douglas (Valley Christian)
DL-Makai Ortiz (Cerritos)
DB-Austin Abrahams (Valley Christian)
DB-Drew Cobos (La Mirada)
DB-Jacob Ramirez (John Glenn)
DB-Michael Quibrantar (Cerritos)
LB-Nathaniel Crawford (Cerritos)
LB-Jacob Hoosac (Cerritos)
LB-Dylan Richburg (Gahr)
LB-DeAngelo Tucker (Artesia)

GO-OFFENSIVE PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

While the area saw one player rush for over 2,000 yards, there were a pair of players that gained over 2,000 total yards, plus more. Valley Christian High senior quarterback Austin Abrahams and Artesia High senior quarterback Charlie Lopez share this honor for their performances.

Abrahams completed 109 passes in 168 attempts for 1,688 yards and 16 touchdowns while leading the Defenders with 375 yards on the ground and another 16 touchdowns. He accounted for all but three of V.C.'s offensive touchdowns and even added

[See ALL AREA, page 12]



SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

QB-Justin Sagun (Cerritos)
RB-Diego Cerritos (Norwalk)
RB-Jordan Lauago (La Mirada)
WR-Ahkil Sampson (Artesia)
WR-Dylan Teays (Valley Christian)
UTL-Markell Slaughter (Gahr)
LT-Devion Stinson (Cerritos)
LG-Genesis Afu (La Mirada)
C-Jonathan Avendano (Cerritos)
RG-Bobby Mosqueda (Norwalk)
RT-Chidubem Ozoagu (Cerritos)

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

DL-Bailey Crawford (Cerritos) DL-

LB-Lucas Witt (Valley Christian)

HONORABLE MENTION OFFENSE

QB-Roman Acosta (Gahr)
RB-Sam Reeves (John Glenn)
RB-Josiah Ungos (Cerritos)
WR-Seth Dahlenburg (Valley Christian)
WR-Jacob Sikma (Gahr)
UTL-Lucas Witt (Valley Christian)
LT-Anthony Lemus (Norwalk)
LG-Jayden Chaverin (John Glenn)
C-Nehemiah Levu (Artesia)
RG-Cameron Frossard (Gahr)
RT-Anthony Otero (La Mirada)

Norwalk Girls Basketball Avoids Going Winless in Own Co-Hosted Tournament

The Norwalk High girls basketball team hasn't had much success in its co-hosted tournament with John Glenn High over the years. In fact, the last time the Lancers won three games in the Glenn-Norwalk Varsity Classic was 2008 when they took home the consolation championship.



Loren Kopff's News And Notes From Press Row

Norwalk began this season's tournament with three straight losses, only the fourth time since 1998 it had done that, and if it wanted to avoid going winless in the tournament for the first time since 2013, it needed to beat St. Paul High last Saturday morning. That's exactly what happened as the Lancers pulled away from the Swordsmen in the middle of the second quarter and held on for a 42-37 victory.

"I know it's a tough tournament for us, but I think we progressed quite well as a team, especially in our third game," said Norwalk head coach Ashley Baclaan. "I really liked how the girls were starting to come out and play together."

After falling behind 8-1, Norwalk scored eight straight points over the last 2:51 of the opening quarter to take its first lead. Junior Monica Ruiz, who was the team's All-Tournament representative, scored seven straight points during that stretch. Then with 6:53 left in the first half, senior Celine Zavala's first basket of the contest put Norwalk in front to stay at 13-11. About two minutes later, the co-hosts went on a 6-0 run with Zavala scoring four of those points and by now, it was 21-13.

"They started anticipating pretty well; she got that steal [and] fast break opportunities," said Baclaan. "They were starting to move more patiently with their offense, and I think that got us a couple of good buckets."

Each time St. Paul crawled back in the game, the Lancers would go on another scoring streak and when it was 26-24 early in the second half, Baclaan called a timeout to calm her team down, which it did. Norwalk would go on an 8-2 run to end the third quarter and take a 34-26 lead into the fourth quarter.

Ruiz led Norwalk with 14 points and eight rebounds and added three steals while junior Katlyn Moreno added 12 points. Zavala pitched in with seven rebounds and six points while senior Anahi Rodriguez had eight boards, five points and four steals.

Through the first seven games of the season, Norwalk hasn't had much success in the scoring department, scoring 49 and 42 points in its two wins and failing to reach 35 points in its five losses. Part of that can be attributed to the team trying to find a replacement for Keilani Ganancial, who scored nearly 21 points as a senior last season.

"I guess you can look at it as a fresh, clear board," said Baclaan. "We didn't know what to expect with one another. We're just building ourselves; trying to find our team identity. But I think, especially in this tournament, our last two games really helped and hopefully showed them that they can play intensely, and they can play together. I just hope we can keep rolling with that."

Norwalk began the tournament on Dec. 2 with a pool play loss to Cantwell-Sacred Heart of Mary High 55-30, then a 58-29 defeat to Rowland High the next day. Last Thursday, the Lancers lost to Alhambra High 45-33 but now has won two straight games following a con-

vincing 48-19 win at Samueli Academy this past Tuesday night. Moreno scored 20 points and freshman Connie Esquivel added 10 points. Norwalk travelled to Monrovia High this past Wednesday and La Quinta High on Dec. 12. It will visit Rancho Alamitos High on Friday, El Modena High on Wednesday and Costa Mesa High on Thursday.

In other Norwalk winter action, the boys basketball team had no problems with Samueli Academy in a 65-31 affair this past Tuesday. Senior Andrew Castellanos scored 13 points while senior Diego Morales added 10 points as 11 of 12 players scored at least two points. The Lancers (6-2) will go to South El Monte High on Friday, Loara High on Saturday, Garden Grove High on Tuesday and Kennedy High on Thursday.

Boys soccer has won two straight games after edging Garden Grove 2-1 this past Tuesday to move to 2-0-3 as the team hosted Bellflower High on Dec. 12 while the girls (2-2-1) entertain Workman High on Friday before facing Mountain View High and South East High on Saturday in pool play action of the Best in the West Tournament. The Lancers will also host Schurr High on Monday.

ARTESIA HIGH

Boys basketball took a 4-2 record into its Dec. 12 game at South Gate High, then the Pioneers will be off until next weekend when they will participate in the Great Desert Shootout in Phoenix where they will open against North Valley Christian Academy on Thursday.

Girls basketball has played two games, both losses, including a 53-20 setback to Glendale High this past Tuesday. The Pioneers will host Centennial High on Monday and Mayfair High on Thursday.

Boys soccer blanked Western High 4-0 this past Monday to remain unde-

feated in three games as it hosted Long Beach Wilson High on Dec. 12 while girls soccer will face Whittier High and Fairfax High in pool play action of the Best in the West Tournament on Saturday before going to Bellflower High on Wednesday.

CERRITOS HIGH

Boys basketball had its three-game winning streak snapped when it fell to Los Alamitos High 97-50 this past Monday. The Dons (3-5) went to Kennedy on Dec. 12 and will welcome Sunny Hills High on Saturday before going to city rival Gahr High on Thursday.

After a solid start to the season, the girls basketball team has lost three in a row. It started with a 48-45 loss to Corona Del Mar High on Nov. 30. The two teams met again this past Monday in the pool play action of the Segerstrom Classic where it was 39-33 followed by a 59-41 loss to Santa Margarita High the next day. Once Cerritos is done with the tournament, it will be off until Dec. 20.

Boys soccer tied Santa Fe High 2-2 last Friday to move to 3-0-1 and went to North Torrance High on Dec. 12. The Dons will travel to Bellflower on Tuesday while the girls dropped a 3-1 decision to North Torrance to remain winless in four games. They faced Gahr on Dec. 12 and will play El Toro High and Marlborough High on Saturday in the Best in the West Tournament before going to Portola High on Thursday.

GAHR HIGH

Boys basketball (3-3) opened action in the St. John Bosco Braves Winter Classic this past Wednesday against Orange Lutheran High while girls basketball lost to Palos Verdes High 58-20 this past Tuesday to fall to 4-3. The Gladiators faced Saddleback High on Dec. 12 and will host Katella High on

[See NEWS & NOTES, page 13]

ALL AREA from page 11

an interception return for a touchdown. Lopez led the Pioneers with 1,240 rushing yards and 19 touchdowns while passing for another 967 yards with seven touchdowns.

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

La Mirada High was the only area team that had a player reach 100 tackles, and the Matadores doubled that number as senior linebacker Gavin Dionne led everyone with 120 tackles, 90 by himself. He was part of a defense that averaged over 60 tackles a game. Only Gahr had more tackles, but 52 more in four more games.

COACH OF THE YEAR

In his fifth season after taking over the Gahr High football program, Greg Marshall reached the semifinals, the first in school history. Then he waited another 17 seasons before reaching a divisional championship game. Marshall guided the Gladiators to an 8-6 record, which includes a 21-17 loss to Pasadena High in the Division 13 title game. Marshall, who now owns a 109-118 record at Gahr, began this past season with three straight losses before winning five of the last six entering the Pasadena game.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL FIRST TEAM

- S-Kiersten Mahan (La Mirada)
- OH-Tessa Dobmeier (Valley Christian)
- OH-Rachel Moyher (Whitney)
- OH-Mirei Sanchez (Norwalk)
- MB-Samantha Munoz (Norwalk)
- MB-Natalie Ojeisekhoba (La Mirada)
- OPP-Brenda Quezada (Norwalk)
- DS-Gaby Colombo (Cerritos)
- LIB-Devyn Masi (Valley Christian)

SECOND TEAM

- S-Zaidee Zepeda (Norwalk)
- OH-Kyla Jones (Gahr)
- OH-Avery Updike (Cerritos)
- OH-Jordan Weston (Valley Christian)
- MB-Chiugo Anyama (Whitney)
- MB-Maleah Diaz (La Mirada)
- OPP-Sophia Fu (Whitney)
- DS-Angelyna Conde (La Mirada)
- LIB-Nayeli Sanchez (Norwalk)

THIRD TEAM

- S-Lucy Taylor (Valley Christian)
- OH-Geraldine Aiono (La Mirada)
- OH-Djulianne Goze (Artesia)
- OH-Emma Prowse (Whitney)
- MB-Jessalyn Ecevedo (Gahr)
- MB-Aubrey Ericks (Valley Christian)
- OPP-Alexis Contreras (Gahr)
- DS-Selina Haile (La Mirada)
- LIB-Averie Garrison (Artesia)

HONORABLE MENTION

- S-Janelle Sales (Whitney)
- OH-Violet Hackworth (Gahr)
- OH-Brooke Lozano (Cerritos)

- OH-Valeria Mejia (John Glenn)
- MB-Olachi Anyama (Whitney)
- MB-Sophia Toney (Cerritos)
- OPP-Ceana Merino (Cerritos)
- DS-Kaylie Prins (Valley Christian)
- LIB-Jess Aguilera (John Glenn)

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Natalie Ojeisekhoba leaves La Mirada as one of the program's best players ever to have worn a Matadores girls volleyball uniform. The 6'1" middle blocker paced the blue and gold with 346 kills, a career-high 107 digs and 65 blocks. For her career, Ojeisekhoba had 622 kills, a hitting percentage of .376, 158 blocks and 74 aces.

COACH OF THE YEAR

When Whitney began 605 League action on Sept. 12 with a four-set win over Cerritos High, it snapped a five-year, 50-match winning streak by the Dons in league action. That was one of the highlights in Mark Kato's second season as the head coach for the Wildcats. Kato guided Whitney to a 22-8 season, the first time in school history the program had recorded 20 victories. It's also the first undefeated league season since 2000 when former head coach Jerry Gregg sent that team to the quarterfinals.

CalKIDS - Money for College

CalKIDS is the children's savings account program that offers all new-borns and eligible low-income public school students in California between \$25 and \$1,500 to start saving for college and career training.

Families are encouraged to build on this investment by opening and contributing to a ScholarShare 529 account of their own and see their college savings balances all in one place.

Visit www.calkids.org today to learn more about eligibility, registering for the program, and getting started on your savings!\

ABCUSD Board Reorganization

The ABCUSD Board of Education will be busy during the December 17, 2024 meeting.

Four board members - two newly elected and two returning - will be sworn in, followed by the board's annual reorganization.

The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. in the ABCUSD District Office Board Room.

CLASSIFIED LISTINGS

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24/7: 1-855-408-6546 (Cal-SCAN) **Tiene un vehiculo no deseado?** Done-lo a Patriotic Hearts! Recogida rápida y gratuita en los 50 estados. Patriotic Hearts ofrece programas para ayudar a los veteranos a encontrar trabajo o iniciar su propio negocio. Llama ahora: 1-855-408-7368 (24/7) (Cal-SCAN)

Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-844-491-2884 today! (Cal-SCAN)

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MISCELLANEOUS

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NEWS AND NOTES from page 11

Tuesday before going to La Mirada High on Thursday.

Boys soccer improved to 5-0-1 after a 1-0 win over Paramount High this past Monday while girls soccer was on the short end of a 4-1 decision to Fullerton High this past Tuesday for its third straight loss. The Gladiators will face Dana Hills High in the first of two pool play games in the Best in the West Tournament on Saturday, then travel to Kennedy on Wednesday.

JOHN GLENN HIGH

Boys basketball even its record after six games with a 64-19 win over Nova Academy this past Tuesday and will entertain Ganesha High on Friday before going to Vista Global Academy on Tuesday.

Girls basketball began the season with five straight losses, never scoring more than 27 points in any of those

games. But now, the Eagles have won consecutive games including a 36-24 decision at La Puente High this past Monday. The Eagles will host Garden Grove on Friday and Santa Ana Valley High on Monday before going to the Seed School of Los Angeles County on Thursday.

Boys soccer (3-1-2) lost its first game of the season this past Wednesday to La Habra High in the Troy Tournament and was scheduled to face Ocean View High on Dec. 12. The Eagles will meet with Bolsa Grande High on Friday before hosting Heritage Christian High on Monday and Valley Christian High on Wednesday.

LA MIRADA HIGH

Boys basketball didn't miss a beat after a week's break since coming back from the Kevin Brown Memorial Tournament of Champions in Peoria, IL as it crushed Legacy High 105-37 this past Tuesday in the first game of the St. John Bosco Braves Winter Classic.

Boys soccer tied Troy High 1-1 this

past Monday to go to 1-2-1 and will face Cypress High on Friday as part of the Troy Tournament. The Matadores will also host Brea Olinda High on Tuesday while the girls (1-0-2) tied Sonora High 1-1 this past Tuesday and hosted Valley Christian on Dec. 12. The Matadores will face Fairmont Prep and El Camino Real High in pool play action of the Best in the West Tournament on Saturday before welcoming Fullerton on Tuesday.

VALLEY CHRISTIAN HIGH

Boys basketball lost to Wiseburn-Da Vinci High 62-40 before defeating Pacifica High 37-30 to open the V.C. Tournament this past Monday and Tuesday, respectively. The Defenders faced California Lutheran High on Dec. 12 and will host Paramount on Thursday.

Girls basketball lost to La Serna High 53-34 this past Monday to fall to 3-6 while boys soccer nipped Bolsa Grande 3-2 this past Wednesday to improve to 2-4-1. The Defenders will face La Habra on Friday and host Mayfair on

Thursday.

Girls soccer lost to Ontario Christian High 2-0 last Saturday and will travel to St. Margaret's High on Thursday.

WHITNEY HIGH

For the fifth time this season, the boys basketball team is at .500 after a 66-51 win over St. Margaret's this past Tuesday. The Wildcats (7-7) are home to Godinez High on Friday before going to Kennedy on Monday and back home on Thursday against Kennedy.

Girls basketball went up to Merced and won two of three games in the Golden Valley Tournament. The Wildcats lost to East Union High 59-53 in the championship game last Saturday, then cruised past Long Beach Wilson 64-28 this past Monday to improve to 5-3. The Wildcats will travel to Pacifica Christian/Orange County High on Friday and Monrovia Monday before facing El Segundo High on Wednesday in pool play action of the San Pedro Tournament.

ELECTION from page 1

called and questionably noticed public meetings, approved during two sparsely attended Cerritos City Council summer meetings conducted in April 2022 and July 2022.

At those meetings, the City Council staff report cited "significant operational and legal challenges due to the election's close proximity to the California presidential primary scheduled for March 5, 2024," despite the fact Cerritos' municipal election was thirty-four days later on April 9.

According to sources at the April meeting, six residents spoke and eleven sent in comments, all against the election move.

The next meeting was held at Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, a group of protesters assembled outside with signs opposing the election delay.

Despite the protesters, the motion to move the election date was made by Barrows, seconded by Solanki, then passed 3 to 2, with Vo, Barrows, and Solanki voting yes and Councilmembers Lynda Johnson and Frank Yokoyama voting no.

The approval set into motion a time-sensitive process to move the election date from 2024 to 2025, which was placed on the April 10, 2023 Special Meeting agenda, nine months after the initial July 2022 vote.

Under city and state law, the meeting to change the election date must be properly noticed, meaning the public must be given an opportunity to read the proposed changes and provide public comment, but even that process was questionable.

According to the staff report, the April 10 meeting was "properly noticed [Wednesday] April 5, 2023. Under normal circumstances, the City would also publish a "Notice of Special Meeting" in Los Cerritos Community News, which is the paper of record for the City, alerting residents of the April 10 meeting, but a notice was not published.

Instead, the staff report indicated, "the meeting notice and agenda report materials were distributed [Wednesday, April 5] to the City Council and city staff, posted on the City's website and made available at the city clerk's office. The notices were also posted at the City's designated posting location and were emailed through the City's GovDelivery system to over 1,100 subscribers."

There are nearly 50,000 residents and 16,000 homes in Cerritos.

The April 10, 2023 staff report de-

scribed in great detail the reasons and process to move the election from 2024 to 2025 but failed to mention the obvious conflict of interest that Vo, Barrows, and Solanki will financially [and politically] benefit when they vote to move the election to 2025.

It was not a certainty that one or two of them would have been reelected in 2024; Barrows was appointed and has served nearly twenty years, residents have complained saying they want someone new, and those same residents complain that Mayor Vo is seldom seen in Cerritos.

The move by Solanki, Vo, and Barrows should have been scrutinized by California's Fair Political Practices Commission and the California Secretary of State, but no one filed a complaint.

Under FPPC rules and regulations, "a public official has a disqualifying conflict of interest in a governmental decision if it is foreseeable that the decision will have a financial impact on his or her personal finances or other financial interests. In such cases, there is a risk of biased decision-making that could sacrifice the public's interest in favor of the official's private financial interests."

"To avoid actual bias or the appearance of possible improprieties," the FPPC clause stated, "the public official is prohibited from participating in the decision."

Solanki, Vo, and Barrows voted to move the election to April 10, adding another year of financial benefits paid to them by the City of Cerritos while also cashing checks as members of outside municipal committees, which amount to thousands of dollars.

Councilmember Vo wanted another year. LCCN reported that Vo was taking "cash in lieu" of his health coverage with Cerritos. Vo has health coverage with his employer, the Torrance Police, and coverage with Cerritos, but instead of declining to take the coverage from Cerritos and saving taxpayers thousands, Vo takes the cash, which is nearly \$20,000 a year.

Now, because Solanki, Vo, and Barrows adopted the ordinance, the City's election date on the first Tuesday in March of each odd-numbered year will remain the election date unless the Council adopts a subsequent ordinance.

And Solanki, Vo, Barrows, and the minority Republican voting bloc are attempting to make the odd-year-low-voter-turnout voting date permanent under Measure J, which is on the upcoming Cerritos March ballot.

Measure J "would amend the Charter

to replace [in the Charter's text] the City's general municipal election date as the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March of each odd-numbered year, and to clarify that this date could not be changed except by future vote of the Cerritos residents."

A "Yes" vote is in favor of adding, in the Charter's text, the current general municipal election date and thereafter requiring City voter approval by Charter amendment to change this date.

A "No" vote is against adding, in the Charter's text, the current general municipal election date, leaving in place Cerritos's current law that allows Council to establish the general municipal election date by ordinance. If a simple

majority of the electorate voting on this measure vote "Yes," then Measure J will be adopted.

Both Solanki and Barrows are on the record supporting Measure J, which would take the power out of the hands of the City Council to change the voting date; a power they used to change the date in the first place.

A no-vote victory would allow a majority City Council to change the date back to a higher-turnout general election even year.



@cerritosnews

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.

UNICEF CALLING

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

Active, Africa, Area, Asia, Assistance, Aware, Cards, Caring, Cash, Cents, Children, Education, Fate, Food, Give, Good, Government, Haiti, Halloween, Health, Heart, Help, Hope, India, Jamaica, Life, Malnutrition, Merit, Nations, Needs, Open, Plea, Protection, Read, Refugees, Save, Schooling, Somalia, Tasks, Vaccines, Volunteers, Water, Works, Youth

Solution on page 14

Solution: 13 letters



**County of Los Angeles
Department of the Treasurer
and Tax Collector**

Notice of Divided Publication

Pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code (R&TC) Sections 3702, 3381, and 3382, the Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collector is publishing in divided distribution, the Notice of Online Sealed Bid Auction of Tax-Defaulted Property Subject to the Tax Collector's Power to Sell in and for the County of Los Angeles, State of California, to various newspapers of general circulation published in the County. A portion of the list appears in each of such newspapers.

Notice of Online Sealed Bid Auction of Tax-Defaulted Property Subject to the Tax Collector's Power to Sell (Sale No. 2024C)

Whereas, on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, State of California, directed the County of Los Angeles Treasurer and Tax Collector (TTC), to sell certain tax-defaulted properties at the online sealed bid auction.

The TTC does hereby give public notice, that unless said properties are redeemed, prior to the close of business on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time, the last business day prior to the first day of the online sealed bid auction, the TTC will offer for sale and sell said properties on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, beginning at 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time, through Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time, to the highest bidder, for not less than the minimum bid, at online sealed bid auction at www.govease.com/los-angeles.

The only persons that are eligible to submit bids are owners of contiguous parcels or a holder of record of either a predominant easement or right-of-way easement.

Bidders are required to pre-register at www.govease.com/los-angeles and submit a deposit of 10 percent of the spend limit that is set by each registered bidder. Bid deposits must be in the form of a wire transfer, cashier's check, or bank-issued money order at the time of registration. Registration will begin on Friday, November 22, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. Pacific Time and end on Thursday, December 12, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. Pacific Time.

Pursuant to R&TC Section 3692.3, the TTC sells all properties "as is" and the County and its employees are not liable for any known or unknown conditions of the properties, including, but not limited to, errors in the records of the Office of the

Assessor (Assessor) pertaining to improvement of the property.

If the TTC sells a property, parties of interest, as defined by R&TC Section 4675, have a right to file a claim with the County for any proceeds from the sale, which are in excess of the liens and costs required to be paid from the proceeds. If there are any excess proceeds after the application of the minimum bid, the TTC will send notice to all parties of interest, pursuant to law.

Please direct requests for information concerning redemption of tax-defaulted property to the Treasurer and Tax Collector, at 225 North Hill Street, Room 130, Los Angeles, California 90012. You may also call (213) 974-2045, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time, visit our website at ttc.lacounty.gov or email us at auction@ttc.lacounty.gov.

The Assessor's Identification Numbers (AIN) in this publication refer to the Assessor's Map Book, the Map Page, and the individual Parcel Number on the Map Page. If a change in the AIN occurred, the publication will show both prior and current AINs. An explanation of the parcel numbering system and the referenced maps are available at the Office of the Assessor located at 500 West Temple Street, Room 225, Los Angeles, California 90012, or at assessor.lacounty.gov.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed at Los Angeles, California, on November 06, 2024.

ELIZABETH BUENROSTRO GINSBERG
Treasurer and Tax Collector
County of Los Angeles
State of California

The real property that is subject to this notice is situated in the County of Los Angeles, State of California, and is described as follows:

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE OF SALE OF TAX-DEFAULTED PROPERTY SUBJECT TO THE POWER OF SALE (SALE NO. 2024C)
1682 AIN 7034-024-047 STOCKARD, CARL, JR AND STOCKARD, NATHANIEL LOCATION CITY-CERRITOS \$250.00
1684 AIN 7049-005-016 AREVALO, RAFAEL A AND BLANCA I LOCATION CITY-CERRITOS \$250.00
CN112102 538 Nov 29, Dec 6, 13, 2024

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF MILA CUKAR, aka MILICA KAZIMIRA STIPICEVICH CASE NO. 24STPB11265

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of MILA CUKAR, aka MILICA KAZIMIRA STIPICEVICH
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by DANIEL CUKAR in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that DANIEL CUKAR be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held on **DECEMBER 27, 2024 at 8:30 A.M.** in Dept.: "29" located at: 111 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012, Stanley Mosk Courthouse
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.
OTHER CALIFORNIA statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a formal 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.
MICHAEL FOSTER, ESQ., SB# 291691
Attorney for Petitioner
THE LAW OFFICE
4010 Watson Plaza Drive, Suite 100
Lakewood, CA 90712
PNSB# 107440
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**Transportation Operations Manager
Cerritos (Los Angeles County)**

Optimize transportation efficiency and minimize costs. Oversee the maintenance, repair, and replacement of transportation vehicles and equipment. Negotiate contracts with transportation service. Ensure compliance and safety standards. Identify risks and mitigate them. Analyze opportunities for improvement. Manage budgets. Requires at least two years of experience as operations manager working in logistics for freight transportation companies. Send resume to roy.blanco@ecoparts.com. Ecology Auto Parts, Inc.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF RUDY M. VIDAL Case No. 24STPB13423

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of RUDY M. VIDAL

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Ricardo Daniel Vidal in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Ricardo Daniel Vidal be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

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

A HEARING on the petition will be held on Dec. 31, 2024 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 29 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for petitioner:
PAUL HORN ESQ
SBN 243227
PAUL HORN LAW GROUP PC
11404 SOUTH STREET
CERRITOS CA 90703
CN112293 VIDAL Dec 13,20,27, 2024

CITY OF LA MIRADA

Please take notice that on December 10, 2024, the City Council of the City of La Mirada adopted the following Ordinance:

ORDINANCE NO. 735 APPROVING DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT NO. 19 BETWEEN THE CITY OF LA MIRADA AND BULLETIN DISPLAYS, LLC TO INSTALL, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE AN ELECTRONIC BILLBOARD ON THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 14655 FIRESTONE BOULEVARD, WITHIN THE FREEWAY COMMERCIAL (C-F) ZONING DISTRICT.

Summary of Ordinance No. 735

Ordinance No. 735 approves Development Agreement No. 19 between the City of La Mirada and Bulletin Displays, LLC to install, maintain and operate an electronic billboard. The new electronic billboard will consist of a modern design with a maximum height of 50' from the ground and feature a double-faced (14' X 48' on each side) full color digital LED display. The new electronic billboard will be on the property located at 14655 Firestone Boulevard, within the Freeway Commercial (C-F) Zoning District.

The names of those Councilmembers voting for or against Ordinance No. 735 are as follows:

AYES: Councilmembers De Ruse, Otero, Bean, Mayor Pro Tem Eng, Mayor Lewis
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

A certified copy of the entirety of the text of Ordinance No. 735 is available in the office of the City Clerk, City of La Mirada, 13700 La Mirada Boulevard, La Mirada, California, and is available for public inspection at that location.

Manuel Muñoz, Community Development Director

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NOTICE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF QUALIFIED CONTRACTORS LIST FOR INFORMAL BIDDING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Bellflower (City) is currently establishing a List of Qualified Contractors for the 2025 Calendar Year to be notified of public projects advertised under the informal bidding rules (PCC §22032 – California Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act).

Contractors on the list will be mailed or emailed notices inviting bids for public projects estimated to cost more than \$60,000 and up to \$200,000 and involving work under their license class. Interested contractors must be currently registered with the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) and will be solely responsible for complying with Labor Code section 1725.5, as well as any requirements implemented by the DIR. Contractors must also furnish certified payroll records as required pursuant to Labor Code section 1776.

Bid security will be required for all bids on public projects estimated to cost more than \$60,000 and for certain public projects estimated to cost less than or equal to \$60,000 when determined by the City. Each bid must be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check or bidder's bond payable to the order of the City of Bellflower or cash including electronic payment (wire or ACH) for an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price submitted, and the check, bond, or cash deposit of the successful bidder will be forfeited to the City if such bidder fails to enter into the contract to perform the work within ten (10) days after written notice of award.

Licensed contractors interested in being included on the City's list are required to submit the following information:

- Company/Firm Name
- Mailing Address
- Contact Name
- Phone Number
- Fax Number (if any)
- Mobile Number (if any)
- E-mail
- Contractor's License Class(es)
- Contractor's License Number(s)
- Contractor's License Expiration Date
- DIR Registration Number
- Brief Description of Services Provided/Work Classification

Send requests to be included on the list to:

City of Bellflower
Public Works Department
Attn: Kimberly Gonzalez, Public Works Coordinator
16600 Civic Center Drive
Bellflower, CA 90706

Or via e-mail at: kgonzalez@bellflower.org

For questions, contact Kimberly Gonzalez at (562) 804-1424, ext. 2285.

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PUZZLE SOLUTION: INTERNATIONAL



AUDIT from page 1

is broken,” he added.

The controller’s audit found interim housing/shelter bed occupancy was significantly below the homeless agency’s target rate of 95%.

LAHSA recently unveiled new dashboards and monitoring systems to better track occupied, available and offline beds, as well as programmatic performance and financial metrics, which can be viewed on its website.

Mejia provided several recommendations for the city and LAHSA to consider to improve rates of placing unhoused residents into permanent housing, including formalizing its reservation policy and improving data quality of bed capacity. Adding more housing navigators and consolidating contracts.

The audit emphasized how vital it is to expand the supply of permanent housing to reduce homelessness.

“People cannot be placed into permanent housing when the housing does not exist,” according to Mejia’s office.

PICO RIVERA from page 1

levard has been one of the city’s primary focal points of revitalization. In the 1980s, new shopping centers were created to bring economic vitality to the city. The roadway has been improved over the years for better drivability and aesthetics.

Fast forward to 2022, the Historic Whittier Boulevard Vision Plan is initiated, with the intention to take a more comprehensive approach to the corridor’s transformation from east to west.

The Plan itself was developed through a community-led process with public engagement to ensure that the vision for Whittier Boulevard reflected the needs

of Pico Rivera’s population and business community.

The HWB Vision Plan builds upon existing planning efforts but introduces new strategies to promote affordable housing, create more public spaces, and foster local economic growth by supporting small businesses.

Key elements include promoting mixed-use housing and commercial development; enhancing pedestrian and bike infrastructure and implementing multimodal improvements to foster a walkable, transit-friendly environment; beautification via adding landscaping, art installations, and sustainable design elements to improve aesthetics and functionality; economic development: including supporting small businesses and creating spaces like “parklets” for community use and addressing climate resilience and environmental justice through green initiatives and public infrastructure upgrades.

The initiative also focuses on establishing an “uptown” district identity for Pico Rivera while ensuring community engagement and collaboration throughout the planning process.

“This is the type of forward-thinking that positions our City to be more economically sustainable and environmentally friendly,” said City Manager Steve Carmona. “This plan will not happen overnight, but future generations of City residents will benefit greatly from this plan.”

The HWB Vision Plan aligns with broader regional and state goals, including AB 32 and SB 743, placing Pico Rivera at the forefront of a larger, impactful movement. The policies encourage the development of multimodal transportation networks, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and creating equitable, resilient urban spaces.

By aligning the vision for Whittier Boulevard with these state-level priorities,

the city could secure additional funding opportunities, including grants for transportation, housing, and climate adaptation projects.

Residents are not just encouraged, but empowered to continue participating in all aspects of the Historic Whittier Boulevard Revitalization Program. This includes on-

line surveys and community open houses held at the Idea Lab, and even selecting a formal name for the ‘uptown’ district of Pico Rivera.

For more information on the Historic Whittier Boulevard Vision Plan visit pico-rivera.org/historic-whittier-boulevard-revitalization-program.

CITY OF SANTA FE SPRINGS

LAS POSADAS HERITAGE PARK

12100 MORA DR.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14. 6:30P - 9:30P

PROCESSION AND NARRATION WILL COMMENCE AT 6:30 P.M.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (562) 946 - 6476

YOUR CITY COUNCIL

William K. Rounds Mayor	Joe Angel Zamora Mayor Pro Tem	Annette Rodriguez Councilmember	Juanita Martin Councilmember	John M. Mora Councilmember
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Happy Holidays

From

Justman

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