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# ARTESIA CEMETERY HOSTS FIRST ANNUAL VETERANS HOLIDAY TRIBUTE

**TRIBUTE:** Joined by constituents, Veteran organizations and community leaders, the Artesia Cemetery District held its first Heroes' Holiday Tribute for Our Veterans last weekend. From (l-r) Field Deputy for LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn Lauren Yokomizo; ACD General Manager Tony Mendoza, ACD Trustees Aurelia Palhinha, Mike Wada and Linda Gonzalez, ACD Chair Mike Laughlin, Jeri Florence with Quilts of Valor, and Miss Artesia. **Courtesy Artesia Cemetery District.** 

# State Superintendent Sponsors Bill to Keep ICE Off of School Campuses

### LCCN Staff Report

SACRAMENTO—State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond is sponsoring Senate Bill 48, legislation that aims to keep U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents off California campuses by establishing a one-mile radius safe zone around schools, as well as protect against the use of school data for deportation efforts.

The bill, introduced by Senate Majority Leader Lena Gonzalez (D-33) on Monday, December 16, will prevent schools from experiencing a drop-off in student attendance due to immigration concerns, which would directly and negatively impact critical funding.

The bill also doubles down on the commitment by the California Department of Education to safeguard students and families, maintaining schools as spaces where everyone has the right to an education.

"SB 48 seeks to push back against threats of deportation that create fear in immigrant families. These practices suppress school attendance and rob schools of needed revenue," said Superintendent Thurmond. "I am honored to partner with bill author Senator Lena Gonzalez, other legislators, and immigrant rights groups to support our families and keep ICE

HUME

off our school campuses-period."

The bill would prohibit school districts, county offices of education, charter schools, and their personnel from granting ICE officers and other federal immigration authorities access to campuses if they do not have a judicial warrant.

The bill would also prohibit police cooperation with immigration enforcement efforts within a one-mile radius of school to ensure a safe corridor for parents to bring their children to and from school.

As schools continue to face student safety and data privacy challenges, this bill sends a strong message that California is committed to protecting our students and families. SB 48 will also prohibit sharing information about students, families, their households, and school employees with ICE officers or other federal authorities.

"All California children de-

# Did Montebello City Manager Alvarez Try to Skirt Public Contract Code to Award a Contract?

Alvarez recommended a company with a bid \$536,000 more than the lowest responsible bidder. He also did not follow other requirements of the Code.

### By Brian Hews

Los Cerritos Community News has obtained a letter from the Sacramento-based law firm of Weinberg, Roger, and Rosenfield [WRR] alleging that the city of Montebello violated the Public Contract Code and Montebello Municipal Code in awarding a Transportation Facility, Restroom Renovation Project [Project] contract to KYA Services, LLC.

WRR represents the Construction Industry Force Account Council, a non-profit organization that monitors state and local government agencies for competitive bidding compliance in order to promote fair and open bidding on all public construction projects.

Secretary of State Documents show that KYA Services is located at 1800 E McFadden Ave. in Santa Ana, the agent of service is Collin McArthy, and the LLC document is signed by Jim Millane.

On July 25, 2024, the city issued a Request for Proposals for the Project, indicating that the scope of work is to "renovate the restrooms in the Transportation Administration and Maintenance Division."

One month later, in an addendum, the city strangely indicated that all bidders would be required to provide plans similar to a design-build project while also writing that it was not a design-build project.

A design-build public project is a construction delivery meth-

[See MONTEBELLO, page 7]

# Historic Female Majority on Artesia Council



**MAJORITY:** from (l-r) Councilwomen Monica Manalo and Zeel Ahir, Mayor Ali Taj, Mayor pro tem Rene Trevino and Councilwoman Melissa Ramoso.

### **By Brian Hews**

For the first time in the city's history, Artesia's new City Council has emerged with a female majority of Monica Manalo, Melissa Ramoso, and newcomer Zeel Ahir.

Manalo and Ahir ran in the

States has been increasing, with several cities achieving female majorities in recent years. Notable examples including New York City, Portland, OR., and cities in Texas.

Councilwoman Ramoso told LCCN, "It is a monumental moment for Artesia to have three women sitting at the dias, a first-ever in our city's history. It should be celebrated. I have always committed to lifting women in political spaces and look for-



[See ICE, page 12]

**FRIGHTENED:** At one school raided by ICE, over 500 kids did not show up for class the next day.

November election, narrowly defeating Dan Rocha; Ahir received 2,174 votes, and Manalo garnered 2,100 votes, Rocha managed 2,022 votes.

The representation of women in city councils across the United

[See ARTESIA, page 12]

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**Cerritos Resident Celebrates 104th Birthday** 

# Santa Fe Springs Swears In **New Council, Appoints New Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem**

On December 10th, the City Council



held a recognition ceremony for outgoing Mayor Jay Sarno with presentations from local dignitaries, surrounding cities, the Chamber of



Commerce, and school districts. A brief swearing-in ceremony and the appointment of a new Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem also took place during the Council meeting. John Mora and Joe Angel Zamora were sworn into fouryear terms of office,

expiring November of 2028.

After the conclusion of the swearing-in ceremony, the City Council reorganized and appointed William K. (Bill) Rounds as Mayor and Joe Angel Zamora as Mayor Pro Tem. Bill Rounds will be serving his fourth term as Mayor and Joe Angel Zamora will be serving his second term as Mayor Pro Tem on the Santa Fe Springs City Council.

Mayor Rounds was born in Concord, Massachusetts and moved to Santa Fe Springs with his parents in 1951. He attended local schools and graduated from Santa Fe High School.

Councilmember John M. Mora was first elected to the City Council in November of 2018 and is serving his second term on the Council. He was appointed and served his first term as Mayor in 2021. Councilmember Mora is a lifelong resident of Santa Fe Springs.

**CERRITOS RESIDENT** Connie Holmes celebrated her 104th birthday on December 4. Cerritos Mayor Naresh Solanki visited Ms. Holmes at her home and presented her with a proclamation from the city.

# LCCN Staff Report

Cerritos resident Connie Holmes celebrated her 104th birthday on December 4.

Ms. Holmes is a remarkable woman, during World War II Connie was a Rosie the Riveter at Lockheed in San Fernando.

The Lockheed plant was part of the war effort, manufacturing aircraft like the P-38 Lightning.

Women in this facility worked on various aspects of production, including riveting, welding, and assembly.

Their contributions were pivotal

in meeting the demands of wartime manufacturing, breaking gender barriers, and setting the stage for greater workplace equality in the post-war years.

Connie moved to Cerritos in July 1969 with husband Vester Lee Holmes and their son Lester Holmes, she loves living in Cerritos and "loves her local paper."

She married and raised 3 children and has 6 grandchildren, 8 great children and 2 great-great grandchildren.

Connie's favorite activities was dancing and traveling with her husband Vester who passed two years ago.

# \$47 Million Lottery Ticket Sold in Artesia

# **Protect Yourself** Hackers Get 17 Million Patient **Records at PIH Health Hospitals**

Cybercriminals are threatening to release millions of people's private medical records, including: 17 million patient records that include personal and medical information; data for more than 8.1 million "medical episodes" along with patient home addresses, phone numbers, places of employment and medical expenses; Lists of confidential diagnoses, test results, patient photos and scans. More info:

www. pihhealth.org/cyber-incident-updates/updates-december-8/

LCCN Staff Report

A ticket with all six numbers in last Wednesday night's SuperLotto Plus drawing was sold at a seafood market in Artesia and the player has the option of receiving the \$47 million jackpot in 30 graduated annual installments or a lump sum payment, both before federal taxes.

The ticket was sold at the Fresh Catch Seafood Market on South Street in Artesia, which will be getting a bonus of \$235,000.

A ticket with five numbers, but missing the Mega number was sold at a convenience store in Ontario and is worth \$39,175, the California Lottery announced.

The numbers drawn Wednesday night were 11, 19, 24, 38, 41 and the Mega number was 26. The drawing was the 41st since the last time a ticket with all six numbers was sold.

The odds of matching all five numbers and the Mega number is 1 in 41.4 million.







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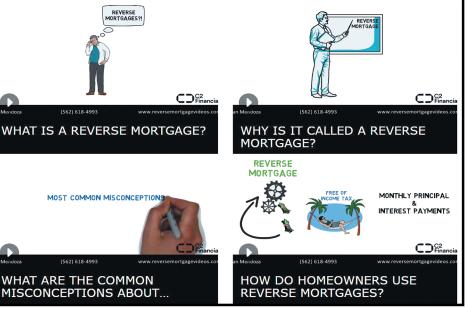
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# Cerritos Dec. 9-16, 2024

# Robbery

At the 10900 block of Alondra, near the Home Depot, a suspect brandished a weapon; when loss prevention attempted to detain him, the suspect fled on a skateboard; the suspect stole tools. At the 11100 block of Bingham Street, a residential area near 195th and 605, a suspect assaulted the victim with a handgun in an attempt to take the vehicle and was later arrested by Cerritos deputies. At the 18600 block of Gridley, near Gridley and 166th, the suspect threatened the victim in the car before fleeing.

### **Residential Burglary**

At the 12200 block of Viarna, a residential area near Norwalk Blvd and Viarna, a suspect shattered a rear sliding glass door. The owner is still assessing what was taken. At the 13700 block of Destino, near Friendship Park, another rear sliding glass door with shattered jewelry was taken. At the 16600 block of Brahms Pl., inside a gated community of Shoemaker, a sliding glass door was shattered, sunglasses were taken.

### **Burglary Other**

At the 19000 block of Pioneer Blvd., near South and Pioneer, a glass door was shattered, and cash was taken. At the 16100 block of Manning Way, in the industrial area of Carmenita, a suspect cut a metal door and took copper wire. At the 13800 block of Cerritos Corporate Drive in Marquardt, a glass door was shattered, and medication was taken.

### **Grand Theft**

Two suspects entered the business at the Los Cerritos Mall and stole sunglasses. Several instruments were taken from a company at the 11100 block at 183rd inside 183rd Plaza. A catalytic converter



was stolen at the 12000 block of Moore Street, off of Shoemaker and Moore. At the 12000 block of Cantrece Lane, a few streets behind Ralph's Center on Sout St., car accessories were taken. At the 15900 block at Piuma, off Alondra and the 605 freeway, aluminum was stolen from a business. At the 16000 block of Shoemaker, off of Shoemaker and Moore, a catalytic converter was stolen. At the 12000 block of Town Center Dr. cosmetics were taken from a business.

### **Grand Theft Auto**

A Toyota Camry was stolen and not recovered at the 16800 block of Chaparral, near Bloomfield and 166th. A Toyota was stolen and not recovered at the 18800 block of Studebaker near Norm Reeves. A Dodge truck was stolen and not recovered at the 18800 block of Jeffrey Avenue, near Cerritos Apartments. Finally, a Chevrolet truck was stolen and recovered at the 16200 block of Shoemaker, at Shoemaker and Midway.

### Vehicle Burgley

12400 block of Rancho Vista, near ABC Adult School, a Honda was broken into, and a bag was taken. At the 18400 block of Studebaker, at the northern end of the Cerritos Auto Square, a suspect broke into a Jeep Wrangler and stole electronics. In the 16000 block of Butterfield Lane, south of Alondra, in a residential area, a suspect tried to open a window on Lexis and took a backpack. At the 11400 block of South across from Lucile's BBQ, a suspect shattered an Acura window and

took a purse. At the 13200 block of South St., at the Ralph's Center, a suspect shattered the window of a Mercedes and took a wallet.

# La Mirada

# **Notable Arrests**

· Twelve suspects were arrested throughout La Mirada for various warrants and narcotics violations.

# Robbery

· An afternoon robbery occurred on the 12300 block of La Mirada Blvd.

### **Residential Burglary**

· An early morning burglary occurred on the 16400 block of Murphy Rd.

### **Other Structure Burglary**

• A burglary was reported on the 14000 block of Foster Rd.

### **Vehicle Burglary**

· A phone was stolen during a window smash vehicle burglary on the 13500 block of Beach Blvd.

· A vehicle burglary was reported in the area of Adelfa Dr. and Santa Gertrudes Ave.

### **Grand Theft**

· Copper wire was reported stolen on the 14900 block of Firestone Blvd.

• An early morning theft of copper wire was reported on the 16200 block of Phoebe Ave.

• Tires were reported stolen on the 16100 block of Rosecrans Ave.

· Copper wire was stolen on the 14800 block of Firestone Blvd.

• A catalytic converter theft occurred on the 16300 block of Trojan Wy.

# **Grand Theft Auto**

· A trailer was reported stolen on the 14200 block of Gannet St.

• A pickup truck was stolen on the 14300 block of Alondra Blvd.

· A box truck was reported stolen on the 14900 block of Desman Rd.

# Woman killed in La Palma when suspect crashes into her car during pursuit

A woman was killed in La Palma this past Wednesday during a police pursuit that ended when the fleeing car crashed into the woman's BMW.

Wednesday afternoon, Fullerton Police saw a man committing a theft at a business in the area then fleeing the scene in a white Nissan Rogue.

Officers attempted to stop the SUV but the suspect fled and a pursuit ensued.

The SUV was involved in a non-injury hit-and-run near Brookhurst Road and Orangethorpe Avenue, but he continued onto the 91 freeway. Fullerton police officers lost sight of the suspect vehicle when it exited at Knott Avenue.

Buena Park officers briefly located the vehicle, but lost sight of it as well. La Palma officers picked up the pursuit near La Palma Avenue and Walker Street.

The pursuit ended when the SUV crashed into a BMW in the area of La Palma Ave. and Moody Street.

The BMW's driver, a woman in her 60s, sustained serious injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene, according to the statement.

The SUV driver was taken to a local hospital for injuries sustained in the collision and will be booked on various charges at Fullerton City Jail, including petty theft, hit-and-run, and felony evading, police said.

The Orange County Sheriff's Department is investigating the fatal collision, which could result in additional charges.

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# **BIOLA Students Nominated for National College Television Awards**



**NOMINATED:** Biola students Po Yin Sham (producer), E.F. Broyles (director/ writer) and Jonny Harmon (director) are nominated in the Comedy Series category for a piece titled *A Lovely Ending*. which was selected from over 200 entries from universities nationwide by Television Academy members.

### **BIOLA News Service**

Three students from Biola University have been nominated for the Television Academy Foundation's 44th College Television Awards.

The Foundation's annual awards show recognizes and rewards excellence in student-produced programs from colleges across the country.

Winners in the competition will be announced by television stars at the red carpet awards ceremony on April 5, 2025, at the Television Academy in North Hollywood, California.

Designed to emulate the Emmy® Awards, student entries are judged by Television Academy members. Criteria for the College Television Awards reflect industry standards of excellence, imagination and innovation.

Biola students Po Yin Sham (producer), E.F. Broyles (director/writer) and Jonny Harmon (director) are nominated in the Comedy Series category for a piece titled A Lovely Ending, which was selected from over 200 entries from universities nationwide by Television Academy members.

A Lovely Ending is a comedic, musical, love story set in 1959. When word spreads of an incoming asteroid threatening to destroy the world, it prompts two friends to reevaluate their relationship.

Attending nominees of the 44th College Television Awards will also participate in two days of professional development events with media and industry leaders and a special screening of their projects for Television Academy members prior to the awards show on April 5.

Tickets to the awards ceremony are \$25 for students with ID and \$50 for general admission. To purchase tickets, visit TelevisionAcademy.com/cta/tickets.

Prominent College Television Awards alumni include CNN national correspondent Natasha Chen; Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan director Patricia Riggen; Maya and the Three executive producer Jorge Gutierrez; and Love, Victor executive producer Jason Ensler

# **City Council Approves Appointment of Cerritos City Clerk**

The Cerritos Council on Thursday approved the hiring of Cynthia Nava as City Clerk. Nava, who brings 22 years of



experience in city government, was selected following a search from an independent firm retained by the Council. She had been Acting City Clerk since the retirement of Vida Barone in September.

Nava first joined the City of Cerritos in 2002 in the Building and Safety Division. She

advanced through the organization, supporting the Recreation Services Division before joining the City Clerk's Office in 2018, giving her a unique perspective on the many facets of the City. Nava received her Bachelor's Degree from California State University, Fullerton, where she also received a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential. She holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from California State University, Dominguez Hills.

"I would like to share my sincere thanks to the Cerritos City Council for this appointment and their support of the City Clerk's Office," said Nava. "I'm also appreciative of the guidance and collaboration through the City Manager's Office and all departments during this transition. I'm excited to continue working alongside our staff, residents and government partners to build upon the strong foundation laid by my predecessor and enhance our service to the Cerritos community."

"The City Clerk plays a vital role to ensuring the effective implementation of governance proceedings, and we are confident in Mrs. Nava's continued efforts in this role," said City Manager Robert A. Lopez.

# **ABCUSD Board Welcomes New Members and Elects Leadership**



**NEW BOARD:** from (l-r) newly elected Area 4 Trustee Tatiana Yokoyama Bui, and newly elected Area 1 Trustee Leticia Mendoza. With them is Area 5 Trustee Sophia Tse, Area 7 Trustee Francisco Noyola, Area 2 Trustee Soo Yoo, and ABCUSD Superintendent Dr. Gina Zietlow.

### LCCN Staff Report

The ABC Unified School District Board of Education welcomed new leadership and celebrated the swearing-in of two newly elected members at its annual reorganization meeting on Tuesday.

Mrs. Leticia Mendoza and Mrs. Tatiana Yokoyama Bui officially began their four-year terms after being sworn in by notable leaders. Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn administered the oath for Mrs. Mendoza, while newly elected Congressmember Derek Tran officiated for Mrs. Yokoyama Bui.

Following the swearing-in ceremony, the board selected its leadership positions for 2025. Mr. Ernie Nishii will serve as board president, Mr. Francisco Noyola as vice president, and Mrs. Yokoyama Bui as clerk. Their terms run for a year and end in December 2025.

"Leadership is important, especially in education," said President Nishii. "I want to thank Mrs. Tse for the last year, managing us through some challenging times. I look forward to working with the board to continue doing all we can to ensure all students realize their academic dreams."

Outgoing president Mrs. Sophia Tse reflected on her tenure, highlighting accomplishments in Measure BB school improvements, academic recovery post-pandemic, and enhanced school safety measures.

"It was my honor to serve as president of the school board this past year," said Mrs. Tse. "Our schools are amazing and fun places for our students to learn and grow, and I'm proud of the work that we, as a board, continue to do for our students."

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# U.C. Irvine's Langson Institute and Museum of California Art Appoints Alaina Claire Feldman as Inaugural Chief Curator

### By Laurie Hanson

UC Irvine Jack and Shanaz Langson Institute and Museum of California Art (Langson IMCA) announced In October the appointment of Alaina Claire Feldman as its



inaugural chief curator, effective January 6, 2025. She will support Langson IMCA's curatorial vision and the design and development of its exhibition and collection strategies. Ms. Feldman took time out of her busy schedule to answer Los Cerritos

Community News questions about the journey that brought her to Langson IMCA.

Feldman has more than 15 years of curating exhibitions worldwide. During her tenure, she heightened Mishkin Gallery's profile by touring presentations of its collection while building partnerships with art and academic institutions across New York and Zurich, São Paulo, Porto, San Juan, and Tbilisi. Mishkin Gallery is a university art museum affiliated with the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences at Baruch College, City University of New York in New York City.

"I am excited to join the very talented staff at Langson IMCA and to collaborate with the brilliant faculty and students at UC Irvine," Feldman told LCCN. "Langson IMCA is the perfect place to activate interdisciplinary work by bringing together artists, scholars, and the greater community. I plan to continue the campus' rich legacy of fostering experimental artist-driven programs as a catalyst for new inquiry and creativity."

The first thing that drew Feldman to Langson IMCA is its location within one of

the country's top research universities.

"When I looked at the school's departments and institutes, I imagined how art could play a role in engaging its research," she said. "I also thought about how exhibitions and public programs could offer the public a window into this scholarship."

Holding Art History/Visual Studies and Social and Environmental Justice Studies degrees, her record of exhibition-making has focused not only on formalist qualities of art but also on artists with broad historical, conceptual, and theoretical interests.

"Several recent projects of mine have focused on the long duration of environmental issues vis-à-vis visual culture and visual technologies," she explained. "Langson IMCA's collection of California landscape paintings provides a rich visual record over more than a century and could be paired with, say, recent environmental impacts studies and current efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change in the state. These kinds of programs would be a way to draw in faculty, students, and publics from a wide range of expertise."

Feldman looks forward to attending the many programs, panels, and lectures on the UCI campus and meeting some of the brilliant faculty and students at UC Irvine.

"I want people to know that Langson IMCA is an agile partner that works across fields and is a welcoming space that surprises and inspires," Feldman explained. "This means investing in an equitable and accessible art space."

In the 2019 publication *Accessibility in the Arts: A Promise and A Practice*, artist Carolyn Lazard suggests museums ask, "Who comes to our events? Who doesn't come to our events? Why? According to Feldman, noting who is not there and why is just as important as noting who is.

"Many young people first engage with museums and art through their phones and devices, so it's important to meet them where they are and encourage them to step into the gallery," she said.

"By adding more digital programs, it would help expand audiences across the region and beyond," she added. "I'm excited to continue to build off some of the programs I initiated while at CUNY, like developing audio guides, digital publications, and an archive of recorded videos that can be accessed anywhere and anytime."

Feldman is excited to think about publications or analogous forms that will expand upon the deep research that goes into exhibition-making.

"For example, I'm inspired by the critical didactics and publication that Catherine Lord and Charles Gaines made for the 1993 UC Irvine exhibition *The Theater of Refusal: Black Art and Mainstream Criticism,*" she explained. "This exhibition positioned work by Black artists next to previously published press reviews of their work, marking a contrast between what artists were trying to do and how the art world perceived them."

"In his essay for the publication, Gaines expands his academic and theoretical ideas to offer a way out of mainstream identity politics of the time," Feldman added. "Having places within and beyond the gallery that foster and support critical scholarship is something I think has and will continue to set UC Irvine and Langson IMCA apart."

By not just being interested in art in the world, Feldman is more focused on the art of the world that reflects the context of where, when, and how it's made and presented.

"I've been very lucky to travel and meet inspiring artists and curators from around the world and to build on those relationships over many years in mutually beneficial ways," she explained. "This experience has made me more sensitive to people with different backgrounds and has taught me to be a better listener."

Feldman's interests in curating and academics started while working as a director of exhibitions at a non-profit, Independent Curators International (ICI). There, she often traveled across the country to produce and install exhibitions, most of which were at university museums. Speaking to young people and hearing their excitement about art was a key experience for her.

"Very often across America, university art museums are the only local place to see art," she explained. "I realized how important universities can be in building community and new ideas around culture."

Feldman advises future budding curators always to stay curious, ask questions, and see exhibitions whenever possible by being in such a vibrant cultural region [it] offers so many wonderful ways to encounter art."

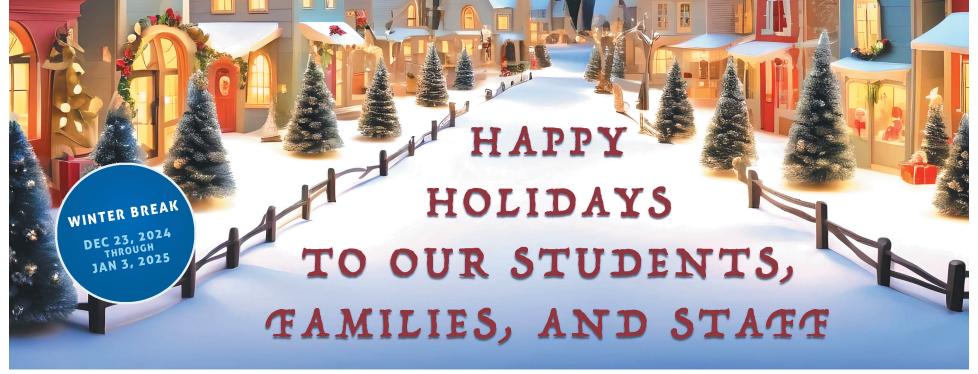
Feldman was first inspired to enter art curating by Constance Lewallen from the University of California Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive.

"Connie was central in the California art scene," Feldman explained. "She gave many California conceptualists their first shows in the 60s and 70s and supported them through their careers."

"She was dedicated to scholarship, research, and the next generation of curators, especially women," she added. "I was lucky to work closely with her on many exhibitions and publications over the years and to investigate ideas alongside her. Connie introduced me to University of California art museums and the humble but powerful influence that curators can yield."

Feldman's words of wisdom for those up and coming in the arts: experience more art, understand art history and the present landscape. "Go to openings of artists you find interesting and try to speak with people," she said. "The art world is very social."





### LCCN Staff Report

Former two-time Cerritos Mayor Mark Pulido will run for city council, offering residents an experienced choice as the three cur-



rent incumbents chose not to seek re-election. The Cerritos resident of 52 years and retired government executive

served Cerritos for 19 years from 2001-2020. Now 56 years old, Pulido started his elected public service career

at the age of 32 as the youngest member of the ABC Unified School Board of Education, serving three terms, including as Board President in 2007-2008. He was elected to the Cerritos City Council in 2011 with the most votes in city history and re-elected in 2015. He served as Cerritos Mayor twice, in 2014-2015 and 2018-2019. Due to term limits, his term ended on April 1, 2020.

After five years, Pulido is eligible to return to the council. "I am eternally grateful for the opportunities I've had to serve my hometown to make it safer, stronger, and better for future generations," said Pulido. "I hope to earn the support of our community to move Cerritos forward from these challenging times. I respectfully ask for your vote.

Professionally, Pulido worked nearly three decades in local, state, and federal government as Assembly Consultant to the Speaker, State Senate District Director, and most recently as District Chief of Staff to Congressman Alan Lowenthal (Ret.).

As an experienced Councilmember, Pu-

lido states he will work to solve problems

with compassion and common sense, as

demonstrated by his track record of accom-

plishments. "As your former Mayor, I am

proud that I delivered on my promises to

reduce residential burglaries (by 35%) and

maintain the lowest emergency response

time in Los Angeles County (under 3 min-

utes); trimmed 15,000 trees; and have parks

renovated, sidewalks fixed, and potholes

filled," Pulido shared. During Pulido's ten-

ure on the council, he is widely credited with

helping spur economic growth for Cerritos,

having approved Cerritos Auto Square reno-

vations and new business developments that

brought 85°C Bakery, In-N-Out, Nordstrom

Rack, Harkins Theaters, Cheesecake Factory,

Pulido cited the establishment of the Teen

Studio at the Cerritos Library, the approval

of new residential developments that attract

new residents to the city, and the cutting of

the ribbon on the new Kaiser Permanente

together, now let's seize this moment to move

candidacy from dozens of local leaders and

state and federal legislators, including Cer-

ritos Councilmembers Frank Aurelio Yo-

koyama and Lynda Johnson, former May-

ors Dr. Joseph Cho, Grace Hu, Laura Lee,

Diana Needham, former Congressman Alan

Lowenthal, Congressman-Elect Derek Tran,

Attorney General Rob Bonta, State Treasur-

er Fiona Ma, former State Treasurer John

Chiang, former Assembly Speaker Anthony

Rendon, Assembly Speaker Pro Tempore

Josh Lowenthal, Assemblymember Sharon

Quirk-Silva, former Assemblymember Sally

paign kickoff and birthday celebration this

Saturday, December 21 at 12 noon at Frontier

Park, 16910 Maria Avenue in Cerritos.

Residents are invited to attend his cam-

Havice, among many others.

"We accomplished a lot when we worked

He has amassed strong support for his

Medical Office Building in May 2014.

Cerritos forward," Pulido declared.

On improving residents' quality of life,

and many other businesses to town.

# **MONTEBELLO** from page 1

od used in public works or government projects. In this method, a single entity, the design-build team, is responsible for both the design and construction of the Project.

In addition, the city did not provide an estimated cost for the Project.

At the November 13 City Council meeting, City Manager Raul Alvarez issued a report to the Mayor and Council recommending that KYA Services, LLC be awarded the contract for the Project. Alvarez's report indicated that the city received four "responsible" bids.

One was from Bridgerock Construction, Inc., at a cost of \$963,585; a second was from Asad Holdings, LLC, at a cost of \$1,190,000; a third was from KYA Services, LLC, at a cost of \$1,499,182; and a fourth was from Global Builders, Inc., at a cost of \$1,998,888.

Despite Bridgerock Construction's lowest responsible bid, nearly \$536,000 less than KYA Services, LLC, Alvarez recommended KYA Services, LLC, and the City Council unanimously approved Alvarez's recommendation.

WRR wrote, "The city has violated the Public Contract Code by failing to procure this Project via formal competitive bidding. We further apprise the city that its conclusions in the August 27, 2024 Addendum are incorrect and that the city must comply with the design-build requirements outlined in the Public Contract Code where it procures both the design and construction of a project from a single entity, accordingly, the city must rescind its contract with KYA Services for the Project, reject all bids, and procure the Project via formal competitive bidding or the traditional design-build model." Under the Code, any public contract over \$200,000 must be disseminated under a formal competitive bidding procedure and contain several requirements, such as being published in a newspaper of general circulation at least 14 calendar days before the date of bid opening.

The Code also requires that the City Council must award any contracts to the lowest responsible bidder. In addition, the city may only award a contract for public works without plans where repair or replacement of city facilities is necessary due to emergency and pursuant to a four-fifths vote of the City Council.

Further, the city failed to prequalify bidders as required by the Code. No section of the RFP required the contractor to use a skilled and trained workforce for the Project; a great majority of public agency contracts are urged to use a Project Labor Agreement (PLA), which guarantees the contractor will hire locally and pay prevailing wages.

WRR stated, "The City's procurement of this Project thus violates the formal bidding requirements of the Code and the Montebello Municipal Code. Consequently, any contract the city executes for the Project with KYA Services, LLC will be void and unenforceable. Thus, the city must abandon its void procurement of the Project, rescind any contract it has entered into with KYA Services, LLC, and procure the Project via the formal competitive bidding process required by the Code and the Montebello Municipal Code."

"We would prefer to avoid legal action. However, if the city insists on procuring the Project without formal competitive bidding, we will consider legal action, including litigation remedies. We will also seek to recover all attorney fees and expenses incurred, as permitted by law."



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# 'Pilots for Kids' Touch Down with Deliveries at Miller Children's & Women's Hospital in Long Beach



**ALL SMILES:** Ronan, a 12-year-old patient at the Jonathan Jaques Children's Cancer Institute, lit up with excitement as he chatted with the pilot crew from Pilots for Kids. His smile grew even bigger when they handed him a pilot's hat, a moment that made him feel like part of their crew.

# By Brian Hews

For over a decade, Pilots for Kids, dedicated to supporting and bringing joy to hospitalized children, has partnered with the Cherese Mari Laulhere Child Life Program at Miller Children's & Women's Hospital.

The dedicated pilots and crew members made personal bedside visits to share their most captivating flying stories, inspiring children with tales of adventure. Additionally, they generously donated toys and gift cards, spreading cheer and leaving a lasting impact on children and families.

Pilots for Kids is comprised of hundreds of members from major airlines, the military, private pilots and aviation enthusiasts, all united by a shared commitment to make a difference in the lives of children facing health challenges.

MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital was filled with smiles and laughter once again during a special visit from Pilots for Kids, on Tuesday, Dec. 17.

For Captain John Morgan, an Alaska Airlines pilot, these visits hold a special significance. Over a decade ago, he helped start Pilots for Kids' partnership with Miller Children's & Women's Hospital and has seen firsthand the joy it brings.

"Every year, I look forward to coming to Miller Children's because it's a chance to bring a little joy and comfort to these kids," said Captain Morgan. "Seeing their faces light up, even for a moment, reminds me why we started this partnership in the first place. It's incredible how something as simple as a story or gift can make such a difference during a tough time."

With tales of adventure and toys creating a festive atmosphere, the pilots provided a temporary escape from the challenges of medical treatments, offering young patients a precious opportunity to embrace the joys of childhood.

Ronan, a 12-year-old patient at the Jonathan Jaques Children's Cancer Institute, lit up with excitement as he chatted with the pilots about planes and flying.

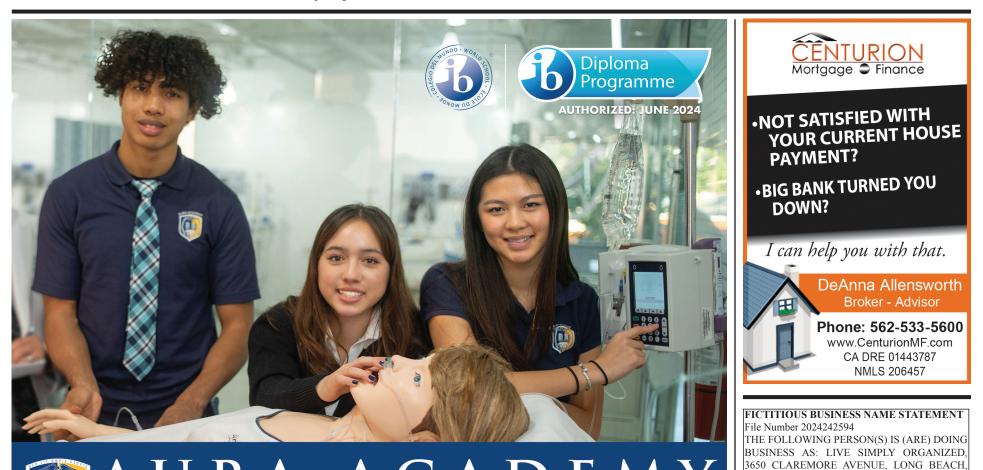
His smile grew even bigger when they handed him a pilot's hat, a moment that made him feel like part of their crew.

"When patients can set aside their health concerns, even for a short time, it helps foster a sense of normalcy and happiness during what otherwise might be a difficult time," says Rita Goshert, director, Cherese Mari Laulhere Child Life Program.

"These visits not only support emotional well-being but also create cherished memories that go far beyond the hospital walls."

The Cherese Mari Laulhere Child Life Program at Miller Children's & Women's Hospital was developed to help make the hospital experience a more positive one 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. The Child Life Program partners with global organizations, like Pilots for Kids, to cultivate fun, engaging events that help brighten the spirits of patients and make hospitalization easier.





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BUSINESS IS CONDUCTED AS A MARRIED COUPLE. The date registrant started to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above: N/A. I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). /S/ ELIZABETH ANNE CARR, WIFE. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on 11/26/24. In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the of notice of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the affidavit of identity form. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State or Common Law (see Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). LCCN 12/20, 12/27, 1/3/25, 1/10/25

CA 90808, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. REGIS-TERED OWNER: ELIZABETH ANNE CARR AND NATHAN LOWELL CARR, 3650 CLARE-

MORE AVENUE, LONG BEACH, CA 90808. THIS

# Delay to Second Round Tournament Game Doesn't Affect Gahr in Blowout Victory

### By Loren Kopff @LorenKopff on X

Due to some scheduling changes during the St. John Bosco Braves Varsity Winter Classic, the Gahr High boys basketball second round game with Franklin High last Thursday was moved to Gahr. But on



**News And Notes** 

**From Press Row** 

a damp, rainy night outside, the CIF-Los Angeles City Section team from north of downtown L.A. was about 30 minutes late arriving to Gahr.

The extra time waiting didn't affect the host Gladiators as they had scoring sprees of 22-0, 11-0 and 29-0 in an 81-21 rout of the Panthers, leveling their record at 4-4. But Gahr

would fall to Taft High and Brea Olinda High the next two nights.

Gahr was holding on to a 9-7 lead midway through the opening quarter before junior Austin Woon's basket started the first scoring streak, which lasted nearly six minutes. When that run was over, senior Uchenna Okoli had scored six points, senior Nathan Herrera another four points and freshman Bryce Titus, who had seven points earlier in the quarter, added four more points to his resume.

It was 31-7 when Warlow Le-Baker ended Franklin's scoring drought with a three-pointer. Later in the half, Gahr scored 11 straight points over the final 3:48 to hold a commanding 46-13 advantage at the break. Through the first 16 minutes, Gahr had 22 rebounds and nine steals as nine different players scored.

"Hopefully this game was a confidence builder; trying to work on team moral and get the guys to fully buy into each other and what we're trying to teach," said Gahr head coach Marcus Girley.

The Gladiators were doing all this damage with a tweaked starting lineup. Because of events that happened the previous night against Orange Lutheran High, a 54-46 loss, Girley didn't start Okoli or seniors Ethan Carey and Joshua Pearson, all of whom are intricate parts of Gahr's offense. Instead, it was Titus, a regular starter, who did most of the damage with 14 points on six of nine shooting from the field and four rebounds in the half. Junior Ogadi Metu was also inserted in the starting lineup and was perfect on all three shots he took in the half while grabbing three rebounds.

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"I hope, if nothing else, they understand that I can't assume anything," said Girley. "Everybody has to earn [the right to start] and as much as I like to win, I don't mind losing if we're going to lose with guys who are doing it the right way. I hope that my guys that are our normal starters who get the bulk of the minutes [understand] that they just had a little bit of a setback. I told them it could be one game; it could be two games, it could be 20. It's totally up to them, and I'm hoping they at least got the message."

Both teams traded points until there was 3:15 remining in the third quarter. That's when Carey began the 29-0 run that ended the game. Titus scored a career-high 21 points and had four rebounds while Okoli posted 15 points and six rebounds as 11 of the 12 players who saw action scored and had at least one rebound. The Gladiators were 35 of 64 from the field, hit seven three-pointers, grabbed 37 rebounds and had 17 steals from eight different players.

"He's always given me effort," said Girley of Titus. "He's a tough-nosed guy; not the most big, physical guy. But he'll get there and mix it up. He has a pretty good motor. He's just still learning the game. Once the game slows down in him...he's going to be a high-level player. But this is good for both my freshmen; just getting that experience and understand that [they're] going to make mistakes."

Gahr, which hosted Cerritos High on Dec. 19 in the annual city tussle, will go to Ocean View High on Monday, then face Valencia High at San Dimas High in Silver Division action of The Classic at Damien on Thursday. With a win, the Gladiators will face either Pasadena High or St. Mary's College on Friday at Mt. San Antonio College. A loss would keep Gahr at San Dimas High. The win over Franklin marked the fourth time the Gladiators had reached .500 through the first eight games as they have yet to fall a game under .500 or go two games above that mark through the first nine games.

"I think what happens is we've developed some slow-starting tendencies, and against certain teams, you're just not going to be able to climb out of that hole," said Girley. "By the time we come back, and we close that gap, we've exerted so much energy that now, those last five or six minutes of the game, it's more of a mental mistake than a physical mistake. Hopefully, we'll kind of break that cycle of one step forward, two steps back."

In other boys basketball action, Artesia High faced North Valley Christian Academy on Dec. 19 in the first of three contests in the Great Desert Shootout in Phoenix. Following Saturday's game, the Pioneers (5-2) will be off until Jan. 3.

Cerritos nipped Sunny Hills High 50-49 last Saturday to improve to 4-6 ahead of its tilt with Gahr. After visiting Downey High on Saturday, the Dons will head south to San Diego to face Eastlake High on Thursday of the Mt. Carmel Tournament.

Other than La Mirada High, the other hot area team is Norwalk High, which improved to 9-2 after a narrow 55-53 win over Garden Grove High this past Tuesday. The Lancers travelled to Kennedy High on Dec. 19 and will visit Rio Hondo Prep on Friday before participating in the Oxford Academy Tournament, which begins on Thursday. Their first opponent will be Valley Christian High.

V.C. had no problem with Calvary Chapel Downey High last Friday in a 60-14 conquest. The Defenders (3-8) hosted Paramount High on Dec. 19 and will welcome Savanna High on Saturday. Whitney High was blasted by Kennedy 65-15 this past Monday and took a 7-10 record into its Dec. 19 home game against Yorba Linda High, marking the last non-league contest for the Wildcats.

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

Artesia (0-3) hosted Mayfair High on Dec. 19 and will face Rosemead High on Thursday in its opener of the Whittier Tournament while Gahr got past Katella High 36-31 this past Tuesday to improve to 6-4. After visiting La Mirada on Dec. 19, the Gladiators will face Mission Viejo High on Thursday in the Marina Tournament.

Norwalk (5-6) went to El Modena High this past Wednesday and visited Costa Mesa High the next night to wrap up its December schedule while Whitney rolled past El Segundo High 70-32 this past Wednesday in pool play action of the San Pedro Lady Pirate Holiday Classic. the Wildcats roared to a 26-10 lead after the first quarter thanks to the scoring of senior Haylie Wang and sophomore Alyssa So. They combined for 18 of the 26 points and when the game was over, Wang scored 29 points on 11 of 21 shooting from the field. She was five of eight from three-point land and grabbed seven rebounds while So scored 21 points and added four three-pointers in six attempts. Also having a solid game was junior Tina Namiranian, who added 13 points, three rebounds

and three steals.

Whitney will face Serra High on Friday and after its final game on Saturday, will head to Mukilteo, WA, just north of Seattle, where it will face Kamiak High in the first annual Holiday Classic Basketball Tournament. The Wildcats (7-4) will also face Everett High and Auburn Riverside High.

### **BOYS SOCCER**

Artesia edged Norwalk 2-1 this past Tuesday to improve to 4-1-0 as the Pioneers will entertain Mayfair on Monday while Cerritos fell to Bellflower High 5-0 this past Monday to drop to 3-1-2. The Dons are not scheduled to play the rest of the month.

Gahr (5-1-1) lost for the first time this season, 3-1 to Yorba Linda this past Tuesday and will host John Glenn High on Friday. The Eagles (6-2-2) shutout Heritage Christian High 4-0 this past Tuesday and hosted Valley Christian on Dec. 18.

La Mirada (2-5-1) was edged by Brea Olinda 3-2 this past Tuesday and will play Etiwanda High on Thursday while Norwalk (3-1-3) is done until next month.

V.C.'s loss to Glenn dropped the Defenders to 3-6-1 as they hosted Mayfair on Dec. 19 and will go to Cal High on Friday.

### GIRLS SOCCER

Artesia shutout Calvary Chapel Santa Ana High 4-0 and Immaculate Heart High 1-0 last Saturday in pool play action of the Best in the West Tournament. The Pioneers (5-1-0) will host Century High in the first of two more tournament games on Saturday.

Cerritos lost to El Toro High 1-0 before losing to Marlborough High by that same score in the Best in the West Tournament. The Dons (2-5-0) went to Portola High on Dec. 19 and will play St. Genevieve High on Saturday.

Also in the Best in the West Tournament is Gahr, which got past Dana Hills High 3-2 before losing to South Pasadena High 1-0 last Saturday. The Gladiators (1-5-0) visited Kennedy on Dec. 18 and will play Santa Ana High on Saturday.

La Mirada lost its two games in the Best in the West Tournament last Saturday, 2-0 to Fairmont Prep and 1-0 to El Camino Real High to drop to 2-2-2 as the Matadores will meet Charter Oak High on Saturday.

Norwalk defeated Mountain View High 3-1, then lost to South East High 1-0 last Saturday in the Best in the West Tournament. The Lancers (4-4-1) also lost to Schurr High 3-0 this past Monday and will play Rancho Alamitos High on Saturday.

V.C. (1-2-1) travelled to St. Margaret's High on Dec. 19 and will welcome St. Joseph High on Friday before facing Rim of the World High on Thursday in the opener of the Ontario Christian Tournament.

### CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS

### SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2024-620

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS AMENDING SECTIONS 18.30, 18.40, 18.50, 18.55, 18.60, 18.70, 18.90, 18.100 AND 18.110 OF THE CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS MUNICIPAL CODE, AND AMENDING THE ZONING CODE MAP

# CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 2024-618

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS AMENDING SECTION 18.90.080 OF THE CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS AND JUNIOR ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS AND FINDING THE ACTION TO BE STATUTORILY EXEMPT FROM CEOA UNDER Public Resources Code § 21080.17

Notice is hereby given that on December 11, 2024, the City Council of the City of Hawaiian Gardens introduced for first reading, Ordinance No. 2024-620, making revisions to the Zoning Code and Map, to be consistent with the 2021-2029 6th Cycle Housing Element. The proposed zoning code amendment would implement many of the programs identified in the Housing Element, including: 1) creating the MU1, MU2, and RIH zones; 2) creating objective development standards for multi-family residential development; 3) reducing setbacks and open space requirements for existing multi-family zones; 4) establishing residential densities for mixed-use development in the C-2 and C-4 zones; 5) creating new by-right review standards for projects that meet the objective design standards; 6) updating density bonus section to reference State law; 7) adding new permitted uses in the City's residential and non-residential zones for shelters, navigation centers, residential care facilities, and other uses required by state law; and 8) other changes to ensure consistency between the City's existing code and the new code sections and amendments.

A copy of Ordinance No. 2024-620 is on file with the City Clerk, and available for public review at City Hall, 21815 Pioneer Blvd., Hawaiian Gardens, CA 90716. Also, a copy of the full text of the Ordinance is available on the City's website at www.hgcity.org.

The City Council will hold the second reading and adoption of the ordinance on January 8, 2025, at 6:00 PM, at the City Council Chambers, 21815 Pioneer Boulevard, Hawaiian Gardens, CA 90716.

Pablo Rubio, City Clerk

Posted:December 18, 2024Published:December 20, 2024

Los Cerritos Community News

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 12/20/24

On December 11, 2024, the City Council of the City of Hawaiian Gardens adopted Ordinance No. 2024-618, amending Section 18.90.080 of the Hawaiian Gardens Municipal Code to comply with recent changes to state law, that imposes new limits on local authority to regulate Accessory Dwelling Units and Junior Accessory Dwelling Units. It also made minor revisions requested by the California Department of Housing and Community Development; and other modifications aimed at augmenting clarity for the benefit of staff and the general public.

The City Council passed and adopted Ordinance No. 2024-618, by the following roll call vote:

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

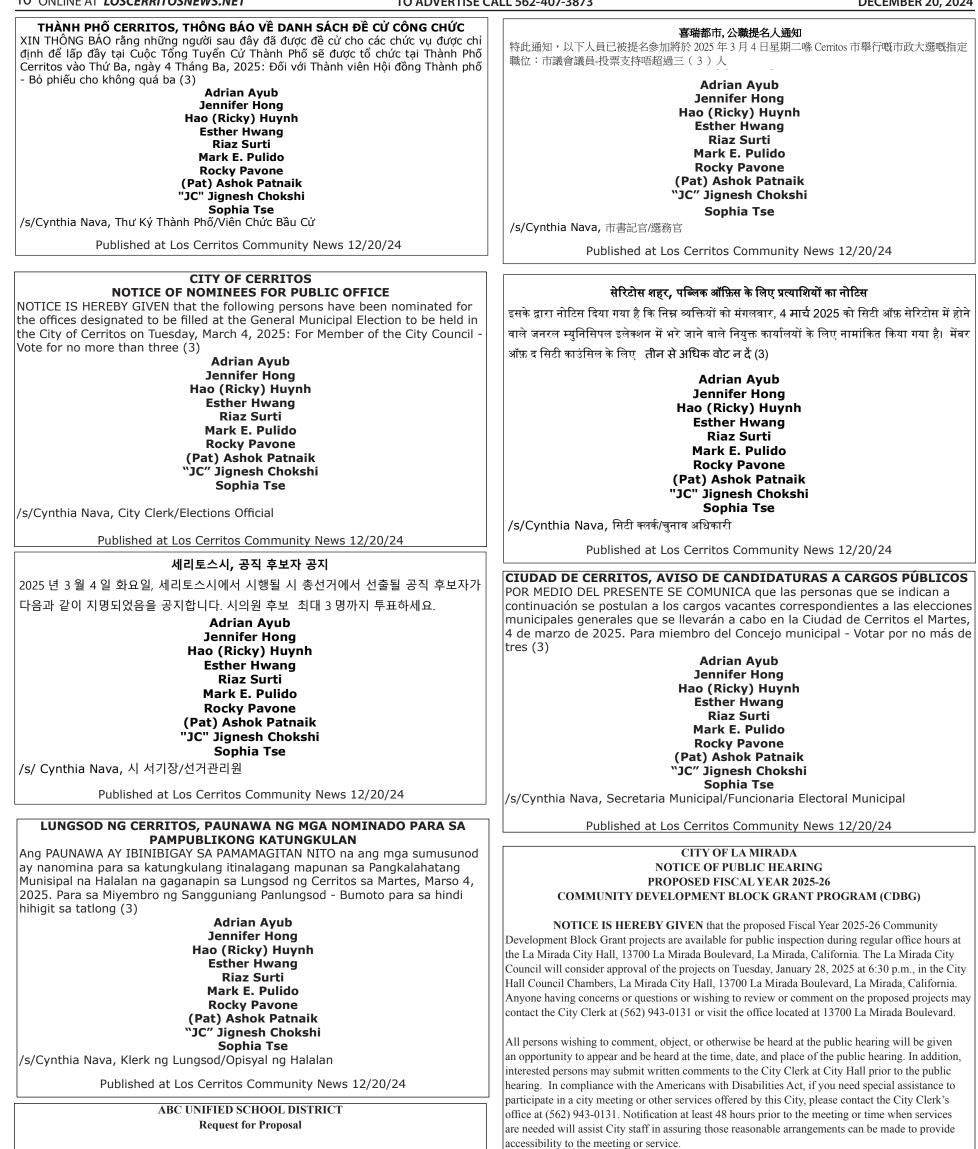
Any interested person may obtain a copy of the ordinance from the City Clerk's Office, cityclerk@ hgcity.org or by calling City Hall at (562) 420-2641. Also, a copy of the full text of the Ordinance is available on the City's website at www.hgcity.org.

Pablo Rubio, City Clerk

Posted:December 18, 2024Published:December 20, 2024

Los Cerritos Community News

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 12/20/24



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ABC Unified School District will receive up to but not later

than **11:00 AM** on the **17th day of January 2025** proposals for:

RFP 1664 Expanded Learning Program Services

All proposals shall be made and presented on a form furnished by the District. Proposals submitted conform to the terms and conditions stated on said form. Contact Esthela Perez (562) 926-5566 x 21218 for a copy of the RFP. Bids shall be received in the office of the Purchasing Department at 16700 Norwalk Blvd., Cerritos, CA., 90703.

Los Cerritos News

December 20, 2024

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 12/20/24

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE (Division 6 of the Co Escrow No. 2464-SS Notice is hereby given to creditors of the within named Seller that a bulk sale is about to be made of the assets described below The name(s) and business address(es) of the seller(s) are: LONG BEACH WIL-LOW, INC., 3405 SEPULVEDA BLVD., TORRANCE, CA 90505 The location in California of the chief executive office of the Seller is: SAME As listed by the Seller, all other business names and addresses used by the seller within three years before the date such list was sent or delivered to the Buyer are: NONE The name(s) and business address(es) of the Buyer(s) are: H&S ENERGY PROD-UCTS, LLC, 2860 N. SANTIAGO BLVD., 2ND FLOOR, ÒŔANGE, CA 92867 The assets to be sold are described in general as: FURNITURE, FIXTURES, EQUIPMENT, AND GOODWILL and are located at: 11808 E. CARSON STREET HAWAIIAN GARDENS, CA 90716 The business name used by the seller at the location is: CHEVRON EXTRAMILE The anticipated date of the bulk sale is JANUARY 9, 2025 at the office of: INNOVATIVE ESCROW, INC., 28212 KELLY JOHNSON PKWY, STE. 110, VALENCIA, CA 91355 This Bulk Sale is subject to California Uniform Commercial Code Section 6106.2. If so subject, the name and address of the person with whom claims may be filed is: INNOVATIVE ES-CROW, INC., 28212 KELLY JOHNSON PKWY, STE. 110, VALENCIA, CA 91355 and the last date for filing claims shall be JANUARY 8, 2025, which is the business day before the sale date speci-fied above. DATED: BAILD. Buyer(s): H&S ENERGY PRODUCTS, LLC ORD-3045885 LOS CERRITOS COM-MUNITY NEWS 12/20/24

Anne Haraksin City Clerk

Published at La Mirada Lamplighter 12/20/24

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ABC Unified School District will receive up to but not later than 11:00 AM on the 16th day of January 2025 Bids for:

ABC Bid # 1666 Audio Visual Project at Cabrillo Lane Education Center

All bids shall be made and presented on a form furnished by the District. Bids submitted shall conform to the terms and conditions stated on said form. Bids shall be received in the office of the Purchasing Department at 16700 Norwalk Blvd., Cerritos, CA 90703 and shall be opened and publicly read aloud at the above-stated time and place. Bidders can request bid documents by emailing esthela.perez@abcusd.us. There will be a mandatory pre-bid meeting on January 2, 2025 at 1:00 PM sharp at 20122 Cabrillo Ln, Cerritos, All public works are subject to prevailing wage payments, Valid License Class B or C-7 Contractor's License and DIR Registration is required.

Los Cerritos News

December 20, 2024 December 27, 2024

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 12/20 and 12/27/24

# SANTA ANA ELKS CLASSIC AT SEGERSTROM HIGH SCHOOL

# Cerritos unable to find right touch in second half, fall in tournament finale

# By Loren Kopff @LorenKopff on X

SANTA ANA-The fast start to the season now seems like a distant memory for the Cerritos High girls basketball team following another heartbreaking loss. For the third time this season, the Dons lost by six points or less, this time to Los Alamitos High 48-44 in the last of four games played in the Santa Ana Elks Classic at Segerstrom High School last Saturday afternoon.

Cerritos led by as many as 11 points in the second quarter but was outscored 26-18 in the second half and shot six of 31 from the field after halftime. The Dons had previously lost to Corona Del Mar High on Dec. 10 to begin pool play of the tournament, and to Santa Margarita High 59-41 the next day before knocking off University High 49-34 last Thursday.

"We didn't take care of the ball," said Cerritos head coach Marcus Chinen. "We had a couple of crucial turnovers which... this game is a game of momentum, and we just lost the momentum a little bit in the third quarter due to a couple of turnovers, a few missed layups and maybe a couple of rebounds that we didn't get that we should have had. But other than that, this is something that we can learn from going forward and hopefully we'll be ready for league when it starts in January."

The Dons never trailed in the first half and the game was tied only once, which was at 4-4 almost two minutes in. Up 9-8 late in the stanza, sophomore Kalana Nguyen hit a three-pointer for her only points of the game, to start a 7-0 run that lasted 32 seconds into the second quarter. A three-pointer from senior Megan Wallace followed by a basket from senior

Sophie Watanabe a minute later pushed the score to 21-10 with 3:44 left in the half.

However, Cerritos would attempt five shots the remainder of the half, connecting on two of them while the Griffins went on a 12-5 run to close out the half. Los Alamitos would keep its momentum going, scoring the first six points of the second half, the last four of them coming from Sydney Asumbrado as it would not trail for the final 12:04 of the contest. The Dons would get to within two

points twice in the fourth quarter, the last coming with 3:24 left in the game when sophomore Jordin Pulley nailed a three-pointer. A steal and basket from junior Cameron Lacorte with under 50

seconds left made it 47-44, but a missed perimeter shot from Lacorte and two long range misses from senior Miya Scammahorn cost the Dons a chance to tie, or even win the game. Bryn

Paget's free throw with 7.1 seconds left sealed the win for the Griffins. For the game, Cerritos was 16 of 59 from the field and shot 50 percent from the

free throw line.

ноо

"Any layup that we have offensively, or defensively, is crucial for us," said Chinen. "On the offensive side, if you're right under [the basket] and you can get an and-one, great. If you can get to the free throw line, we'd like that too, whether you make it or miss it. But that's one thing that could change the momentum of the game." Pulley came off the bench to lead Cerritos with 16 points, had five rebounds and two steals while senior Ambar Multani added eight points and 14 rebounds. It's the second time this season Pulley has led the Dons in scoring. Scammahorn, who had five points, was named to the all-tournament team.

"She's going to be crucial coming in for us," said Chinen of Pulley. "We don't know what's going to happen in the future, whether someone gets sick or injured, and I think she'll be ready either way. Even if she's coming off the bench or if we need to call on her to start a game, I think she'll be ready to go."

Cerritos will host Downey High on Friday and face Rancho Cucamonga High on Saturday at La Salle High before heading to San Diego for the Southern California Holiday Prep Classic where it will play Beckman High on Thursday in the first of three pool play games in the WNBA Gold Division. The Dons are one of 100 teams from four states plus the District of Columbia and British Columbia that will be playing in the prestigious girls basketball tournament. Their pool play games will be at three of 10 sites throughout San Diego.

# ST. JOHN BOSCO BRAVES VARSITY WINTER CLASSIC La Mirada staves off late rally from Fairmont Prep to capture third place in tournament

# By Loren Kopff @LorenKopff on X

BELLFLOWER-For the second straight season, the La Mirada High boys basketball team won its first two games of the St. John Bosco Braves Varsity Winter Classic, lost to the host school in the semi-finals and were playing for third place. And for the second straight season, the Matadores got the job done, this time edg-ing Fairmont Prep 61-58.

But this game took on a different look as La Mirada head coach Randy Oronoz benched two of his everyday starters. Still, the Matadores had enough depth to own a lead throughout most of the first half and build that advantage to 15 points at the end of the third quarter, only to see it dwindle in the fourth quarter as they missed all nine shots taken from the field.

"We were in a weird flow kind of the whole game [with] a makeshift lineup to figure out some stuff," said Oronoz. "Fairmont Prep, credit to them, they're really big and athletic. So they contested some [of our shots]. We got good shots; they just every coach in America will tell you that. Guys are tired. We traveled to Illinois; we had a week off [and] everyone got sick. We'll take that win and move on and get some well-needed rest and get ready for the Damien Classic."

Not starting were senior Julien Gomez and sophomore Gene Roebuck for what Oronoz called a 'coach's decision'. They did not get into the game until the second quarter. But seniors Jayden Cox and normal starter M.J. Smith picked up the slack in the first quarter, scoring six points each with the latter collecting three steals, two assists and two rebounds.

For nearly four minutes, the lead changed hands six straight times in the first quarter. But when Cox hit a pair of free throws with 24.8 seconds left in the opening quarter, it gave La Mirada (10-2) a 15-13 lead and it never trailed the rest of the game. The Matadores then quickly turned a one-point lead into an eightpoint advantage midway through the second quarter after consecutive baskets from Smith. They would hit 50 percent of their shots in the stanza as they led 39-31 at the break and Smith would have 14 of his career-high 25 points in the first half. He would also end the night with seven rebounds and three steals. The only other time Smith scored over 20 points was last season at Downey High when he poured in 24 points at the midway point of Gateway League play.

"M.J. is one of those guys that, because we have Julien and Gene, kind of gets overshadowed," said Oronoz. "He's not overshadowed in our program and what we do. We know how valuable he is; we know how aggressive he can be, and he kind of put together a really good game."

The Matadores continued to put pressure on the Huskies in the third quarter, going on another 6-0 run early to lead 47-34 with 5:33 left. The nail in the final coffin was when La Mirada closed out the final 3:33 of the stanza on a 9-0 run to lead by 15 points after Smith took a pass from Gomez and hit a three-pointer as the buzzer sounded.

However, Fairmont Prep scored the first seven points of the fourth quarter, though it covered 4:04 and the next score, which were two free throws from Roebuck, didn't come until there was 3:11 left in the game. Those points made the score 58-48. Gomez would account for the final three points and, along with Roebuck and senior Jarrett Cole, ended with eight points. Those three combined for nine re-

together for a while; some guys have had a lot of playing time and have played some big games. Sometimes they come off the bench. Someone like Jarrett Cole made some big shots for us [and] was our third leading scorer his freshman year before he injured his knee, and on this team, he's like the eighth man. So when he comes in and gives us a boost, it helps us be extremely effective."

The Matadores, whose two losses have come to Vashon High out of St. Louis and St. John Bosco, have played nothing but tournament games this season. They will open Platinum Division bracket play of The Classic at Damein against Parish Episcopal High out of Dallas, TX on Thursday. This has been one of the premier nationwide boys basketball tournament every December with 128 teams playing in 8 divisions covering 10 playing sites.

"We love [the St. John Bosco] tournament," said Oronoz. "We told [St. John Bosco head] coach [Matt] Dunn we love playing him and I don't mind playing in the first, second, third or fourth game, as long as we get to see Bosco and really test what we can do. Credit to this tournament; Rancho Cucamonga gave us a tough game and Fairmont Prep gave us a tough game. So, we got some quality games out of this leading into the end of December."

didn't fall.

"These are the dog days of December," he later said. "A win is a win and I'm sure bounds, four assists and three steals.

"We just have a really well-rounded team," said Oronoz. "This team has been

# **GIRLS BASKETBALL**

# Burgoyne, Valley Christian pull away from La Mirada in third quarter to win by double digits

# By Loren Kopff @LorenKopff on X

The first half numbers were favoring La Mirada High when it visited Valley Christian High last Friday in a comparable matchup between two teams that each had three wins under their belt. The Matadores had a 22-12 advantage in rebounds and had two more steals in the half, but the game was knotted at 18-18 after the first 16 minutes.

That's when V.C. sophomore Hannah Burgoyne took over and nearly put the second half on her back, or at least the third quarter. The rising star for the Defenders outscored the Matadores by two points in the third quarter by hitting four three-pointers and a two-pointer as V.C. rolled to a 54-40 win. Her third perimeter bucket of the game put the hosts in front for good at 26-23 with 5:04 left in the stanza.

"Obviously in the first half, we struggled to get rebounds [even though] we were in the right spot," said V.C. head coach Dan Leffler. "Our post player was in foul trouble, so we weren't doing a great job. That makes it a little bit more difficult. We just didn't do a good job of boxing out."

"I think the girls are still struggling protecting that three-point line," said La Mirada head coach Victoria Luong. "Defensively, just not being aggressive as far as playing in their zones. And this isn't the only game. In previous games, we've had this issue, too; just letting [opponents] take those three-point shots assuming they won't make them. And clearly, [Burgoyne] was just on fire and was hitting all those shots, and those points add up quick."

The game was up for grabs in the first half with six lead changes and the largest lead no more than four points, accomplished by both teams in the first quarter. V.C. ended the quarter on a 6-0 run as Burgoyne sank the first of her six three-pointers off the second straight assist from junior Liana Lopez. Burgoyne's next three-pointer broke a 13-13 tie with 4:35 remaining in the half

[See VALLEY, page 12]

# From the City of Hawaiian Gardens Happy Holidays Wishing You a Joyous and Festive Season!

# **VALLEY** from page 11

and her steal followed by a basket with 41.8 seconds left tied the game at 18-18. Meanwhile, the Matadores were being paced by senior Jael Arrequin and sophomore Jordin Shaw, who combined for 13 rebounds, 11 points and five steals before the break. Even though it was a tie game, Leffler had a stern message for the Defenders in the locker room.

"The second half was everybody has to get someone," said Leffler. "I don't have a deep bench, but we're going to go to it, and they know that about me that I'm going to play those girls on that bench if [the starters] don't do their job. They heeded the warning and said, 'hey, I'm going to do what he asked me to do'."

The players responded and after three more lead changes within the first 2:35, Shaw tied the game at 23-23 with 5:20 left in the quarter. Then it was the Burgovne show as she was five of nine from the field just in the third quarter alone while the rest of the team was two of seven. Her performance enabled the Defenders to lead by 11 points entering the fourth quarter. "I think it's more mental for Hannah," said Leffler. "If she doesn't hit her first few shots, I have to encourage her to keep shooting, and she's a shooter. I've been around here a long time at V.C. and if you're a shooter, I usually have to tell you to pull it back. For her, it's all about rhythm and obviously, she got into a groove. "It helps us a ton when Hannah can shoot the ball," he continued. "I don't want to put the pressure on her; we're all about balance, and that's the word I use. We've got to have other people in double figures to be consistent." "A lot of girls were just getting over colds and...fatigue set in, and they just lost a lot of stamina in the second half," said Luong.

The Matadores were unable to get closer than nine points in the fourth quarter and in fact, had just as many free throws as field goals. Meanwhile, Burgoyne was nowhere close to settling with her third quarter performance as she added six more points to finish the game with 31 points on 12 of 23 shooting, five rebounds and four steals. This was the first time she has reached 30 points this season whereas last season, she scored at least 30 points four times, including a career-high 34 points at Maranatha High on Jan. 19.

"I knew it was going to be a close game, and it was up until the end of the first half," said Luong. "I knew that it would be competitive, and it could go either way. But we just couldn't hang the whole four quarters."

Freshman Jaiya Lee scored nine points and pulled down eight boards while junior Gracie Verhoef and freshman Molly Douglas each added seven points with Douglas pacing the Defenders with 10 rebounds. Arreguin led La Mirada with 14 points, had six rebounds and three steals while Shaw added 13 points and 11 rebounds. Senior Emily Gonzalez pitched in with six points before fouling out late in the game. "Once the game starts...just reading their body language and everything else is who we have. I think the frustration amongst all the coaches is regardless of what we say and what we do, it just doesn't change their mindset. We're just not sure how to get through to them."

V.C. (4-6) has won three of its last five games as it will face Ramona High on Friday in the Challenge for CHOC Showcase at Sonora High, then entertain Savanna High on Saturday before playing Long Beach Cabrillo High on Thursday in the first game of the Orange Holiday Classic.

"That's all we talk about; is league play, knowing the setup," said Leffler. "It doesn't matter what the system is for [the playoffs]. It matters that if you're a top three finisher, you're going to go to the playoffs, and that's always the goal for us."

# **ICE** from page 1

with California's broader efforts to promote equity, inclusion, and the protection of immigrant communities.

# **ARTESIA** from page 1

ward to working with two formidable community members on the council. Artesia's future has never looked brighter."

Councilwoman Manalo told LCCN, "I am so honored, encouraged, and grateful to be re-elected by the voters of the City of Artesia to continue serving the community and work alongside my esteemed Council Colleagues to improve the quality of life for all residents. During this historic moment for the Council, with its diversity and a female majority for the first time, I feel even more energized and committed to ensuring that the needs of our residents and the city are addressed and that, together as a united Council, we celebrate the successes and meet the challenges, and create a sustainable and vibrant city for generations to come. Councilwoman Ahir told LCCN, "I am joyful that my colleagues and I have created history in Artesia, marking us as a majority-woman council. This tells me that we have ushered in a time where gender roles are flexible, and opportunities can be considered to appear equal for anyone for as long as they fit the criteria by merit. Moreover, this can be considered a dream come true for many women who worked hard and fought for equal opportunities in the past for us. When it comes to the city, I would like to facilitate the next steps to bring new and state-of-the-art businesses to our city, innovative solutions, greater community involvement for public safety, and more recreational programs that foster growth and well-being amongst our residents."

"She's always put her heart into it, she fights hard, and she has done exceptionally well this season," said Luong of Shaw. "A couple of games ago, she had a career-high of 21 points. So, I foresee her going far."

This was just the second time in at least 27 seasons the two teams had met. The only other meeting during that time was in 2016, a 58-23 V.C. victory. The Matadores (4-6), who bounced back to defeat Rancho Alamitos High 47-30 this past Tuesday, have yet to get into a consistent winning pattern this season, losing three of their first four games before splitting their next four games prior to last Friday. La Mirada hosted Gahr High on Dec. 19, then will face Patriot High on Thursday to begin the Marina Tournament.

"Even in warmups, it's unpredictable," said Luong of the team's inconsistency.

serve safe school environments that prioritize student learning, regardless of immigration status," said Senate Majority Leader Lena Gonzalez. "As Chair of the California Latino Legislative Caucus, I'm proud to be partnering with Superintendent Tony Thurmond to author this important legislation, which will prevent disruptions to student learning, keep children in school, and prevent families from being torn apart."

In California, 93 percent of children who have one or more undocumented parents are U.S. citizens. Additionally, all children in the United States, regardless of immigration status, have a right to a free and appropriate public education. The proposed bill reflects California's commitment to ensure that pandemic-era increases in chronic absenteeism do not recur and reiterates California's commitment to ensure that schools are welcoming environments where all families can safely bring their children to learn. It aligns