



# LA MIRADA Lamplighter

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## PALISADES AND EATON FIRES DEVASTATE COMMUNITIES

**SAVE WILSON:** A fixed-wing plane drops retardant near Mt. Wilson as the Eaton fire approaches the crucial towers. As of press time, the Eaton fire had burned over 13,000 acres and nearly 500 structures with 0% contained. The Palisades fire was 0% contained with 18,000+ acres and over 1,000 structures burned.

## Cerritos Sky Zone Owner Will Double Locations

“Mo” Zia’s first Sky Zone was Cerritos, he plans to open six more, including one in Pico Rivera.

By Joe Halpern

Sky Zone franchisee Mohammed “Mo” Zia began his career at Southern California Edison where he played a crucial role in pioneering the utility industry’s transition to a smart grid. He later joined PricewaterhouseCoopers, advising utilities on smart grid initiatives.

But as much as he enjoyed making a positive impact on the environment, Zia couldn’t help but think that something important was missing.

“Being in technology wasn’t a customer facing job for me. What I love about being a Sky Zone owner is seeing the smiles we bring to kids and families. That makes it enjoyable for me,” said Zia who owns four Sky Zone parks in Southern California and another park in Las Vegas.

A Sky Zone franchisee for five years, Zia plans to open six more indoor trampoline parks in Pico Rivera, Walnut Creek,



**READY TO EXPAND:** Mo Zia, top row and third from left, with his team at one of his Sky Zone parks. Zia owns five Sky Zones, four in Southern California and one in Las Vegas. He has plans to open six more parks in the next two years.

Culver City/West Los Angeles, California, this year and in Bakersville and Burbank/Glendale, California, in 2026 and in Pasadena/Arcadia, California, in 2027.

Sky Zone franchisee Mo Zia bought his first park in Cerritos, California, in 2019. He now owns five Sky Zones and has plans to open another six in the next two years.

Zia began growing his portfolio of Sky Zones soon after buying his first park, an existing location in Cerritos, California, in 2019. Over the following two years he acquired existing parks in Las Vegas and in Ventura, Cal-

ifornia. Last March he built a new park in Alhambra, California, and in June acquired an existing park in Miramar, California, in a growing neighborhood north of San Diego.

Zia said the gross revenues of three of his five parks are operating above the systemwide average of \$2.3 million, with his Alhambra location being his best performing park.

Cerritos is next, with revenue “20 and 30 percent better than the average of all our parks,” said Zia.

[ See SKYZONE, page 13 ]

## Greedy California Tribes Sue Cardrooms Over ‘Illegal’ Gambling, Cities Could Be Big Losers

The legal action is the first of its kind under former State Senator Josh Newman’s SB 549, signed by Gov. Newsom in September.

By Brian Hews

The Native American casinos have alleged corruption in California cardrooms and the casino-style games they offer for decades. Still, authorities have never filed a single lawsuit based on their complaints.

Since 2000, when California voters passed Proposition 1A, allowing Native Americans to operate gambling casinos on their reservations, no Attorneys’ General has brought action against the card rooms based on their allegations.

Bill Lockyer (1999-2007) refused, Jerry Brown (2007-2011) refused, and even Kamala Harris

(2011-2017) refused.

Cue Xavier Becerra, who was appointed attorney general by Gov. Jerry Brown in 2016. The job became open when Kamala Harris was elected to the U.S. Senate.

Becerra’s Department of Justice oversees the Bureau of Gambling Control (BGC), established along with the California Gambling Control Commission (Commission) under the Gambling Control Act.

Most people think the BGC and the Commission perform the same duties, but they are quite different.

The BGC is the investigatory and enforcement agency that investigates crimes, levies fines and revokes licenses when warranted.

On the other hand, the Commission operates in the regulatory and adjudicatory gambling arena,

[ See TRIBES, page 16 ]

## Cerritos Council Denies Proposal for Cerritos ABCUSD Students to Plant Trees in City Parks

Parks and Recreation Commission’s proposal was to initiate a “School Tree Planting Initiative in Cerritos Parks.”

By Brian Hews

Led by a motion by Councilman Bruce Barrows, seconded by Councilwoman Lynda Johnson, the Cerritos City Council surprisingly denied the Parks and Recreation Commission’s proposal to initiate a “School Tree Planting Initiative in Cerritos Parks” that was proposed by P & R Commission Chair Pino Pathak at a recent regular meeting.

The proposal was approved unanimously in Oct. 2024 by the P & R Commission, which includes Cerritos residents David Albright, Steve W. Lin, Pino Pathak, Ashok “Pat” Patnaik, and Ileana Prado.

The City Council had other options for the proposal: ap-

prove it or send it back for revisions, but Barrows, who is terming out, Chuong Vo, who recently announced he is quitting the City Council, and Johnson callously voted to effectively kill the innovative project.

Mayor Naresh Solanki was not present; Councilman Frank Yokoyama was the lone nay vote to stop Barrow’s motion.

The proposal was an initiative that would allow schools in Cerritos to plant a tree in any park within Cerritos. “This initiative aims to foster a deeper connection between students and their local environment, promoting a sense of pride and responsibility towards our community parks,” wrote Pathak in his proposal.

The process of planting a tree was straightforward, with most of the responsibilities falling on the schools and students. This made the projects not only worthwhile for the community

[ See TREES, page 4 ]

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# Engineers Discover a 132-Year-Old Message in a Bottle in a Scottish Lighthouse

By Isabella Kwai

**A**fter two centuries of faithfully guiding sailors around a blustery headland in southwest Scotland, the Corsewall Lighthouse needed some attention.

Ross Russell, a mechanical engineer, was helping refurbish the lighthouse in the village of Kirkcolm which is about 100 miles south of Glasgow.

When he peeked into the cavity in a wall of the old structure he saw it: an old glass bottle with something curled up inside.

He and his colleagues fished the bottle out of its hiding place, called the lighthouse

keeper and congregated at the bottom of the structure to inspect their discovery. Inside the bottle, which was stoppered with rusted wire wrapped around an old cork, was a note handwritten in cursive.

How old, exactly, became clear when they drilled away the cork and pulled the note through the bottleneck using two cables. The date on the header: Sept. 4, 1892.

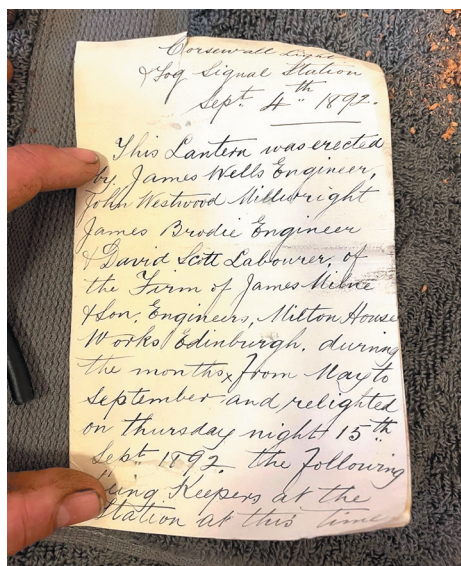
“We were shaking, especially me,” said Barry Miller, the lighthouse keeper for Corsewall Lighthouse who raced over last month when the workers told him what they had found. “I couldn’t keep my hands still, and I read the note out to the other guys.”

Was it a love letter, a disgruntled complaint or someone’s final goodbye? “We all swore ourselves to silence if it was a treasure map,” he joked.

If not as lucrative as a treasure map, the note turned out to be more relevant to their work, at least: It was a 132-year-old missive, written in ink, from former engineers and lighthouse keepers who were installing a new Fresnel lens and lantern at the top of the tower.

“This lantern was erected by James

**THE NOTE** turned out to be a 132-year-old missive, written in ink, from former engineers and lighthouse keepers who were installing a new Fresnel lens and lantern at the top of the tower.



**CIRCA 1892:** four lighthouse workers at the Corsewall Lighthouse. John Wilson (second from the left) is mentioned in the letter found in the bottle.



**BEHIND THE CUPBOARD:** Ross Russell (far right), the engineer who found the letter, and Barry Miller (second from right), a lighthouse keeper, with other workers from the Northern Lighthouse Board, Neil Armstrong (second from left) and Morgan Dennison (far left). Photos courtesy Northern Lighthouse Board.

Wells Engineer, John Westwood Millwright, James Brodie Engineer and David Scott Labourer, of the firm of James Milne & Son Engineers, Milton House Works, Edinburgh, during the months from May to September and relighted on Thursday night 15th Sept 1892,” it said.

Other engineers who had worked on the lens were also named, along with the Corsewall Lighthouse keepers at the time: John Wilson, John B. Henderson and John Lockhart.

“By great coincidence, we were working on the very lens which they had installed,” Dr. Miller said, adding: “It was a direct communication from them to us.”

When the note was written, Queen Victoria was Britain’s monarch and Grover Cleveland would soon return for a second presidential term in the United States. Mr. Russell, 36, the engineer, said the bottled message gave him a sense of being connected to the past: “It almost sent shivers up your spine, because you knew that what he was reading out had been written 132 years ago.”

“To find a bottle and a note on the beach would be incredible enough, never mind in the wall of a lighthouse,” he said, calling it a “right-good time capsule.”

Perhaps the note was intended for future workers, hidden as it was in the walls behind a cupboard. The crew had dismantled the cupboard only to check some beams, part of an inspection of the heavy lens. “We

could have easily missed it,” Mr. Russell said.

The installation of the new Fresnel lens in 1892 would have been a massive project, he added, wondering if the crew had written the note simply to record their pride.

Ages later, some of their descendants have been able to share that pride and grasp another piece of their family history as word has spread about the note, according to reporting by BBC Scotland.

“The best part of it for me was getting that history and getting these connections the note had with people who are local to the area,” Mr. Russell said.

The Corsewall Lighthouse is one of more than 200 still operated and maintained by the Northern Lighthouse Board, which employs engineers, technicians and lighthouse keepers, across Scotland and the Isle of Man, according to its website.

For Dr. Miller, a former academic who has looked after lighthouses in the southwest of Scotland for 20 years, the protection they offer passing vessels endures time, even as technology has advanced to include radio and satellite navigation. “The lighthouses remain absolutely essential to coastal navigation,” he said, adding that they are a visual aid that helps vessels avoid reefs, sand banks and other dangers.

The note and the bottle are being stored in Edinburgh, at the board’s offices. But it’s a temporary home. Once the refurbishment is complete, the group said, the note and bottle will be returned to the hiding place in Corsewall Lighthouse.

Beside it will be one addition: another bottle, this time with a note from the engineers and keepers from this age describing their work and signing their names.

“Sometime in the future, perhaps, we will be able to communicate to someone else,” Dr. Miller said.



**ACROSS THE RHIN:** The Corsewall Lighthouse is on the northern tip of the Rhins of Galloway about 100 miles southwest of Glasgow. Credit: Ashley Cooper, Shutterstock.

*Isabella Kwai writes for the NY Times, this story first appeared in Nov. 2024.*

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## Marukan Cup of Culinary Excellence Competition at Cerritos College



**THE COMPETITION** featured 12 talented culinary arts students who showcased their skills by creating dishes inspired by various regions and culinary themes, incorporating Marukan Vinegar as a key ingredient. Photo Cerritos College.

### LCCN Staff Report

Cerritos College's culinary arts program, in collaboration with Marukan Vinegar (USA) Inc., hosted the seventh annual Marukan Cup of Culinary Excellence.

After a four-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the event returned to celebrate the 51st anniversary of the culinary arts program, honoring five decades of culinary education and excellence.

The competition featured 12 talented culinary arts students who showcased their skills by creating dishes inspired by various regions and culinary themes, incorporating Marukan Vinegar as a key ingredient. The event drew over 200 spectators, with industry judges providing professional feedback to select the top three winners.

First Place: Antonio Yarza

Prize: \$1,000

Theme: French Nouveau

Dish: Potato-crust halibut with saffron Béarnaise sauce, asparagus tips, and asparagus sauce with a mushroom tourné

Second Place: Danika Yi

Prize: \$500

Theme: Hawaiian

Dish: Huli-Huli Chicken (Frenched chicken breast braised and grilled with sweet-savory sauce), served with rice folded with Hawaiian yam puree and Thai pa-

paya salad

Third Place: Gisselle Mendez

Prize: \$250

Theme: Southeast Asian

Dish: Asian flank steak topped with a citrusy sauce, served with saffron rice, coleslaw with an Asian sweet and spicy vinaigrette, and coconut sambal potatoes, garnished with toasted sesame seeds and green onions

"We congratulate Antonio, Danika, and Gisselle for their remarkable achievements and thank all participants for their hard work and dedication to the craft," said Jesusita Lopez, assistant professor and chair of culinary arts.

The Cerritos College Culinary Arts Program offers pathways to prepare students for careers in the professional food service industry. Students can earn certificates and associate of science degrees in professional cooking, professional baking & pastry, and culinary arts management. The program also offers two associate of science for transfer degrees in food service management and hospitality management, providing a pathway to transfer to CSULB or Cal Poly Pomona to complete a bachelor's degree in hospitality management. For more information about the program and upcoming events, visit [www.cerritos.edu/culinary-arts/](http://www.cerritos.edu/culinary-arts/)

## Renew Parking Permit in Cerritos

Cerritos residents can renew their annual parking permit for 2025 or request an overnight parking permit 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, online at [safercerritos.us](http://safercerritos.us). City parking permits are free of charge and must be clearly displayed on the driver's side dashboard of the vehicle (left corner) from 3 a.m. until 5 a.m. A vehicle displaying a valid California DMV Disabled Person Placard does not require an overnight parking permit. A parking permit does not exempt a vehicle from the City's

street sweeping ordinance (10.12.065 CMC).

The parking permit criteria allow two-car garage households with five vehicles and four licensed drivers to qualify for a second annual parking permit. Three-car garage households with seven vehicles and six licensed drivers qualify for a second parking permit.

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

## Feedback Sought Regarding Cerritos Library and Cerritos Senior Center Hours of Operation

Cerritos invites all residents and patrons to complete surveys regarding their preferences for the hours of operation for the Cerritos Library and Cerritos Senior Center at Pat Nixon Park.

The surveys are posted on the City's website at [cerritos.gov](http://cerritos.gov) and physical copies are also available at the Cerritos Library and the Cerritos Senior Center. Scan the QR Code below, the surveys will remain open until Friday, January 10, 2025.



## Lakewood Volunteer Day Program Seeks Project Sites

Lakewood's annual Volunteer Day program is looking for project sites for its Saturday, April 12 cleanup and fix-up event.

Recipients of Volunteer Day aid can be seniors or persons of any age who, because of a disability or limited means, need some neighborly help to make their Lakewood yard or home exterior a little nicer. Work can include gardening, yard cleanup or minor painting.

The proposed project sites are reviewed by city staff for eligibility and suitability. If you, or someone you know, can benefit from a Volunteer Day cleanup project and meet the selection criteria, please submit an application online, or call the Burns Community Center at 562-925-7512.

Volunteer Day is one of Lakewood's enduring traditions, where residents help their neighbors in need and make their community a better place.

More than 300 volunteers will fan out that day to locations throughout Lakewood to donate a morning's work to help their neighbors in need. Teams of volunteer workers from scout troops, schools, clubs, businesses, organizations and religious congregations will assist residents who are unable to maintain their properties themselves.

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**TREES** from page 1

but also a valuable learning experience for the students, fostering a sense of involvement and responsibility in Cerritos.

Schools would need permission from the city to plant the tree, and each school would be responsible for selecting an appropriate tree species to “ensure ecological compatibility.”

The process would also include naming the tree, which could have involved a class-wide or school-wide campaign. The name chosen by the students would reflect their school spirit, honor a significant figure, or memorialize an important event.

The proposal also emphasized the program’s educational benefits, which would provide students with field trips and hands-on learning experiences about the environment, ecology, and the importance of trees. This aspect of the initiative was designed to enrich the students’ understanding of their local environment and the role they can play in its preservation.

Cerritos has been awarded Tree City every year for the past two decades.

“[The proposal] will encourage students to take an active role in environmental stewardship and community engagement,” wrote Pathak. “The long-term impact of planting trees will enhance the beauty and biodiversity of our city parks. Students will develop a lasting connection to the parks, fostering a sense of pride and ownership that will endure for years to come. By allowing schools to plant and name trees in our city parks, we can create a legacy that benefits both the environment and our community.”

In other news, at its January 9 meeting, the Cerritos City Council approved

a contract with Santa Fe Springs-based CJ Concrete Construction for a large accessibility project within the Cerritos Towne Center. The project, which aims to improve accessibility for all residents, will involve the removal and replacement of 2,200 square feet of sidewalk, 18 curb ramps, and 325 linear feet of curb and gutter on the eastern corner of Towne Center Dr. and Park Plaza Dr.

The project is being paid for using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds that Cerritos receives yearly. CDBG funding is strictly regulated by guidelines and objectives established by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Among the goals established by HUD, cities must use CDBG funds for activities that benefit low-and moderate-income persons, revitalize neighborhoods, prevent or eliminate blight, and improve accessibility for disabled individuals.

In November 2023, the Cerritos City Council approved using the 2024-2025 CDBG funds for the accessibility project along Towne Center. The city clerk sent out a bid to remove and replace 2,200 square feet of sidewalk, 18 curb ramps, and 325 linear feet of curb and gutter.

On December 18, 2024, the city clerk’s office received and opened two bids submitted by CJ Concrete Construction, Inc. and Kalban, Inc. of Santa Clarita. CJ Concrete submitted the lowest total bid of \$185,100. The City Council approved the award 5-0.

At the same meeting, the City Council will discuss adding additional pickleball courts to Cerritos Park East. The city would use the area where an unused spray pool currently occupies.

**Sizzler Remodeling Downey Location**



**NOT MALIBU CHICKEN:** The corporate-owned location is one of three locations to see a remodel, following recently renovated sites in San Diego and Flagstaff. This remodel is part of a recent partnership with Brooklyn-based branding agency Tavern to revitalize its brand and “reclaim its place in the hearts of consumers.”

**LCCN Staff Report**

Sizzler is trying to change it up. Recognizing that many Millennials grew up fond of Sizzler, the company’s rebranding strategy focuses on leveraging the brand’s heritage to attract this demographic that feels the nostalgic pull of infinite salad bar trips and cheese toast.

In fact, the death of fast-casual dining has been exaggerated: 67% of Gen Z consumers favor it, while 57% of Millennials prefer it over quick-service options. By tapping into the sentimental value associated with the brand, Sizzler aims to compete with fast-food giants like McDonald’s and offer a more appealing alternative for parents seeking a dining experience that evokes comfort and familiarity.

Over the years, Sizzler faced an identity crisis and lost its way. But what re-

mained was its pop culture status and its sentimental, warm-and-fuzzy place in our collective memories.

By tapping into the restaurant’s rich history, Sizzler crafted a reimagined identity that blends timeless elements with modern design sensibilities.

Available now are a 14 oz Rib Eye, a 12 oz New York Strip or a 8 oz Tri-Tip Sirloin All include choice of side.

For fish lovers, there’s Cilantro Lime Barramundi, fresh Grilled Salmon, Grilled Shrimp Skewers, the famous Shrimp! Shrimp! Shrimp! and a Double Lobster Tail.

Of course they also have the Unlimited Salad Bar, the Hot Bar where you can find unlimited wings, a taco bar, and a pasta bar all at once, and a Dessert Bar which includes soft serve ice cream.

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## Hawaiian Gardens 'Desi' Eatery Offers Innovative Mocktails



**SHOR BAZAAR MOCKTAILS:** (l-r) Kale Smash, Blue Ice, Mai Tai, Melon Sour.

### LCCN Staff Report

Hawaiian Garden's upscale Desi eatery, SHOR Bazaar, is kicking off the New Year with a brand-new mocktail menu to help navigate celebrate Dry January.

Known for its innovative 100% non-alcoholic bar program, SHOR Bazaar continues to redefine the dining experience for those exploring the sober-curious movement.

Each mocktail on the Dry January menu is priced at \$12 and will be available for a limited time through January 31, 2025.

The Dry January Mocktails include:

**Kale Smash:** Kale meets pineapple nectar, non-alcoholic gin, lime, and simple syrup for a bold, green creation.

**Blue Ice:** A refreshing combination of lychee nectar, lime, Seedlip 94, and blue curaçao.

**Mai Tai:** A tropical blend of non-alcoholic rum, lime, orange juice, and orgeat.

**Melon Sour:** Honeydew melon paired with basil, non-alcoholic tequila, lime, and egg white for a frothy twist.

"Dry January has become a wonderful yearly social tradition that allows us to share our passion for non-alcoholic culture with an even wider audience," says Head Mixologist Ahmad Hosseini. "To inspire guests to explore the art of non-alcoholic mixology, we created four new drinks that are interesting and spark excitement for the possibilities of a sober

lifestyle, whether it's just for one month, or continued throughout everyday life."

The Dry January mocktails join a core bar menu of signature mocktails and non-alcoholic spirits curated for SHOR's unique bar program, noted as the second N/A bar program in LA to date. Highlights include spirit-free shots and beer, globally sourced non-alcoholic wines, and a luxury water bar featuring rare, globally sourced bottled waters. This thoughtful program ensures that every guest, regardless of their beverage preference, enjoys an elevated dining experience.

Since its opening in February 2024, SHOR Bazaar has become a culinary destination, celebrated for elevating traditional South Asian cuisine. Michelin Bib Gourmand-recognized Executive Chef Imran 'Ali' Mookhi leads the charge, blending his modern, chef-driven techniques with the rich flavors of India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. SHOR honors traditional halal dishes with a sophisticated culinary flair, solidifying its reputation as a must-visit dining experience in Southern California.

SHOR Bazaar is located at 12155 E Carson St. in Hawaiian Gardens and serves guests Monday through Thursday from 4 PM to 10 PM, Friday from 4 PM to 11 PM, Saturday from 2 PM to 11 PM, and Sunday from 2 PM to 10 PM. To stay updated on the latest SHOR news, follow the restaurant on Instagram at @shorbazaar\_la or visit [shorbazaarla.com](http://shorbazaarla.com) w

## La Mirada Farmers Market Resumes January 11

La Mirada's Farmers Market is back! Celebrate the new year with a "fresh start" and fresh regional produce, packaged artisan and ready-to-eat specialty foods, and locally made crafts and gifts. The La Mirada Farmers Market is open

every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. On Saturday, January 11, and every first Saturday of the month, the Farmers Market will have its monthly kick-off featuring live music, crafts for kids, and giveaways. The Farmers Market features 20 to 25 vendors each week. The Farmers Market has a temporary new location within the Civic Center campus adjacent to the Activity Center.

## Lakewood Crews Cleaning Up After Winds



**CHOPPING UP:** the Lakewood Public Works team taking care of this week's emergency calls, including eight downed trees that were blocking access ways or fell on vehicles. For a downed tree limb, or a water main leak, call City Hall during business hours at 562-866-9771, ext. 2140 or send an email to [service1@lakewoodcity.org](mailto:service1@lakewoodcity.org). After business hours call 562-866-9771 and follow the recorded instructions to page a 24-hour city emergency staff worker.

## Volunteer for the 2025 Los Angeles County Homeless Count

Volunteers are needed to assist with the 2025 Homeless Count. This year's Count will be held on Wednesday, January 22 at 8 p.m. The data collected from the Count is an essential component in understanding and addressing homelessness in L.A. County and helps the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) and its partners deliver services where they are needed most. For more information, or to sign-up, visit [count.lahsa.org](http://count.lahsa.org).

## Recycle Your Christmas Tree

La Mirada residents can recycle live holiday trees through the free curbside Christmas Tree Recycling program through Friday, January 17. Residents may place their Christmas trees curbside on their normal trash pick-up days. Flocked trees will also be accepted.

Residents living in multi-family communities without curbside refuse service may drop off their Christmas trees by Friday, January 17 at the La Mirada Community Gymnasium, located at 15105 Alicante Road. **Info:** Public Works Department at (562) 902-2385.

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## Facebook Will Cease Fact-Checking, Stop Laughing

By Natasha Lennard, *The Intercept*

In a shameless act of genuflection toward the incoming Trump administration, Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced Tuesday that his social media platforms — which include Facebook and Instagram — will be getting rid of fact-checking partners and replacing them with a “community notes” model like that found on X.

(This publisher thinks the author of this opinion has never seen the defamatory rants related to LCCN posted by Cerritos Press One members or Cerritos Councilman Chuong Vo on Facebook.)

There could be little doubt about whom Meta aimed to please with these changes: Donald Trump and his far-right political movement.

In a video message explaining the announcement, Zuckerberg framed the new policies in the Republican lexicon of “free expression” against “censorship,” echoing right-wing talking points about how the social media platform’s third-party fact checkers have been prone to “political bias.”

And ending the fact-checking program was a direct demand of Trump’s pick for Federal Communications Commission chair and current FCC commissioner, Brendan Carr.

News of the changes was first shared by Meta’s chief global affairs officer Joel Kaplan in an exclusive on “Fox & Friends,” Trump’s favorite show.

Zuckerberg and his executives’ naked pandering is worthy of contempt. As is the tech mogul’s decision last month to donate \$1 million to Trump’s inauguration fund.

Meta platforms will now follow in the footsteps of X and become more filled with unchecked, reliably racist conspiracy theories, a proliferation of neo-Nazi accounts, hate speech, and violence. Zuckerberg himself admitted in his announcement that “we’re going to catch less bad stuff.”

The nails are firmly in the coffin, and the coffin has been buried — so long dead is the idea that social media platforms like X or Instagram are either trustworthy news publishers, sites for liberatory community building, or hubs for digital democracy. Instead, we need to think about the internet as a place driven exactly by the motives of the people who own — and profit from — these platforms.

Social media platforms are huge corporations for which we, as users, produce data to be mined as a commodity to sell to advertisers — and — and government agencies. The CEOs of these corporations are craven and power-hungry. a

Zuckerberg, lest we forget, is still facing an antitrust Federal Trade Commission lawsuit over claims that Meta bought Instagram and WhatsApp to crush competition. Luckily for him, Trump responds well to bootlicking.

*Natasha Lennard is a columnist for The Intercept. Her work has appeared in The Nation, Bookforum, and the New York Times, among others. She is the associate director of the Creative Publishing & Critical Journalism graduate program at the New School for Social Research in New York.*

## OP/ED: What Does Greenland Have to Do With the Price of Eggs?

This week, President-Elect Donald Trump announced he wanted to take over Greenland ‘for national security reasons.’ This unexpected move, following his campaign on issues like the price of eggs, deportation/immigration, and crime, raises the question: What Does Greenland Have to Do With the Price of Eggs?

His next move was to cower to Elon Musk, an immigrant, and allow H-1B visas. An H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows U.S. employers to employ foreign workers in specialized occupations temporarily. These jobs typically require theoretical or technical expertise in fields such as information technology, engineering, science, finance, mathematics, architecture, medicine, and more.

Musk and Ramaswamy defended companies that use workers on H-1B visas, arguing that tech companies—including those owned by Musk—depend on foreign workers to operate.

Voters who threw Trump over the top in the election were working middle-class whites and white women, along with MAGA voters expect his administration to crack down on immigration and promote American labor. However, that whole group hated it when Trump said he would allow H-1B visas. Just Google MAGA H-1B to see for yourself.

In addition, Musk and Ramaswamy called American workers mediocre and cited H1-B visas as the reason the U.S. needs foreign workers. Trump agreed. It’s all about deportation.

Trump also announced he wanted to make Canada “the 51st state.” Fox News

jumped all over that statement, with all of the major anchors wanting to Make America Great Again...By Adding Canada? MAGABAC! Maybe he can fit that on a red bro-hat.

“Canada and the United States. That would really be something,” Trump said Tuesday at a news conference at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Florida. “They should be a state.” Trump said he would use economic force, not military force.

LCCN says go ahead Trump, make it a state.

Liberals have been in charge of the Canadian federal government for the majority of the time since World War Two,” said longtime Republican strategist Dave Carney on Fox News. For once, LCCN reluctantly agrees with Fox News.

If Canada became the 51st state, it is likely that the voters supporting those governments would vote for Democrats rather than Republicans.

With a population of slightly more than 40 million, Canada would become the most populous state in the U.S., edging out blue-state California.

Canada’s addition to the U.S. as the nation’s largest state could give Democrats a big boost in the battle for congressional majorities and the electoral vote count in presidential elections.

Please, Trump, go right ahead with Canada.

This is the four years were are in for, just like Trump V.1, a clown show full of questionable and impetuous decisions by a convicted felon and adjudicated rapist.

Greenland and MAGABAC.

## Joe Biden: What Americans Should Remember About Jan. 6

Four years ago, our democracy was put to the test — and prevailed.

On this Jan. 6, order will be called. Clerks, staff and members of Congress will gather to certify the results of a free and fair presidential election and ensure a peaceful transfer of power. Capitol Police will stand guard over the citadel of our democracy.

The vice president of the United States, faithful to her duty under our Constitution, will preside over the certification of her opponent’s victory in the November election.

It is a ceremony that for more than two centuries has made America a beacon to the world, a ceremony that ratifies the will of the voters.

For much of our history, this proceeding was treated as pro forma, a routine act. But after what we all witnessed on Jan. 6, 2021, we know we can never again take it for granted.

Violent insurrectionists attacked the Capitol, threatened the lives of elected officials and assaulted brave law enforcement officers.

We should be proud that our democracy withstood this assault. And we should be glad we will not see such a shameful attack again this year.

But we should not forget. We must remember the wisdom of the adage that any nation that forgets its past is doomed to repeat it. We cannot accept a repeat of what occurred four years ago.

An unrelenting effort has been underway to rewrite — even erase — the history of that day. To tell us we didn’t see what we all saw with our own eyes. To dismiss concerns about it as some kind of partisan obsession. To explain it away as a protest that just got out of hand.

This is not what happened.

In time, there will be Americans who didn’t witness the Jan. 6 riot firsthand but

will learn about it from footage and testimony of that day, from what is written in history books and from the truth we pass on to our children. We cannot allow the truth to be lost.

Thousands of rioters crossed the National Mall and climbed the Capitol walls, smashing windows and kicking down doors. Just blocks away, a bomb was found near the location of the incoming vice president, threatening her life. Law enforcement officials were beaten, dragged, knocked unconscious and stomped upon. Some police officers ultimately died as a result.

As president-elect that day, I spoke to the country and called for peace, and for the certification to resume.

Four years later, leaving office, I am determined to do everything I can to respect the peaceful transfer of power and restore the traditions we have long respected in America. The election will be certified peacefully. I have invited the incoming president to the White House on the morning of Jan. 20, and I will be present for his inauguration that afternoon.

But on this day, we cannot forget. This is what we owe those who founded this nation, those who have fought for it and died for it.

And we should commit to remembering Jan. 6, 2021, every year. To remember it as a day when our democracy was put to the test and prevailed. To remember that democracy — even in America — is never guaranteed.

We should never forget it is our democracy that makes everything possible — our freedoms, our rights, our liberties, our dreams. And that it falls to every generation of Americans to defend and protect it.

*This Op/Ed first appeared in the Washington Post*

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### Cerritos

Dec. 22-29 2024

#### Robbery

On Sunday, December 29, two suspects attempted to steal merchandise from a store at the Los Cerritos Center. When the security guard bravely intervened, they assaulted him and managed to escape. This incident underscores the importance of community vigilance in preventing such crimes.

#### Aggravated Assault

At the 11400 block of South St., near Gridley and South, a suspect pointed a knife at a victim. Fortunately, deputies were in the vicinity and were able to swiftly arrest the suspect, demonstrating the effective response of our law enforcement.

#### Residential Burglary

A residential burglary occurred at 11500 Bos St., right across from Bragg Elementary School. A rear sliding door was shattered, and the owner is still assessing what was taken. Another residential burglary occurred at the 13000 block of Cantreze Lane, which is near Shoemaker and South St.; the owner is still assessing what was taken. Yet another residential burglary occurred at the 11900 block of Aclare, right across from Juarez Academy. The suspect bent the screen door, and it was unknown what was taken.

#### Grand Theft

Three grand thefts occurred at the Los Cerritos Center. The suspects are unknown. An e-bike, a tailgate, and a catalytic converter were taken.

#### Grand Theft Auto

There were seven grand theft auto incidents. Three occurred at the Los Cerritos Center, where a Cadillac was stolen and not recovered, but a Kia Optima and a Hyundai Sonata were stolen and both recovered.

A car was stolen and recovered at the 17200 block of Studebaker, very close to Gahr High School, and just down the street, at the 18900 block inside the Cerritos Auto Square, a Ford was stolen and recovered.

#### Vehicle Burglary

At 19300 Stefani Ave., directly across from Carver Elementary School, the passenger window of a Honda Accord was shattered, and cologne was taken. A Toyota was broken into at 10800 Alondra, right at 605 and Alondra Blvd.,

and a wallet was stolen. At 18800 Jeffrey Ave., a residential area just north of Shoemaker and South St., the driver's window was shattered in a BMW; it was unknown what was taken. Finally, at the 11000 block of 183rd, the northern end of the Los Cerritos Center, a Honda and a Mitsubishi had their passenger windows shattered and purses stolen..

### La Mirada

#### Notable Arrests

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

#### Other Structure Burglary

An early morning vehicle burglary occurred on the 14700 block of Beach Blvd.

A burglary was reported on the 16400 block of Phoebe Ave.

A burglary occurred on the 15700 block of Imperial Hwy.

#### Grand Theft

An attempted catalytic converter theft was reported on the 14300 block of Rosecrans Ave.

A tailgate was reported stolen on the 14600 block of Mansa Dr.

Tools were stolen on the 14100 block of Biola Ave.

#### Grand Theft Auto

An attempted vehicle theft was reported on the 14700 block of Firestone Blvd.

A van was stolen on the 12100 block of Gerber Ave.

### Pizza Hut Testing New Design Including 'Hut 'N Go' Drive-Thru



THE NEW DESIGN has heated cabinets for pick-up orders and a front-facing pizza making counter. The exterior has a drive-thru lane serving a new "Hut 'N Go" menu.

#### LCCN Staff Report

Pizza-Hut unveiled a new design concept that features a pizza-making station at the center of the restaurant, allowing customers to see employees make their orders. It's part of broader changes Pizza Hut is showing off at a remodeled location.

Also at the restaurant is a modernized interior that has touchscreen kiosks for customers to place orders and heated cabinets for pick-up. The exterior has a drive-thru lane serving a new "Hut 'N Go" menu, which features new digital menu boards and serves its most popular foods in an attempt to reduce wait times.

Pizza Hut and its rivals are struggling as inflation-weary customers hunt for value. The industry faces intense competition from third-party delivery apps that have replaced pizza delivery – an American mainstay – with other options, including McDonald's, for people's to-go orders, according to Jonathan Maze, editor-in-chief at Restaurant Business Magazine.

The remodeled location is the same size and same number of employees as its predecessor. Pizza Hut is testing the design before rolling it out to other US cities, though it has about 2,000 of these redesigned restaurants internationally.



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# THE HUNTINGTON ART MUSEUM, LIBRARY AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

By Lydia E. Ringwald

*"A garden to walk in and immensity to dream in – what more could he ask? A few flowers at his feet and above him the stars."*

~Victor Hugo

**N**eed a day off but don't want to travel too far? A perfect paradise is the Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, only about an hour's drive from Cerritos.

Enjoy a lovely stroll to the five lush, beautifully main-



tained theme gardens on this splendid 130-acre site.

A Desert Garden has one of the oldest collections of succulents in the world and a Garden Desert Conservatory with pathways that visit rare cacti, each identified with botanical information for learning enjoyment.

The Herb Garden includes herbs commonly used in the household, medicines, wines, and teas, as well as rare exotic spice species.

Huntington is famous for its Japanese Garden, which includes an actual 18th-century Japanese house surrounded by meticulously maintained rock gardens, a moon bridge, and a koi pond. Sip a tea at the Tea House and revel in the fantasy of this lovely distant land.

The Jungle Garden is lush with exotic tropical foliage, and the Australian Garden is rich with subtropical plants. The Palm Garden includes 90 species of palms native to arid and subtropical lands.

As you stroll on pathways through these amazing gardens, you will be getting your weekly quota of miles in without even realizing it. Walk and

**THE ART COLLECTIONS** include extraordinary examples of decorative arts and folk art, paintings, prints and drawings, photography, and sculpture displayed in the Huntington Art Gallery.

learn. Wander and enjoy.

A quite spectacular recent addition to the Huntington Theme Garden Collection is the Chinese Garden, replete with waterways, bridges and enchanting pagodas. Enjoy a lovely lunch at the restaurant/cafe on the site.

Huntington Theme Garden classics are the Shakespeare Garden, with plants cultivated in England during the Shakespearean era, and the Rose Garden, a 3-acre site with over 3000 species of roses. Visit when roses are in bloom and inhale the perfumed fragrance with heady delight.

Continue your stroll through sculpture gardens, past a lush lily pond and a Mausoleum, to enter the Huntington Art Museum, the former mansion of Henry Huntington himself. Here, you can view the fabulous and famous collection of European Art. Sir Joshua Reynolds, George Romney, and Sir Thomas Gainsborough's masterpiece paintings adorn the galleries and living spaces of this original luxurious mansion.

It is truly a spiritual experience to be in the vicinity of some of the world's most famous paintings and to enjoy the skill and mastery of renowned artists of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Each painting tells a story. The Huntington Museum art curators have included infor-



**STROLL THROUGH** the five lush, beautifully maintained theme gardens on the 130 acre site. The Japanese Garden includes an actual 18th century Japanese house surrounded by meticulously maintained rock gardens, a moon bridge and koi pond. Sip a tea at the Tea House and revel in this lovely distant land.



**1919 CAFE** serving a selection of items, offers indoor and outdoor dining. The Bar is also open with a wide selection of wine and beer.



mation about the artist and subject matter of each painting to further edify and delight viewers.

The most famous painting of Emma, George Romney's model, who rose to the rank of 'Lady' when she married the elderly Lord Hamilton but fell into disrepute after a love affair with the married Lord Nelson, hangs quietly and modestly in the mansion gallery.

Although most of the collections are devoted to historical art, one of the gallery rooms of the museum also offers exhibits of contemporary living artists. And a visit to the museum before March 3 provides an opportunity to view the unique artworks of Calcutta, Kashmir, and London-based artist Raqib Shaw, whose imagery magically merges art traditions from European and Asian art into a

**THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY** is one of the world's great independent research libraries, with some 12 million items spanning the 11th to the 21st century.

painting phantasmagoria that spins past cultural memory into the present and future.

Before you leave the Huntington garden grounds, visit the American Art Museum, which features highlights of American art from the colonial past into the present. The Agnes Pelton painting there will transport you to a higher realm.

The nearby Boone Gallery offers contemporary art and literary exhibits that explore intriguing social themes. Most recently, the exhibit 'Storm



Cloud' explored the environmental issues that have plagued humanity over the ages.

Visiting the Huntington Library to view historical manuscripts and letters is truly edifying. There is so much to experience; consider another visit devoted solely to the manuscript library.

Ready for lunch? Enjoy exquisite dining at one of several restaurants and cafes on the Huntington grounds.

If you haven't already

dined at the Fresh Water Pavilion in the Chinese Garden, you may enjoy a fabulous cafeteria-style lunch at the 1919 Cafe and select from an array of hot lunch entrees or lighter fare: pizza, taco, tostada bowl, and salad choices. Seating either inside or outside offers garden views from all of the various vantage points.

The famous Huntington Garden Tea Room has been renovated and expanded for elegant seated service dining. Savoring a glass of wine in the outdoor portico garden area feels like being in a Monet painting.

Ah... after a day of beauty, strolling through elegant gardens, and viewing some of the greatest masterpiece paintings in the world, one feels refreshed.

Perhaps life itself is our greatest artwork.

We depart with a commitment to make life beautiful and the realization that we are the artists of our own reality.

For reservations and further information, please visit the [huntington.org](http://huntington.org)



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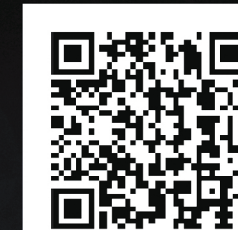
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## OLYMPIC LEAGUE BASKETBALL

## Valley Christian's Chambers Slams the Door on Maranatha in Olympic League Opener

By Loren Kopff  
@LorenKopff on X

Valley Christian High kicked off Olympic League action against Maranatha High last Friday and the girls proved that there is more to their team than up and coming shooting star sophomore Hannah Burgoyne. For the second straight game, senior Chayse Chambers shot the lights out of the gymnasium, further illustrating that opponents shouldn't sleep on the rest of the team.

After collecting seven three-pointers and scoring 23 points on Dec. 30 against Norco High in the final contest of the Orange Holiday Classic, she was back at it against the Minutemen, shooting six of 11 from the field, all coming from beyond the arc, as she helped the Defenders pull away in the second half for a 44-33 victory. Entering the game, the last six wins by V.C. over Maranatha have been by a combined average of five and a half points.

"Chayse has just been shooting the ball incredible, and I think it's obvious because teams are preparing for Hannah," said V.C. head coach Dan Leffler. "They're either going to face guard her or they're going to double team her. So somebody's got to shoot the ball and she's been doing a great job for us. It makes us a little bit more difficult to prepare for, I think. But I think it's what we need to be competitive for league. We need somebody else to shoot because Hannah's a great player; she does a lot of wonderful things for us."

V.C. trailed 7-2 before the first of those three-pointers from Chambers started a 9-0 run before the Minutemen scored the final five points over the last 1:56 of the stanza, then the first five points of the second quarter. Maranatha still had a 19-13 lead until Chambers fed a pass to junior Aniyah Peoples which began a 10-2 run that put the Defenders in front at the half. The go-ahead basket came with 22.3 seconds remaining in the half when Peoples scored off a pass from junior Liana Lopez.

Whatever Leffler said at halftime worked because the Defenders (8-9, 1-0) came out vigorously to begin the second half, allowing the Minutemen to shoot two of 16 from the field in the third quarter while building a 10-point advantage going into the fourth quarter. One reason for the strong third quarter was the defensive performance against Elizabeth Ekpo, who had nine points in the first half, but attempted two shots in the third quarter, scoring once and missing a pair of free throws.

"Effort on our part; I think that's the big thing," said Leffler of the third quarter. "We tend to play games pretty slow and finish strong, and we've been in a lot of games where we've been chasing. Again, we're not used to being in those spots and now we're trying to figure it out on the fly. Defensively, we tightened it up a little bit."

Peoples began the fourth quarter with her last basket almost two minutes in to give the Defenders their biggest lead of the game. And while the hosts scored just



**VALLEY CHRISTIAN HIGH** senior Chayse Chambers (left) takes one of her 11 shots from beyond the three-point line last Friday against Maranatha High in the Olympic League opener. Chambers hit six three-pointers, accounting for all 18 points she scored as the Defenders rallied in the second half for a 44-33 victory. Valley Christian High junior Christian Wondimu (right) drives around Chris Smith of Maranatha High last Friday in the Olympic League opener. Wondimu scored nine points and had five rebounds, but it was Smith's 22 points that enabled Maranatha to a 61-51 victory.

PHOTOS BY STEVE FERICEAN.

eight points in the final stanza, the shooting of Burgoyne, Chambers and Peoples were more than the Minutemen could handle. Burgoyne and Peoples each scored 10 points on a combined nine of 20 from the field and had nine and eight rebounds, respectively.

Freshman Molly Douglas came off the bench to add the other six points V.C. would score and grabbed seven rebounds. As a team, V.C. was 17 of 41 from the field but 10 of 26 from three-point territory, and it did not go to the line once. All seven players who saw action had at least one rebound and one assist.

"We're going to shoot it 25 times a game from three-point land," said Leffler. "That's our goal, and I think we shoot better from three than we do a two. And, we have to get better at finishing around the basket. I think we had opportunities that we did not finish around the basket that we need to get better at. But that's kind of the makeup of our team. They want to play the perimeter and shoot the ball, and we work hard on it."

Leffler's team has reached the .500 mark once this season, which came after the second game, and has won four of its last six games while the V.C. boys squad

was seeking a .500 mark for the second time in seven days and the first quarter would have suggested that the Defenders were on their way to that goal.

They bolted out to a 15-6 lead in the first 4:35 before Maranatha went on a 22-2 run over the next 11:25 of the half and could not recover from that in a 61-49 loss. After 21 straight losses to the Minutemen, the two had split the last eight meetings.

"We started the game with energy, and I think we died out," said V.C. head coach Dijon Thompson. "That's as simple as it is. The shots were falling, and then they stopped [falling]. That's offense; it comes and goes."

The Defenders shot six of 11 from the field in the opening quarter thanks to a pair of three-pointers from sophomore Vladimir Prokopiv, one more from senior Christian Manley, a pair of baskets from senior Bryce Shepherd and three assists from junior Nathan Maurer. After that, the game would change to the liking of Maranatha, which entered the contest with a 5-12 record.

Chris Smith would be a thorn in V.C.'s side throughout the game. He scored seven of his nine first quarter points as part of the 12-0 run to end the stanza and finished the

game with 22 points. Then there was Isaiah Lemongo, who scored 13 of his 15 points in the second half.

"We're not a team that can play fast," said Thompson. "Reading the game is difficult when you're playing fast, and we have a short bench. So we can't really play fast; we have to play at a certain pace where we're trying to conserve energy and still put some type of pressure [on opponents]."

"We knew he was going to be a problem because of his size," Thompson later said of Smith. "We remember him from last year, so we knew he was experienced and was going to come in with some of his best."

V.C. (8-10, 0-1) tried to get back in the game in the third quarter and chipped away at a 14-point deficit. Prokopiv began the would-be rally with a three-pointer less than a minute into the second half and Manley added a perimeter basket with 4:52 left in the quarter after Prokopiv grabbed an offensive board and passed the ball off to Manley. Less than a minute later, junior Christian Wondimu added a three-pointer to make it 35-30. But that's as close the Defenders would get as Maranatha quickly went on an 18-3 run that lasted until there was 3:40 left in the game.

"That's something we just talked about as a team," said Thompson. "The third quarter has always usually hurt us. We try to make it a point to come out in the third quarter with a statement and we did. We just came up short."

Manley led V.C. with 13 points with Prokopiv and Wondimu adding 12 and nine points, respectively. V.C. was 19 of 42 from the field shooting and of those 19 field goals, nine were three-pointers. But the Defenders managed to get just 14 rebounds and only two steals.

V.C. was entering the game with a lot of momentum, having won six straight games before falling to Ontario Christian High 55-54 in the finals of the Ontario Christian Knight Time Classic on Dec. 30. That's after the team began the season with four straight losses and were 1-7 on Dec. 9.

Both V.C. teams went to Heritage Christian High this past Tuesday and will visit Pacifica Christian High out of Santa Monica on Saturday before hosting Whittier Christian High on Tuesday. In addition, the boys travelled to Capistrano Valley Christian High this past Wednesday while the girls entertain Ocean View High on Friday.

"Even with the loss to Ontario Christian by one in the championship, we had the expectations of coming into [league] with that momentum and carrying over to this game," said Thompson.

"Obviously, we thought we were going to get another win or two out of that Orange Tournament," said Leffler. "Our goal was to be .500 by the time we got to the Olympic League. That would have been a transformation thing than what we had last year. But we're close, and they're still working hard. I think we'll be competitive."

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**605 LEAGUE GIRLS BASKETBALL**

**Whitney Survives Sloppy Play, Erratic Officiating to Pull Away From Cerritos in Second Half**

**By Loren Kopff**  
@LorenKopff on X

For the fourth time since Cerritos High and Whitney High became members of the 605 League, their girls basketball teams faced each other in the league opener, and what was viewed as a potential back and forth battle turned out otherwise. The Dons and Wildcats played a sloppy contest, combining for 35 turnovers for the game and combined to shoot five of 25 from the field in the first quarter.

But when push came to shove, Whitney rallied from six points down late in the first half to outscore Cerritos 24-7 in the third quarter on its way to a 46-35 victory in a contest that featured two lead changes. The Wildcats, who had defeated the Dons the other three times they had met to open league action, now own an 8-5 advantage over their city rivals since the league started in the 2018-2019 season. This was also the third time in those eight wins that Whitney had defeated Cerritos by double digits.

“Honestly, I thought we started off slow,” said Whitney head coach Myron Jacobs. “For us to be a team that averages 59.5 points a game, we definitely started off slow; we missed a lot of layups. I truly thought we were the better team, [but] I just think we kind of shot ourselves in the foot. Going into the second quarter, we went on a drought and didn’t score for a while. I thought in the third quarter we did well [and] in the fourth quarter, we wanted to waste some time.”

Upon arriving back from a three-day tournament in Seattle after Christmas, the Wildcats were back in the gymnasium practicing for Cerritos. But Jacobs said he thought it was best to give the players three days off to relax their legs and get them fresh for this past Tuesday. Whitney’s last game prior to the league opener was on Dec. 28 whereas Cerritos played North Torrance High last Saturday.

The way the game began, you would have thought it would be a high-scoring affair as Whitney senior Haylie Wang connected on a three-pointer 15 seconds in, only to see that countered by Cerritos senior Miya Scammahorn another 15 seconds later. The host Wildcats would lead 8-6 after the stanza and Wang’s offensive putback nearly a minute into the second quarter made it 10-6.

That’s when the Dons turned up their offense and went on 10-0 run with

sophomore Kalana Nguyen scoring five of her team-high nine points while junior Cameron Lacorte adding a three-pointer off an assist from Nguyen. But then the momentum went back to Whitney (12-6, 1-0), which closed out the final 2:11 of the half with an 8-3 scoring run.

“I thought Cerritos did a great job responding after we scored a couple of times,” he continued. “But deep down inside, we just knew they couldn’t play four quarters with us.”

Besides the sloppiness and poor shooting early on, both teams had to deal with the officials, who at times looked confused, making the wrong calls on jump ball possessions or missing other calls, drawing the ire from Jacobs and the coaching staff from Cerritos. In fact, Whitney shot eight of 14 from the free throw line while the Dons were 10 of 17 and Whitney was whistled for two more fouls than Cerritos, 18-16.

“Let me just say this for the record... every time we play, there’s never going to be good refs,” said Jacobs. “Refs are uncontrollable; that’s something that you cannot control. It is an uncontrollable situation. When we lost last year, there was controversy about the refs. Did we sit here and make a scene about it? No we didn’t. We took our loss on the chin, and we kept moving. A loss is a loss; a win is a win, and I feel like at some point in time, parents, staff or whoever complains about the refs... we all know the refs are bad. But at the end of the day, you still can’t have over 10 turnovers.”

On the first possession of the second half, Wang scored to put Whitney in front for good at 20-19. It was still a one-point lead before her three-pointer began a stretch of six straight points and 18 of the next combined 21 points over the final 4:39 of the quarter as the Wildcats were running away from Cerritos.

Even though the Wildcats were held scoreless over the final 4:11 of the game, a 17-point lead was too much for Cerritos (5-12, 0-1) to overcome. The final six points of the game were Cerritos free throws with four misses and the Dons had as many field goals as they did free throws. Scammahorn scored six points

while Lacorte, senior Ambar Multani and sophomore Jordin Pulley all added five points.

“Cerritos put a fight in the beginning of the game,” said Jacobs. “But like I told my girls, watching film on them and scouting them, we don’t really play that type of defense. It was what we call a throw away defense because we’re not going to use it again.



But we thought that was a defense that would create a lot of turnovers and frustrate them and get them to play faster into our system.”

The game also marked the return of former Whitney standout Mady Macaraeg, who was playing her fifth game since becoming eligible. After scoring 42 points in the previous four games, Macaraeg was held scoreless but grabbed five rebounds and had three steals.

“Mady made the choice to go there, and we support her,” said Jacobs. “There is not one person bigger than the program, so it didn’t stop what we wanted to do. There were no ill will feelings. Mady wasn’t even on our scouting report; she wasn’t even someone that we were worried about. We were worried about [freshman Analayah Coneita] because when you look in the book, that kid was

scoring double digits pretty much the last three or four games.”

Wang was dominant as ever, scoring 23 points, pulling down 10 rebounds, collecting four steals along with two assists while sophomore Alyssa So had 15 points, eight rebounds, three steals and two assists. Six other players combined to go four of 12 with 13 rebounds, five steals and three assists.

The Dons will host Pioneer High on Friday, face Rosary Academy on Saturday at Mater Dei High, go to Artesia High on Monday before hosting Oxford Academy on Wednesday. Whitney travels to Artesia on Friday, then hosts Long Beach Poly High on Saturday, goes to John Glenn High on Monday before entertaining Pioneer on Wednesday.

“I’m going to tell you exactly what I told my team,” said Jacobs. “This game was a scrimmage game. We played terrible; we played sloppy, we didn’t play disciplined, we didn’t play the way we need to play. Come Saturday when we play Long Beach Poly, we have to play a better game.”



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**WONDERWORD**

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** The words are found in all directions - vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it off the list. The letters are often used more than once so do not cross them out. It is best to find the big words first. When you find all the words listed in the clues you'll have a number of letters left over that spell out the WONDERWORD.

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Solution on page 15

Solution: 6 letters

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**NEWS AND NOTES FROM PRESS ROW****Artesia Boys Basketball Routs Loara as Pioneers Unleash Different Offensive Approach**

By Loren Kopff  
@LorenKopff on X

It wasn't the most desirable opponent Artesia High boys basketball head coach Jeff Myles was looking for, just three days before the 605 League opener. But when his team hosted Loara High last Saturday, he had a chance to play all 15 players on the team with all but two finding the scoring column.

The Pioneers scored the first 11 points of the game, and it only got better in a 76-33 win, leaving the black and red with a 7-5 record at the time. The contest came a day after Artesia fell to Wiseburn-Da Vinci High 59-53 in double overtime.

"Yesterday was a tough game because I know we lost by six, but we had a chance to win it," said Myles. "I know the stats don't show it, but we had a chance to win it. We missed some free throws late and missed some shots at the end. So, it was kind of tough to kind of come back and play [today]. A lot of our guys are still sad about that game, so I was kind of worried about how we would come out."

Last Saturday, senior Jaylen Reed was on fire early, scoring 10 points in the opening quarter with a pair of rebounds and a block. He would add

one more basket in the second quarter to complete his scoring, but for this game, it was the bench that outscored the starters. Junior Jordan Heredia scored 10 points coming off the bench with four in the first quarter, and a basket each in the second and third quarters while junior Kobe Young added nine points, including a three-pointer in the second and third quarters. The bench accounted for 46 points as the Pioneers led by 16 points at the half.

"Jaylen is a four-year varsity guy and has been guarding the best guys in practice," said Myles. "He's been through it all-all the playoff games, all the league games and league championships. So, he's seen it all. He's probably one of our seasoned veterans; him and [senior] Cayden [Del Rosario] are our captains this year. He's probably our best overall player; we just have to get him to be a little bit more aggressive."

Loara scored four points within the first 75 seconds of the second half, but after that, the Pioneers went on a 14-0 run to lead 56-27 entering the final quarter. Junior Christian Stewart added nine rebounds and eight points with senior Jovell Tate the next starter in points after Reed with seven.

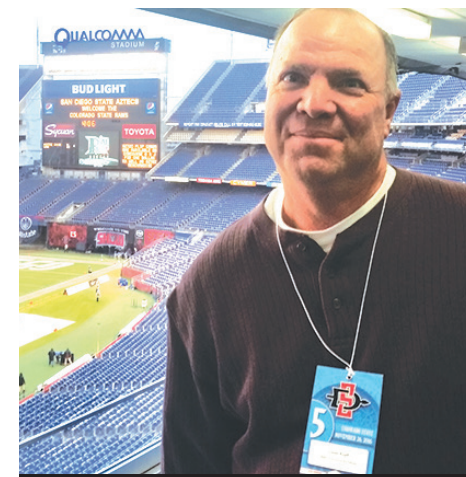
What makes this season's team different than previous Artesia squads

is the focus isn't on one or two players whereas in the past four seasons, most of the attention centered on Aaron Banks, Joshua Martinez or Zion Staples. All but one of the 11 seniors this season have scored, and all four juniors have done the same with five different players having led Artesia in scoring amongst the 12 games.

"This year we're pretty deep; we're about 12 guys deep, maybe more," said Myles. "Today was a day where everybody got a chance to play. But realistically, we go about 12 deep and whoever is having a hot hand that day, whether it's Jordan, whether it's Kobe, whether it's [senior] Sean [Dahilig], whether it's [senior] Mekhi [Shield]... whoever it is, I like to go with the hot hand. I think today, Jordan had the hot hand early."

Artesia began league play with a 56-51 win over Oxford Academy this past Tuesday and will host Whitney High on Friday, Cerritos High on Monday and John Glenn High on Wednesday.

"I know league is going to be tough this year," said Myles. "League can be won by five out of the six teams. So it's going to be tough; maybe Glenn might be a competition this year. We're obviously not looking past anyone this year. Starting Tuesday, it's going to be a battle, and we're excited for the chal-



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

lenge."

In other boys basketball action, the top games for the upcoming week include Gahr High (9-8) hosting Mayfair High (14-3) on Friday in the Gateway League opener, La Mirada High (15-4) facing Rancho Cucamonga High (15-6) on Saturday in the Southern California Showcase at Irvine Valley College, Norwalk High (12-7) visiting Bellflower High (10-7) on Friday and Valley Christian High (8-12) hosting Whittier Christian High (11-9) on Tuesday.

**605 LEAGUE BOYS BASKETBALL****Whitney Makes Emphatic Statement in League-Opening Win Over Cerritos**

By Loren Kopff  
@LorenKopff on X

It was just a matter of time before the little brother of the City of Cerritos would finally come out on top of the big brother in high school boys basketball. After losing 15 straight games against Cerritos High, all but three coming in 605 League action, Whitney High finally knocked off the Dons, who were beginning the 2024-2025 season with 14 straight league wins.

Behind solid performances from seniors Morgan Marks and Peter Poitras and sophomore Jezreel DelaCruz, the host Wildcats muscled their way to a tough 61-58 win over the Dons, who had a lead with 2:43 remaining in the game.

"I think as an alum, part of me coming back was to try to restore some of what we had," said Whitney head coach Nasir Akmal. "In our era, although we were in a tougher league, we still had pride in our program. I walked in with this current senior class as freshmen, so we all came in together and changed the culture. This is just four years in the

making. But realistically, it's probably like 24 years in the making. I'm so proud of what we've done, and I want to say we're finally healthy, but we're not.

"We still managed to pull that off," he continued. "Everyone has tape on us and [has been] scouting on us, but they have no idea what we're doing. They have no idea what we're capable of doing, and I've said that from the beginning."

Akmal graduated from Whitney in 1999 when the Wildcats were in the Delphic League and played against former Crossroads High star Baron Davis. In that season, the 'Cats were a dismal 3-22 and their 0-10 league record was the first of four straight winless league campaigns. Since then, the program would encounter only one other winless league season (2018-2019).

It was looking grim for the Wildcats (8-11, 1-0) for nearly the first seven minutes of the game as Cerritos scored the first six points of the game, led 15-6 with 3:38 left in the stanza and still had a nine-point advantage a minute later. But little by little, Whitney chipped away and scored the final seven points on free throws from Marks and Poitras and a three-pointer from DelaCruz.

The hosts took their first lead over a minute into the second quarter on a pair of free throws from DelaCruz. But the rest of the half would see the lead change hands seven more times with

neither team leading by more than two points until a three-pointer from DelaCruz with 4:42 left in the third quarter made it a 39-34 contest. Four players would attempt a shot and scored in the first half

with senior Alex Cheng being the fourth, and the Wildcats connected on eight of 16 shots in the half with half of those coming from beyond the arc.

"I feel like we should have been up [at the half]," said Akmal. "We missed so many free throws like crazy in the first half."

Whitney was 10 of 17 from the charity stripe in the half while the Dons (6-12, 0-1) were making 50 percent of their free throws with senior Benson Cho accounting for half of his 12 first half points from the line. The second quarter momentum carried into the third quarter and once down by nine points, the Wildcats found themselves leading by nine points with 34.1 seconds remaining in the third quarter on a three-pointer from DelaCruz.

But most of the fourth quarter would see Cerritos get back some of its first quarter momentum as it began the final eight minutes with a 12-4 run. The last basket of that run was a trifecta from senior Demetrious Washington, giving the Dons a 53-52 lead with 3:45 left in the game.

There would be three more lead changes over the next 91 seconds with Poitras accounting for the eventual

game-winning three-pointer, making it 57-56. The last points Cerritos would get came on a two-pointer from Cho with 1:29 left while junior Shayan Saravanakumar, who blocked four shots in the third quarter, iced the game with 12.1 ticks remaining with his only basket, getting a pass from Marks. An off-balance three-point shot from senior Jaden Ribac with a second remaining was off the mark.

"To rally back... we had a game plan," said Akmal. "They have a lot of adversity to overcome because again, this is 24 years in the making. All our coaching staff spent so much time prepping for this-mental prep, physical prep, game planning, and at the end of the day, we all want to see them fight; play their best, fight and that's exactly what they did today."

Cho led Cerritos with 24 points and five rebounds while Washington and senior Jaylen Barsana each added nine points. Marks and Poitras each scored 19 points while DelaCruz added 15 points and four assists. Marks also grabbed eight rebounds. Whitney took only 33 shots from the field but made 20 of them while the Dons were 21 of 61 from the field.

"Guys hit big shots; Peter hit a big three," said Akmal. "He matched their three and our guys stepped up to the moment. At the end of the day, we have to. If we're going to win these games, we have to step up and seize the moment."

Cerritos will host Pioneer High on Friday, visit Artesia High on Monday before hosting Oxford Academy on Wednesday while the Wildcats will go to Artesia on Friday and John Glenn High on Monday before entertaining Pioneer on Wednesday



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**CITY OF COMMERCE**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND OF A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING A PROPOSED YEAR 5 ALLOCATION FOR PERMANENT LOCAL HOUSING ALLOCATION (PLHA) PROGRAM FUNDS**

Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Time: 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard

Place: Council Chambers located at 5655 Jillson St. Commerce, CA 90040 - Members of the public wishing to observe the meeting may do so in person. Persons wishing to offer public comment for this meeting may do so by directly addressing the City Council in person at the time allotted on the agenda for such comment.

Description: The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) announced the release of \$335 million in funding for the Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA) program. The PLHA program is intended to increase supply of housing for households at or below 60% of area median income, increase assistance to affordable owner-occupied workforce housing, assist persons experiencing or at risk of homelessness, facilitate housing affordability, and promote projects and programs to meet regional housing need allocations.

Through the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA), the City of Commerce is eligible to receive an estimated Year 5 allocation amount of \$59,326. The City is interested in using its allocation to rehabilitate affordable rental and ownership housing that meet the needs of a growing workforce earning up to 120% of Area Median Income (AMI).

As part of the allocation process, the City must allow the public an adequate opportunity to review and comment on the Year 5 Allocation Activity Plan. This plan details the manner in which allocated funds will be used on eligible activities.

Funding Year	5
Type of Activity	Rehabilitation of Rental/Ownership Housing
Income Level Served	Up to 120% AMI
Amount of Funds Allocated for Each Activity	\$59,236
Estimated # of Households Served	2

Availability of Document for Public Comment: The City of Commerce encourages citizen participation in the planning process. A Public Hearing regarding this proposed Year 5 PLHA Allocation Activity Plan will be held in-person on February 11, 2025, 6:00p.m.

A copy of the Plan is on file and available for public review at the City's News and Information webpage: <https://www.ci.commerce.ca.us/residents/news-information/news>.

Accessibility: Meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, notify the Office of the City Clerk at (323) 722-4805 as least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

For more information, contact Louis Morales, Director of Economic Development and Planning Department at (323) 722-4805 ext. 2389 or via email at [lmorales@ci.commerce.ca.us](mailto:lmorales@ci.commerce.ca.us).

Dated: January 8, 2025

Published: January 10, 2025

Lena Shumway, City Clerk/Director of Administrative Services

**Publish January 10, 2025**

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 1/10/25

**SKYZONE** from page 1

Zia's Sky Zones varies in size from 30,000 square feet to a 48,000-square-foot new park being built in Walnut Creek. He said that he employs 280 to run his parks.

"The bigger your park is the more attractions you can fit inside and the more customers you can accommodate. But since our parks have very different demographic markets and the space limitations vary, we have to adjust our revenue goals for them," he said.

"We feel confident we can improve the bottom line at existing parks we acquire by making some basic changes. We start by cleaning things up inside and updating the attractions. One thing I realized throughout my career is the best way to improve things is people change. We'll bring in new management and leadership where needed and that leads to changing the entire culture at a park," Zia said.

To help ensure his Sky Zones are running well and on staying on track, Zia said he regularly visits each one. He said he'll put on sunglasses when entering a park so no one recognizes him and makes notes on how clean the facilities are kept, the quality of the food being served and how well the staff responds to the needs of customers.

"I went to know that our people are greeting the customers and are friendly and helpful. But first, I want to know our parks are super clean and the attractions are being maintained and staffed properly for safety," said Zia, a member of Sky Zone's franchise advisory council.

With existing franchisees like Zia adding to their portfolio of parks, Sky Zone continues to grow.

The Provo, Utah-based company that's owned by CircusTrix and backed by private equity firm Palladium Equity Partners, moved up 21 spots to land at No. 148 on the Franchise Times Top 400 with \$504.4 million in revenue.

It added nine locations in 2024 to get to

250 total units and is anticipating another 20 parks in 2025, said Sky Zone President Mike Revak.

Depending on the size of the park, the initial investment range for a Sky Zone is \$2.2 million to \$4.7 million.

"I've been doing this for a long time, since 2012, and I don't remember seeing this much interest before" from new franchisees, Revak said.

He estimated 70 percent of last year's unit growth came from new operators and that Sky Zone's overall park membership is nearing 600,000.

"We used to sell mainly single units and now we're getting away from that and looking to bring in franchisees interested in opening more than one park. Some of our newer franchisee groups are buying five- and 10-pack development deals," Revak said. "Franchisees continue to see the demand for family entertainment parks in their communities."



**CITY OF CERRITOS, NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

**Project Identification: ARTERIAL STREET REHABILITATION, PROJECT NO. 23303, BID NO. 1558-24. Project Description:** The work or improvement to be performed generally consists of cold milling 3" of existing asphalt concrete (AC); removing and reconstructing AC structural section (4" AC on 8" CMB); and the construction of a 3" AC surface. Additional improvements also include the removal & replacement of deficient concrete curbs & gutters; sidewalk panels, driveways, and wheelchair access ramps; adjustment of utilities to grade; removal of parkway trees; planting trees; installation of traffic signal loops; re-stripping of lane lines, arrows, and stop bars; and/or the installation of fiber conduit along the following streets: Bloomfield Avenue from 183<sup>rd</sup> Street to 195<sup>th</sup> Street, 195<sup>th</sup> Street from Bloomfield Avenue to Norwalk Boulevard, Flora Vista Street from 195<sup>th</sup> Street to Norwalk Boulevard and Norwalk Boulevard from 195<sup>th</sup> Street to Del Amo Boulevard. All Asphalt related work must be performed and finished between the month of June and July. **Bids will be opened: Wednesday, January 29, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. Place of bid receipt:** The bid submission must be received in the Office of the City Clerk, First Floor, 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90703. It is the responsibility of the bidder to ensure that the bid is received in the appropriate location by the deadline. Bids not received in the Office of the City Clerk by the deadline provided will not be considered. **Bids must be marked: "BID - ARTERIAL STREET REHABILITATION, PROJECT NO. 23303, BID NO. 1558-24 - DO NOT OPEN"** All Bids shall be made on the form furnished by the City and shall be opened and publicly read aloud at the above-stated time in the Office of the City Clerk of the City of Cerritos, City Hall. Any requests for information regarding opened bids shall be directed to the Office of the City Clerk via a formal Public Records Act request. The City has determined that opened bids are confidential and therefore the negotiations process outweighs the public interest in prematurely disclosing such records. (Gov. Code § 7922.000). **Obtaining Contract Documents:** A set of Contract Documents, including plans and specifications can be obtained by contacting Cerritos Engineering Division at (562) 916-1219. Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid security referred to in the Contract Documents and by a list of proposed subcontractors. Evidence of current City Business License (applies to contractor and all subcontractors), insurance, a Performance Bond, a Labor and Material Payment Bond, and Warranty Bond, as specified in the Contract Documents, will be required prior to execution of the contract. In accordance with Public Contract Code Section 22300, the bidder who is awarded the contract may substitute securities for retention money withheld by a public agency to ensure performance under the contract. The procedure and requirements for substituting said securities are set forth in Public Contract Code Section 22300, which is incorporated by this reference. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or portions thereof, or to waive any informality or irregularity in a bid to the extent allowed by law. No bid will be accepted from a contractor who has not been licensed in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 9, Division III of the California Business and Professions Code. The contractor must possess a license of the following classification at the time the contract is awarded (and must maintain this license classification through completion of the project): **"A."** The bidder's attention is also directed to Section 7028.15 of the Business and Professions Code for further reference, as set forth herein. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or portions thereof, or to waive any informality or irregularity in a bid to the extent allowed by law. Only a contractor or subcontractor who currently is registered with the California Department of Industrial Relations ("DIR") to bid on public works contracts in California, pursuant to Labor Code Section 1725.5, shall be permitted to submit or be listed on a bid. No bid shall be accepted, nor any contract or subcontract entered into, without proof of the contractor or subcontractor's current registration to perform public work pursuant to Labor Code Section 1725.5. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 1770, *et seq.*, of the California Labor Code, the DIR has determined the general prevailing rate of wages and employer payments for health and welfare, vacations, pensions and similar purposes applicable to the work to be done. These rates shall be the minimum rates for this project. Copies of the prevailing wage rates are on file at City Hall, located at 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, California, 90703, and shall be available to any interested party upon request. In addition, rates may be obtained by visiting <http://www.dir.ca.gov/OPRL/pwd/>, calling the DIR, Division of Labor Statistics and Research's Prevailing Wage Unit at (415) 703-4774, faxing the Prevailing Wage Unit at (415) 703-4771 or writing to DIR, Division of Labor Statistics and Research, Prevailing Wage Unit, P.O. Box 420603, San Francisco, CA, 94142. The contractor to whom the contract is awarded, and the subcontractors under him, must pay not less than these rates for this area to all workers employed in the execution of the contract. The bidder's attention is further directed to Section 9204 of the Public Contract Code regarding the claims resolution process for all public works projects. Any dispute or claim against the City under a public works project shall be processed in accordance with Section 9204 of the Public Contract Code and any other applicable law. On March 4, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-6-22 (EO) regarding sanctions in response to Russian aggression in Ukraine. The EO is located at <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/3.4.22-Russia-Ukraine-Executive-Order.pdf>. All contractors shall comply with economic sanctions imposed in response to Russia's action's in Ukraine, per this order and other federal executive orders identified by the U.S. Department of Treasury. Failure to comply with these orders shall result in the termination of contract. By order of the City of Cerritos.

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**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 **2:00 PM** on the **4th day of February 2025** Bids for:

ABC Bid # 1668 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](mailto:esthela.perez@abcusd.us). There will be a mandatory pre-bid meeting on **January 21, 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 January 10, 2025  
January 17, 2025

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 1/10 and 1/17/25

**CITY OF ARTESIA  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Planning Commission of the City of Artesia will hold a Planning Commission Meeting in the City Council Chambers of Artesia City Hall located at 18747 Clarkdale Avenue, Artesia, California at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 to conduct a **Public Hearing** to consider the following item:

**Project Description: Case No. 2024-34:** The Planning Commission will consider Resolution No. 2025-01P.

Resolution 2025-01P recommends that the City Council of Artesia adopt an Ordinance amending Title 9 (Planning and Zoning), Chapter 2 (Zoning), Article 45 (Accessory Dwelling Units) of the City of Artesia Municipal Code relating to Accessory Dwelling Units and Junior Accessory Dwelling Units to comply with recent changes in State Law, and finding the action to be Statutorily Exempt from CEQA under Public Resource Code Section 21080.17.

**Project Description: Case No. 2024-38:** The Planning Commission will consider Resolution No. 2025-02P.

Resolution 2025-02P recommends that the City Council of Artesia adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 24 (Vacant Properties) of Title 5 (Public Welfare) of the City of Artesia Municipal Code relating to the maintenance of vacant properties. The recommendation also makes a determination of exemption under CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15378(b)(5). Adoption of the Ordinance is an organizational or administrative activity of the City that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

**Project Location:** Citywide.

Members from the public who would like to address the Planning Commission may appear at the public hearing during the consideration of this item and state their opinion. If you have written comments that you wish to submit, please deliver them to the Artesia City Clerk's Office, 18747 Clarkdale Avenue, Artesia, CA, or by email: [planning@cityofartesia.us](mailto:planning@cityofartesia.us) prior to the start of the public hearing. If you have questions about this notice or the proposed action, please contact the Artesia Community Development Department at (562) 865-6262 or by the email above.

If you challenge any action related to this public hearing in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered at, or prior to, the public hearing.

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Extra Space Storage, on behalf of itself or its affiliates, Life Storage or Storage Express, will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at location indicated: **17701 Ibbetson Ave. Bellflower, Ca. 90706 on January 22, 2025, at 12:30 p.m.**

Tonya Dennis

The auction will be listed and advertised on [www.storage-treasures.com](http://www.storage-treasures.com). Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**CITY OF BELLFLOWER  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT FOR THE 2025-2029 FIVE YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN**

**TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:**

**Public Hearing:**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Bellflower City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday February 10, 2025 as follows:

In accordance with the City's current Citizen Participation Plan, the City hereby notifies the general public of a public hearing on **February 10, 2025 at 7:00p.m., or thereafter, held at City Council Chambers, Bellflower City Hall, 16600 Civic Center Drive, Bellflower, CA 90706** for citizens input on the upcoming draft five-year 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan.

As an entitlement jurisdiction, the City is required by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to complete the Consolidated Plan (ConPlan) and Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice every five years. Furthermore, the City is required to conduct a public hearing to receive input and provide direction concerning the draft Five-Year Consolidated Plan for the allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) program funds.

The purpose of the ConPlan is to identify Bellflower's housing and community development needs, priorities, goals, and strategies and to stipulate how funds will be allocated to housing and community development activities over the next five years. The CDBG Program provides federal funds for local improvement projects and programs. Activities assisted with CDBG funds must meet one of the three national objectives: principally benefit low and moderate-income persons, aid in the prevention or elimination of slums and blight, or meet other community development needs having particular urgency. The HOME Program provides formula grants - often in partnership with local nonprofit groups - to fund a wide range of activities including building, buying, and/or rehabilitating affordable housing or providing direct rental assistance to low-income people. HOME is the largest Federal block grant to state and local governments designed exclusively to create affordable housing for low-income households.

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

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

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**TRIBES** from page 1

with commission members appointed by and reporting directly to Governor Newsom.

But in 2018, Becerra instructed his agency, the BGC, to violate its charter and enter the regulatory arena under the Commission's purview.

It took Becerra less than two years, during which time he received massive cash for his 2018 election campaign from the Native American tribal casinos, as exclusively reported by LCCN, for his Office of the Attorney General to ignore over forty years of precedent and deliver a crushing body-blow to California cardrooms and the cities they are located in.

On September 25, 2018, just six weeks before his 2018 election, the BGC's Stephanie Shimazu, under Becerra's orders, issued onerous rule changes of card room games that will have wide-ranging ramifications up and down the state.

The changes handed the Native American tribal casinos the keys to the bank. Now they are cashing in.

"If these regulations were adopted, they would kill the cardroom industry and devastate dozens of communities and thousands of working families," the California Gaming Assn., a trade group for the state's cardrooms, said in a statement. "This proposal is a clear attack on the cardroom industry and a message that the bureau is intent on eliminating this lawful \$5.6-billion industry and putting 32,000 Californians out of work."

This past Wednesday, January 1, former State Senator Josh Newman's Senate Bill 549, the so-called Tribal Nations Access to Justice Act, went into effect. It gives California's Native American tribes the opportunity to put California Cardrooms out of business.

SB 549 allows tribes to take legal ac-

tion against card clubs and others offering 'banked' card games where one party pays out all winnings or collects all of a player's losses. This rule change, initiated by the BGC in 2018, has significantly altered the gambling landscape in California, giving tribes the power to challenge the legality of cardroom operations.

Seven tribes sued cardrooms across California in Sacramento Superior Court, including the Garden's Casino in Hawaiian Gardens, the Bicycle Casino in Bell Gardens, and the Commerce Casino in Commerce.

Just like the three Attorney's General before Becerra refused to sue the cardrooms, the cardrooms said they were doing nothing illegal. "We are confident that California's cardrooms are operating table games in full compliance with the law, just as they have done for decades," California Gaming Association President Kyle Kirkland said in a news release.

"Cardrooms offer tens of thousands of good-paying jobs, pay hundreds of millions in taxes, support local communities, are licensed by the state, subject to extensive regulatory oversight, and offer legal games that have been reviewed and approved by the California Department of Justice," Kirkland said.

"This attempt by tribal casinos to shut down lawful competition by tax-paying California businesses will fail," he added.

A news release from the California Gaming Association read that the cardrooms deny the allegations in the tribes' lawsuit and "will vigorously defend their lawful operations."

They have a good case.

In many cases, cardrooms existed and licensed their games well before the Gambling Control Act, the Commission, and the BGC existed.

Some card rooms operated well before the first Native American casino opened. At that time, the disputed games were le-

gal, and no one challenged them in court.

In addition, when the BGC and the Commission were established, both agencies tacitly approved the existing games, allowing them to continue for decades.

As a result, card rooms have relied on that approval, expanded operations, and invested heavily in infrastructure, while the cities have developed a huge income flow on which they depend.

Commerce gets 55% of its revenue from the Commerce Casino, Bell Gardens 45%, and Hawaiian Gardens 75%. If the tribes are successful, Commerce and Bell Gardens would have to implement 35% across-the-board cuts, while Hawaiian Gardens would likely have to file for bankruptcy.

Don't forget the devastating economic hit on the vendors and staff employed by the cardrooms.

Adam Lauridsen, an attorney with San Francisco law firm Keeker, Van Nest & Peters, which represents the tribes, seemed to gloss over the fact that the BGC and the Commission gave tacit approval on which the casinos relied on for investment and expansion.

"The California Constitution grants tribes the exclusive right to offer blackjack, baccarat, and other banked games in tribal casinos. Cardrooms have brazenly rejected this voter-approved framework and instead forged ahead with offering illegal Vegas-style games."

"Why is it all of a sudden wrong?" said former California Cities for Self Reliance Joint Powers Authority attorney Jimmy Gutierrez. "The games have been going on for decades, the Commission has not acted, nor has the BGC ever revoked licenses, and there have been no criminal or civil actions in the courts."

Many more lawsuits will likely be filed as the tribes until April 1 to finish their filings.

## **FIRES: Pico Rivera Partners With La Noria Using the City's Sports Arena to Offer Free Animal Boarding**

Pico Rivera has partnered with La Noria Entertainment and the Pico Rivera Sports Arena to offer free boarding for horse and large livestock owners in areas impacted by the area fires.

The Sports Arena is the most prominent Mexican rodeo ring in the country. Horse and large livestock owners can bring their animals at any time, as someone will be present to assist.

"As wildfires continue to impact communities across Southern California, our thoughts are with the residents, families, and animals affected by this devastating crisis," said Pico Rivera Mayor John R. Garcia. "Today, I am proud to announce that the Pico Rivera Sports Arena has been designated as an emergency shelter for horses and large livestock displaced by the fires. This critical resource underscores our city's commitment to supporting our neighbors in their time of need."

The Sports Arena is uniquely equipped to provide safe, secure, and accessible boarding for horses and other large animals. It gives families peace of mind as they prioritize their safety and recovery. We recognize that animals are an integral part of many households, farms, and livelihoods, and providing a safe haven for them is a vital part of our disaster response efforts."

Facilities like the Pico Rivera Sports Arena play a pivotal role in ensuring that no family has to make the heartbreaking choice between their safety and the well-being of their animals.

# Give the Gift of Life This Holiday Season

**URGENT BLOOD DONATIONS NEEDED**

## We need your help!

This holiday season, you can make a difference in the lives of those who need it most. Make your appointment to donate blood or platelets directly to the patients of MemorialCare's Long Beach Medical Center and Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach today:

- > **All blood types needed**, especially Group O blood (universal donor)
- > **It's Simple:** only takes 30 minutes
- > **It's Safe:** blood donor safety precautions are followed



Long Beach Medical Center  
Miller Children's & Women's  
Hospital Long Beach

**(562) 933-0808**

Schedule an appointment online:  
[memorialcareblooddonor.org](http://memorialcareblooddonor.org)

MemorialCare Long Beach  
Medical Center  
2801 Atlantic Ave.  
Long Beach, CA 90806

