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RESCUE IN THE INFERNO: 'PAWS OF WAR' SAVING ANIMALS AFFECTED BY LA FIRES

Paws is setting up feeding stations, giving out life-saving pet oxygen masks, while saving many animals.

By Brian Hews

The nation has been gripped by the harrowing footage of the fires raging through Los Angeles, leaving a trail of destruction in its wake. Entire neighborhoods of homes, schools, and businesses have been reduced to ashes. To date, nearly 24,000 acres and over 14,000 acres have been scorched in the Palisades and Eaton fires, respectively, with over 12,000 structures destroyed and lives shattered.

Extensive coverage has been given to the residents' and businesses' losses, and rightfully so, but thousands of animals were also affected.

One organization with a proven track record of helping animals affected by disasters is



PAWS OF WAR personnel, above, have ventured out into the dangerous Los Angeles burn zones, building food and water stations specifically designed for dogs and cats, providing much-needed sustenance to animals in need.

New York-based Paws of War. Paws has successfully rescued and rehabilitated dogs and cats in dire straits, often plucking them from the brink of despair and giving them a new chance at life. Paws has a history of venturing into natural disaster areas and war-torn regions, reuniting people and service members with the animals with which they

formed bonds.

In the Palisades and Eaton fire-affected areas, Paws has kicked it into high gear, undertaking critical missions to save animals struggling to survive in the burn zones.

Paws personnel have ventured out into the dangerous burn zones, building food and water

[See PAWS, page 16]

Artesia Moves to Ban Short-Term Rentals in the City After Receiving Complaints

The short-term rentals are often associated with excessive noise, parking problems, and trash.

By Brian Hews

At its December meeting, the Artesia City Council approved an ordinance expressly prohibiting short-term rentals in the city.

Short-term rentals [STR] refer to renting out a home, apartment, or room for a brief period, typically less than thirty days. These rentals are commonly offered through platforms like Airbnb, Vrbo, or Booking.com.

The proliferation of these online vacation rental websites has encouraged and enabled city property owners, tenants, and occupants to rent their local properties on a short-term basis to travelers and transients.

These short-term rentals are often associated with excessive noise, parking problems, trash, and degradation of a neighborhood's residential character.

Artesia has received a number of complaints regarding residents renting their properties out as short-term vacation rentals, but the city's municipal code does not expressly address or regulate short-term rentals.

The city's current practice is to investigate complaints and exercise enforcement against short-term rental uses.

However, the city wants to go further, adding the prohibition to the municipal code, which expressly prohibits short-term rentals throughout the city.

The prohibition aligns with the growing trend among California municipalities to ban short-term rentals due to similar neighborhood disruptions. It also underscores the city's commitment to addressing the current housing shortage in California by increasing housing stock availability for long-term residents.

In other news, Artesia allocated additional funds for the A.J. Padelford Park Expansion Project.

In 2019, the city was award-

[See ARTESIA, page 16]

Supervisors Declare Downey's City of STEM as Official Science Festival of LA County

For the first time, STEM will be held at Exposition Park on April 12.

By Brian Hews

This week, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a motion by Supervisor Janice Hahn and co-authored by Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell to officially declare the City of STEM + Los Angeles Maker Faire as the Official Science Festival of Los Angeles County. This significant declaration is a testament to the thriving STEM community in the local area.

The move to declare the City of STEM as the Official Science Festival of Los Angeles County is the culmination

of years of dedicated work by the Columbia Memorial Space Center staff and its President and Executive Director, Ben Dickow.

The City of STEM Science Festival (STEM) began in 2015 and was initially organized by the Center. By 2019, STEM had attracted a diverse range of partners, including Boeing, Ozobot, Yuri's Night, Los Angeles, City of Downey, SpaceX, Aerojet-Rocketdyne, The Planetary Society, Virgin Orbit, JPL, and Financial Partners Credit Union.

The annual event is located in Downey and the Los Angeles Public Library. For the first time, it will be held at Exposition Park on April 12.

"Some of the greatest accomplishments in science,

[See STEM, page 4]

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Santa Fe Springs Organizes Donation Drive For Residents and L.A. CADA Treatment Sites Destroyed by Eaton Fire



DONATING AND DELIVERING: clockwise from top left, Mayor Bill Rounds, Mayor Pro Tem Joe Angel Zamora, Councilmember Annette Rodriguez, Councilmember Juanita Martin, Councilmember John Mora, and City staff from the Community Services Department in the Family and Human Services Division.

On Thursday, January 9th, in response to the devastating impact of the recent Eaton fire, Santa Fe Springs launched a donation drive to assist evacuees who were residing in two L.A. CADA treatment sites located in Altadena. Due to the fires destroying the two treatment sites, L.A. CADA of Santa Fe Springs graciously opened their doors to shelter the Altadena L.A. CADA residents.

“During this challenging time, our community’s compassion were truly demonstrated by the overwhelming response in donations we received for those that were affected by the fire in Altadena. I want to thank the residents of Santa Fe Springs for coming together and donating to a fellow neighbor. I would also like to applaud L.A. CADA of Santa Fe Springs for opening their doors and housing the Altadena L.A. CADA residents. Our City will always provide a place to call home for a fellow neighbor in need,” said Mayor Bill Rounds.

The following donation items, among many others, were collected: Towels/Washcloths; Water; Toilet paper; Pillows and Blankets; Hygiene kits: hand soap, toothbrushes, and feminine hygiene products; Canned goods and non-perishable foods

The City thanks residents for their support displaying the true meaning of community.

The City is also grateful to the following local partners for their generous donations: Southeast Area Animal Control Authority (SEAACA) donated pet food, bedding, snacks, and doggy bags, Care For The Children donated frozen and refrigerated meals, and Church of Latter Day Saints – Downey Stake donated several truckloads of supplies and food.

The collected donation items will be distributed to affected individuals at L.A. CADA of Santa Fe Springs to meet their immediate needs during this difficult time.

Commerce Company Provided Free Food to First Responders



GREAT TACOS: first responders, including sheriff deputies, the FBI, Highway Patrol, the Fire Department, National Guard, and other civilian responders queued up for free tacos from Commerce-based CCM Butcher Carniceria and Cocina, who brought two lunch trucks to feed the responders.

By Brian Hews

On Sunday, January 12, and Monday, January 13, Commerce-based CCM Butcher Carniceria and Cocina provided free tacos and beverages to the LA County first responders, including sheriff deputies, the FBI, Highway Patrol, the Fire Department, National Guard, and other civilian responders.

A statement from CCM Butcher Carniceria and Cocina read, “We are proud to have two of our signature fleet food trucks—The Butcher Carniceria, CCM Market, and The Taco GodFather—join

forces to serve thousands of tacos to these heroes. The tacos will feature a variety of meats such as asada, chicken, and more, along with drinks including water and soft drinks.”

The event was made possible with the generous support of Martin and Alejandra, the entrepreneurs behind CCM Butcher Carniceria and Cocina, located at 6046 E. Washington Blvd, Commerce, CA 90040 as well as other supporters who are committed to giving back to the community and showing appreciation to those on the front lines.

LA County Bans Leaf Blowers During Fire Recovery

The L.A. County Public Health Department has declared a Local Health Emergency and issued a Public Health Officer Order that temporarily bans the use of power air blowers until further notice.

These devices stir up ash and particulate matter into the air, further worsening air quality and increasing health risks for everyone and their pets, particularly for those with respiratory conditions, older adults, children and other vulnerable populations.

The order to ban the use of leaf blowers applies to all areas of Los Angeles County due to the widespread presence of ash and particulate matter in the air throughout the entire region.

Tips to protect your health

If you see or smell smoke, or notice particles and ash in the air, stay indoors to limit exposure, especially if you have heart or lung conditions or have children.

Keep indoor air clean by closing windows and doors. Use air conditioners that recirculate air to filter out harmful particles.

Wear an N95 or P100 mask if you must go outside in smoky conditions for long periods of time in areas with heavy smoke or where ash is present.

Avoid air conditioners that only bring in outside air and don’t recirculate. Check and replace air filters regularly. Filters labeled “MERV13” or higher are most effective for removing smoke particles. HEPA air purifiers can further reduce indoor particles.

If it’s too hot to keep windows and doors closed and you don’t have an air conditioner, go to a public place like a library or shopping center to stay cool and protect yourself from harmful air. Buy vitamins and supplements

Avoid using fireplaces, candles or vacuums. Clean dusty surfaces with a damp cloth and don’t smoke.

If you experience symptoms like severe coughing, shortness of breath, wheezing, chest pain, nausea or unusual fatigue, contact your doctor or go to urgent care. For life-threatening symptoms, call 911.

When smoke lingers, fine particles may build up indoors even if you can’t see them. Masks can protect against larger particles, but most don’t block fine particles or toxic gases, which are more harmful.

Practice safe clean-up following a fire. Follow these ash clean-up and food safety instructions.

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Cerritos High Graduate Earns Noteworthy International Appointment

By LCCN Staff Report

Cerritos native and graduate of Cerritos High School Amara Anigbo, currently a product manager at Google, has been named a Schwarzman Scholar, joining a group of 150 students admitted to one of the world's most prestigious graduate fellowship programs.

Anigbo is among young leaders from 38 countries and 105 colleges and universities selected for the program's tenth cohort.

The Schwarzman Scholars program offers a fully funded master's degree in global affairs at Schwarzman College, Tsinghua University in Beijing, China.

Scholars are selected through a rigorous application process designed to identify leadership potential, intellect and strength of character.

Anigbo, who graduated from Dickinson College in Pennsylvania in 2020 with a degree in computer science, has a background as a product manager at Google and Microsoft, focused on communication platforms like Microsoft Teams and Google Meet.

At Dickinson, Anigbo started the Inclusivity in STEM group on campus, earned several scholarships, including the Jeff Ubben Posse Fellowship, where she interned and was mentored by Microsoft CEO, Satya Nadella.

Anigbo also studied abroad at the Dickinson in England program at the University of East Anglia.

As a Schwarzman Scholar, she will study global affairs with a focus on China's expanding influence in Africa, particularly in the development of technology infrastructure, and its implications for other emerging economies worldwide.

She aims to analyze how China's investments and partnerships are reshaping digital and physical landscapes, assessing their long-term impact on economic growth and global integration.

"I am deeply honored to be selected as a Schwarzman Scholar and to represent Dickinson College on this global stage," said Anigbo. "Dickinson's emphasis on international leadership and global engagement, along with my experiences founding the Inclusivity in STEM group, have been in-



CERRITOS NATIVE and graduate of Cerritos High School Amara Anigbo was one of only 150 chosen from 38 countries and 105 colleges and universities as a Schwarzman Scholar

strumental in shaping my vision for a more equitable world. As a Schwarzman Scholar, I look forward to exploring China's evolving role on the African continent and fostering global partnerships that address critical infrastructure and technological gaps. I am excited to join a community of changemakers committed to navigating the challenges of our interconnected world."

After graduation from the Schwarzman Scholars program, Anigbo plans to use her experience to work on expanding telecommunications and technology infrastructure in Africa, bridging gaps that hinder development and innovation. "My goal is to foster global partnerships that drive sustainable growth and create opportunities for communities historically excluded from the digital economy," she said.

This year's Schwarzman Scholars applicant pool broke records, underscoring the growing interest among young leaders in understanding China and fostering global collaboration. With the incoming class, the Schwarzman Scholars network now includes over 1,300 members from 104 countries and 459 institutions worldwide.

"Our tenth cohort fills me with optimism for the future," said Stephen A. Schwarzman, Founding Trustee of Schwarzman Scholars. "This year's selected Scholars are keenly interested in learning about China and broadening their understanding of global affairs, which are both now more important than ever."

Cerritos Community Safety Comm. Meetings Broadcast Live

Community Safety Committee (CSC) Meetings will now broadcast live on Cerritos TV3 and the City's YouTube channel following recent direction by the City Council. In addition, the meetings will now be held in the Cerritos City Council Chamber.

The Community Safety Committee meets at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each odd-numbered month.

The CSC educates, informs, and provides assistance to the community with re-

gard to public safety issues. Responsibilities of the CSC include acting as advisors to the City Council in matters related to crime prevention, traffic, and pedestrian safety. The CSC also supports and promotes crime-prevention awareness throughout the community through programs such as Neighborhood Watch.

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

Whitney High Named Top Middle School in California by U.S. News

U.S. News and World Report has released its 2025 Middle School Rankings, naming Whitney High School as the top middle school in California. This prestigious recognition is based on student performance in math and reading/language arts state assessments, with socioeconomic demographics factored in to ensure equitable success for all students.

"We are incredibly proud of our middle schools, which deliver rigorous academic programs preparing students for success in high school and beyond," said ABC Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Gina Zietlow. "Whitney High School's recognition as the top middle school in the state is a testament to the exceptional work of our students, families, teachers, and staff."

The six ABCUSD middle schools - Carmenita, Fedde, Haskell, and Ross Middle Schools - ranked within the top 51 percent of California's 2,404 public and charter middle schools, showcasing the district's commitment to student success.

"Our schools offer outstanding educational opportunities that go beyond academics," said ABCUSD Board of Education President Mr. Ernie Nishii. "While rankings like these are exciting, they only capture a fraction of the incredible work taking place in our schools every day to support student growth and success."

ABCUSD schools are traditionally ranked highly by U.S. News. Whitney High School was also ranked #2 in all high schools in California and is typically ranked within the top two schools in the state each year by U.S. News.

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STEM from page 1

math, and engineering in our nation's history happened here in Los Angeles County. City of STEM is helping us ensure that we remain the home of its bright future, too," said Supervisor Hahn. "Thousands of future scientists, engineers, creators, and innovators from LA County will find the inspiration and guidance they need at our new Official Science Festival."

STEM brings together over 200 organizations, vendors, and over 20,000 attendees across Los Angeles County for expert panel discussions, workshops, mainstage entertainment, VIPs, special guests, and live music. In 2023, STEM was combined with the Los Angeles Maker Faire, where inventors and creators gather to showcase their projects and gadgets.

"We are excited to welcome The City of STEM + Los Angeles Maker Faire to the 2nd District's Exposition Park for the first time. Exposition Park

is a central location accessible by public transit and at the nexus of science, culture, and the arts. I look forward to more young people from diverse communities accessing STEM education and resources at the Official Science Fair of Los Angeles County," said Supervisor Mitchell.

"We want to thank the County of Los Angeles for recognizing the City of STEM as the official celebration of science and innovation in the County. LA County has a long legacy of leading the County in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), from building the spaceships that went to the moon to the early development of the internet at UCLA," said Dickow. "That leadership continues and City of STEM, with its month of events and programs and its huge festival City of STEM + LA Maker Faire on April 12."

The Columbia Memorial Space Center opened in 2009, is owned and operated by the City of Downey and was built on the site of the former NASA Downey facility where the Apollo modules were built.



SUPERVISOR HAHN welcomed City of STEM and Downey leaders to the Board of Supervisors meeting this week on the occasion of the declaration. From (l-r) Roger Bradley, Downey City Manager; Benjamin Dickow, President and Executive Director, Columbia Memorial Space Center; Supervisor Hahn; Daphne Bradford founder, Mother of Many; Hector Sosa, Mayor of Downey. The annual event is located in Downey and the Los Angeles Public Library. For the first time, it will be held at Exposition Park on April 12.

LCCN's Cutest Pet Photo Contest



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Second Place Gets \$100 Gift Card!

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Kohl's Closing San Bernardino Hub, 10 Other California Stores

LCCN Staff Report

Kohl's said Friday it is closing its e-commerce fulfillment center in San Bernardino, cutting some 690 jobs. The bulk of the jobs, some 592 positions, are for material handlers.

Kohl's said Friday it was closing 27 underperforming stores in 15 states by April and a large distribution hub in San Bernardino, where nearly 700 people will lose their jobs.

Ten of the store closures are in California.

The company noted on Thursday that the San Bernardino e-commerce fulfillment center, or EFC, has been in operation since 2010, one of 15 such centers in Kohl's supply chain nationwide.

The bulk of the jobs, some 592 positions, are for material handlers inside the fulfillment center, the letter to EDD notes. Another 83 jobs include supervisors, technicians and workplace administrators.

The announcement comes after the Wisconsin-based chain posted 11 consecutive quarters of sales declines and faces new leadership.

The store closures affect just a fraction of its 1,150 store base. Kohl's declined to disclose the number of store employees affected. The company said store workers have been informed and have been offered a "competitive severance package" or the chance to apply to other open roles at Kohl's.

The list of Kohl's closures in California include a store in Westchester (8739 S. Sepulveda Blvd.), two in San Diego County, and the others to the north.

Macy's closures

On Thursday, Macy's disclosed the locations of 66 stores it will be closing early this year, including nine in California.

The California stores include the retailer's Westminister Mall location, another in downtown Los Angeles (750 W. 7th St.), two in San Diego County and five others in Sacramento and the Bay Area.

The majority of the stores will close in the first fiscal quarter, Macy's said.

In November, Macy's reported falling profit and sales in its fiscal third quarter. It raised sales expectations for the current fiscal year, but lowered profit projections.

The Macy's stores set to close account for 25% of overall square footage but less than 10% of its sales, the company had said.

L.A. Wildfires Have Destroyed These Landmarks



WILL ROGERS' ranch house, and a motel owned by William Randolph Hearst are among some of the famous structures that have been destroyed by the California wildfires.

Will Rogers' ranch house, and a motel owned by William Randolph Hearst are among some of the famous structures that have been damaged or destroyed by the California wildfires.

Los Angeles is a town full of landmarks, thanks to its costarring role in over a century of filmed entertainment.

Some famed spots—like the Hollywood Bowl, the TCL Chinese Theatre, and the Dolby Theatre, where the Oscars are held—initially seemed imperiled by the Hollywood Hills fire, yet remained at least largely unharmed Thursday. But the fires have taken a toll on some familiar sites.

Palisades Charter High School

There was "significant damage" to Palisades Charter High School, though the main campus building stands. Founded in 1961 and built for a reported \$6 million, the high school currently serves some 3,000 students throughout the Los Angeles area, though they were not in session this week. De Palma's 1976 adaptation of Carrie, starring Sissy Spacek as the outcast teen, is perhaps Pali High's most recognizable credit.

It's also played high schools in the 2003 remake of Freaky Friday, with Lindsay Lohan and Jamie Lee Curtis, the Kirsten Dunst movie Crazy/Beautiful, the Anne Hathaway film Havoc, the television series Teen Wolf and American Vandal, and the music video for Olivia Rodrigo's "good 4 u."

Notable alumni include filmmaker J.J. Abrams, actors Jennifer Jason Leigh and Forest Whitaker, musician will.i.am, Los Angeles Lakers owner Jeanie Buss, and Golden State Warriors coach Steve Kerr.

Will Rogers' Ranch House

Will Rogers' Western Ranch House, a property dating back to the 1920s, was completely destroyed in the Palisades Fire. Built on 186 acres in the Pacific Palisades area, overlooking the Pacific Ocean, it had 31 rooms, corrals, a stable, riding ring, roping arena, polo field, golf course, and hiking trails. It was where the famed actor (once one of the highest paid) and radio personality would ride horses and practice roping before his death in 1935. His widow, Bet-

ty Rogers, gave the property to the state in 1944 and it became a historic state park. The Ranch was featured in the 1975 Barbra Streisand sequel Funny Lady.

Topanga Ranch Motel

The Palisades Fire also destroyed the Topanga Ranch Motel, a 30-room, bungalow-style motel built by William Randolph Hearst in 1929. The property had been uninhabited and deteriorating for nearly 20 years, but there were plans for a restoration and reopening in the works.

The 1970s television series Mannix as well as an episode of Remington Steele, the 1986 Judd Nelson and Ally Sheedy movie Blue City, and the 1991 Bridget Fonda movie Leather Jackets.

Reel Inn Malibu

This seafood shack on the Pacific Coast Highway and across the street from Topanga Beach State Park opened in 1986 and burned to the ground in the fire. In an Instagram post, the owners wrote that they weren't sure what would remain of the beloved spot. "Hopefully the state parks will let us rebuild when the dust settles," Teddy and Andy Leonard wrote.

The Reel has been featured on shows like Man v. Food and The Chew and counted the likes of Cindy Crawford, Paris Hilton, and Jerry Seinfeld as fans of its fried seafood fare. It also made a cameo in 24.

The Bunny Museum

A quirky Los Angeles-area oddity, The Bunny Museum, located in Altadena and dedicated to all things bunnies, was also destroyed. The museum had all sorts of bunny-themed items, from Trix boxes and bottles of Nesquik to Bugs Bunny paraphernalia and magazine covers of performer Bad Bunny. There was also a Chamber of Hop Horrors detailing the historical abuse of bunnies that had an age requirement: 13 and up.

FAMOUS CREDITS: It's made the Guinness Book of World Records, and been featured in Ripley's Believe It Or Not!, the Smithsonian Magazine, and an episode of Visiting... With Huell Howser.

Mobile Mosquito Lab Visits Hawaiian Elementary



BZZZZZZT: The Mosquito League Mobile Lab visited Hawaiian Elementary, giving fifth graders an engaging lesson on mosquito life cycles and their impact on public health. Thanks to the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District for making science come alive with their interactive Mobile Lab. Photo ABCUSD.

Anaheim: Overnight Lane Closures on Eastbound 91

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has scheduled overnight lane closures on eastbound State Route 91 (SR-91) in Anaheim. This project will rehabilitate approximately 350 feet of pavement in lane #3 (middle lane) just east of Brookhurst Road.

Barring any emergencies (which may include weather), eastbound SR-91 lanes #2, 3 and 4 will be closed at the following times:

- Friday, January 17 from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.
- Monday, January 20 from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.

There will be intervals of loud noise during construction.

Caltrans appreciates the public's patience while we perform this work.

Please obey all posted signs and traffic instructions for the safety of all workers and motorists.

Electronic changeable message signs will notify drivers of the closures.

The work schedule is subject to change due to traffic incidents, weather, availability of equipment and/or materials, and/or construction-related issues.

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Child Vaccination Rates Are Falling

By Francesca Paris

After years of holding steady, American vaccination rates against once-common childhood diseases fell during the coronavirus pandemic and continued to drop for much of the past four years.

Nationwide, less than 93 percent of kindergartners completed the measles vaccine last year, down from 95 percent, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Immunization rates against polio, whooping cough and chickenpox fell similarly.

And there have been far more precipitous drops in some states, counties and school districts.

States, not the federal government, set vaccine mandates. But the incoming Trump administration could encourage anti-vaccine sentiment and undermine state programs. The president-elect's pick for health secretary, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., has spread the false theory that vaccines cause autism, among other misinformation.

Already, falling vaccination rates have followed a partisan pattern.

There are two ways vaccination rates can drop: More families can get an exemption, which gives them legal permission to skip vaccines; or more families can fail to vaccinate their children without permission.

In states that supported Donald Trump for president, the number of children receiving exemptions rose. The story with noncompliance is more complex. It rose in both blue and red states, although more in red states.

Surveys reveal a new and deep partisan division on this issue.

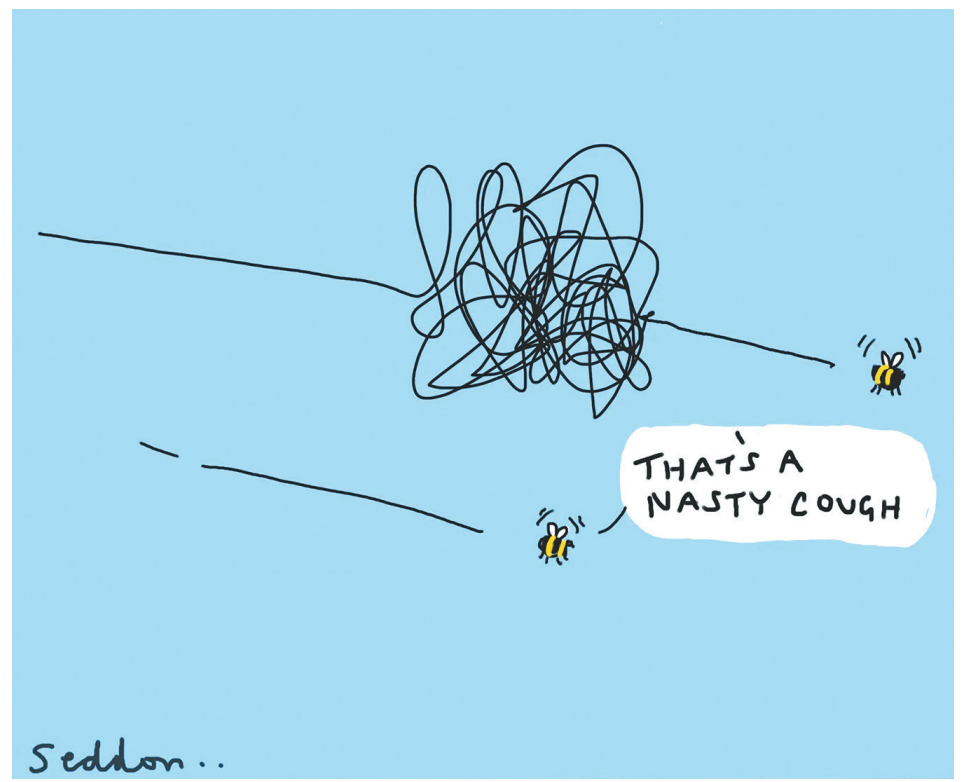
In 2019, 67 percent of Democrats and Democratic-leaning voters told Gallup that childhood immunizations were "extremely important," compared with 52 percent of their Republican counterparts. Five years later, the enthusiasm among the Democratic grouping had fallen only slightly, to 63 percent. For Republicans and G.O.P. leaners, it had plunged to 26 percent.

Lawmakers in red states have tried to roll back school vaccine mandates, but most changes have been minor: Louisiana required schools to pair any mandate notifications with information about exemption laws; Idaho allowed 18-year-old students to exempt themselves; and Montana stopped collecting data from schools on immunizations.

The decline in vaccination seems likely to have consequences. "Herd immunity," in which unvaccinated children can't easily spread measles because others are protected, requires about 92 percent inoculation. The further rates fall, the more likely an outbreak becomes. For children, measles and other once-common childhood diseases can lead to hospitalization and occasionally death.

"It's trouble waiting to happen," said Dr. William Schaffner, an infectious disease specialist at Vanderbilt.

There are thousands more schools with vaccination rates below 90 percent than there were just five years ago, according to a New York Times analysis of data from 22 states. Schools with falling rates can be found in red and blue states, in large urban districts and in small rural ones.



Contaminated Drinking Water is a Growing Concern in California

By Brittany Peterson

As fires continue to burn across Los Angeles, several utilities have declared their drinking water unsafe.

A warmer, drier climate means wildfires are getting worse, and encroaching on cities — with devastating impact. Toxic chemicals from those burns can get into damaged drinking water systems; filtering or boiling won't help, experts say.

Last week, Pasadena Water and Power issued a "Do Not Drink" notice to about a third of its customers for the first time since it began distributing water more than a century ago. With at least one burned pump, several damaged storage tanks, and burned homes, they knew there was a chance toxic chemicals had entered their pipes. This week, they lifted the notice for most of the area after testing.

Why urban fires are a risk to drinking water

When large fires burn in towns and cities, rather than forests and grasslands, infrastructure can be heavily damaged. When drinking water systems are damaged in a fire, "we can have ash, smoke, soot, other debris and gases get sucked into the water piping network," said Andrew Whelton, a Purdue University engineering professor who researches water contamination in communities hit by fire.

Those elements can be particularly toxic because chemically engineered synthetics in building materials and households are heating, burning and releasing particles and gases, he said. Some of those chemicals are harmful even at low concentrations, experts say.

How chemicals get into the pipes

Drinking water systems are designed to be airtight to keep harmful elements out. But that critical pressure can be lost in many ways during a fire, which means toxins can get in.

Power loss can also cause pressure loss when pumps stop working, said Greg Pierce, professor of urban environmental policy at the University of California. This happened during the 2023 Maui fires.

"It's really hard, if not impossible, to keep up the power supply to the whole water system in the event of a fire, because you're either shutting off the power, because power can contribute to the fire, or it just goes out," Pierce said.

The loss of pressure can affect not only water quality but also water availability for firefighting. Hydrants ran dry in the Pacific Palisades neighborhood as surrounding homes burned. The utility says

it was from high demand and the pumps were working.

What's the health risk?

Toxic chemicals in drinking water after a fire pose risks ranging from temporary nausea to cancer, experts say.

In the Paradise California Camp Fire, there were benzene levels high enough to acutely give a child a blood disorder.

And Even very low levels of some chemicals can be a concern. California says only one part per billion of the carcinogen benzene is considered a safe. The national recommendation is no more than five parts per billion.

"In terms of cancer risk, what we're really interested in is the cumulative amount that you're exposed to over your entire lifetime," Goldman said. "And if a short-term exposure adds a lot to that, that is a real risk."

Benzene and similar compounds are known as volatile because they tend to become airborne, like gasoline that turns to vapor when it drips from the pump onto your car.

What's next?

Los Angeles County has more than 200 water service providers, but so far only a handful believe that damage or loss of pressure may have resulted in chemical contamination and have issued "Do Not Drink" notices. Utilities are focused on ensuring there's enough water for fighting fires, though some are beginning to test for contaminants. It can take weeks to months of testing before water can be declared safe for drinking in areas with minimal damage. That is sometimes a best-case scenario.

In the Paradise Fire, most buildings burned. The city rebuilt a reservoir and is working to replace 10,000 service lines. It expects to spend the next decade and \$50 million to replace roughly 17 of 172 miles of main lines that were contaminated.

Whelton doesn't recommend people pay for expensive water testing in their homes until their utility has declared the public water system safe.

Many publicly available water quality tests are "not capable of finding fire-related drinking water contamination," Whelton wrote on X this week. Getting your water professionally tested once the utility's water is declared safe would be the best way to learn whether your pipes are contaminated, he said.

People should follow guidance issued by their utility or local health department on safety precautions until their water is declared safe.

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Cerritos City Hall	La Mirada City Hall, Library, Resource Center, Sheriff's	VI Pharmacy 12610 South Street
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HOW TO WRITE US

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La Palma's Announces Its 2024 Employees of the Year

At its January 14, 2025, meeting, the La Palma City Council recognized Dani Hernandez, administrative secretary for the Police Department, as the 2024 Employee of the Year and Jason Hong, recreation coordinator in the Community Services Department, as the 2024 Supervisor/Professional Employee of the Year.

Hernandez joined the Police Department in 2015 as the administrative secretary. During her tenure she has provided vital administrative support to ensure the smooth functioning of daily departmental operations. She expertly manages the administrative side of the Police Department, keeping command staff organized and on track with their duties, meetings, and deadlines. With her cheerful attitude, unwavering dedication, and strong work ethic, Hernandez is essential to the Police Department's success and excellent reputation. Beyond her reliability and intelligence, Hernandez brings joy and camaraderie to the workplace by celebrating employee birthdays and accomplishments.

Hong joined the City's Community Services Department in 2023 as a senior recreation leader and quickly advanced to recreation coordinator. He has become an essential leader on the recreation and community events team, driving innovation in events like the Festival of Nations, Halloween Carnival, and the annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony. Hong leads by example, inspiring staff and fostering collaboration. His creativity and proactive problem-solving skills have contributed to the success of numerous events. Moreover, Hong's dedication enhances the division's reputation and motivates his team, making him a valuable asset to the department and the community.

The City of La Palma's Employee of the Year program honors individuals who demonstrate exceptional job performance, make significant contributions to the work environment, and uphold high standards of personal conduct. Each year, City staff select two individuals who consistently exemplify these high standards. The City of La Palma thanks and commends these dedicated City employees for their service and contributions to making La Palma one of the best places to live and work.



La Mirada

Notable Arrests

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

One suspect was arrested for grand theft, another was arrested for felony vandalism.

Other Structure Burglary

An overnight burglary occurred on the 15800 block of Imperial Hwy.

Vehicle Burglary

A vehicle burglary was reported on the 14100 block of Ratliffe St.

Grand Theft

Two thefts were reported in the area of Adelfa Dr. and Ocaso Ave.

An overnight theft of a tailgate occurred on the 14800 block of Stanton Ave.

A tailgate was reported stolen on the 13100 block of Bona Vista Ln.

An early morning theft of a tailgate occurred on the 14100 block of Mansa Dr.

A bicycle was reported stolen on the 15200 block of Rosecrans Ave.

A tailgate was stolen on the 13600 block of Valley View Ave.

La Mirada Recognizes Living Faith Church on Its 25th Anniversary



LA MIRADA MAYOR John Lewis recognizes Living Faith for its 25th anniversary.

LCCN Staff Report

The La Mirada City Council recognized Living Faith Church for its 25th anniversary at a recent Council meeting.

Living Faith in La Mirada (LFLM) began in December 1999 and has operated from multiple locations, including local schools and City facilities. Since 2017, under the leadership of

Pastors Steve and Maria Camarillo, LFLM has remained committed to providing support and resources to the community through partnerships and involvement.

LFLM has sponsored various community events, including Thanksgiving dinners at Foster Road Elementary School,

La Mirada High School sports, and Senior Night. It was one of the original donors to the "Make a Splash!" fundraising campaign for La Mirada Regional Aquatics Center. It has also been a partner in citywide efforts such as Love La Mirada and the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast. The church is also actively involved in the La Mirada Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis Club, and school PTAs, regularly donating essential items such as computers, backpacks, and clothing to support students and teachers.

LFLM has been a cornerstone of service, embodying a model of faith that focuses on action and community impact.



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FIRST FOOD HALL OPENS AT DOWNTOWN DISNEY WITH FOUR SHOPS

By Julie Tremaine, SFG

On Jan. 4, Disneyland made its second opening in just a few weeks, Parkside Market, the first food hall at Disneyland. The company opened the doors without fanfare or a grand opening and with them, four

new food and drink options in Downtown Disney.

With the opening, Disneyland has added quick-service dining to the shopping and dining area, food that's easy to grab and eat on the go, or order quickly to bring back to a hotel.

Parkside Market is a two-story, multi-concept space.

The first floor has three



walk-up food stalls. GG's Chicken Shop offers fried and grilled chicken sandwiches and salads, plus fries and other sides.

Seoul Sister serves Korean rice bowls, bibimbap, with toppings like beef bulgogi and crispy tofu.

Sip & Sonder, a coffee shop with inventive signature beverages and breakfast sandwiches, has a window inside the space, but the main coffee stall is in a small, external building attached to the market.

Upstairs is Vista Parkside Market, a bar and lounge that serves inventive cocktails, some of the best in the entire resort.

Vista is a large bar for adults only, but there are also many tables where kids are welcome.

While the downstairs food stalls offer their menu items to go, either to be eaten at the few tables inside or in an outdoor dining area by the Downtown Disney stage, upstairs at Vista, all of the stalls' foods are available to order via table service.

It's a perfect hybrid of the two: either wait in line and

THE FIRST LEVEL of Parkside market has three food stalls for quick-service meals.

grab your food to go, or head upstairs to sit and enjoy a cocktail or zero-proof libation while a server brings you your meal.

I've eaten there twice in Parkside's first week of operation, and both experiences were good enough to have me looking forward to my next visit.

Both times, I ate upstairs at Vista. The midcentury modern interior is bright and colorful but lets the view do most of the talking.

Two sides of the space have floor-to-ceiling, retractable glass doors that fully open in nice weather; one side looks onto Downtown Disney and the Disneyland Hotel beyond, and the other has a view of the Downtown Disney Monorail station.

On fireworks nights, the Monorail station side of the restaurant offers what might just be Disney's best fireworks viewing outside the park — meaning you can see them without buying a park ticket.

There are a handful of other places to watch fireworks from Disney property, like the pool deck of Pixar Place Hotel, but Vista is the closest and easiest to get to.

Also, the restaurant has those great cocktails. The beverage program at Vista blends high-quality spirits with a solid dose of fun and midcentury



A CHICKEN BOWL and dumplings from Seoul Sister, and a California salad with fried chicken and waffle fries from GG's Chicken Shop. Mike Kindrich Photography



ethos. The Flamboyance is the restaurant's fröse, available in boozy and alcohol-free versions, served in an outrageous glass goblet shaped like a flamingo.

It's not the only cocktail that comes in such flashy glassware: The Birdwatcher is a frozen Arnold Palmer in an ornate bird glass with an optional bourbon add-on.

On my first visit, I tried the zero-proof Flamboyance, made with Giesen 0% Rosé, which I wouldn't have known was alcohol-free if I had tasted it blind.

Then I ordered the Morning Mist, the bar's smoked old-fashioned, made with bourbon, Earl Grey tea and two kinds of bitters. It came in a glass cloche filled with wood smoke, which the server opened in a dramatic table-side reveal.

With the drinks, I tried the sweet-and-spicy fried chicken sandwich (\$18) from GG's Chicken Shop, with pickled daikon slaw, soy cucumbers and Kewpie mayo; and the beef bowl (\$18) from Seoul Sister, with bulgogi beef, kimchi, japchae noodles and garlic soy sauce. Both were

SIP & SONDER, is a coffee shop with inventive signature beverages and breakfast sandwiches.

NICE VIEW: Vista, on the second story of Parkside Market, has elevated views of Downtown Disney, the Disneyland Hotel and the park's nighttime fireworks. Photo Mike Kindrich.



good, but the beef bowl was the clear winner:

The bulgogi-and-kimchi combination was delicious, especially since it felt like a healthier offering than most other Disney food.

On my second trip, I tried the California salad (\$16) from GG's, with bulgur, avocado, roasted sweet potato, cucumber, sunflower seeds, sesame sticks and tahini miso dressing, and a fried chicken breast (\$6) on top, along with the waffle fries (\$8) with

GG's spice rub. Run, do not walk, for these spicy, savory, perfectly crispy fries.

I also got the chicken bowl (\$18) from Seoul Sister, with garlic chicken, carrots, broccoli, green onions, furikake and sweet soy sauce, and the fried beef and vegetable

dumplings (\$8).

I especially loved the dumplings; an order comes with six large pieces and would be a filling, inexpensive lunch for one or a perfect snack for two on another day.

With that, I had the Golden Hue, with Bombay Sapphire, Lillet Blanc, lemon juice and club soda.

On a warm afternoon with the sun shining down on the patio, with the ambient music and the hum of the happy crowd below, it felt like the perfect spot to sit and soak in the Disney vibes.

Even without going into the park.



NO ALCOHOL The zero-proof Flamboyance at Vista Parkside Market. Photo Julie Tremaine.



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FOURTH ANNUAL SO CAL SHOWDOWN

La Mirada Caps Off Non-League Schedule With Repeat Victory Over Rancho Cucamonga

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on X

IRVINE-After five tournaments to begin the season, plus the Gateway League opener at Lynwood High last Wednesday, the La Mirada High boys basketball team played its final non-league game before the playoffs. For the second time in the last 12 games, the Matadores faced Rancho Cucamonga High and for the second time, they defeated the Cougars.

This time it was in the fourth annual So Cal Showdown, and behind a 30-point fourth quarter outburst, posted a 76-64 victory last Saturday at Irvine Valley College. La Mirada had defeated Rancho Cucamonga 76-69 on Dec. 11 in a second round game at the St. John Bosco Braves Winter Classic.

"I think we did a better job on their star player, Aaron Glass," said La Mirada head coach Randy Oronoz. "He's a heck of a player; a Division 1 kid. [Sophomore] Gene [Roebuck] all week has been really trying to focus on defense and taking the challenge. He got it going a little late in the fourth quarter, but I think we did a great job the first half containing him. It's just good to see guys trying to execute a defensive game plan."

Glass scored only five points in the first half but hit back to back three-pointers late in the game to help cut into what was once a 17-point deficit, bringing it down to eight points with 3:52 left in the game. But La Mirada, which never trailed in the game, got clutch baskets down the stretch to fend off the Cougars.

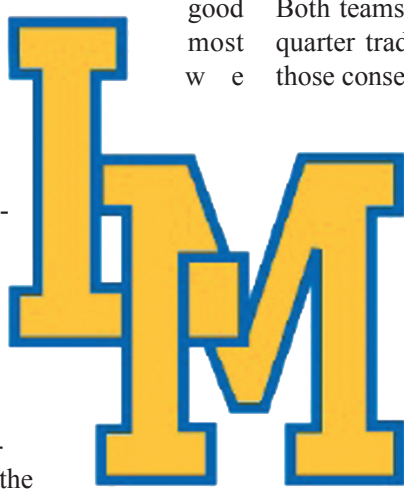
With 3:19 left in the game, Roebuck

nailed a trifecta, then 25 seconds later, completed a three-point play to make it 65-51. After Rancho Cucamonga scored the next six points on back to back three-pointers, junior King-Riley Owens responded with his only three-pointer.

"We have four really good guards, so most of the time we should win those games," said Oronoz. "It was more just trying to focus on doing what we do as far as defensively; being solid and getting stops. And then offensively, getting the right shots and maybe taking up some time.

But we tend to see guys bank in threes against us and get in ones late. So, we just wanted to make sure everyone was focused on finishing the game strong."

The Matadores (17-4) scored their first two baskets of the game the coast-to-coast way as Owens and Roebuck made the most of their first rebounds of the game. After the game's only tie at 6-6, La Mirada went on an 11-6 run the last 3:19 of the first quarter and never looked back. Roebuck scored 11 first half points and senior Julien Gomez, who has committed to the University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley, had five rebounds, two assists and two steals before halftime.



La Mirada was leading 32-25 within the first 65 seconds of the second half before it went on a 13-3 run highlighted by a three-point play from senior Jarrett Cole, another two-pointer from Cole with 2:02 left in the stanza followed by an offensive putback by junior Andrew Castro. Both teams would then begin the fourth quarter trading baskets before Glass hit those consecutive three-pointers.

In fact, the Matadores were nearly perfect in the final quarter, hitting on 11 of 12 shots they took from the field, including the last 10 of the game, and were six of six from the free throw line.

"They were scrambling and trying to pressure, so it gave us some easier [shots]," said Oronoz. "That's a good sign of having good guards; not taking bad shots when they're trying to pressure you."

Roebuck, who had 36 points in the first meeting against the Cougars, led everyone last Saturday with 25 points on 10 of 21 shooting while Gomez added 17 points, 10 rebounds and five assists. Cole provided the Matadores with a dozen points and Owens pitched in with 11 points. La Mirada also owned the glass big time, grabbing 36 rebounds to 19 from the Cougars.

La Mirada's four losses have come to St. Louis-based Vashon High, the top team in Missouri according to MaxPreps.com, Basha High, the number four team

out of Arizona, and twice to St. John Bosco High, the third-ranked team in the state with the two out of state losses coming by a combined 13 points. The Matadores have played eight out of state teams.

"MaxPreps said that in California, we have the second hardest schedule other than Roosevelt, and we did that on purpose," said Oronoz. "We want to respect every opponent. We don't want to look towards the playoffs right away. We definitely want to take it one game at a time and right now, we're getting focused on Dominguez on Wednesday. League is where people get tripped up, so we have to be conscious of that and really focus on one game at a time. The thing I told them was to focus on us getting better as a unit; not just beating teams but growing as a unit."

Following the game with Dominguez High, the Matadores will travel to Mayfair High on Friday, then go to Gahr High on Jan. 22 before playing the final four regular seasons games at home, the only home games of the regular season.

"I think we have to get better at communicating on defense," said Oronoz. "We take for granted how good our concepts are, I think. So, if we can get better at communicating...I thought we shared the ball really well, which was a big point of emphasis this game compared to the last time we played them."

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.

HERBAL REMEDIES

S	E	F	H	S	I	R	U	O	N	N	I	A	R	B
G	P	U	R	E	A	M	O	R	A	K	L	O	F	E
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Solution on page 15

Solution: 6 letters

605 LEAGUE BOYS BASKETBALL

Artesia's Balanced Roster Keeps Whitney From Second Straight Surprise

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on X

Three days after the Whitney High boys basketball team posted its first win ever against Cerritos High, the Wildcats were looking to make it two in a row against the only other team to have won the 605 League in its short existence. But Artesia High had plans of ruining that part of school history, maintaining a lead for the entirety of the second half.

Seven players scored for the Pioneers, the 12th time in the first 14 games that has happened, and they posted a 44-39 victory last Friday night. Artesia has now won all 13 meetings against Whitney since the league was formed in 2019, but this was just the second time the margin of victory was in single digits. Last season, the Pioneers barely escaped with a 31-27 win and this meeting lived up to the hype, according to both head coaches, considering the Wildcats have been an up and coming program the past three seasons.

"Yeah, it was a good game," said Artesia head coach Jeff Myles. "Whitney is a good team; it's not the Whitney of old. The coach coaches them hard and has them run all kinds of different stuff. They run kind of a matchup zone,

so it's kind of a funky defense. It's not your traditional defense, but Whitney is a good team, and we weren't looking past them."

"Definitely, I expected more out of us, by far," said Whitney head coach Nasir Akmal. "They did a great job; [Myles] did a great job of getting his guys in their spots. We had quite a few lapses on defense that killed us, especially with the threes."

Artesia led by a narrow 7-5 score five minutes into the contest before beginning the final 2:43 of the quarter on a 6-5 run. Whitney senior Peter Poitras then began the second quarter with a three-pointer, tying the game, and a minute later, sophomore Jezreel Delacruz put his team in front for the first time with his second perimeter basket of the contest.

After being held scoreless for the first 2:21 of the stanza, the Pioneers made a charge to regain the lead and keep it. It began with a three-pointer from junior Kobe Young, then baskets from senior Jaylen Reed and junior Christian Stewart and finally a trifecta from senior Jovell Tate as the hosts led 23-17. The half ended with a three-pointer from Poitras, but adjust-



[See ARTESIA, page 12]

LA MIRADA FEATURE

Gomez, Roebuck Trusting Each Other to Make La Mirada More of a Powerhouse Team

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on X

If one is a lonely number, then for the last season and a half, neither La Mirada High senior Julien Gomez nor sophomore Gene Roebuck have had to worry about being alone on the court. The two scoring machines have made the Matadores more of a thorn in the side of opponents last season and this season as the team is banking on a spot in the CIF-Southern Section Open Division playoffs, which begin next month.

It wasn't easy in the beginning for La Mirada head coach Randy Oronoz, who admitted he had to build their trust in each other when Roebuck set foot on the campus, knowing that Gomez was already making a name for himself as one of the prolific boys basketball players in Southern California in two seasons with the Matadores.

"It wasn't easy," said Oronoz. "I would say it took a year. This is the year that they're finally realizing a little bit more that when we play these big time schools, [they're] going to need each other. We forget about guys like [senior] M.J. Smith, who wants to play college basketball and is growing into a role as well. It's a great blessing to have guys who want to strive to be better. But they just have to trust what we're doing. At the beginning of this year, I said it's not about your points, Gene; Julien, it's not about yours. This is basically only about winning this year. It should always be about that."

It also wasn't easy in the summer of 2021 for Gomez and Oronoz as an ankle injury right after eighth grade graduation sidelined the future star until the fall season.

"To be honest with you, I wasn't really too bummed out because I always had the faith I was going to come back stronger, and my mom kept telling me that while I was hurt; that I was going to get better," said Gomez. "I didn't take [the injury] too bad. I just had a positive mindset; it really didn't phase me."

"For me, you look at the kid and you don't think he's very special; you just don't know, he's a freshman," said Oronoz. "He checked into school maybe one day after school started. So, we didn't know if we were going to get him or not get him. I've never seen him play before."

Ornoz recalls Gomez ended up playing a little pickup game at John Glenn High as La Mirada's gymnasium was being renovated. It was during a random fall practice where the team was working on a three-

on-three drill when Gomez and two other players were working on a certain type of formation and those three won the drill.

"I went home, and I told my wife, 'I think our freshman could lead us in scoring this year'," he remembered. "It was an hour and a half practice, and he just shot it really well. I think I've been doing this for a long enough time to see...now, I didn't know he was going to be this special. But I knew he would probably lead us. We had good pieces that year, too; we made it to the CIF championship that year as a matter of fact. It wasn't like he was coming on a rebuilt team. This team had been building up."

Gomez' debut was a scrimmage against Esperanza High and in just a half, because Oronoz wanted to get other players some playing time, he scored 17 points. Gomez remembers he was out of shape but was surprised he had scored that many points and admitted he thought he had scored around 10 points.

Growing up, Gomez spent half the time living in Norwalk with his father and in Huntington Park with his mother, and in fact, he has lived in La Mirada for only a couple of years. Gomez and Roebuck didn't know about the history of La Mirada boys basketball until setting foot on the campus, meaning neither knew of former standout Derrick Williams (2006-2009) until they were freshmen. Williams ended his high school career scoring a little over 1,700 points in three seasons at the varsity level.

"I think we've done a pretty good job of evaluating the kids' talents here," said Oronoz. "Remember, I do skill developments on some of my staff as well. So you can find out pretty quick who's the guy and who's not. With that class, it was his cousin, [senior] Chris Perez, it was M.J. Smith, it was [senior] Jarrett Cole. Those are the guys that we've had for a long time, and [senior] Jaydin Cox came in his sophomore year. Hopefully, we were helping them grow as players and mainly young men of character."

After scoring 500 points as a freshman, Gomez turned it up a notch the next season, eclipsing the 1,000-point plateau as he scored over 30 points 13 times, including a career-high 44 points against St. Anthony High a few games into his sophomore campaign. Still, there was little mention of Williams or any comparisons of two of the best to have ever worn a La Mirada uniform.

"I never get any comparisons, maybe because we're two different ball players," said Gomez. "He's like a 6'6" slasher; built really tall and I'm like this smaller guard,



LA MIRADA HIGH sophomore Gene Roebuck (left) and senior Julien Gomez are the scoring machines that are helping the Matadores remain as candidates for the CIF-Southern Section Open Division playoffs next month. La Mirada currently sits at 17-4 with seven games left in the regular season. **PHOTO BY LOREN KOPFF.**

more finesse and not really physically dominant, I guess. We just have different games."

Gomez said reaching the 1,000-point mark in less than two full seasons didn't hit him as much, and in fact, he treated that game as just another day. Even to this day, it still hasn't hit him that he is currently the school's all-time scoring leader.

With seven regular season games left in the playoffs, plus a handful of playoff games left in his high school career, the next player to possibly surpass Gomez is Roebuck, who has a different beginning to his time as a La Mirada player. He was indecisive as to where he was going to begin his high school days and admitted La Mirada wasn't one of the big schools or one of the bigger options he had.

But last season, he bettered Gomez' freshman season by scoring 658 points, posting a career-high 44 points on Dec. 28 against Branson High and had half a dozen other games of over 30 points. Like Gomez, the 6'5" Roebuck also cracked the 1,000-point mark as a sophomore, doing that against Basha High two weeks ago in the Nile Tournament of Champions Tournament. Including a 25-point performance against Rancho Cucamonga High last Sat-

urday, Roebuck currently has 1,075 points.

"I warn my freshmen that are elite like Julien and Gene that there is a sophomore slump," said Oronoz. "I do warn them. You have to remember, Julien's first game, we played Capo Valley Christian at St. John Bosco, [and] we lost in overtime. He was getting boxed-and-one by a Division 1 player who played at Pepperdine and Julien had 27 points in his first game of his high school career. We knew he could have big games, and it was almost unfair for him in his freshman year because when he wouldn't have a big game, our coaches would get on him."

"That sophomore year, he really built his consistency of averaging 24 or 25 points a game," Oronoz continued. "He had a lot of games over 30 points; a big credit to our point guard, Sean Cervantes at the time who was just phenomenal. Sean, I think, led the state in assists that year, and a lot of it had to do with Julien."

Ornoz' brother, Johnny, was the third leading scorer at La Mirada. He averaged 22 points as a sophomore, 23 points as a junior and 25 points as a senior and had the scoring record before Williams.

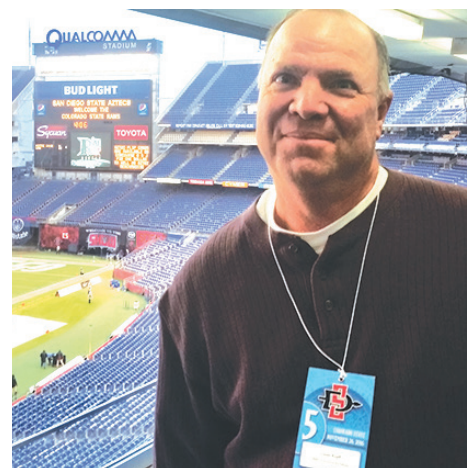
"I tell people this all the time, when you pass 1,000 points in high school, you're a

[See **FEATURE**, page 12]

NEWS AND NOTES FROM PRESS ROW

Artesia Boys Basketball Seizes Control of 605 League With Late Rally Against Cerritos

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on X



LOREN KOPFF'S NEWS AND NOTES FROM PRESS ROW

In the previous six seasons of the 605 League, the Cerritos High boys basketball team has won the title four times while Artesia High claimed first place the other two times. This has become the premier boys basketball rivalry since the league formed to begin the 2018-2019 school year after both teams departed from the Suburban League.

Cerritos entered this past Monday's tilt with 10 wins in 14 games over the Pioneers in 605 League play, but the latter would get the upper hand in this contest, rallying from six points down early in the fourth quarter to knock off the Dons 56-51, outscoring them 14-5 over the final 3:55 of the game.

After Cerritos (7-13, 1-2) owned most of the first quarter, scoring the first six points of the contest and leading

9-5 with 2:58 remaining in the stanza on a three-pointer from senior Demetrius Washington, the Pioneers scored nine straight points over the final 2:39, regaining the lead. Cerritos would score four straight points to open the second quarter, but the Pioneers went on an 8-0 lead thanks to two straight baskets from senior C.J. Okeke, who then dished off a pass to senior Jovell Tate, who nailed his third of four three-pointers.

A three-pointer from senior Cayden Del Rosario half a minute into the second half gave Artesia (11-5, 3-0) its biggest lead of the game at 28-18. That would be the last field goal for the Pioneers until Okeke's bucket with 1:37 left in the third quarter. By now, the Dons had pulled in front again, thanks to an 18-7 run.

Cerritos still maintained a lead that grew to six points after a three-pointer from sophomore Rocco Chua early in the fourth quarter. But with 3:27 left in the

game, Okeke had the game's third lead change, and the Pioneers never looked back. Washington led Cerritos with 14 points while senior Jaden Ribac added nine points while Okeke posted a game-high 21 points and Tate added 16 points, nine rebounds and a block.

This was the fifth time the game was decided by five points or fewer with Cerritos winning four of them. The Dons host John Glenn High on Friday and Whitney High on Wednesday while Artesia goes to Pioneer High on Friday and Whittier Christian High on Saturday before facing Warren High on Monday at St. John Bosco High. The Pioneers get back into league action on Wednesday with a home game against Oxford Academy.

In other boys basketball action, Gahr High fell to Mayfair High 59-48 last

[See **NEWS**, page 12]

NEWS from page 11

Friday in the Gateway League opener, falling to 9-9, 0-1. The Gladiators host Dominguez High on Friday and La Mirada High on Wednesday. In between those games, they are scheduled to face Bernstein High on Saturday.

After defeating Century High 57-49 last Friday, Glenn was no match for Whitney this past Monday in a 72-22 defeat. The Eagles dropped to 8-5, 0-2 as they will host Oxford Academy on Monday after their meeting with Cerritos, then welcome Pioneer on Wednesday. Whitney's win over Glenn improved its record to 9-12, 2-1 as the Wildcats will entertain Oxford Academy on Friday.

Norwalk High has lost two Mid-Cities games in a row including a 48-42 setback to Bellflower High last Friday. The Lancers (12-8, 1-2) host Paramount High on Friday and Firebaugh High on Wednesday.

Valley Christian High entered this past Tuesday's game against Whittier Christian at 9-12, 0-2 in the Olympic League as the Defenders will travel to Village Christian High on Friday and host Heritage Christian High on Tuesday.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

In a battle of winless teams in the 605 League, Cerritos got back on the positive side of the ledger with a 73-21 win over host Artesia this past Monday. The Dons (6-14, 1-2) outscored the Pioneers 21-4 and had seven steals during that time. Junior Mady Macaraeg led the black and gold with 13 points with three steals while sophomore Kalana Nguyen and freshman Analiyah Coneita added 11 and 10 points respectively. Cerritos had 34 rebounds with senior Ambar Multani leading the way with nine while senior Sophie Watanabe pitched in with half a dozen boards. Senior Kendall Savage and sophomore Kimberly Itza were the Artesia (0-11, 0-3) leaders with five points each and 11 and 10 rebounds, respectively.

Gahr had no problems with Mayfair in a 52-27 win last Friday, improving to 12-6, 1-1. The Gladiators host Downey High on Friday and Paramount on Wednesday while Glenn lost to Whitney 65-24 this past Monday to drop to 3-10, 0-2. Whitney improved to 14-7, 3-0.

La Mirada suffered its first Mid-Cities loss last Friday in a 50-46 defeat to Warren. The Matadores (9-9, 2-1) visit Norwalk on Friday and Bellflower on Wednesday while Norwalk (7-8, 2-1) defeated Bellflower 55-25 last Friday and will host Firebaugh on Wednesday.

ARTESIA from page 10

ments were made in the half that benefited the Pioneers (9-5, 2-0).

"That's the game of basketball; basketball is a game of runs," said Myles. "With a good team, they're not going to hold. If they're not a good team, they'll probably quit. It's a game if runs [and] they kept playing. We took some bad possessions, but they're a good team and good teams are going to make plays."

One of the differences in the first half was Whitney's tall player, junior Shayan Saravanakumar picked up two fouls in the first quarter and was summoned to the bench. He returned in the second half, only to get five rebounds and a pair of blocks while picking up two more fouls in the fourth quarter.

"Against a team this big, we need him," said Akmal. "Officiating is officiating, but I didn't like how it favored one side. We definitely felt like that, at

least from one of the refs. But that's not to take away... [Myles] did his job. Regardless of that, we need to do our job."

Whitney would stay within two possessions in the opening minutes until another downtown basket from Tate began a 12-6 run that gave the red and black a commanding 39-31 lead with 3:20 left to play.

Still, Whitney (8-12, 1-1) refused to go away quietly and with the score 42-33 with 1:23 left in the game, senior Morgan Marks drained a three-pointer 20 seconds later. Stewart would score off his third offensive rebound in the quarter before Delacruz ended the game's scoring with a three-pointer with 21.3 second remaining.

"We have to make adjustments, and we did, and we had opportunities," said Akmal. "We scored on some, but we didn't score on enough. [Tate] just lit us up and we were supposed to take that away. That's one of the lapses I'm talking about."

Marks led the Wildcats with 13 points and six points while Delacruz and Poitras each added nine points and three rebounds as all the points came from the starters. Senior C.J. Okeke quietly led Artesia with 13 points, six rebounds and two steals while all nine points Tate scored came from three-pointers. Stewart had another banner day coming off the bench with eight points and as many rebounds.

"He's solid; he's a very good player," Myles said of Marks. "He can handle it and kind of gets his team going. He's very good defensively, and very good aggressively. But I thought what hurt us today was [Poitras]. He hit some really big shots. We had him on the scouting report as one of the shooters, but we kind of let him get loose a couple of times."

Even though Whitney has never beaten Artesia, the gap between the two has been closing. Of the previous 12 meetings, Artesia won 10 of them by at least 20 points with half of those anywhere from 32 to 40 points. Artesia will visit Pioneer High on Friday and Whittier Christian High on Saturday before hosting Warren High on Monday and Oxford Academy on Wednesday. Whitney will host Oxford Academy on Friday before going to Cerritos on Wednesday.

"I told our guys this game is more about the environment than anything else, and it was," said Akmal. "There would be certain points in the game where we would look up [at the scoreboard] and it would be a three-point game. But the way the crowd was reacting, it felt like it was a 20-point game. And in the past, it would be like that. So, we had to mentally lock in more and understand the situation as far as outside of the noise, we still had to play and understand and be confident."

"Like I said, we're about eight or ten-men deep," said Myles. "Jovel was kind of struggling early, but in the second half, we ran a couple of plays for him to get some looks and he a couple of [threes]. Then big Stewart brought us home at the end and had some big offensive rebounds and big finishes."

FEATURE from page 11

really good high school player, said Oronoz. "When you do it your sophomore year, now it's just, 'can you get to 2,000?' He has a natural gift to score, and he does it in a variety of ways—shooting three's, floaters, attacking, mid-range. He's definitely gifted and special, and I'm so happy he set the record while I was coaching him here."

Cole, Cox, Gomez, Perez, Roebuck,

Cerritos Council Recognizes Gahr Girl's Flag Football Team

CONGRATULATIONS: In just their second year, the Gahr High girls flag football team achieved an impressive milestone by competing in the CIF playoffs for the first time after completing the season with a record of 14-6. The team demonstrated remarkable growth and resilience in reaching the CIF playoffs, especially after finishing their first season with a 1-6-1.

Smith and [junior] Tristan Partida all went to junior high together, so Oronoz had seen them before they entered La Mirada and Oronoz had coached Smith's sister at the travel ball level. He recalls asking Roebuck, when he was in the sixth grade if he was going to play at La Mirada. Roebuck's response was a quick, 'yeah, you wish'.

Despite the two-year gap, Gomez and Roebuck were pretty close to each other in junior high, which was Veritas Preparatory Academy, and even closer now.

"When I got there in sixth grade, Julien was the man at Veritas," said Roebuck. "He was the best player. Just looking up to him, then finally being able to play with him in high school was big."

"I think the beauty of this team is it's a blessing and a curse," said Oronoz. "These guys fight like brothers, but they're close like brothers, too. Gene comes in and plays one tournament with us in the summer. I didn't promise him anything; I just said 'you're going to be coached hard. We'll put you on a platform and get exposure and you're going to learn and get better'. That's what I tell any kid who comes to La Mirada."

Ornoz reflected on the time he saw Gomez and Roebuck play one-on-one, and Smith, after an AAU game one time and Roebuck was scoring on Gomez. At that time, Oronoz was thinking that Roebuck was better than he thought, and that's after not seeing him since the sixth grade.

Gomez and Roebuck agree that there was never any animosity or competition between the two of them when it came to who was going to score more than the other. Gomez says it's more like whoever is rolling in the game; whoever is feeling it, they're going to give each other the ball.

"We're brothers and we want to see each other win," said Gomez.

"As good as it sounds, I knew it wasn't going to be an easy transition," said Oronoz. "You have two alpha males; guys who this and that. So, complements to Julien. Losing our point guard, [junior] King-Riley [Owens] last year, where he couldn't play. It made Julien handle the ball more and it took away from his scoring where he had to do a little bit more. But I think it helped him grow in the long run."

Gomez has already surpassed 2,000 points for his high school career, but Roebuck will find it harder to reach that due to competition that he has played opposed to the teams Gomez faced his first two seasons with the Matadores. In fact, when Gomez hit the 1,000-point mark, it was at The Classic at Damien and when Roebuck reached that milestone, it was also at the same tournament.

"We played Roosevelt in a preseason

game last year and I went off in that game," recalled Gomez. "A huge reason why I went off is because Braydin Burries was guarding [Roebuck] the whole game. I had the weaker defenders on me the whole game and I was able to score off the weaker defenders. Playing with [Roebuck]...he definitely takes away the bigger, more physical, more dominant defenders. That's how he complements me for sure."

"A lot of times growing up, the other teams knew I was the best player [on my team] and their defensive scheme would be [to double up on me]. When you play us [now], you can't double us because the other one is going to go off," said Roebuck. "For Julien to do his thing, it takes a lot of pressure off me."

The competition that Oronoz has scheduled in the past, especially this season, has made Gomez, Roebuck and the rest of the Matadores that much better as their record has vaulted to 17-4 with seven games left in the regular season. So far, Roebuck leads the team with 417 points while Gomez has scored 359 points with a season-high of 34 against Brophy College Prep on the second day of this month. Half of the losses have come to St. John Bosco High by a combined 40 points while the other two setbacks have come to out of state teams by a combined 13 points.

"When I first came here, they said 'you're not going to get the recognition, you're not going to see the big teams, you're not going to get that spotlight'," said Gomez. "But coach Randy did a good job of getting us into games where we're playing teams from out of state. We're up there with the big dogs, so going out [to Arizona and Illinois] was a good experience. We're just there to show we can compete with them."

Gomez has committed to the University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley while Roebuck has received offers from California State University, Northridge, University of California, University of California, Los Angeles, University of Kansas, University of San Francisco, University of Southern California and the University of Washington, among others.

Gomez and Roebuck still have other goals to reach before the end of this season, one of which is to go undefeated in the Gateway League and the other is to make the make the CIF-SS Open Division playoffs, which is the highest level anyone can go.

"Mine would be to definitely win a CIF championship, and then a state championship," said Roebuck.

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 August 11-21, 2025
 Please call or text for FREE brochure 507-217-1326 or visit our website:
www.bobsbaseballtours.com

**CITY OF BELLFLOWER
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
REGARDING THE HOUSING ELEMENT IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT CONSISTING OF
GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT CASE NO. GPA 25-01, ZONE CHANGE CASE NO. ZC 25-01,
ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT CASE NO. ZOTA 25-01, AND AN AMENDMENT
TO THE DOWNTOWN BELLFLOWER TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT SPECIFIC
PLAN (TOD SP)**

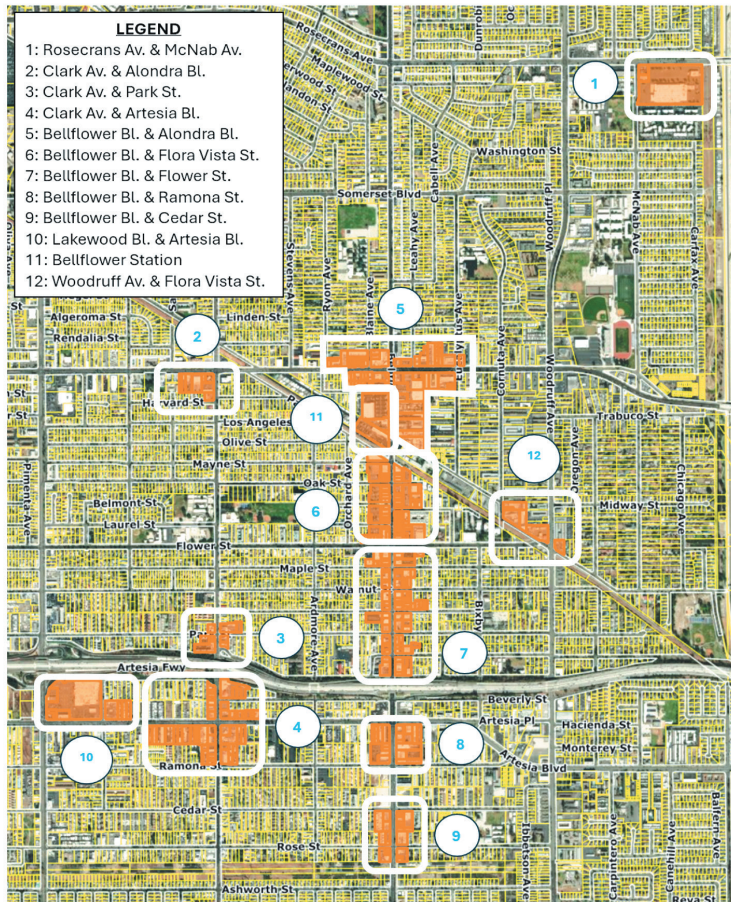
TAKE NOTICE that the Bellflower City Council will conduct a public hearing on Monday, February 10, 2025 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at 16600 Civic Center Drive, Bellflower, CA 90706 to consider the Housing Element (“HE”) Implementation Project consisting of (1) a General Plan Amendment, amending the Land Use Element to revise the definition of “Mixed Use,” and amending existing General Plan Land Use Designations to “MU (Mixed Use)” for certain properties located within twelve specific areas (see Exhibit) to allow for mixed-use or residential developments; (2) a Zone Change establishing zoning overlays for certain properties located within twelve specific areas to allow for mixed-use or residential developments; (3) a Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment to establish regulatory framework of future development and uses for certain properties located within twelve specific areas, and amendments to Title 17 (Zoning) of the Bellflower Municipal Code that would be applicable citywide, as it pertains to relevant State Laws and the Certified 2021-2029 HE; and (4) an Amendment to the TOD SP as it relates to expansion/modification of boundaries, permitted uses, and development regulations. This project implements the programs outlined in the HE that was certified by the Department of Housing and Community Development on September 9, 2022.

Pursuant to the authority and criteria of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), an environmental assessment was conducted for this project. In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources Code §§ 21000, et seq., “CEQA”) and CEQA regulations (14 California Code of Regulations §§ 15000, et seq.), this project has been determined to be exempt pursuant to 14 Cal. Code Regs. § 15061(b)(3) (General Rule Exemption) because it is for general policies and procedure-making, and it is anticipated to not have the potential to cause a significant effect on the environment. Resolution No. 22-04 was adopted by the City Council on January 20, 2022, approving a Mitigated Negative Declaration No. MND 21-01, which analyzed the HE Update, and the potential changes to the TOD SP and future zone changes. At that time, an amendment to the TOD SP and future land use regulation changes, such as zone changes, were contemplated. The Initial Study and MND 21-01 determined that the HE, the future TOD SP, and future zone changes will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment with implementation of mitigation measures.

The City of Bellflower invites members of the public to review and comment on this item. Copies of the staff report and supporting documents regarding this matter may be inspected by the public on the City’s website at www.bellflower.org, or by appointment in the City Clerk’s Office at Bellflower City Hall, 16600 Civic Center Drive, Bellflower, California; telephone number (562) 804-1424, extension 2220. All written comments concerning this may be submitted to the City Clerk’s Office at 16600 Civic Center Drive, Bellflower, CA 90706; or by email at cclerk@bellflower.org.

If you wish to challenge this item in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City at or before the Public Hearing.

MAYRA OCHIQUI, CITY CLERK



HOUSING OPPORTUNITY AREA MAP
Published at Los Cerritos Community News 1/17/25

CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS

SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 2024-620

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

On January 8, 2025, the City Council of the City of Hawaiian Gardens adopted Ordinance No. 2024-620, revising the Zoning Code and Map, to be consistent with the 2021-2029 6th Cycle Housing Element. The zoning code amendment implemented many of the programs identified in the Housing Element, including: 1) creating the MU1, MU2, and RIH zones; 2) creating objective development standards for multi-family residential development; 3) reducing setbacks and open space requirements for existing multi-family zones; 4) establishing residential densities for mixed-use development in the C-2 and C-4 zones; 5) creating new by-right review standards for projects that meet the objective design standards; 6) updating density bonus section to reference State law; 7) adding new permitted uses in the City’s residential and non-residential zones for shelters, navigation centers, residential care facilities, and other uses required by state law; and 8) other changes to ensure consistency between the City’s existing code and the new code sections and amendments.

The City Council passed and adopted Ordinance No. 2024-620, by the following roll call vote:

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

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

Pablo Rubio, City Clerk
Posted: January 15, 2025
Published: January 17, 2025

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 1/17/25

NOTICE INVITING SEALED BIDS

CITY HALL AND VETERANS NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY REROOFING PROJECT

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the CITY OF COMMERCE, referred to as “CITY”, invites sealed bids for CITY HALL AND VETERANS NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY REROOFING PROJECT and will receive on PlanetBids, up to the hour of **2:00 PM, Tuesday, March 4, 2025**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud online. Late submittals will not be considered. It is the bidder’s responsibility to upload the bid proposal file by the due date to City’s portal on PlanetBids.

Electronic files of the Plans, Specifications and Contract Documents are available for download on the City’s portal on PlanetBids.

Working hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The work shall be completed within 30 working days after the City’s Notice to Proceed.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 10:00 AM in front of Veterans Neighborhood Library at 6134 Greenwood Ave, Commerce, CA 90040. Every Bidder is required to attend the pre-bid meeting and Project site visit. Failure of a Bidder to attend will render that Bidder’s Bid non-responsive.

Each Bidder shall possess a valid C-39 Contractor’s license issued by the California State Contractors License Board at the time of the Bid submission. Contractor or subcontractor performing the asbestos abatement activities must have a California C22 Contractor’s License in good standing with the Contractor’s State License Board, be registered with the California Division of Occupational Safety & Health (“DOSH” or “Cal/OSHA”), and must have a Hazardous Substance Removal Certification. The successful Contractor must also possess a current City business license.

This project is subject to the requirements of SB 854. No prime contractor or subcontractor may be listed on a bid proposal and may be awarded for a public works project unless registered with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code section 1725.5.

If there are any questions regarding this project, please upload all questions to: City’s portal on PlanetBids.

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 1/17 and 1/24/25

**PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF BELLFLOWER
Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)
Announcement of Citizen Participation
Notice of Fund Availability
Request for Proposals FY 2025-2026**

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Bellflower is entitled to receive an estimated \$897,114 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Of the total estimated amount, a maximum of fifteen percent (15%) or approximately \$134,567 will be available to applicants for Public Service projects.

CDBG funds may be used for a variety of community development and housing activities, including public services, social services, public facility and infrastructure improvements, and residential code enforcement and housing improvement projects. A complete list of the eligible activities is available on the City of Bellflower Economic Development Department webpage.

CDBG applications are available now. A Public Services Technical Assistance Workshop will be held via zoom on **Thursday, January 30, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.** to address any questions potential applicants may have.

Applications must be received by the City of Bellflower **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 7, 2025**. Please mail applications to: Economic Development Department located at 16600 Civic Center Drive, Bellflower, CA 90706. **Late applications will not be accepted.**

Those desiring an application and/or wanting to participate in the Technical Assistance Workshop should contact:

Contact: Karla Pineda, Management Analyst II
Phone: (562) 804-1424 Ext. 2013
Email: kpineda@bellflower.org

The City will evaluate proposals for CDBG eligibility. After the proposals are evaluated, the staff will make recommendations for the total amount of CDBG funds which should be allocated. The City Council will hold a public hearing regarding the funding allocation recommendations. The Bellflower City Council approves final CDBG allocations.

The City of Bellflower is conducting a community needs survey. Please visit the following link where you can tell us what you feel is important in your community: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZYMTJSZ>. To access the survey in Spanish, please click on this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZDLP86Q>

Published: January 17, 2025
Los Cerritos Community Newspaper

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: PERCY WENDELL CURTIS WASHINGTON AKA PERCY W. WASHINGTON AKA PERCY W. C. WASHINGTON, JR.
CASE NO. 24STPB14477**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of PERCY WENDELL CURTIS WASHINGTON AKA PERCY W. WASHINGTON AKA PERCY W. C. WASHINGTON, JR.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by ANDREA WASHINGTON FLOYD in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that ANDREA WASHINGTON FLOYD be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

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

A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 01/28/25 at 8:30AM in Dept. 29 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

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

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

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

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

Attorney for Petitioner
KAYLEE K. SAUVEY, ESQ. - SBN 324659
AMY STUBBLEFIELD, ESQ. - SBN 356584
SAUVEY LAW GROUP, APC
8951 RESEARCH DR, FIRST FLR
IRVINE CA 92618
Telephone (949) 418-9923
BSC 226248
1/3, 1/10, 1/17/25
CNS-3883553#
LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICIA PARA UNA AUDIENCIA PUBLICA
CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS PLANNING COMMISSION**

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

HEARING BODY:	Hawaiian Gardens Special Planning Commission
DATE OF HEARING:	January 29, 2025
TIME OF HEARING:	6:00 P.M., or soon thereafter.
LOCATION OF HEARING:	City Hall, Council Chambers City of Hawaiian Gardens 21815 Pioneer Boulevard Hawaiian Gardens, CA 90716

PUBLIC HEARING: **Case: PLNG2024-0011-** Minor Use Permit (MUP Boat Sales). The City of Hawaiian Gardens Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing for the purpose of hearing the applicant’s appeal and reconsidering the Community Development Director’s denial of a Minor Use Permit to allow the operation of a Boat Sales business (Surf City Boats). The proposed business is located at 12347 Carson Street, Hawaiian Gardens (APN: 7066-017-127)

CEQA DETERMINATION: The proposed appeal of the Minor Use Permit (MUP) is deemed categorically exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Specifically, denial of the MUP application is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Public Resources Code §21080(b)(5) and CEQA Regulation, §15270 (a), which posit that CEQA does not apply to projects which a public agency rejects or disapproves. Should the Planning Commission decide to approve the MUP as applied for, then that approval is exempt under CEQA Regulations §§15301, 15303(c) &(e), 15304(b) 15311(a) &(b), and 15332, because it establishes rules and procedures to alter existing facilities, permit new construction or conversion of small structures; permit minor alterations to the land and landscaping; construct or replace accessory commercial structures, signs, and parking lots; and permits an in-fill development project which are all exempt under the aforementioned CEQA Regulations. The MUP is therefore categorically exempt from further CEQA review under CEQA Regulations §§15301, 15303(c) &(e), 15304(b), 15311(a) &(b), and 15332.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the Hawaiian Gardens Community Development Department at (562) 420-2641 Ext. 248. Si desea obtener mas informacion, llame al Departamento de Desarrollo de la Comunidad al (562) 420-2641 Ext 248.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS are invited to attend said hearing and express opinions or submit evidence for or against the applications as outlined above. If you challenge the Planning Commission’s action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Elise McCaleb, Community Development Director
Published: Los Cerritos Community News 1/17/2025

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 1/17/2025

**PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF PICO RIVERA**

Community Development Block Grant Program
Announcement of Citizen Participation
Notice of Fund Availability

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Pico Rivera is initiating its citizen participation and application process for the **2025-2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funded program**. The City is an entitlement community and is expected to receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. The City is estimated to receive approximately \$550,000 in CDBG funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. A maximum of fifteen percent (15%) of the expected allocation may fund Public Service activities. Funding is contingent on availability from HUD.

CDBG funds may be used for a variety of community development and housing activities, including public services, public facility and infrastructure improvements, and residential code enforcement and housing improvement projects.

CDBG applications are available now on the City’s website. Applications must be received by the City of Pico Rivera **no later than 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 06, 2025**. Please mail applications to:

Community & Economic Development Department
Attn: Julia Gonzalez
Re: 2025-2026 CDBG Application
6615 Passons Blvd.
Pico Rivera, CA 90660.

Applications may also be emailed to juliagonzalez@pico-rivera.org, please use “**CDBG FY 25-26 Application**” in the subject line. Late applications will not be accepted.

Those desiring an application and/or further information should contact:

Contact: Julia Gonzalez
Phone: (562) 801-4447
Email: juliagonzalez@pico-rivera.org

The City will evaluate proposals for CDBG eligibility. After the proposals are evaluated, the staff will make recommendations for the total amount of CDBG funds which should be allocated. The City Council will hold a public hearing regarding the funding allocation recommendations. The Pico Rivera City Council approves final CDBG allocations.

ESPAÑOL:
Información en Español puede ser obtenida llamando al (562) 801-4447.

Published: January 17, 2025
Los Cerritos Community News

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 1/17/2025

**CITY OF SANTA FE SPRINGS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING & CEQA EXEMPTION
A ZONING CODE AMENDMENT TO AMEND SECTION 155.519 (INTERSTATE 605
CORRIDOR ELECTRONIC BILLBOARD SIGN PROGRAM) WITHIN TITLE 15 (LAND
USE), CHAPTER 155 (ZONING), OF THE SANTA FE SPRINGS MUNICIPAL CODE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of Santa Fe Springs will hold a Public Hearing to consider the following:

PROJECT: A Zoning Code Amendment (ZCA) to amend Section 155.519 (Interstate 605 Corridor Electronic Billboard Sign Program) within Title 15 (Land Use), Chapter 155 (Zoning), of the Santa Fe Springs Municipal Code to allow electronic billboards in the M-1 zone.

PROJECT LOCATION: Citywide, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

APPLICANT: City of Santa Fe Springs

CEQA STATUS: The Zoning Code Amendment is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15061(b)(3) (Common Sense Exemption).

THE HEARING will be held before the Planning Commission of the City of Santa Fe Springs in the Council Chambers of the City Hall, 11710 Telegraph Road, Santa Fe Springs, on **Monday, January 27, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS are invited to participate in the Public Hearing and express their opinion on the item listed above. Please note that if you challenge the aforementioned item in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues raised at the Public Hearing, or in written correspondence to the office of the Commission at, or prior to the Public Hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS may be submitted in writing to the Community Development Department at City Hall, 11710 Telegraph Road, Santa Fe Springs CA 90670 or e-mail the Planning Commission Secretary, Esmeralda Elise, at esmeraldaelise@santafesprings.gov. Please submit your written comments by 12:00 p.m. on the day of the Planning Commission meeting. You may also contact the Community Development Department at (562) 868-0511 ext. 7550.

FURTHER INFORMATION on this item may be obtained from Laurel Reimer, Planning Consultant, via e-mail at laurelreimer@santafesprings.gov or by phone at: (562) 868-0511 ext. 7354.

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 1/17/2025

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the BOARD OF EDUCATION of the ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (hereinafter referred to as the “Legislative Body”) has declared its intention to receive public testimony on the continuing needs of the District to increase statutory school facilities fees to provide and maintain school facilities for students generated from new residential and commercial/ industrial development and will consider adopting a Fee Justification Report for New Residential and Commercial/Industrial Development in accordance with Education Code Section 17620 and Government Code Section 65995.

The Public Hearing of the School District, to be held February 4, 2025 will begin at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as practicable, at the Board Room located at 16700 Norwalk Blvd., Cerritos, CA. These matters will be considered at such time as this agenda item is considered by the Board of the School District. The Board will hear testimony by all interested persons, property owners, voters, and taxpayers relating generally to the above matters.

A copy of the developer fee justification report is available for review in the office of the Risk Management located at ABC Unified School District 16700 Norwalk Blvd., Cerritos from January 21, 2025 to February 3, 2025 from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM..

All individuals wishing to comment on the fee justification report are invited to attend the meeting of the Board of Education on February 4, 2025.

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 1/17/2025

**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. 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

**LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF BELLFLOWER
ORDINANCE NO. 1437**

**AN ORDINANCE ADDING A NEW SECTION 2.28.050 TO THE BELLFLOWER
MUNICIPAL CODE REGULATING UNCONTESTED MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS**

The City Council of the City of Bellflower introduced Ordinance No. 1437 at its Regular Meeting of January 13, 2025.

If adopted, Ordinance 1437 would add a new Section 2.28.050 to the Bellflower Municipal Code (BMC) to regulate uncontested municipal elections and allow uncontested elections to be cancelled even if a proposition or initiative is placed on the ballot for consideration by the City Council.

For a copy of Ordinance No. 1437, please contact the City Clerk’s Office at (562) 804 1424.

Approved as submitted above:
Karl H. Berger, City Attorney

ATTEST:
Mayra Ochiqui, City Clerk

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 1/17/2025

PAWS from page 1

stations specifically designed for dogs and cats, providing much-needed sustenance to those in need.

Shelia Silber's cat, Ziggy, fled as she tried to catch him when she was forced to evacuate. The fire came so quickly that she was forced to leave without Ziggy. Silber's house was spared miraculously, but so many of her neighbors were not as fortunate. Paws personnel, flanked by local authorities, was able to return to Silber's house and found Ziggy in the house. Ziggy had been surviving for five days without food or water, highlighting the critical importance of the feeding stations.

In addition to the stations, Paws has supplied local rescue departments with oxygen masks for animals, responding to urgent requests from rescuers who are en-

countering animals in distress.

"As we search, block after block, the utter devastation is overwhelming. We were able to find a cat that managed to survive, and the call to her owner to let her know her cat was safe was so inspiring and keeps us going," said Niki Dawson, disaster response coordinator and FEMA-certified professional leading the rescue operations for Paws.

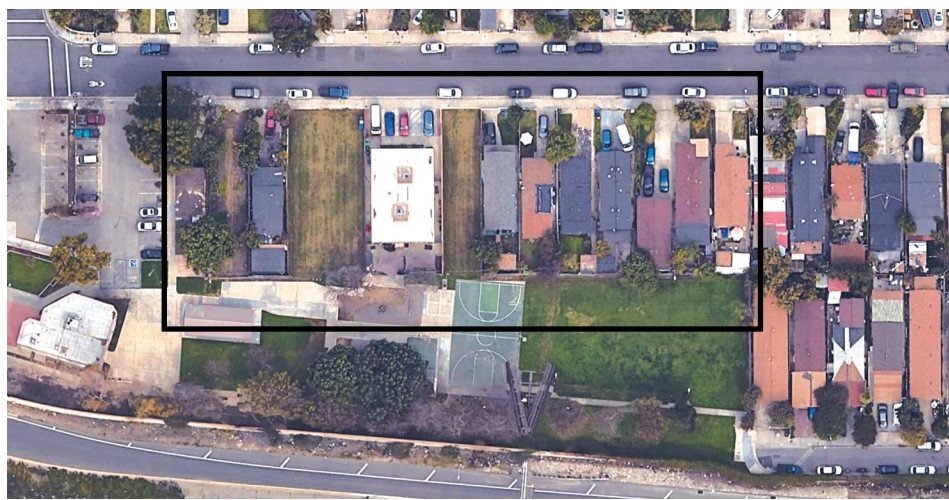
The rescue organization has members working near the Eaton fire area but will move as needed. Due to the large number of people who fled their homes or were at work and unable to return, many have been separated from their beloved pets.

In response, Paws has partnered with other local organizations to establish a missing animal hotline, where volunteers can sign up to help with the search efforts. It is also coordinating a foster program for displaced animals, providing details on how individuals can apply to become foster parents. The animals will be well cared for as it works to reunite them with their families.

"This is such a terrible and devastating situation we are watching unfold in California," said Robert Misseri, co-founder of Paws. "We will do everything we can to help in this awful situation."

"Many people are watching this horrific event play out from their homes and want to do something to help the situation," continues Dawson. "By supporting our efforts, they will do a lot to help the people and animals that these fires have ravished. The animals need the help, and their families will be comforted knowing that people have pulled together to provide assistance."

To help support the efforts of Paws on the ground to help animals in the Los Angeles fires, visit the site here: <https://pawsofwar.org/?form=CA-Fires>



PADELDFORD EXPANSION: The properties (inside the box) slated for acquisition to expand Padelford Park. The street above is 169th, below is the 91 freeway.

ARTESIA from page 1

ed a grant from the state for the purpose of expanding the existing A.J. Padelford Park located in the northern portion of the city. In 2020, the City Council approved an agreement with Overland, Pacific & Cutler (OPC) to assist the city with acquiring single-family residential properties to expand the park to 169th Street. This process involves several steps, including title reports, appraisals, title clearance, seller agreements, relocation plans, and relocation assistance.

The acquisition includes title reports, appraisals, title clearance, seller agreements, relocation plans, and relocation assistance. So far, OPC has helped the city acquire four properties, with a fifth property in escrow.

The agreement with OPC, funded by the state grant, was not to exceed \$84,830, but subsequent amendments increased the total compensation to \$150,825, in part because escrow periods took longer than anticipated because of the time it takes for the property owners to relocate.

OPC proposed, and the City Council

approved, extending the agreement from \$150,825 to \$190,825 through December 31, 2026, to complete the remaining acquisition services.

In other news, the City Council considered an amendment to the city's code that would require procrastinators to move their trash containers after garbage collection.

The amendment would mandate residents wait until 6 p.m. the night before the designated collection day to put out the trash, including solid waste, recyclable materials, and organic waste.

The proposed ordinance would also require that containers be removed by 8:00 p.m. on the designated garbage collection day.

The staff report indicated that the regulations are consistent with similar ordinances in surrounding cities, including Bellflower, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens, and Lakewood.

Watch out, procrastinators. Violations are punishable as misdemeanors, infractions, or administrative and/or civil fines. And for each day that a violation persists, it shall be treated as a separate occurrence and considered a separate offense.



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

(562) 933-0808

Schedule an appointment online:
memorialcareblooddonor.org

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

