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## Central Basin Board Asks Attorney General Bonta to Bypass State Law in Attempt to Maintain Illegitimate Majority

Board members Chacon, Crawford, and Vasquez objected to the move, but were rebuked by the new board majority.

By Brian Hews

When former Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia's AB 1794 passed and was signed by Governor Newsom, the bill mandated that Central Basin Municipal Water District (CB) periodically appoint three qualified individuals to its board of directors.

The appointment process was fairly simple, involving water purveyors and large water companies within CB's boundaries with a timeline of two months. When a seat came up for appointment, CB would send a request for nominations to the purveyors and water companies, wait a month, and then send out ballots with the nominations. The nominees with the most votes would be appointed.

When Directors Michael Gualteri and Thomas Beckele resigned in 2024, both under a cloud of corruption, the appointment process was carried out—in a way that violated the CB Administrative Code—resulting

in Golden State Water GM Nem Ochoa and City of Industry Water Engineer Joanna Moreno “winning” the seats.

If they had not resigned, Gualteri and Beckele would have termed out in February 2025; that term-out date also applies to Ochoa and Moreno.

With the February 2025 date looming, the appointment process under AB 1794 should have commenced in December 2024.

However, CB GM Elaine Jeng, CB attorney Victor Ponto, and certain CB Board members are stalling the process, blatantly violating AB 1794 and the CB Administrative Code.

Directors Art Chacon, Jim Crawford, and Leticia Vasquez, upon realizing that the voting process did not initiate in December, expressed their frustration and disappointment to Ponto and Jeng.

At that critical juncture, President Ochoa and Directors Garza and Moreno had the opportunity to act, but they chose not to, waiting for the outcome of the November 2024 election which included Gary Mendez as a candidate for Division Two.

Once the former Rio Hondo College Board member and cur-

[ See **WATER**, page 6 ]



## SUPERVISOR HAHN HONORS 605 ALL STAR BAND

**500+ STUDENTS:** Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn honored the more than 500 students and eight band directors of the 605 All Star Band which made history performing in this year's Rose Parade in a loud and lively ceremony at the Board of Supervisors meeting at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration in Downtown Los Angeles. *Courtesy office of Janice Hahn.*

## Santa Fe Springs Wants Quiet Zones at Its Railroad Crossings

By Brian Hews

The federal Train Horn Rule, established in 2005, gave local government agencies the power to restrict the use of train horns at railroad crossings, provided they met certain criteria.

The rule set nationwide standards for the sounding of train horns at crossings and changed the sounding of horns from distance-based to time-based; more importantly, the rule established

a process to create Quiet Zones [QZ].

A QZ may be established after implementing safety improvements that provide the same level of risk reduction as would otherwise be provided by the train horn. A QZ can be one crossing in a community or several consecutive crossings in one or more communities. A QZ can be created along corridors shared by railroad and rail transit.

The Train Horn Rule provid-

ed a clear and structured process for determining what can be done to restrict train horns, formally documenting their silencing, and officially establishing a QZ. This process involves a series of safety assessments, community consultations, and the implementation of safety improvements that provide the same level of risk reduction as would otherwise be provided by the train horn.

In 2005, Santa Fe Springs

[ See **QUIET**, page 9 ]

## Lawsuit: St. John Bosco coach stole money, paid tuition, took lavish trips

By Tom Schad

Three former employees of a St. John Bosco in Bellflower have filed a lawsuit against the school and its longtime coach, alleging financial mismanagement within the football program, including embezzlement and fraud.

In the lawsuit, which was filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court last month, the former employees at St. John Bosco High School claim that football coach Jason Negro eschewed standard accounting practices by distributing payments for the program with cash from a safe he kept in his office. He and his assistant coaches used the cash to pay tuition bills for players, the



**ST. JOHN BOSCO** coach Jason Negro was sued by three former employees for embezzling funds. Negro allegedly used the money to pay for players' tuition and lavish trips for his staff. *CBS Sports.*

lawsuit alleges, as well as food and alcoholic beverages at staff retreats.

Plaintiffs Brian Wickstrom, Melanie Marcaurel and Derek Barraza – all of whom were

fired by the school last year – allege that Negro committed tax fraud and embezzlement by not properly accounting for the incoming and outgoing pay-

[ See **BOSCO**, page 6 ]

**LCCN Exclusive**

## Without a Quorum, Montebello City Council Appoints New Councilmember

By Brian Hews

At its Wednesday City Council meeting, with only two members present, Mayor Pro Tem Georgina Tamayo and Councilmember Scarlet Peralta appointed Rick Alonzo to recalled City Council Member Angie Jimenez' open seat. Mayor Salvador Melendez was not pres-

ent.

The appointment is certain to be challenged in court in the form of an injunction.

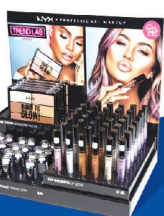
A letter obtained by Los Cerritos Community News sent Wednesday from the law firm of Shenkman and Hughes warned Montebello Mayor Melendez, Mayor Pro Tem Tamayo, and

[ See **MONTEBELLO**, page 9 ]

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## Grand Opening of Safe Families Center in Santa Fe Springs



**WELCOME HOME:** The center will house up to 40 families at a time as they transition from homelessness to permanent supportive housing

### LCCN Staff Report

This Saturday, February 1, Supervisor Janice Hahn will join The Whole Child, state leaders, and Santa Fe Springs city council members for the Grand Opening Ceremony of the Safe Families Interim Housing and Support Services Center which will serve hundreds of children and families annually in Los Angeles County.

The project was made possible with \$7.3 million in county funding secured by Supervisor Janice Hahn.

The completed center is the first phase of The Whole Child's innovative "Homeless to Homeowner Campus," which will provide a comprehensive continuum care: bringing families in crisis under one roof for services and interim housing, then providing permanent supportive housing in apartment units, and ultimately allow-

ing an opportunity for formerly unhoused families to purchase townhome units.

Benefitting from land donated by the City of Santa Fe Springs valued at over \$1.4 million, as well as over \$20 million in funding from Supervisor Hahn, the State of California, Congresswoman Linda Sánchez, and the Bezos Day One Fund, among many others,

The center will house up to 40 families at a time as they transition from homelessness to permanent supportive housing. The first floor of the building contains amenities: a computer lab, laundry services, a food pantry, treatment rooms for mental health services, and a spacious playground for children. Living units in the center include full kitchens, furnishings, appliances, housewares, and more. The facility is also a trauma-informed mental health hub focused on treating the effects of homelessness on

children, teens, and parents.

"This represents the culmination of over six years of planning, fundraising, commitment, and excitement," said Constanza Pachon, CEO of The Whole Child. "To finally open this facility is a testament to the hard work of our Board, leadership team, facilities, team, funders, and partners. We are grateful for all of their efforts to bring this transformative center to life."

"As we continue to address the homelessness crisis, we have to try new strategies and this Homeless to Homeowner Campus we are bringing to Santa Fe Springs is innovative," said Supervisor Janice Hahn, who secured \$7.3 million for the project. "This first phase is perhaps the most important part. This will be interim shelter for families in crisis with wrap around services to provide stability and support to parents and kids in what might be the worst chapter of their lives. I applaud the Whole Child for their commitment to supporting families and setting them up for better futures and I hope this can be a model for us going forward."

"On behalf of City of Santa Fe Springs, I want to sincerely thank The Whole Child for bringing the transformative Homeless to Homeowner Campus to our community. This innovative facility represents hope, stability, and opportunity for families experiencing homelessness. The Whole Child is not just addressing homelessness but offering a pathway to lasting change. We are proud to partner with such a visionary organization to create a brighter future for our residents and thank them for making a meaningful difference in our city," said Mayor Bill Rounds.

The event will occur this Saturday February 1 at 11:00 a.m. at 10951 Laurel Avenue in Santa Fe Springs, zip 90605.

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## La Palma-Cerritos AAUW Plans for 2025



**MAKING PLANS:** Pictured at the January 15, 2025 meeting of the La Palma-Cerritos Branch of the AAUW are, left to right, member Tobi Balma, guest speaker Jodi Balma, and Branch Administrator Harriet Moses. **Photo by Edna Ethington.**

By Edna Ethington

The La Palma-Cerritos Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) started the 2025 year with plans for educational and entertaining meetings for members and guests. On January 15, 2025, Branch members invited Jodi Balma, Professor of Political Science at Fullerton College as a guest speaker to discuss the results of the recent Presidential and State Elections in November of 2024 and educate members about possible future issues.

Professor Balma is a dynamic speaker and is one of three teachers in Orange County who focus on California State and local government. Branch Administrator Harriet Moses and Board member Tobi Balma thanked her for sharing her insights and information.

The next General meeting of the La

Palma-Cerritos Branch of the AAUW will be held on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at ABCUSD Adult School Auditorium at 20122 Cabrillo Lane in Cerritos. It will focus on educating and entertaining members and guests about Women's History Month and having fun with either a Jeopardy style game about famous American women, or a presentation about unheralded but fascinating women. The program will be led by Facilitator Christine Taxier with other Branch members assisting.

Men and women with an Associate degree or higher degree from an accredited college or university, and who want to advance equity for women and girls, are invited to come to the March 20, 2025, meeting and join the La Palma-Cerritos Branch of the AAUW. For more information, contact Administrator Harriet Moses at 714-994-1487.

## Cerritos Festival of Friendship February 1

Celebrate Cerritos' rich cultural diversity at the City's annual Festival of Friendship on Saturday, February 1 from noon to 4 p.m. at Los Cerritos Center. The City of Cerritos and the Let Freedom Ring Committee, in conjunction with Los Cerritos Center, are presenting the event.

The Festival of Friendship will feature a variety of cultural performances on stages in front of Forever 21 and the former Sears building, where local cultural groups will showcase songs and dances.

Special commemorative gifts will be available at each stage while supplies last. For more information, call the City's Recreation Services Division at (562) 916-1254.

## Lakewood Volunteer Day Program Seeks Project Sites

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

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

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



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## Sup. Hahn Visits Pico Rivera Sports Arena Boarding Animals From Fires



**GRATEFUL:** Supervisor Hahn with Pico Rivera Mayor Johnny Garcia, Councilmember Gustavo Camacho and the Lopez family at the Sports Arena.

On January 8, Pico Rivera partnered with La Noria Entertainment and the Pico Rivera Sports Arena offering free boarding for horse and large livestock owners in areas impacted that were impacted by the Los Angeles fires.

This past week, L.A. County 4th

District Supervisor Janice Hahn visited the Sports Arena, which, with the help of donations from Lowe's, has provided free boarding to horses that had nowhere else to go.

Horse and large livestock owners can bring their animals at any time, as some-

one will be present to assist.

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

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

"I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of the Fourth District over the last couple of weeks," said Hahn. "I am so grateful to every one of these organizations for your work. You are making a difference."

## La Mirada Company Involved in Nationwide Bread Crumb Recall

A Fiesta Food Products is recalling eight ounce packages of its La Fiesta brand Unseasoned Bread Crumbs-Pan Rayado- and Seasoned Bread Crumbs-Pan Rayado Sazonado-due to the products containing sesame as an undeclared allergen, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced on Tuesday.

Additionally, the crumb labels do not include the allergen declaration in Spanish.

The FDA warned that people who have an allergy or severe sensitivity to sesame and eat the recalled bread crumbs run the risk of serious or life-threatening reactions.

The FDA previously announced that sesame is required to be labeled as an allergen on packaged foods—including dietary supplements—as of January 1, 2023.

According to the Food Allergy Institute, sesame allergic reactions can be severe and life-threatening in some cases. Symptoms include hives; itchy mouth or throat; tongue or lips swelling; runny nose; watery eyes; abdominal pain; diarrhea; nausea/vomiting; and wheezing, coughing or shortness of breath. In the worst cases, sesame allergies can lead to anaphylaxis, which can be life-threatening.

Look for La Fiesta brand Bread Crumbs (Pan Rayado) 8oz UPC#032327000886, Lot codes 26032; 26073; 26082; 26092; and 26094.

The other impacted product is La Fiesta brand Bread Crumbs Seasoned (Pan Rayado Sazonado) 8oz UPC#032327000887, Lot codes 26094; and 26123;

The FDA said in its statement announcing the recall of the bread crumbs: "The recall was initiated after discovering that the product contained undeclared sesame. Further investigation revealed that the issue was caused by errors on the product labeling."

Customers who bought the recalled bread crumbs are asked to return them where they were originally purchased for a full refund.

## Donuts With a Deputy Feb. 19

Come enjoy a donut and coffee while chatting with Lakewood Sheriff Station Deputies and Lakewood's Public Safety Department staff on Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 9 a.m. at Fresh Donuts. All ages are welcome.

The first 50 people to attend get a free donut.

The first 20 people to attend get a free coffee mug.

Raffle entry for a \$50 gift card to Albertsons (must be present to win).

Free coffee and a great time for all.

Fresh Donuts is at 4140 South St. in Lakewood.

Donuts with a Deputy is part of Lakewood's ongoing work to provide lots of opportunities for residents to meet with and get to know Lakewood Public Safety Department personnel and LASD Deputy Sheriffs serving the Lakewood community.

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# L.A. County Assessor Announces Online Disaster Relief Filing for Homeowners

Enhancements are part of the Assessor's commitment to modernizing services and improving accessibility for property owners.

### LCCN Staff Report

Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang is making it easier than ever for property owners impacted by recent wildfires to access disaster relief. The new online Disaster Relief e-Form allows homeowners to file the Misfortune & Calamity (M&C) Claim form online—anytime, anywhere—using any electronic device including from a smart phone.

This enhancement is part of the Assessor's commitment to modernizing services and improving accessibility for property owners. Additionally, with an e-Service account, property owners no longer need to rely solely on traditional mail, phone calls, or in-person visits, although those options remain available. Instead, they can access services instantly via their email-linked account.

The M&C Claim program helps property owners affected by wildfires and other natural disasters qualify for reassessment at a reduced property

value, lowering their property tax bills during recovery.

### Key Qualifications for the M&C Program:

- Property damage must exceed \$10,000.
- Claims must be filed within 12 months of the disaster date.

Filing is easy: visit ADS-820 Misfortune & Calamity e-Form to review required documents, complete the form, and submit it online.

### Additional Benefits for Fire-Affected Property Owners:

- Tax Deferrals: Property owners who don't pay taxes through an impound account may qualify to defer property taxes while their M&C claim is under review, in coordination with the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office. Homeowners with impound accounts are encouraged to contact their mortgage lenders for assistance programs.

### Register Fire Damaged Property

The Assessor's Office is also encouraging property owners impacted by the fires to register for a personal e-Service account associated with their property on the Assessor's website. By registering a personal and confidential account, property owners can keep the Assessor's Office informed of their contact information and access the status of Home-



The Los Angeles County Assessor is making it easier for property owners impacted by recent wildfires to access disaster relief. The new online Disaster Relief e-Form allows homeowners to file the Misfortune & Calamity (M&C) Claim form online—anytime, anywhere—using any electronic device including from a smart phone.

owners' Exemption claims and Change of Mailing Address Requests they have submitted. Without updated contact information, the Assessor's Office will be forced to rely on the mailing address for property, which may have been destroyed in the fire. Property owners can create an account on the Assessor's website under "My Account."

### e-Service features available to property owners include:

- Homeowner Alert: To help combat fraud, property owners will receive email notifications within 48 hours of key activities on your property records.
- e-File Services: Simplify paperwork by:
  - Filing a Change of Mailing Address Request.
  - Submitting a Homeowners' Exemption form electronically.



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## City of La Mirada 2025 Older Americans Recognition Day Award

La Mirada once again will honor those ages 60 and above whose active involvement and volunteer service have greatly enhanced the quality of community life in the city.

Nominations for the 2025 Older Americans Recognition Day Award are being accepted through Monday, February 17.

Nomination forms are available on the City website, City Hall, and the La Mirada Activity Center. Nominations may be submitted electronically to [OARD@cityoflamirada.org](mailto:OARD@cityoflamirada.org) and in-person at the La Mirada Activity Center.

The selected award recipient will be recognized as La Mirada's honoree at the Los Angeles County Commission on Aging's Older Americans Recognition Day award ceremony and at a City Council meeting in May.

For more information, call the La Mirada Activity Center at (562) 902-3160

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**WATER** from page 1

rent Whittier Union High School District Trustee Mendez was elected, sources told LCCN he received a flurry of calls from certain CB Board members.

Mendez has no relevant water experience, yet at last Monday's regular board meeting, in a blatant pay-to-play move, Mendez was appointed vice president. The appointment, with all its perks for Mendez, put President Ochoa and Directors Garza and Moreno in the majority.

Hours later, Victor Ponto's associate Zach Lopes sent a letter, obtained by LCCN, to all directors stating that CB and Azusa-based Central Basin Water Association (CBWA) would send a letter to California Attorney General Rob Bonta asking for an opine to change the terms of Ochoa and Moreno, in effect asking Bonta to alter AB 1794 so the current majority can remain in place.

The email read, "Attached please find a draft opinion request to the AG concerning the length of tenure for directors Ochoa and Moreno. As you can see, this will be a joint request between the district and Central Basin Water Association, represented by Bill Kruse. [Kruse works for Los Angeles-based Langerlof, LP]. Mr. Kruse is conferring with his client before giving us the authority to send it out on his client's behalf. As soon as we receive the authority, the request will be sent, and a final copy will be distributed to the board."

The letter is alarming on many levels, with CB attorneys actively working, earning fees, to subvert AB 1794 without informing the entire board. Once they received the "permission" from CBWA, a "final copy will be distributed to the board," where it will undoubtedly pass with yes votes from President Ochoa, newly minted VP Gary Mendez, and Directors Garza and Moreno.

Under any conflict of interest rules, Ochoa and Moreno would be precluded from the vote, but that scenario has never stopped attorney Victor Ponto from approving any vote.

And with Kruse, who has not returned LCCN phone calls, and CBWA joining the scheme, another layer of corruption has been added.

In November 2019, an LCCN investigation revealed that the CBWA, an association that has taken the opposite position on all legislative items concerning CB, failed to report lobbying activity on its financial documents, known as 990s, which violated state and federal laws.

The documents showed that while AB 1794 was winding its way through the legislature, Dan Arrighi and Director Frank Heldman, both appointed to the CB Board after 1794 passed, were actively working on CBWA's Board of Directors, trying to pass the bill while not reporting their lobbying efforts, and IRS tax violation.

Grajeda, one of the first appointees under AB 1794, was listed as president and Heldman as a director. Arrighi was in

charge of overseeing the financials and was the CBWA's treasurer.

During that time, CBWA actively lobbied to pass AB 1794, which all elected CB Board Members vehemently opposed.

And CBWA did not try to hide their actions.

During the process, CBWA paid its law firm at the time, Nossaman, LP, to lobby in favor of AB 1794. CBWA paid Nossaman over \$76,000 in 2015 and nearly \$67,000 in 2017. The payments violated the IRS' "substantial rule" for non-profits.

Shockingly, Nossaman was also representing CB at the time.

CB Director Leticia Vasquez, who was on the board at the time and opposed AB 1794, did not mince words about Nossaman's work with CBWA: "It's disappointing that Nossaman failed to follow the law and properly report to Central Basin that the Central Basin Water Association hired them to work as their lobbyist while simultaneously serving as Central Basin's attorney. That was a clear conflict of interest."

Now, CBWA is attempting to influence yet another CB nomination process by participating in a scheme that violates state law and the CB Administrative Code while robbing Los Angeles-based water purveyors and water companies of their chance to vote for someone who will represent their interests and the interests of their customers.

Emails into CB officials and counsel were not returned.

**BOSCO** from page 1

ments and by using some of the football program's funds to pay for meals and beverages.

Negro told The Los Angeles Times, which first reported the lawsuit Tuesday, that "an independent investigation has already been conducted and all the facts will come to light in court."

In response to a request for comment from USA TODAY Sports, St. John Bosco principal Ernest Antonelli wrote in an email that the lawsuit reflects "the perspective of disgruntled former employees."

"These allegations are false, and St. John Bosco will defend itself against these allegations in court," Antonelli said.

A spokesperson for the Salesian Society, the religious order which oversees the school, did not immediately reply to an email seeking comment.

Negro has been the head coach at St. John Bosco since 2010, helping shape the school's program into one of the best in the country. The Braves have won four state titles and finished the 2022 season as USA TODAY Sports Super 25 national champions. Quarterbacks Josh Rosen and DJ Uiagalelei are among the notable former players who went on to play football in college or the NFL.

The lawsuit claims that St. John Bosco's football success, however, helped insulate the program from oversight and accountability. It alleges that Negro and his staff paid for the tuition of players under the guise of donations from anonymous donors and did not properly account for football program revenue from camps, clinics, parking and raffles.

Marcaurel, the former chief financial officer at the school, learned of Negro's alleged financial mismanagement and requested that he provide invoices and receipts for transactions that, according to the lawsuit, were previously handled in cash. The ensuing conflict led to the involvement of the Salesian Society and, eventually, the firings of Marcaurel, Wickstrom and Barraza.

Wickstrom previously served as St. John Bosco's president and CEO, while Barraza was the vice president of technology. The trio of former employees allege that their firings were retaliatory and are seeking unspecified monetary damages, including back pay and compensation for emotional distress, pain and suffering.

VOTE

# (PAT) ASHOK PATNAIK

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- SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBER
- BOND MEASURES COMMITTEE MEMBER, CERRITOS COLLEGE
- RECRUITMENT TEAM MEMBER, CERRITOS COLLEGE FOUNDATION

ABOUT PAT

**EDUCATION:** MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DEGREE & MBA FROM PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY  
**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:** COMMERCIAL BANKER SPECIALIZING IN SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT  
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# Legislation Could Establish Tax Credit For Businesses That Advertise in Local Media

New York Senator Monica R. Martinez and Assemblymember Jen Lunsford, with support from the Empire State Local News Coalition, introduced legislation to establish a new tax credit for small businesses that advertise in local media outlets. The Lift Our Communities, Advertise Locally (LOCAL) Act aims to maximize the reach of small businesses' advertising dollars and boost their visibility in their local communities. This initiative not only supports small businesses but also recognizes the vital role of local news organizations, which are the backbone of our communities and are relied on daily for critical information.

By supporting the marketing needs through advertising in local media outlets, the initiative will help small businesses promote their products and services while keeping investment local in the media that New Yorkers (and hopefully other states) rely on daily for critical information.

The bill has already garnered strong support from nine major business trade groups as well as the Empire State Local News Coalition's more than 200 local New York newspapers, which view the legislation as a winning solution to both increase investment in local small businesses and bolster the sustainability of local news organizations.

Under the LOCAL Act, a minority-, woman- or veteran-owned business, as well as any business with 10 employees or fewer, would be eligible to receive a refundable tax credit of 80% of its first \$5,000 of local advertising for a maximum credit of \$4,000 per year. The program would be capped at \$10 million annually. At \$10 million, 2,500 small businesses could take advantage of the program.

"Small businesses are the engines that drive New York's economy, but they are struggling with changing consumer habits

and rising costs," said Ashley E. Ranslow, New York State director for the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB). "Providing opportunities for tax relief makes it a little more affordable for small businesses to operate and helps Main Street businesses compete in a difficult economic environment."

"The LOCAL Act is a great idea. Helping New York's small businesses and its community news outlets at the same time will have so many benefits for communities. It also helps local news outlets thrive while preserving editorial independence," said Steven Waldman, chair of the Rebuild Local News Coalition. "The Rebuild Local News Coalition enthusiastically endorses the legislation."

Bill co-author Senator Martinez said, "Small businesses are centers of our communities, built upon relationships with neighbors. "The LOCAL Act will strength-

en those ties by making it easier to connect to local customers through the trusted media deeply rooted in the places they serve. This legislation fosters a cycle of growth, allowing small businesses to expand their reach while investing in the media outlets that keep New Yorkers informed and engaged."

Co-author Assemblymember Lunsford stated, "The LOCAL Act is about more than just advertising — it's about investing in the economic health of our local community and investing in the kind of local journalism that we need now more than ever." "By providing small businesses with the tools to connect with their neighbors and supporting the local journalism that keeps us informed, this legislation strengthens the foundation of our local economies. It's a smart, innovative solution that ensures businesses and residents can thrive together across New York State."

## LETTERS

### Mass Deportations: Repeated Betrayal

After the Great Depression of 1929 and spanning 1930s – 1940s, Mexican immigrants and Mexican-Americans faced antagonism and scapegoating and were forcibly deported from our country to Mexico. In *Decade of Betrayal*, Dr. Francisco E. Balderrama and the late Raymond Rodriguez document the injustices of a period in U.S. history when over one million citizens were racially profiled by immigration agents and illegally swept up without due process, preparation for repatriation and a lack of resources to survive in their mother country. Mexican-Americans comprised 1 percent of the U.S. population yet 60% of the deportees were U.S. citizens. Many of these working class families owned homes, were gainfully employed, active in their communities and churches; paid taxes, were law-abiding and their children assimilated into the U.S. school system.

These families suffered unimaginable hardship and grievous economic losses. Many of these deportees were our parents, grandparents, extended family and neighbors whose tragic history compels one to

question the inhumanity and betrayal of mass deportation, then and now.

Fast-forward to 2025 to our polarized nation under Trump's reign. Nine decades later, the same mass deportation injustices repeat themselves, only this time on a broader scale encompassing nations from across the globe. Past and present administrations have failed to find real solutions to the complex issue of legal and illegal immigration. It remains a political time bomb.

For a decade now Trump has laid the groundwork, bringing immigration into the spotlight, for demonizing hard-working immigrants. However, with the same paintbrush, he has shown disdain toward Latinos and people of color even though most of us are integrally woven into the fabric of American society. I, like many others, obey the rule of law, unlike the insurrectionists, who violently attacked the capitol on January 6. I question: If violent criminals, citizens or noncitizens, violate our laws, then should they be subjected to consequences? Of course. However, immigration policies, under Trump's administration, are exceedingly discriminatory, racist and inhumane.

All along Trump has been motivated

by a power, land and money grab while scapegoating defenseless immigrants to gain our vote. Again history repeats itself with immigrants primed as scapegoats. Would a humane country deport its own citizens? Would we separate families? Would we abuse desperate immigrants? Would we place children in cages? Would we pervert Christianity in the name of White Nationalism to purge America of those viewed as nonhuman? Would we unleash terror across America in our own homes, workplaces, schools, hospitals and places of worship? Would we allow our economy to tank while crops rot in the fields, weeds overcome lawns, and housing construction and infrastructure projects remain stagnant due to a weakened workforce? Would we tolerate rising food prices, a void in childcare and senior care and a collapse of the public school system? Would we indiscriminately deport the very people, who answer the call to remove debris and rebuild communities when natural disasters devastate properties and lives? Would the richest country in the world reject the sick, the poor while professing to do God's will? Would a country, whose unjust policies (designed by Project 2025) survive a crumbling democracy under the

current administration, now overtaken by zealous billionaires? Would the betrayal matter? Great again?

Sadly, far too many Americans have jumped onto the "Make America Great Again" bandwagon. Have we turned a blind eye to the 1,500 insurrectionists (now pardoned), who shocked the world the day they usurped a peaceful transfer of power? Are we being honest with ourselves? Is a convicted leader who calls the day his followers besieged the U.S. Capitol, "a day of love"? Is his order of mass deportation "doing God's will"? Will Americans stand up against Trump's unhinged agenda of retribution? Will Americans be in denial disregarding the most heinous betrayal in American history? Will we turn a blind eye to Trump's fury of destructive policies that, with the stroke of a pen, serve to subvert our democracy?

FYI: Let's learn from our nation's past and present history. The Los Angeles Plaza of Culture and Art focuses on a decade of betrayal among other historical events. It reminds us to never allow the erasure of America's rich, multicultural history.

*Sandy Mercado  
Betrayed once again*

## CERRITOS CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

### Mark Pulido

Occupation: Retired Government Executive / Former Mayor, City of Cerritos  
Age: 55



Thank you Cerritos for electing me in 2011 and 2015. I proudly served twice as your Mayor in 2014-2015 and 2018-2019. I am grateful for new opportunities to serve my hometown of 52 years and respectfully ask for your vote.

My wife Gloria and I grew up here and graduated from ABC schools. After UCLA and the University of Chicago (Master of Public Policy), we raised our family here — one of the safest, prosperous and dynamic communities in America. Professionally, I worked nearly three decades in local, state and federal government, as Assembly Consultant, Senate Director, and District Chief of Staff to Congressman Alan Lowenthal (Ret.).

As your experienced Councilmember (2011-2020), I worked to solve problems with compassion and common sense.

I delivered on these priorities and will continue to work on: Public Safety: Reduced residential burglaries; maintained lowest emergency response time in Los Angeles County; Neighborhood Improve-

ment: Repaired streets, sidewalks; renovated park playgrounds, equipment, courts; replaced and trimmed thousands of trees; Economic Growth: Approved Cerritos Auto Square renovations and new business developments: 85°C Bakery, In-N-Out, Nordstrom Rack, Harkins Theaters, Cheesecake Factory. Quality of Life: Opened Library Teen Studio; approved new residential developments, and Kaiser Medical Building. Together, let's move Cerritos forward!

### (Pat) Ashok Patnaik

Occupation: Banker Age: 69



My name is (Pat) Ashok Patnaik and I am a candidate for Cerritos City Council—2025.

My family has lived in Cerritos for more than 25 years, and we love living here. As a community member, I have been blessed to serve the residents in several appointed positions.

They include Commissioner for Parks and Recreation, Commissioner for Economic Development, member of Safety Committee, member of Bond Measures and a team member for the Recruitment for Cerritos College foundation.

I am a commercial banker with emphasis on helping and supporting small businesses. I have a mechanical engineering degree with an MBA from Pepperdine University.

I intend to provide bipartisan leadership that will be ethical, transparent and accountable.

My top three priorities include keeping the residents safe by working closely with the Sheriff station, and work with the schools to ensure that our children are provided the necessary resources and support mechanisms they need to be successful. I will also continue to support active senior services to enhance their day-to-day lives.

### Riaz Surti

Occupation: E-Commerce Business Owner/Father



My name is Riaz Surti, and I know it sounds unusual, but I hope you will remember it come election day. I've lived in Cerritos since childhood.

I attended Stowers, Carmenita, Cerritos High, and USC. My goal is to be the best city councilmember ever. Firstly, I prior-

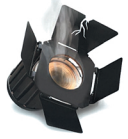
itize safety. After meeting with residents who have experienced burglaries, I realized that the city council and sheriff's department must allocate resources more effectively. We should conduct data analysis to identify areas with higher crime rates and direct our resources to address those concerns.

Secondly, I aim to establish a direct relationship between City Council and ABC School Board, as the current council does not communicate effectively with the school board. I would encourage collaboration and explore opportunities to open underutilized buildings, such as the Performing Arts Center, for school-related activities, like plays and events.

Thirdly, I want to enhance support for our seniors. While the Senior Center offers its attendees programming, we need to reach out to those who don't utilize it and provide additional services and activities to benefit them. Finally, I have several ideas for beautifying our city and making Cerritos more walkable. I appreciate your vote. Contact [voteriaz.com](http://voteriaz.com) [riazsurti@gmail.com](mailto:riazsurti@gmail.com) (562)900-7272

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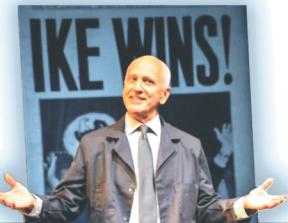
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## Dahlia Combinations for Gardens and Bouquets

By Melinda Myers

**D**ahlias come in various colors, shapes, and sizes making them easy to include in any garden, container, and bouquet. Grow them in their own dedicated space, mix them with other flowers, or plant a few at the end of the vegetable garden.

Consider including different varieties of dahlias for added interest and beauty in the garden and your arrangements. Select colors that you imagine will look great together in a vase. This will make it easy to create a lot of creative combinations on the fly.

Grow dahlias with flowers of different shapes and sizes to create more interesting arrangements. Dahlias offer many options and it's one of the reasons they are such a popular cut flower. Longfield Gardens provides help and inspiration in Types of Dahlias: 8 Great Looks.

You'll find the widest range of colors and styles with new varieties in the decorative dahlia group continually being released. Add a bit of elegance to the garden and bouquets with Mondriaan's soft pink petals tinged with pastel yellow, apricot, and lavender. Decorative dahlias make great cut flowers, and their sturdy stems make them easy to grow with other flowers in gardens and containers.

Add interesting texture to your gardens and bouquets with anemone-flowered and collarette dahlias. The anemone-flowered dahlias have a cluster of tubular florets in the center surrounded by more traditional petals. The two different lengths of petals in the collarette varieties add to their charm.

Enjoy an abundant harvest of cut flowers when growing ball and pompon dahlias. These perfectly round flowers are packed with tightly rolled petals and are long-lived in arrangements. Their size makes them excellent additions to mixed bouquets helping to connect the various flowers for an impressive display.

The unique blossoms of waterlily dahlias have made it one of the most popular for cutting. The relatively flat flowers have tightly closed centers surrounded by several rows of flat or slightly curved petals.

Grow a few single dahlias for you and the pollinators to enjoy. The daisy-like flowers have a prominent center surrounded by a single row of petals. Their airy appearance complements a variety of late-season perennials in the garden and bouquets. Mix in a few peony-flowered varieties for a showier display. These also have a prominent center but are surrounded by two or more layers of petals.

Add a bit of excitement to any arrangement with cactus and semi-cactus varieties. Their tightly curled petals make them a standout in the garden and bouquets.

You'll only need one or a few dinnerplate dahlia blooms to make a statement in a vase or arrangement. The large flowers can grow up to 10 inches across on four- to five-foot-tall plants. Tag team a pair of dinnerplate dahlias for the back of the border. Labyrinth and Tyrell have apricot flowers with pink and yellow accents that blend nicely with a wide range of colors in the garden.

If you feel overwhelmed by all the choices or can't decide on the best combination, let the experts lend a hand. Consider purchasing one or more ready-to-plant dahlia combinations selected to look great



**DINNERPLATE DAHLIAS**, like this Berry Spritz collection, can grow up to 10 inches across on four- to five-foot-tall plants.

in the garden and arrangements. The bumblebee collection includes pollinator-favorite Kelsey Sunshine collarette and the coral pink decorative Great Silence. Or for a big splash of purple try the Berry Spritz dinnerplate collection (longfield-gardens.com) with lavender-pink, lilac, and eggplant purple blooms.

Take pictures of your favorite combinations and notes of what you want to try next year, and most importantly, enjoy the fantastic blooms. Fortunately, any flower combination is sure to brighten your day.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* DVD instant video series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Longfield Gardens for her expertise to write this article. Her website is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).



**QUIET** from page 1

hired JMD Engineering to conduct a QZ study along the Union Pacific Railroad Corridor in the city. At the time, JMD looked at five at-grade crossings in the corridor. The study was ordered in response to residents' complaints about pollution and noise at the Los Nietos Yard. Nothing was acted upon, and the residents remained steamed.

"Over the years, many residents have complained about noise generated by Union Pacific's yard along Los Nietos, where the trains are assembled and taken apart, as well as train whistles," said City Manager Rene Bobadilla. "The whistles sound much louder during the middle of the night when there is no sound of traffic muffling them," he added.

Now, years later, the city wants to once again contract with JDM to conduct another QZ study. This study, with the potential to significantly reduce noise and improve safety, is a step towards a more peaceful and secure community. JDM looked at the corridor, this time identifying six at-grade crossings where QZ improvements can be implemented.

The corridor crossings run from Pioneer Blvd (North), Los Nietos Rd., Los Nietos Yard, Smith Avenue, Pioneer Boulevard, and Florence Avenue.

But the absence of a train horn has been shown to increase the risk of collisions, so if the city wants to establish a quiet zone, it will have to do, at a minimum, use active warning devices, including flashing lights, gates, constant warning time devices, and power out indicators

There are several methods that can reduce train horn noise, but the best and most cost-effective way to reduce risk in a proposed QZ is to install Supplementen-

tal Safety Measures (SSMs). SSMs are preapproved risk-reduction engineering equipment installed at the crossings within the QZ. The improvements include supplemental safety measures such as additional safety signage, raised medians, pedestrian gates, street striping, and possibly other security precautions.

The proposal for the new QZ study was not initially included in the city's '24-'25 budget. However, in response to numerous complaints received related to train horns blowing, the city is now considering this study. The proposed study, to be conducted by JMD Engineering, will focus on identifying and implementing improvements at six at-grade crossings within the QZ. To fund this study, the city plans to appropriate \$55,000 from the user utility tax capital improvements fund.

**MONTEBELLO** from page 1

Councilmember Peralta that a quorum is three members "to fill vacancies in nearly all circumstances just as it is required to take nearly any action."

"In Price v. Tennant Community Services District, the court considered whether a quorum (ian that case three members of a five-seat board) was required to appoint new members to fill vacancies. The court determined that a quorum was required."

Adding to the farcical appointment, campaign reports obtained by LCCN show that Councilmember Peralta had a blatant conflict of interest in appointing Alonzo, in 2022 Peralta donated over \$2,300 to Alonzo for his failed City Council campaign.

**Mark Pulido delivers for Cerritos.**



- 15,000 trees trimmed
- 35% reduction in residential burglaries
- Parks renovated, sidewalks fixed, potholes filled

He is an effective, focused advocate for our families and neighborhoods. Former Mayor Mark Pulido led efforts on the City Council (2011-2020) to:

- Trim over 15,000 trees in Cerritos, and plant hundreds more
  - Give police officers the support they need to reduce crime—residential burglaries were reduced by 35%
  - Fought to renovate our parks, fix our sidewalks, and repair our streets.
- We need him back on the City Council fighting for all of us.

**Re-elect Mayor MARK PULIDO • City Council**

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## NEWS AND NOTES FROM PRESS ROW

# Norwalk, Glenn Girls Basketball Renew Old Suburban League Rivalry

By Loren Kopff  
@LorenKopff on X

At least for one game, the John Glenn High-Norwalk High rivalry was renewed for girls basketball, and very few who were part of this past Monday's event, know much about the history. The longtime and former Suburban League rivals had not played since Dec. 16, 2021, in which Norwalk easily won 87-14.

The last Suburban League meeting between the two city rivals was on Jan. 31, 2018, in which Norwalk pulled out a 54-48 win. Former head coach Ruben Guerrero was in his first year with the Glenn while Ashley Baclaan was in her second season with the Lancers. Since that game, the teams had met five times with Norwalk winning four of them, including a 56-35 conquest on Dec. 7, 2019, in a Glenn-Norwalk Tournament contest, and dating back to 1999, Norwalk has a 29-20 series edge.

However, it was more of the same this time around as the Lancers routed the Eagles 37-19 in a turnover-filled game with both teams coming in with a combined record of 11-28.

"Everyone always knows the Glenn-Norwalk history, so everybody tries to get hyped for it," said Baclaan. "It was a good thing to see after it being [discontinued] for a little while."

The game got off to a fast start within the first 45 seconds as Glenn senior Aliyah Ramirez scored off one of her team-high seven steals only to see Norwalk junior Isabella Barrera score off her only offensive rebound. Those would be the last points until the 5:31 mark when Ramirez sank a free throw and

would be the start of a 7-0 run that lasted 2:05 into the second quarter.

The opening quarter saw both teams combine for 20 rebounds, 20 turnovers and connect on three of 28 shooting from the field. But as fast as Glenn had its rare lead, it flipped in a matter of just under four and a half minutes.

It began with two free throws from freshman Connie Esquivel on consecutive possessions, then back to back baskets from sophomore Mya DeLaRosa, one from senior Anahi Rodriguez, another one from Esquivel and finally one from senior Celine Zavala. Just like that, the Lancers were in front 14-9 with 1:24 left in the first half.

"We just had a lot of turnovers," said Glenn head coach Eric Peterson. "We're just not that good in passing the ball around, and we just make too many turnovers."

"We just got off to a fast start and then the wheels fell off," he later said. "What can I say? I don't know what happened. I wish I did."

"I think starting off with our defense; it had to come with our defense," said Baclaan of the first quarter. "The girls finally started to anticipate a little bit better and move a little bit better within our defensive sets."

"I just liked how the girls finally figured it out, and they got themselves on a good little run," she later said. "They didn't completely crumble; they got themselves working together."

Glenn could not get its groove back in the second half as Norwalk outscored the Eagles 7-2 in the third and in fact, Glenn went four of 15 from the field in the second half. Freshman Jay

Curl led Glenn with six points and 16 rebounds while Ramirez had five points and 10 rebounds, senior Maritza Corona added six rebounds as the Eagles have floundered again this season, winning three of 22 games. They have lost 12 straight games after a three-game winning streak and have not scored more than 36 points in any game. However, the prospect for a better 2025-2026 season looks promising.

Although Glenn will graduate eight players, Curl has been the leading scorer over the past 11 games and her 10-point performance at Artesia High on Jan. 15 is the leader among all players over that span. Another player Peterson is hopeful of for next season is junior Errisa Ramos, who started the first 11 games but has not played since. Juniors Stacy Hernandez and Michelle Marin are the other anticipated returnees for next season.

"They're going to be vital to next season," said Peterson. "Erisa is not eligible to play for the rest of the season, so that hurts us. That's our starting point guard. We're just going to try to keep playing with them. I have them in the spring and the summer league; just trying to help develop them for next year."

Esquivel paced Norwalk (9-11) with 12 points and eight rebounds and three steals while Rodriguez had seven points, nine rebounds and seven steals. Unlike Glenn, Norwalk will have the luxury of graduating two of 11 players. This has been a disappointing season for Baclaan and the Lancers as two of their top three players have been injured since Jan. 17 and are not expected to play the remainder of the season.

"It is exciting to see because

usually we're opposite; we're usually senior-heavy," said Baclaan of the future. "But this year, learning to redevelop and grow as a young team, and then being able to get that back [for next year], it is exciting to see what could happen."

While Glenn will host Artesia on Friday and Cerritos High on Tuesday to wrap up the season, the Lancers are hopeful of a third place finish in the Mid-Cities League. For that to happen, they would need to win their remaining three games, including third place Warren High on Friday and league-leading La Mirada High on Wednesday, both on the road.

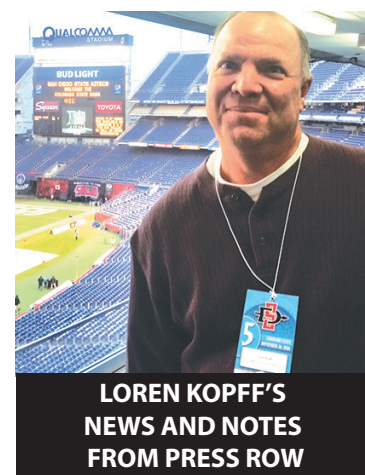
CIF-SOUTHERN SECTION  
PLAYOFF UPDATE

BOYS BASKETBALL

Artesia clinched at least a share of the 605 League title with a 70-58 win over Cerritos this past Tuesday. The Pioneers (18-7, 7-1) led virtually the entire game, trailing for just 58 seconds early in the first quarter and led anywhere from nine points to 14 in the second half. Senior Jovell Tate led Artesia with 23 points and pulled down eight rebounds while senior Judd Sajise had 11 points and senior Christopher Vargas pitched in with 10 points and 14 rebounds. Cerritos (11-14, 5-3) was led by seniors Jaylen Barsana (24 points), Jaden Ribac (13 points, six rebounds) and Nathan Ju (10 points).

Artesia can win the title outright with a victory against last place Glenn on Friday, or at fourth place Pioneer High on Tuesday. The Pioneers also host Pacifica Christian High of Santa Monica on Saturday.

Cerritos is tied for second place with Whitney High as the



LOREN KOPFF'S  
NEWS AND NOTES  
FROM PRESS ROW

Dons travel to Oxford Academy on Friday and Glenn on Tuesday. Cerritos and Whitney are a game ahead of Pioneer.

Gahr High needs to win at least three of its final four games to clinch at least a .500 season and third place in the Gateway League. The Gladiators (11-12, 1-3) host Lynwood High on Friday, before going to league-leading La Mirada High on Monday and last place Dominguez High on Wednesday.

La Mirada has been the hottest team in the area all season and has eyes on a spot in the CIF-SS Open Division. The Matadores (21-4, 5-0) host Dominguez on Friday and second place Mayfair High on Wednesday.

Norwalk began the week tied for third place in the Mid-Cities League with Warren as the Lancers (15-9, 4-3) travel to Warren on Friday and first place Bellflower High on Wednesday, if the Lancers don't finish in the top three in league, they could possibly get in as an at-large representative.

Whitney (11-14, 5-3) wraps up the regular season at Pioneer on Friday and Oxford Academy on Tuesday.

[ See NEWS, page 12 ]

## BOYS BASKETBALL

# Gahr Goes Wire to Wire in Non-League Contest, Ready For Second Round of League Play

By Loren Kopff  
@LorenKopff on X

HUNTINGTON PARK-As the Gahr High boys basketball team stepped out of Gateway League action, the one thing head coach Marcus Girley was hoping his players would get is confidence. Considering where the Gladiators are in the standings and what awaits them for the second round of league, beating up on Marquez High last Saturday brought the team some confidence.

The Gladiators never trailed against the CIF-Los Angeles City Section school, scoring the first seven points of the game, then scoring the first 11 points of the second quarter in a 62-35 victory, leaving Gahr with an 11-12 record.

"Even though we've played hard in some of those losses, even the last game; it might not show on the scoreboard, but we were pretty competitive, I thought, from beginning to end," said Girley. "Certain teams are at

a different level. So, it's always good to get a win; a little bit of a cushion and let guys come off the bench to get minutes, get their rhythm and let everybody have a little bit taste of the action."

The star of the first quarter was senior Jaison Joyce, who scored all his eight points and had two rebounds, including a basket with 2.2 seconds left to make it 15-5. Five different players would score in that 4:03 scoring run to begin the second quarter as Gahr was displaying some solid shooting, connecting on 13 of 21 shots from the field. Seven of the 11 players who saw action scored a basket in the half as Gahr was cruising to a 28-11 lead at the break.

If there was one negative from the first quarter, it was in the rebounding department where the team grabbed five boards. But that number increased dramatically as the game progressed, and when the contest was over, the visiting Gladiators had 35 rebounds with all 11

players collecting at least one of them.

Gahr extended its lead to 40-21 late in the third quarter on a basket from senior Ethan Carey, who was solid in the stanza, scoring nine points with a rebound and a block. While he didn't score again, he was still effective in the fourth quarter with three more rebounds, two assists and a block, finishing the game with a team-high 13 points and seven rebounds. Senior Josh Pearson added 12 points, three rebounds and two steals while a trio of players pitched in with six points.

"We're not built off one guy," said Girley. "I know a lot of people think, 'oh, this is the guy, this is the guy'. The way we are, it's good and bad; we have a lot of able bodies. I have 10 to 12 guys who I can throw on the court who I trust will give me something. I would love to be a little bit more consistent... but just having that depth gives us that little bit of cushion if one of our main core guys are not

playing well."

Consecutive baskets from Elyjah Staples in the final minute of the third quarter brought Marquez to within 15 points. But Gahr sealed the game with a 9-0 run and didn't allow the hosts to score consecutive points again.

"We've been talking to them about every game is a playoff game for us now," said Girley. "There's no room for error. We've lost some of those games where we were supposed to have won on paper, according to a lot of people. Now the margin for error is basically zero. So, the energy, I felt, in the first half didn't seem like a team that was desperate. I just let them know it was now or never."

Girley is talking about the last four games of the regular season, and if his team is to make the CIF-Southern Section playoffs, it needs to win at least three of those four games, which would leave the blue and yellow with a winning regular season, good enough to petition for an at-large berth if it can't finish in

the top three of league.

Gahr hosts fourth place Lynwood High on Friday, then travels to league-leading La Mirada High on Monday and last place Dominguez High on Wednesday. Gahr has lost three of the first four league contests-11 to second place Mayfair High, five to Lynwood and 23 to La Mirada and has never been more than two games above or below the .500 mark.

"Just looking at the numbers and doing the math where we currently are [according to the] CIF [projections], at-large would be tough," said Girley. "So, we're fighting for third place. I want that to be the mentality of the kids where we just have to make sure we take care of our business against certain teams. Obviously, La Mirada is an elite team at a different level. You just want that game to be competitive with a chance going into the fourth quarter. But the other game we definitely have to pull them out."

**605 LEAGUE BOYS BASKETBALL**

**Artesia Rebounds From Upset Loss, Holds Off Whitney to Close in on League Title**



By Loren Kopff  
@LorenKopff on X

Artesia High's bid for an unblemished 605 League campaign hit a roadblock when the Pioneers were upset by Oxford Academy at home by five points last Wednesday. But if the team has learned anything this season, it's that nothing has come easy, including last Friday's 45-42 victory at Whitney High.

It was probably the most important win so far considering the nature of the league as the Pioneers improved to 15-7, 6-1 at the time. A Whitney victory would have propelled the Wildcats to a first place tie with Artesia.

"We've had a tough week this week," said Artesia head coach Jeff Myles. "Again, no excuses; we had five games this week and we had a 6:00 a.m. practice. So I think that Oxford game was a trap game, and they caught us off guard. Credit Oxford; they wanted the game more than we did, but tonight I thought our guys kind of fought hard, led by our seniors. They kind of knew what was at stake because if we win, we kind of guarantee ourselves a playoff spot."

The Pioneers had an eight-point lead with 3:50 remaining in the game before they went cold from the field while the Wildcats received a two-point-

er and a three-pointer from senior Morgan Marks and two free throws from senior Alex Cheng. Myles called a timeout with 1:51 left to play and four seconds later, senior Jovell Tate iced the game.

Whitney (11-14, 4-3) had one last chance to send the game into overtime as head coach Nasir Akmal called a timeout with 13.8 seconds left after a rebound from senior Peter Poitras. But a three-pointer from Marks was unsuccessful, ended a frustrating week that saw Whitney come out flat against Cerritos High two nights prior in a 64-32 defeat.

"We were trying to look for something for Morgan or [sophomore Jezreel Dela Cruz], or Peter," said Akmal. "They were all on the same side. But that's actually on me; I should have done a better job freeing them up. We drew it up; there was still some action that was supposed to happen that didn't happen."

"Good teams are always going to come back," said Myles. "Basketball is a game of runs, so you're never going to put a good team away. Whitney is a good team; they have seniors, they have a great coach. I didn't expect them to fold, so we just kept our composure. We made a run, they made a run, and

we had the last run, which was great."

The game got off to a slow start offensively as both teams combined to go two of nine within the first four minutes. Artesia opened a 10-5 lead with less than two minutes left in the quarter, then with 14.4 seconds remaining, Dela Cruz nailed a trifecta to make it 12-10 after the first quarter.

Artesia increased its lead to seven points midway through the second quarter following a three-pointer from Tate. After a 30-second timeout by Akmal, the Wildcats responded with seven straight points and were down 25-23 at the break.

"We had a game plan, they stuck to the game plan for most of the part and we have to play a near perfect game most of the time to beat tough teams like this," said Akmal. "There were moments where we had lapses, and those came back to bite us in the end."

"I like to grind; that's our style, grinding out games defensive style," he later said. "But we have to show up on the offensive end. I don't know if it's nerves or if it's something else. But I think we're having too much of a feeling out process with a lot of teams."

The Pioneers were paced in the first half, especially in the

opening stanza, by C.J. Okeke. One of the top players in the league, the senior scored a team-high 21 points including eight in the first quarter on three of four shooting and four more points in the second half. He ended the game missing just three shots from the field and pulled down a team-high eight rebounds.

"I think C.J. is the league M.V.P., whatever happens on Tuesday," said Myles. "He led us all the way; he's led us in our league games. But he played hard tonight and brought it tonight. He grabbed rebounds and defended, and it was a tough game. [Cheng] guarded him full court...but he kept his composure and got us a victory."

"That's a good team and C.J. was killing us from mid-range," said Akmal. "Everyone else, I felt like we did our job on. With that being said, that onslaught was just from him; it was only a two-point game [at the half]. But the turnover thing was our downfall."

After both teams traded leads in the first 54 seconds of the second half, senior Christian Stewart's offensive putback with 7:06 left in the quarter gave the red and black the lead for good at 27-26. The lead would get as high as eight points when

[ See ARTESIA, page 12 ]

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31st Annual Monte Carlo Gala Fundraiser

BUFFET DINNER 6:00-7:30 PM, CASINO-STYLE GAMES, THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN EXCITING PRIZES & SILENT AUCTION UNTIL 9:30 PM

EARLY BIRD HAND TICKETS EXTENDED THRU JAN 31 - \$130

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PHOTOGRAPHY & FILMING WILL BE PRESENT AT THIS EVENT!  
PAYING BY CHECK? MAKE IT OUT TO "SLAC" AND MAIL TO P.O. BOX 847, ARTESIA, CA 90701  
ADD EMAIL ADDRESS TO NOTE SPACE

THE CENTRE AT SYCAMORE PLAZA  
5000 CLARK AVE.  
LAKEWOOD, CA 90712

**ARTESIA** from page 11

the first of two free throws from Stewart made it 43-35 with 3:50 left in the game. The Pioneers would go one of seven from the field over the final 5:24, but the 'Cats were two of six over that same span.

Marks, whose three-pointer with 2:39 left in the game put him at 999 points for his high school career, led Whitney with 21 points, six rebounds, three assists and three steals. Dela Cruz added 11 points while three others combined for the remaining 10 points. The Wildcats also grabbed 16 rebounds.

"He's a great player; he gave us a lot tonight," said Myles of Marks. "We went kind of a box and one on [Poitras] to kind of take him out of the game, then Morgan kind of stepped up and led them all the way. Good luck to him in whatever he chooses to do after high school."

Whitney needs at least one win in its last three games of the season to lock down a playoff spot. After hosting John Glenn High, the Wildcats will go to Pioneer High on Friday, then visit Oxford Academy on Tuesday. Pioneer and Oxford Academy began the week tied for fourth place in the league, a game behind Whitney.

"Our goal was to win a [league] championship, and now our goal is to win the next three," said Akmal. "I think for us, at this stage, nothing is guaranteed, and that's what we've been saying. We did a great job in the first half of league, and we talked about how important it is to show up against Cerritos."

Tate scored 11 points while Reed added six more along with half a dozen rebounds and a pair of steals as the Pioneers will visit Glenn on Friday, host Pacifica Christian High of Santa Monica on Saturday and end the regular season on Tuesday against Pioneer. Four of Artesia's six wins have been by five or fewer points and the loss to Oxford Academy was by five points.

"Believe it or not, coming into the season, me and [Artesia assistant coach Matt] Soriano said every league this year is going to be a five to seven-point ballgame," said Myles. "We knew we weren't going to blow teams out; we knew everyone was going to be better this year. It was a battle, and our guys showed up to the challenge. "I'm proud of our guys tonight."

**NEWS** from page 10

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

Cerritos blasted Artesia 66-30 this past Tuesday to remain in third place in the 605 League. Junior Cameron Lacorte came off the bench to score a season-high 18 points while junior Mady Macaraeg and senior Ambar Multani also came off the bench to add 12 and 10 points, respectively. Senior starters Zara Varughese and Sophie Watanabe each had six rebounds as Dons (10-15, 5-3) can clinch at least third place with a win at Oxford Academy on Friday.

Gahr (14-8, 2-3) has clinched a winning mark as the Gladiators began the week tied for second place in the Gateway League with Downey High. Gahr will entertain first place Lynwood on Friday before going to third place Downey on Tuesday.

La Mirada began the week tied with Dominguez High for the Mid-Cities League's top spot and those teams will face each other on Friday at La Mirada. The Matadores (13-10, 6-1) will end the regular season against Norwalk on Wednesday.

Whitney has clinched no worse than a share of the 605 League title and with a win at second place Pioneer on Friday, can claim the crown outright. The Wildcats (19-7, 8-0) will also go to Oxford Academy on Tuesday.

**BOYS SOCCER**

By virtue of a 4-1 win over Cerritos this past Tuesday, Artesia seized control of the 605 League with a 5-0-2 league mark, 13-2-5 overall while the second place Dons fell to 8-3-4, 4-3-1.

Gahr has the inside track of a Mid-Cities League title after blanking Norwalk 2-0 this past Tuesday, moving to 14-3-1, 7-1-0. The Gladiators hosted Firebaugh High on Jan. 30 and will visit La Mirada on Monday.

Glenn was sitting in third place in the 605 League at 11-7-2, 4-4-0 as the Eagles go to Artesia on Friday and Cerritos on Tuesday while Norwalk (9-3-3, 6-2-0) went to Mayfair on Jan. 30 and will make the trek to Dominguez on Tuesday.

Valley Christian High is in a tight battle with Maranatha High and Village Christian High for the top three positions in the Olympic League. The Defenders (5-9-5, 2-1-3), tied for second with Maranatha, travel to league-leading Village Christian (2-1-2) on Friday before hosting Whittier Christian High (3-2-2) on Tuesday.

**GIRLS SOCCER**

For the first time in school history, Artesia can call itself a league champion as the Pioneers shutout Cerritos 3-0 this past Tuesday to move to 14-2-3, 5-0-1 in the 605 League while second place Cerritos and six-time defending league champion Cerritos fell to 7-10-0, 4-2-0, Artesia made its playoff debut in 2009 and had advanced to the postseason 12 times since then.

Artesia goes to last place Glenn on Friday and welcomes Pioneer on Tuesday while Cerritos travels to Oxford Academy on Friday, San Pedro High on Saturday and Glenn on Tuesday.

Gahr pretty much was locked down second place in the Mid-Cities League by virtue of a 1-0 win over third place Norwalk. The Gladiators (8-7-2, 6-1-1) went to Firebaugh on Jan. 30 and will welcome league-leading Lynwood on Tuesday while Norwalk (9-8-2, 3-4-1) sits pretty in third place as the Lancers hosted Bellflower on Jan. 30 and will entertain Dominguez on Tuesday.

La Mirada dropped a 3-1 decision to Warren this past Tuesday in Gateway League action as the second place Matadores (8-7-3, 3-2-1) will travel to Downey on Tuesday.

V.C. is on course for another Olympic League title as the Defenders (8-6-1, 5-0-0) host Village Christian on Friday, go to Village Christian on Monday and travel to second place Whittier Christian on Tuesday.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE**  
(Division 6 of the Commercial Code)  
Escrow No. 019516-MK  
(1) Notice is hereby given to creditors of the within named Seller(s) that a bulk sale is about to be made on personal property hereinafter described.  
(2) The name and business addresses of the seller are: PETER ASTERIS, 6205 BELLFLOWER BLVD, LAKEWOOD, CA 90713-1065  
(3) The location in California of the chief executive office of the Seller is: SAME  
(4) The names and business address of the Buyer(s) are: SPIROS GABRIEL AND ROULA GABRIEL AND/OR AS-SIGNEE, 2749 N. VISTA BLUFF RD, ORANGE, CA 92867  
(5) The location and general description of the assets to be sold are: FURNITURE, FIXTURES, EQUIPMENT, GOOD-WILL, LEASE, LEASEHOLD INTEREST AND IMPROVEMENTS, COVENANT NOT TO COMPETE, TRADENAME, INVENTORY OF STOCK IN TRADE of that certain business located at: 6205 BELLFLOWER BLVD, LAKEWOOD, CA 90713-1065  
(6) The business name used by the seller(s) at said location is: PACIFIC STAR GRILL  
(7) The anticipated date of the bulk sale is FEBRUARY 20, 2025 at the office of: HANA ESCROW COMPANY, INC., 6281 BEACH BLVD., SUITE 333, BUENA PARK, CA 90621  
(8) Claims may be filed with Same as "7" above  
(9) The last date for filing claims is: FEBRUARY 19, 2025.  
(10) This Bulk Sale is subject to Section 6106.2 of the Uniform Commercial Code.  
(11) As listed by the Seller, all other business names and addresses used by the Seller within three years before the date such list was sent or delivered to the Buyer are: NONE.  
Dated: JANUARY 8, 2025  
TRANSFEREES: SPIROS GABRIEL AND ROULA GABRIEL AND/OR AS-SIGNEE  
3211758-PP LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS 1/31/25

**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.

**BEACH SETTINGS**

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

Band, Banks, Bikini, Boat, Bonfire, Camp, Coast, Cooler, Coral, Cove, Dancing, Drink, Drive, Dunes, Fishing, Frisbee, Getaway, Heat, Hiking, Kids, Lake, Land, Lifeguard, Lounge, Marina, Music, Nature, Ocean, Picnic, Plan, Ramp, Recreation, Relax, River, Sandcastle, Sandy, SeaDoo, Seashells, Sky, Sports, Starfish, Sunrise, Sunset, Swim, Vacation, Volleyball, Walk

**Solution on page 15**

**Solution: 5 letters**

**CITY OF PICO RIVERA**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE PICO RIVERA HOUSING ASSISTANCE AGENCY'S ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN AND THE 2025-2030 FIVE YEAR AGENCY PLAN**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a public hearing will be held before the Pico Rivera Housing Assistance Agency Board of Commissioners to consider the adoption of the Pico Rivera Housing Assistance Agency's Administrative Plan and the 2025-2030 Five Year Agency Plan for the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) program.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** City Hall Council Chambers  
6615 Passons Boulevard, Pico Rivera, CA 90660  
**MAIL:** P.O. Box 1016, Pico Rivera, CA 90660-1016  
**TELEPHONE:** (562) 801-4347

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this hearing is to provide an opportunity for the public to review and comment on the proposed revisions to the PHA Administrative Plan and the 2025-2030 Five Year Annual Plan. The revisions to the Administrative Plan include updates to policies, procedures, and eligibility requirements for participation in the Section 8 program. The Five Year Agency Plan provides information about the Agency's operations, services, and the Agency's strategy for addressing the needs of the community for the periods of July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2030. The Administrative Plan is a supporting document to the Agency's 5-Year strategic plan.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that the Five Year Agency Plan and the proposed PHA Administrative Plan will be available for public review from Thursday, February 6, 2025 through Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at the City's website, <https://www.pico-rivera.org/housing-services-division/>

City Council meetings can be viewed live on CTV3 and the City's website at <https://bit.ly/picorivera-ctv3live>. If you wish to submit a comment on this matter, you may do so in advance by email to the City Clerk's Office at [publiccomments@pico-rivera.org](mailto:publiccomments@pico-rivera.org) prior to 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Please provide your full name and reference the following subject matter "Pico Rivera Housing Assistance Agency Administrative Plan/Five Year Agency Plan."

For more information, call Jessica Guerra, Housing Coordinator, Community & Economic Development Department at (562)801-4347.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the City of Pico Rivera is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for a person with a disability. Please contact Cynthia Ayala at (562) 801-4390 if special program accommodations are necessary and/or if program information is needed in an alternative format. Special requests must be made in a reasonable amount of time in order that accommodations can be arranged.

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**CITY OF SANTA FE SPRINGS  
NOTICE TO DESTROY WEEDS,  
REMOVE BRUSH, RUBBISH AND REFUSE**

Notice is hereby given that on February 4, 2025, the City Council of the City of Santa Fe Springs passed or will pass a resolution declaring noxious or dangerous vegetation including weeds, brush, tumbleweeds, sagebrush, and chaparral or rubbish and refuse were growing or occurring upon or in front of said property on certain streets in said city or unincorporated area of the County of Los Angeles, and more particularly described in the resolution, and that they constitute a public nuisance which must be abated by the removal of said noxious or dangerous vegetation, rubbish and refuse. The resolution further declares that, if not abated, the vegetation and/or rubbish and refuse may be removed and the nuisance abated by County authorities in which case the cost of removal shall be assessed upon the land from or in front of which the noxious or dangerous vegetation, rubbish and refuse are removed. Such cost will constitute a special assessment against such lots or lands. Reference is hereby made to said resolution for further particulars. In addition, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles authorized and directed the Agricultural Commissioner to recover its costs of details. All property owners having any objections to the proposed removal of noxious or dangerous vegetation, rubbish and refuse and the recovery of inspection costs, are hereby notified that they may attend a hearing of the City Council of said city to be held at 11710 East Telegraph Road, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670, in the Council Chambers on February 18, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. where their objections will be heard and given due consideration. If the property owner does not want to present objections to the proposed removal of the noxious or dangerous vegetation including weeds, brush, tumbleweeds, sagebrush, and chaparral or rubbish and refuse, or the recovery of inspection costs, the owner need not appear at the above-mentioned hearing.

Fernando Muñoz  
City Clerk of the City of Santa Fe Springs

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**CITY OF SANTA FE SPRINGS  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
TENTATIVE PARCEL MAP NO. 84502  
DEVELOPMENT PLAN APPROVAL CASE NO. 1006 & 1007**

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

**TENTATIVE PARCEL MAP NO. 84502:** To subdivide an existing 26.77-acre parcel (APN: 8005-015-051) into two parcels and creating a new cul-de-sac at the eastern end of Hawkins Street.

**DEVELOPMENT PLAN APPROVAL CASE NO. 1006:** To construct a new ±298,373 square-foot concrete tilt-up industrial building and related improvements on Parcel 1.

**DEVELOPMENT PLAN APPROVAL CASE NO. 1007:** To construct a new ±286,305 square-foot concrete tilt-up industrial building and related improvements on Parcel 2.

**PROJECT LOCATION/APPLICANT:** East end of Hawkins Street (APN: 8005-015-051) / Bridgeland Resources, LLC.

**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 **Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**

**CEQA STATUS:** An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (SCH# 2024050495) has been prepared, which consists of the Draft EIR and Final EIR. The Planning Commission will consider certifying the Final Environmental Impact Report for the proposed project, ensuring compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

**ALL INTERESTED PERSONS** are invited to participate in the Public Hearing and express their opinion on the items listed above. Please note that if you challenge the aforementioned items 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, otherwise, e-mail the Planning Commission Secretary, Esmeralda Elise, at: [esmeraldaelise@santafesprings.gov](mailto: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 Jimmy Wong, Associate Planner, via e-mail at: [JimmyWong@santafesprings.gov](mailto:JimmyWong@santafesprings.gov) or otherwise by phone at: (562) 868-0511 ext. 7451

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**City of Bellflower  
Public Notice**

In accordance with State of California Government Code Section 40804, the following is a summary of its Annual Report of Financial Transactions for fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

	Governmental Funds	Proprietary Funds
Revenues	\$ 80,541,775	\$ 906,262
Expenditures/Expenses	64,761,997	633,595
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	15,779,778	
Income (Loss) Before Capital Contributions, Transfers, and Special and Extraordinary Items		272,667
Other Financing Sources (Uses)	52,344	
Transfers In (Out)		(10)
Change in Fund Balance/Net Position	15,832,122	272,657
Fund Balance/Net Position (Deficit), Beginning of Fiscal Year	116,865,042	1,321,340
Fund Balance/Net Position (Deficit), End of Fiscal Year	\$ 132,697,164	\$ 1,593,997
Current Transient Occupancy Tax Rate		9%
Effective Date of Current Transient Occupancy Tax Rate		4/12/1988
Current Utility User Tax Rate		5%
Appropriations Limit		\$ 98,206,241
Total Annual Appropriations Subject to the Limit		\$ 27,598,242

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**NOTICE OF SALE OF ABANDONED PROPERTY**  
Notice is given that pursuant to sections 21700-21713 of the Business and Professions Code, Section 2328 of the Commercial Code, Section 535 of the Penal Code. 1812.607, that Mission Hills Self Storage 15241 Rinaldi St., Mission Hills, CA 91345 intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a Lien imposed on said property. The undersigned will be sold at public auction conducted on [www.storage-treasures.com](http://www.storage-treasures.com) (bond #63747122) ending on or after Tuesday February 18th, 2025, at 9:00AM.

**NAME** **UNIT**

Justin Roy Hill H160

This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of Section 21700 et seq. of the Business and Professions Code of the State of California. Storage Treasures' Principal Auctioneer and Auctioneer on Record: Auctioneer License Numbers for Christopher Paul Rosa-California 3112562  
Sales subject to prior cancellation in the event of settlement between Owner and obligated party.

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 1/31/25 & 02/07/25

**NOTICE OF SALE OF ABANDONED PROPERTY**  
Notice is given pursuant to sections 21700-21713 of the Business and Professions Code, Section 2328 of the Commercial Code, Section 535 of the Penal Code. 1812.607, that Norwalk Self Storage at 11564 E. Firestone Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650 intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a Lien imposed on said property. The undersigned will be sold at public auction conducted on [www.storage-treasures.com](http://www.storage-treasures.com) (bond #63747122) ending on or after Tuesday, February 11th, 2025, at 9:00AM.

**NAME** **UNIT #**

MINDREE M. COSTA B140  
MINDREE M. COSTA A147  
CHARLES JERMAINE JONES B485  
GILBERT RAMIREZ B104

This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of Section 21700 et seq. of the Business and Professions Code of the State of California. Storage Treasures' Principal Auctioneer and Auctioneer on Record: Auctioneer License Numbers for Christopher Paul Rosa-California #3112562  
Sales subject to prior cancellation in the event of settlement between Owner and obligated party.

**Publication Dates: 01/24/25 & 01/31/25**

Published at LCCN 01/24/25 & 01/31/25

**NOTICE OF SALE OF ABANDONED PROPERTY**  
Notice is given that pursuant to sections 21700-21713 of the Business and Professions Code, Section 2328 of the Commercial Code, Section 535 of the Penal Code. 1812.607, that Mission Hills Self Storage 15241 Rinaldi St., Mission Hills, CA 91345 intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a Lien imposed on said property. The undersigned will be sold at public auction conducted on [www.storage-treasures.com](http://www.storage-treasures.com) (bond #63747122) ending on or after Tuesday February 11, 2025, at 9:00AM.

**NAME** **UNIT**

ELIZABETH BARRIOS F137  
JULIO CESAR ESPARZA G112  
TAYLOR ALLAN CAPLAN PAZ B165  
ESTELLA SEGURA B159

This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of Section 21700 et seq. of the Business and Professions Code of the State of California. Storage Treasures' Principal Auctioneer and Auctioneer on Record: Auctioneer License Numbers for Christopher Paul Rosa-California 3112562  
Sales subject to prior cancellation in the event of settlement between Owner and obligated party.

**Publication Dates: 01/24/25 & 01/31/25**

Published at LCCN 01/24/25 & 01/31/25

**NOTICE OF LIEN SALE**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property pursuant to Sections 21700-21716 of the CA Business and Professions Code, Section 2328 of CA Commercial Code, Sections 1812.600-1812.609, Section 1988 of CA Civil Code and Section 535 of the CA Penal Code.

The undersigned will be sold at public auction conducted on [www.storage-treasures.com](http://www.storage-treasures.com) ending on Monday, February 10th, 2025 at 10:00am. The personal property including: general household goods, electronics, tools, personal effects, and or miscellaneous items are stored at: Cerritos Self Storage, 16515 Valley View Ave., Cerritos, County of Los Angeles, State of California by the following:

**Name** **Unit #**

Non-Lien/Manager's Special F51  
Alix Cole H68  
Miscedez Shaw H31  
Harold Freeman A28  
Alisha Lynne Scott H24

Purchases must be made in CASH ONLY and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Sale is subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party.

Dated this 24th and 31st day of January 2025.

Self Storage Management Company  
Bond #: WL11254152

Publication at LCCN 01/24/25 & 01/31/25

**NOTICE OF SALE OF ABANDONED PROPERTY**  
Notice is given pursuant to sections 21700-21713 of the Business and Professions Code, Section 2328 of the Commercial Code, Section 535 of the Penal Code. 1812.607, that Cherry Carson RV Storage Inc. at 4160 Cherry Ave., Long Beach, CA 90807 intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a Lien imposed on said property. The undersigned will be sold at public auction conducted on [www.storage-treasures.com](http://www.storage-treasures.com) (bond #63747122) ending on or after Tuesday, February 11th, 2025, at 9:00AM.

**NAME** **UNIT #**

ERICK GIOVONNI BURTON AA73

This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of Section 21700 et seq. of the Business and Professions Code of the State of California. Storage Treasures' Principal Auctioneer and Auctioneer on Record: Auctioneer License Numbers for Christopher Paul Rosa-California 3112562  
Sales subject to prior cancellation in the event of settlement between Owner and obligated party.

Published at LCCN 01/24/25 & 01/31/25

**CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**NOTICE INVITING SEALED BIDS**

**FY 2023-24 ARTERIAL AND RESIDENTIAL  
STREET REHABILITATION, PROJECT 112  
CDBG PROJECT NO. 602658-23**

Public Notice is hereby given that the City of Hawaiian Gardens invites sealed bids pertaining to the item(s) listed below:

**MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING ON:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

**BIDS MUST BE RECEIVED BY:** Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

**BIDS WILL BE OPENED ON:** Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

**PLACE OF BID RECEIPT:** Office of the City Clerk, City Hall,  
21815 Pioneer Boulevard  
Hawaiian Gardens, CA 90716

The City of Hawaiian Gardens invites sealed bids for the FY 2023-24 Arterial & Residential Street Rehabilitation, Project 112, and will receive such bids in the office of the City Clerk, 21815 Pioneer Boulevard, Hawaiian Gardens, California 90716, up to the hour of 11:00 a.m., on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at which time they will be publicly opened.

The general items of work include Traffic control, removal and reconstruction of concrete sidewalks, curbs and gutters, driveway approaches, curb ramps, and parkway drains; cold milling existing AC pavement, ARHM overlay; adjusting manhole and cover to finish grade, installation of traffic signal loop detectors, traffic striping, signing, and marking as shown on the plans and all other items not mentioned but indicated in the Plans and Specifications. The project duration for construction shall be Thirty-Five (35) working days.

Electronic copies of the Plans, Specifications, and Contract Documents are available from the City of Hawaiian Gardens. Bidders must submit their request to receive the Bid Package via email to Neema Ghanbari at [nghanbari@hgcity.org](mailto:nghanbari@hgcity.org). Should you have any questions regarding the project, please contact the City of Hawaiian Gardens Engineering Division at (562)420-2641 ext. 206.

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 1/31/25

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File Number 2025010368

THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: ENERGY EFFICIENT EXTERIORS, 1903 W 169TH STREET, GARDENA CA 90247 LOS ANGELES COUNTY. REGISTERED OWNER: ENERGY EFFICIENT EXTERIORS, 1903 W 169TH STREET, GARDENA CA 90247, INCORPORATED IN CA. THIS BUSINESS IS CONDUCTED AS A CORPORATION. The date registrant started to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above: 1/2025 I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).) /S/ ENERGY EFFICIENT EXTERIORS CEO, THOMAS REILLY This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on 1/16/25. In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the of notice of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the affidavit of identity form. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State or Common Law (see Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). LCCN 1/24, 1/31, 2/7, 2/14/25


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## ATTORNEY

**Catherine Grant Wieder**  
 Probate, Wills, Living Trusts, Special Needs Trusts, Powers of Attorney & Advance Directives.  
  
**562-404-4039**

## ATTORNEY

THE LAW OFFICE of **LEWIS & LEWIS**  
 LA MIRADA'S FULL SERVICE LAW FIRM  
 (562) 293-4073 [LewisLaw.info](http://LewisLaw.info)  
 JOHN LEWIS, ESQ.  
 REAL ESTATE LAW  
 PERSONAL INJURY  
 BUSINESS LAW  
 WILLS & TRUSTS  
 1424 E. FIRESTONE BL., #400, LA MIRADA

## CEMETERY

**Are you Prepared?**  
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**Artesia Cemetery** is your local community cemetery conveniently located in Cerritos. Our prices and services are unmatched. Spaces are still available.  
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 562-865-6300 or [www.ArtesiaCemetery.com](http://www.ArtesiaCemetery.com)

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**NOT SATISFIED WITH YOUR CURRENT HOUSE PAYMENT?**  
 I can help you with that.  
 DeAnna Allensworth  
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# CLASSIFIED LISTINGS

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**WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION:** A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-888-248-0815. Have zip code of service location ready when you call! (Cal-SCAN)

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**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**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 36933(b), Ordinance No. 1437 is summarized as follows:

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.

Ordinance No. 1437 had its first reading on January 13, 2025, its second reading on January 27, 2025, and was duly passed, approved, and adopted by the City Council of the City of Bellflower at its Regular Meeting of January 27, 2025, by the following vote to wit:

**AYES:** Council Members – Morse, Sanchez, Santa Ines, Koops and Mayor Dunton

Effective Date: February 27, 2025. 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 Newspaper 1/31/25

**LEGAL NOTICE  
CITY OF BELLFLOWER  
ORDINANCE NO. 1439**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING BELLFLOWER MUNICIPAL CODE  
CHAPTER 15.40 AND REAFFIRMING THE CITY COUNCIL’S  
DETERMINATION THAT THE CITY COMPLY WITH REGULATIONS  
PROMULGATED BY THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO PROTECT PUBLIC  
HEALTH, SAFETY AND FROM THE DEVASTATION OF UNCONTROLLED  
FIRE INCIDENTS**

The City Council of the City of Bellflower introduced Ordinance No. 1439 at its Regular Meeting of January 27, 2025.

If adopted, Ordinance 1439 would amend Bellflower Municipal Code Chapter 15.40 and reaffirm the City Council’s determination that the City comply with regulations promulgated by the State of California to protect public health, safety and from the devastation of uncontrolled fire incidents.

For a copy of Ordinance No. 1439, 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 Newspaper 1/31/25

**LEGAL NOTICE  
CITY OF BELLFLOWER  
URGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 1438**

**AN URGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING BELLFLOWER MUNICIPAL  
CODE CHAPTER 15.40 AND REAFFIRMING THE CITY COUNCIL’S  
DETERMINATION THAT THE CITY COMPLY WITH REGULATIONS  
PROMULGATED BY THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO PROTECT PUBLIC  
HEALTH, SAFETY AND FROM THE DEVASTATION OF UNCONTROLLED  
FIRE INCIDENTS**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 36933(b), Urgency Ordinance No. 1438 is summarized as follows:

Urgency Ordinance No. 1438 will amend Chapter 15.40 of the Bellflower Municipal Code (“BMC”) to reaffirm the City Council’s decision to utilize the California Fire Code (“CFC”) as codified in Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations (“CCR”); and reauthorize the Building Official to utilize the CFC while reviewing building plans submitted to obtain building permits. Additionally, Ordinance No. 1438 will authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to take certain actions in response to the Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County (the “Fire District”) efforts to challenge the City Council’s ability to adopt the CFC in accordance with the CCR and applicable law.

Urgency Ordinance No. 1438 was duly passed, approved, and adopted by the City Council of the City of Bellflower at its Regular Meeting of January 27, 2025, by the following vote to wit:

**AYES:** Council Members - Morse, Sanchez, Santa Ines, Koops and Mayor Dunton

Effective date: January 27, 2025. For a copy of Ordinance No. 1438 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 Newspaper 1/31/25

**LEGAL NOTICE  
CITY OF BELLFLOWER  
ORDINANCE NO. 1441**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 3.30 TO TITLE 3 OF THE  
BELLFLOWER MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED “PUBLIC WORKS  
CONTRACTS” IN ITS ENTIRETY**

The City Council of the City of Bellflower introduced Ordinance No. 1441 at its Regular Meeting of January 27, 2025.

If adopted, Ordinance 1441 would amend Chapter 3.30 of the Bellflower Municipal code (“BMC”) in its entirety to implement the City Charter by (1) establishing bidding regulations allowing the City to utilize “best value” for retaining contractors (rather than lowest responsible bidder); (2) utilize design-build for all public works projects, regardless of the engineer’s estimate (general law cities may only utilize this method for projects of \$1M or more); (3) delegate authority to the City Engineer to secure design immunity for the City by approving design and construction plans; (4) establishing when prevailing wage must be paid (i.e., for classic public works projects as defined by the Ordinances); (5) exempting economic opportunity projects from paying prevailing wage – unless otherwise determined by City Council resolution; and (6) confirming that projects implemented by the City for abating public nuisances are not public works projects that require payment of prevailing wage.

For a copy of Ordinance No. 1441, 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 Newspaper 1/31/25

**CITY OF BELLFLOWER  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
REGARDING ENTERTAINMENT PERMIT CASE NO. EP 24-01**

**TAKE NOTICE** that the Bellflower City Council will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, February 10, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at 16600 Civic Center Drive, Bellflower, CA 90706 to consider Entertainment Permit Case No. EP 24-01 to allow for live musical performers with instruments, DJs, dancing, Karaoke, and audio-visual equipment, on the property located at 16728 Bellflower Boulevard within the Town Center (TC) District. Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code §§ 21000, et seq.) and CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, §§ 15000, et seq.), the City conducted an environmental assessment. Based on the environmental assessment, the project was determined to be categorically exempt from additional environmental review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Existing Facilities), Class 1.

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](http://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](mailto: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**

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 1/31/25

**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 **18th day of March 2025** Bids for:

ABC Bid # 1669 Melbourne Elementary School Modernization

All bids shall be made and presented on a form furnished by the District. Bids submitted shall conform to the terms and conditions stated on said form. Bids shall be received in the office of the **Purchasing Department at 16700 Norwalk Blvd., Cerritos, CA 90703** and shall be opened and publicly read aloud at the above-stated time and place. Bidders can request bid documents by emailing [esthela.perez@abcusd.us](mailto:esthela.perez@abcusd.us). There will be a mandatory jobwalk meeting on February 11, 2025 at 9:00 AM sharp at the front of Administration building at Melbourne ES 21314 Claretta Av. Lakewood. All public works are subject to prevailing wage payments, Valid License valid Class B Contractor’s License and DIR Registration will be required.

Los Cerritos News

January 31, 2025  
February 7, 2025

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 1/31/25 and 2/7/25

**LEGAL NOTICE  
CITY OF BELLFLOWER  
URGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 1440**

**AN URGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 3.30 TO TITLE 3 OF  
THE BELLFLOWER MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED “PUBLIC WORKS  
CONTRACTS” IN ITS ENTIRETY**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 36933(b), Urgency Ordinance No. 1440 is summarized as follows:

Urgency Ordinance No. 1440 will amend Chapter 3.30 of the Bellflower Municipal code (“BMC”) in its entirety to implement the City Charter by (1) establishing bidding regulations allowing the City to utilize “best value” for retaining contractors (rather than lowest responsible bidder); (2) utilize design-build for all public works projects, regardless of the engineer’s estimate (general law cities may only utilize this method for projects of \$1M or more); (3) delegate authority to the City Engineer to secure design immunity for the City by approving design and construction plans; (4) establishing when prevailing wage must be paid (i.e., for classic public works projects as defined by the Ordinances); (5) exempting economic opportunity projects from paying prevailing wage – unless otherwise determined by City Council resolution; and (6) confirming that projects implemented by the City for abating public nuisances are not public works projects that require payment of prevailing wage.

Urgency Ordinance No. 1440 was duly passed, approved, and adopted by the City Council of the City of Bellflower at its Regular Meeting of January 27, 2025, by the following vote to wit:

**AYES:** Council Members - Morse, Sanchez, Santa Ines, Koops and Mayor Dunton

Effective date: January 27, 2025. For a copy of Ordinance No. 1440 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 Newspaper 1/31/25

# SMALL DONATIONS MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE



*help where it's needed most.*

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