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LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS' CUTEST PETS PHOTO CONTEST



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**CELEBRATING:** USL Chief Operations Officer Dan Holman (4th from left) was joined by the Pico Rivera City Council at the event. From (l-r) Councilmember Dr. Monica Sanchez, Mayor pro tem Gustavo V. Camacho, Mayor John R. Garcia, Holman, and Councilmembers Andrew C. Lara and Erik Lutz.

By Brian Hews

The advocacy finally paid off.

This week, Senator Bob Archuleta (D-Norwalk) affirmed the State Historical Resources Commission's unanimous vote today to officially designate the Armenian Genocide Martyrs Monument as a California State Historical Landmark.

The former mayor of Montebello, Archuleta, has deep roots in the community from his tenure with the Montebello Police Department and now as a Senator. He has long recognized the Monument's critical importance to the Armenian community in Montebello, where it is located.

"Having worked closely with the Armenian community over many years and participated in numerous Genocide Remembrance Day ceremonies, I celebrate with them on this momentous day," Senator Archuleta said. "The Martyrs Monument is not only a celebration of a rich cultural history but also a solemn reminder of our duty to remember and act."

Constructed as a modern, sculptural interpretation of traditional Armenian Church architecture, the Armenian Genocide Martyrs Monument holds the distinction of being the first major Monument dedicated to the Armenian Genocide in the

## Genocide Monument Now a State Historical Landmark



**ARMENIAN MONUMENT:** Last week, Senator Bob Archuleta (D-Pico Rivera) announced the designation of the Armenian Genocide Martyrs Monument as a California State Historical Landmark.

United States and the first of its kind on public land. Its establishment in 1968 was made possible through the dedication and efforts of the Armenian American community and has become a powerful symbol of pride and remembrance for the diaspora.

"Montebello stands with Senator Bob Archuleta to take this meaningful step in recognizing the cultural and historical significance of the Armenian

Genocide Martyrs Monument," Montebello Mayor Salvador Melendez said. The city's Armenian American community made it possible to construct the Monument, which symbolizes ethnic pride for the Armenian diaspora, particularly those living in Montebello and the surrounding region."

The Monument plays a vital role in community observances and events, commemorating

[ See MONUMENT, page 6 ]

## Pico Rivera in Talks With USL to Build a Professional Soccer Stadium and Entertainment District

The city seeks the development of a state-of-the-art entertainment district anchored by a new soccer stadium to attract professional men's and women's soccer teams to Pico Rivera.

By Brian Hews

Pico Rivera took a massive step toward transforming its community into a premier destination for sports and entertainment signing a Negotiated Letter of Interest with the United Soccer League (USL) at a ceremony on Wednesday at City Hall.

A Negotiated Letter of Interest (LOI) is a document used in business transactions and real estate deals where the key terms have been discussed and agreed upon before the letter is formalized. Unlike a standard LOI, which is often a unilateral ex-

pression of interest, a negotiated LOI is the result of prior discussions between the parties to align on fundamental deal terms before moving forward with a formal contract.

The LOI was signed so the two parties can explore the development of a state-of-the-art entertainment district anchored by a new professional stadium to bring professional men's and women's soccer teams to Pico Rivera.

USL Chief Operation Officer Dan Holman was joined by Pico Rivera Mayor John R. Garcia and the rest of the City Council, along with City Manager Steve Carmona at City Hall.

"This is an exciting moment for the city of Pico Rivera," said Mayor John R. Garcia. "Partnering with the USL gives us a unique opportunity to bring professional soccer to our com-

[ See PICO RIVERA, page 5 ]

## Cerritos Council to Discuss Replacing 332 CCPA Chairs: Cost is \$420,000

By Brian Hews

The Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts has lost over \$100 million since it opened in 1993. Former City Manager Art Gallucci once told LCCN, "It's the cost of doing business. It brings people to Cerritos, and they spend money."

Many Cerritos residents would object to that, demanding the sale of the venue, but the City Council, led by Bruce Barrows as Mayor five times, has never considered a sale. Doubling down, the new Cerritos management team recently retained a Tennessee-based company to help with ticket sales; as of November, total ticket sales were only \$4.6 million; the CCPA projected '24-'25 budget is \$11 million.

Now, the city needs to replace the armchairs in the swanky Theater Seating Boxes inside the CCPA, which, if ap-



**\$1,265 AVERAGE:** A CCPA chair that was basically a no-bid award under the city's procurement policy.

proved at its Feb. 13 meeting, will cost hundreds of thousands and add even more to the CCPA's red ink.

There are two versions of the armchair: a standard height for the first row in the boxes and a tall version so patrons can see from the second row in each box. The tall armchairs also pro-

[ See CHAIRS, page 4 ]

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# El Segundo-based food supplier recalls canned tuna in 27 states

## LCCN publisher had tuna in home pantry.

By Brian Hews

I love canned tuna in olive oil, good for your heart health in many ways. I heard about the recalled tuna on Tuesday after reading a recipe article (first) in the February Food and Wine digital magazine. I immediately went to our pantry to search for canned tuna.

Sure enough, there was a couple Genova brand tuna cans. I grabbed the cans, looked at the recall numbers online and found the first recall number in the online list was the number stamped on two cans we bought! PHEW!

The affected brands also include Trader Joe's, Costco, HEB.

Tri-Union Seafoods, the El Segundo-based food supplier, announced the recall for its products distributed to stores in California and other states that may be at risk for botulism poisoning.

An issue with the easy-open pull tabs may cause the cans to leak over time or become contaminated with Clostridium botulinum, known as botulism.

Affected products can be identified by lot codes printed on the can, which are listed on the recall online. Cans involved in the recall have "best if used by" dates between 2027 and 2028, and should be returned for a refund or thrown away.

In all, the recall includes canned tuna sold in 27 states by Trader Joe's, Costco, HEB and other grocery stores.

Needless to say, people should not eat any of the recalled products even if they are not leaking or do not smell spoiled, the company warned.

The bacteria responsible for botulism do not cause odd smells or tastes in food. Customers should seek medical attention if they feel ill.

Botulism is a type of food poisoning that causes life-threatening symptoms including paralysis and difficulty breathing, according to the California Department of Public Health.

Symptoms include drooping eyelids, difficulty swallowing, slurred speech, blurry vision and weak muscles.

Scan the QR code below to check out the list.



# Artesia City Council Honors First Responders



**THANK YOU:** The Artesia City Council presented several recognitions, including a Certificate of Recognition to the Los Angeles County Fire Department, Station 30. Also recognized were the Los Angeles County Sheriff Artesia Special Assignment Officers, and the California Highway Patrol. Seen here from (l-r) Councilwomen Monica Manalo and Zeel Ahir, Mayor pro tem Rene Trevino, LAFD Chief Daou, Mayor Ali Sajjad Taj and Councilwoman Melissa Ramoso.

VOTE

# (PAT) ASHOK PATNAIK

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- RECRUITMENT TEAM MEMBER, CERRITOS COLLEGE FOUNDATION

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TATIANA YOKOYAMA BUI - ABC SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE  
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# Santa Fe Springs Swap Meet - A Complete Guide

LCCN Staff Report

Nestled just minutes away, the Santa Fe Springs Swap Meet has been a favorite for bargain hunters, collectors, and families for decades. Rare antiques, handmade crafts, or just a fun day out, this swap meet offers something for everyone.

What sets the Swap Meet apart is its rich history and community-driven vibe. It's more than just a place to shop—it's a cultural hub where locals and tourists alike gather.

Unlike traditional shopping malls or online stores, this marketplace offers an eclectic mix of goods that cater to every taste and budget. From vintage clothing and rare collectibles to fresh produce and handmade crafts, the swap meet is a one-stop shop for all your needs. Its open-air setup adds to the charm, allowing visitors to enjoy the Southern California weather while browsing through countless stalls.

The Swap Meet has carved a niche for itself with its community-focused approach. The vendors here are often locals who take pride in their offerings, creating a personal connection with shoppers. This sense of authenticity is hard to find in larger, more commercialized markets.

One of the standout features of the Swap Meet is its themed sections. For instance, the food section is a haven for food lovers, offering everything from traditional Mexican street tacos to gourmet coffee. Meanwhile, the vintage section is a paradise for those hunting for retro treasures.

If you're a seasoned bargain hunter or a first-time visitor, finding the best deals at the Swap Meet requires a bit of strategy. Here are some insider tips to help you make the most of your shopping experience:

Timing is everything when it comes to scoring great deals. Early birds often have the advantage, as vendors are more willing to negotiate prices in the morning. Arriving before the crowds also gives you first dibs on the freshest produce and rare finds. However, if you're looking for last-minute bargains, visiting in the late afternoon can be equally rewarding, as vendors may lower their prices to clear out inventory.

The Swap Meet is a fantastic destination for families. With its wide range of activities and offerings, there's something to keep everyone entertained. Kids will love the lively atmosphere, while parents can enjoy the thrill of finding hidden gems at unbeatable prices.

The swap meet features a variety of kid-friendly attractions, including face painting, balloon artists, and live music performances. Additionally, the food stalls offer a range of options that cater to even the pickiest eaters. Families can also enjoy picnicking in designated areas, making it a perfect outing for a sunny weekend.

Visiting as a family doesn't have to break the bank. Many vendors offer bulk discounts, making it easy to stock up on essentials like fresh produce or household items. Additionally, the swap meet's low entry fee ensures that families can enjoy a full day of fun without spending a fortune.

The Santa Fe Springs Swap Meet is open every weekend, typically from early morning to late afternoon. Exact hours may vary, so it's best to check their official website or social media pages for the most up-to-date information.

There is a nominal entry fee, which helps maintain the market's facilities and support its operations. The fee is affordable and well worth the experience.

While pets are generally not allowed, service animals are welcome.

For more information, visit their official website: [sfsswapmeet.com/](http://sfsswapmeet.com/)

# Santa Fe Springs Fire Fighters Visit SFS Christian School

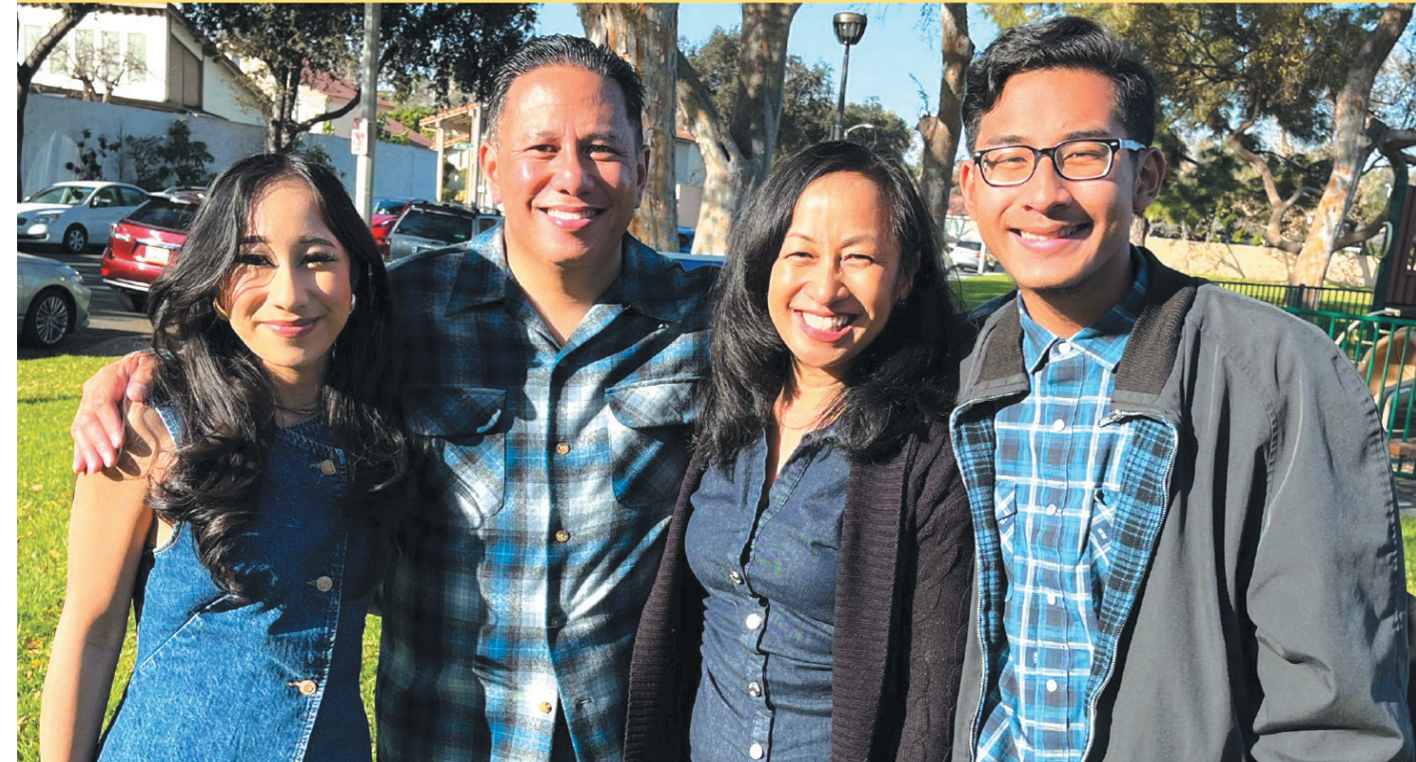


Santa Fe Springs Battalion Chief Chris Shields (left) and crew from Station 4 helped SFS Christian Principal Cindy Jarvis and K-8 students learn about Heart Health Month. The fire fighters talked about the 3 key factors of staying healthy: eating right, sleep and exercise. Engineer TK Hamada and Captain Ed Nilo demonstrated how CPR works and how it can save a life.

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# Mark Pulido will keep Cerritos safe.



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He worked to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. He fought proposed cuts to our Sheriff's Station and to keep our Sky Knight Helicopter Patrol. Former Mayor Mark Pulido led efforts on the City Council (2011-2020) to:

- Give police officers the support they need to reduce crime—residential burglaries were reduced by 35%
- Fully fund our Sheriff's Station; only stand-alone station in LA County.

We need him back on the City Council fighting for all of us.

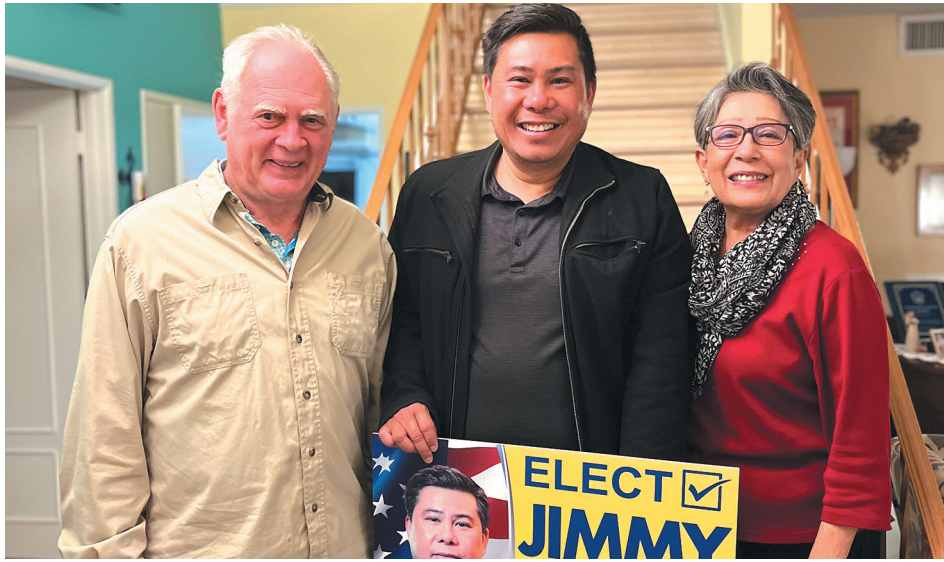
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### State Candidate Jimmy Pham Visits Cerritos



OVER 25 VOTERS, including Dr. Tina Cho, former Cerritos College Trustee and Cerritos Councilmember Frank Yokoyama, and others from Artesia, Buena Park, Cerritos, and La Palma attended a meet and greet fundraiser for immigration lawyer and California State Senate-36 candidate, Jimmy Pham, a district that includes twenty coastal cities from Cerritos to San Clemente at the Cerritos home of Norma and Alan Williamson. Vote by Mail Ballots have already been sent out in the purple and white envelopes from LA County Registrar Clerk. The Special Primary Election is February 25 with the Special General Election April 29, 2025. Visit jimmyphamca.com for more information.

### Water Main Break Forces Temporary Closure of Rancho Los Amigos

Early last Friday morning, there was a break on a water line owned and maintained by the City of Long Beach in the Bixby Hill neighborhood where Rancho is located, causing significant flooding and damage.

A statement from Rancho read, "While we are relieved that Rancho Los Alamitos' historic house, buildings, and gardens are largely unaffected and all of our animals are safe, the break created a sinkhole and other safety hazards that require us to temporarily close to the public."

City contractors are accessing the break through the Rancho property and are using its parking lots to stage building materials.

At this time, Rancho does not have an estimated timeline for repairs. Officials anticipate remaining closed at least

through Tuesday, February 18.

"We are grateful that the damage was not more severe and extend our heartfelt sympathy to our neighbors whose homes and vehicles were impacted. In challenging moments like these, the strength of the Bixby Hill community shines through. We deeply appreciate the kindness and support extended to our staff, as well as the hard work of City workers and contractors who are diligently repairing the water main and addressing the damage throughout the neighborhood," Rancho officials wrote.

Rancho will provide updates via email, website, and social media as more information becomes available

### CHAIRS from page 1

vide seating for the last row in the Grand Level, second floor of the CCPA, allowing patrons to have an unobstructed view over the heads of other audience members in standard seats.

The city looked at all the CCPA seating configurations and found that the CCPA needs 206 standard-height armchairs and 126 tall armchairs for a total of 332 armchairs throughout the theater. The CCPA also holds 36 additional armchairs for replacements of worn or broken chairs.

Custom designed (of course), the original armchairs are wooden with a curved back and have the same harlequin upholstery patterns on the seat cushions used in the folding seats found throughout the CCPA.

Spending more money, the city engaged a "design consultant" to "identify a suitable and cost-effective replacement for the premium seats." The city looked at several replacement seats and chose Huntington Beach-based Yamada Enterprises for City Council consideration.

Yamada quoted \$1,008 per chair for the standard height and \$1,063 per chair for the tall chairs; that does not include \$20,000 for the harlequin fabric. The total cost is \$420,000 for 332 chairs, with an average cost per chair of \$1,265.

If approved, the award will be a no-bid award based on a Section of the Cerritos Municipal Code's Purchasing and Contracting Policy that allows the city to accept a bid because Yamada is a "qualified vendor" through a California Multiple Award Schedule Cooperative Contract, a procurement program offered by California "to streamline purchasing for state and local government agencies."

The staff report read, "The California Multiple Award Schedule (CMAS) Cooperative Contract is a procurement program offered by the State of California to streamline purchasing for state and local government agencies. CMAS contracts adopt the already bid and negotiated General Services Administration (GSA) Schedule awarded to suppliers and/or contractors. These contracts establish terms, conditions, and pricing for various products and services from pre-approved vendors, such as Yamada, while complying with all legal and policy requirements for purchasing. The city's membership with CMAS is in good standing, and Yamada's quote for the project conforms to CMAS Partners' cooperative rates and is in compliance with the CMC and PCP."

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**Go to: [loscerritosnews.net/cutest-pets](https://loscerritosnews.net/cutest-pets)**





**Cerritos**

February 3-9, 2025

**Robbery**

At the Los Cerritos Center, a suspect using a firearm assaulted a loss prevention officer while attempting to take merchandise. The suspect got away and fled on foot.

**Aggravated Assault**

The suspect was riding a bike, threatened the victim with a gun near Bloomfield and Del Amo, near Target, and then fled.

At the 18800 block of Carmenita Road, near Bowlero, an unknown suspect assaulted the victim before fleeing on foot.

At the 16700 block of Judy Way, inside Cerritos Villas, two suspects who knew each other got into a fight. One was injured by a knife.

**Residential burglaries**

Two residential burglaries occurred this week, one at the 13700 block of Destino, where the rear sliding door was shattered. Unknown items were taken; the other at the 18800 block of Stark Avenue,

the rear sliding door was shattered. Unknown items were taken.

**Burglary other**

At the 17900 block of Crusader, the front door of a business was kicked in and tools were taken.

A business was broken into at the 11100 block of 183rd, and musical instruments were taken.

At the 13300 block of Artesia Boulevard, cigars, and tobacco were taken from a business.

At the 11200 block of 183rd, a backpack was stolen.

At the 17200 block of Maria, a backpack was stolen.

**Strap your tailgate**

Four tailgates were taken from trucks in Cerritos:

One at the 18000 block of Perez, another at the 12900 block of Glenda, another at the 18900 block of Stephani, and another at the 18800 block of Alexander.

At the 11500 block of Jerry St., jewelry was taken.

**Grand theft auto**

At the 10800 block of 183rd, Kia was stolen and recovered.

At the 18800 block of Jeffrey Avenue, a Jepp was stolen but not recovered.

At the 10800 block of Alondra, a GMC truck was stolen and recovered

At the 11100 block of Gonzalves, a Dodge Ram was stolen and not recovered.

**Vehicle burglary**

Two cars were broken into at the

17900 block of Studebaker, where a backpack and wallet were taken.

Four different car locks were punched out and various items stolen. Two at the 17900 block of Studebaker, one at 16000 Manning Way, another at the 19000 block of Pires and another at the 12200 block of Cuesta.

**La Mirada**

**Notable Arrests**

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

**Residential Burglary**

• A daytime burglary was reported on the 14400 block of Foster Rd.

**Other Structure Burglary**

• An early morning burglary occurred on the 13900 block of Imperial Hwy.

**Vehicle Burglary**

• A vehicle burglary was reported on the 15400 block of Golden Lantern Ln.

**Grand Theft**

• An overnight theft of a catalytic converter occurred on the 14800 block of Figueras Rd.

• A catalytic converter theft was reported on the 15300 block of La Barca Dr.

• A theft of a catalytic converter occurred on the 14500 block of San Feliciano Dr.

• An early morning theft of a catalytic converter was reported on the 14500 block of Greenworth Dr.

• A tailgate was reported stolen on the 14300 block of Firestone Blvd.

• Two thefts involving copper wire were reported stolen on the 15300 block of Valley View Ave.

**Grand Theft Auto**

• A sedan was reported stolen on the 11700 block of Hollyview Dr.

• A semi-truck was stolen on the 14400 block of Industry Cir.

• A pickup truck was reported stolen on the 14700 block of Firestone Blvd.

**PICO RIVERA** from page 1

munity while developing a world-class entertainment district that will benefit residents, businesses, and visitors for years to come.”

Plans for the entertainment district include a multi-purpose stadium for professional men’s and women’s soccer; retail, dining and entertainment spaces; public gathering areas and green spaces for community events; and improvements to infrastructure enhancing accessibility and transportation.

“The Los Angeles area has a soccer culture, and we see tremendous potential in Pico Rivera as a home for professional men’s and women’s soccer,” said Justin Papadakis, USL deputy CEO and chief real estate officer. “We are excited to work with city leaders to develop a state-of-the-art stadium and entertainment district that will generate economic development, inspire young athletes, and create a lasting legacy for the community.”

The agreement is part of the Pico Rivera 2035: Community Revitalization Program (PR 2035), a strategic approach to revitalize five priority corridors: Washington Boulevard, Rosemead Boulevard, Whittier Boulevard, the Rio Hondo, and the San Gabriel River.

The PR 2035 vision includes new riverfront development, a Metro light rail line, a regional rail station served by Metrolink and/or Amtrak, and an enhanced bus service on Rosemead/Lake-wood Boulevard.

Founded in 1986, the USL is the largest and fastest-growing soccer organization in the United States, impacting more than 200 communities nationwide.

The USL provides a comprehensive youth-to-professional pathway for both men and women under one ecosystem, with two professional men’s leagues—the USL Championship (Division II) and USL League One (Division III)—and the Division I professional women’s USL Super League, which launched in 2024. The USL has multi-year national and international media rights agreements across various platforms, including CBS Sports, ESPN, and Peacock, making the USL the most widely accessible soccer league in the country.

The USL has cultivated many great players have reached the MLS or higher.

Tyler Adams – Played for New York Red Bulls II (USL) before becoming a U.S. Men’s National Team (USMNT) star and playing in the Bundesliga (RB Leipzig) and Premier League (Leeds United, Bournemouth).

Aaron Long – Played for Seattle Sounders FC 2 and New York Red Bulls II before winning MLS Defender of the Year and playing for the USMNT.

Mark-Anthony Kaye – Played for Louisville City FC before becoming a key MLS midfielder and Canadian international.

Daryl Dike – Spent time with Orlando City B before making a name in MLS and transferring to England (West Bromwich Albion).



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### Fedde Middle School Unveils Its Dream Center Mural



**UNVEILING:** Last week Fedde Middle School celebrated the unveiling of its Dream Resource Center Mural. The event was attended by ABC Board President Ernie Nishii. The mural is a stunning piece of artwork created by Dream Center students. The mural reflects the resilience, creativity, and dreams, capturing the spirit of the Fedde community.

### MONUMENT from page 1

fifty years of reflection on the Armenian Genocide and embodying the cultural revival that unified the Armenian diaspora in the 1960s. Senator Archuleta also noted that in light of recent events – including the forced displacement of over 100,000 Armenians from Artsakh in 2023 – the need to preserve and honor this memorial has never been more urgent.

“The Armenian Genocide Martyrs Monument in Montebello being designated as a California State Historical Landmark is important not only to me but to Armenian Americans across California as it serves as a cultural landmark and a reminder of the importance of remembering the Armenian Genocide,” said Assemblymember John Harabedian and Chair of the Armenian Legislative

Caucus.

According to city officials, Montebello, located within the 30th Senate District, is home to the oldest Armenian community in Los Angeles County. “Recognizing this monument as a California State Historical Landmark is a commitment to preserving a legacy that not only honors the past but also educates future generations about the enduring spirit of resilience and cultural identity,” Senator Archuleta said.

Senator Archuleta’s work over the years to make this designation a reality underscores his steadfast dedication to honoring California’s diverse cultural heritage and ensuring that historic landmarks continue to inspire and educate communities statewide.

The Armenian Genocide was the systematic mass killing and expulsion of Armenians by the Ottoman Empire during and after World War I, from 1915 to 1917, with continued persecution until the early 1920s. It resulted in the deaths of an estimated 1.5 million Armenians.

The Ottoman government, led by the ruling Committee of Union and Progress (CUP), sought to eliminate the Armenian population, whom they suspected of being disloyal and sympathetic to Russia, a wartime enemy of the empire. Rising nationalism within the empire also contributed to the targeting of minority groups.

In 1915 the Ottoman government arrested and executed hundreds of Armenian intellectuals and leaders in Constantinople (modern-day Istanbul). This date is now commemorated as Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day.

Armenians were forced on death marches into the Syrian desert, often deprived of food and water, and subjected to mass executions, starvation, and disease.

Armenian homes, businesses, and lands were seized, and entire communities were wiped out.

Many Armenian children were taken and placed in Turkish or Kurdish families, and Armenian cultural and religious sites were destroyed or repurposed.

Turkey, the successor state of the Ottoman Empire, denies that a genocide occurred, arguing that the deaths were a result of war and internal conflict rather than a deliberate plan.

Many countries, including the United States, France, Germany, and Russia, officially recognize it as a genocide.

Historians and scholars overwhelmingly agree that it was a genocide under the definition established by the United Nations Convention on Genocide (1948).

The Armenian Genocide remains a critical issue in Armenian identity and international relations, particularly between Armenia and Turkey.

Dear Cerritos Voter,

My name is Riaz Surti, and I'm running for Cerritos City Council to build a stronger, safer, and more prosperous community.

As a son of immigrants, I grew up working in my family's small business, learning the value of hard work and perseverance. I built my career in business—owning and operating multiple franchises, managing budgets, and creating jobs. When Cerritos faced economic challenges, I served on the Economic Development Commission, bringing businesses like Amazon Fresh and Sky Zone to our city.

Now, I want to use my experience to strengthen Cerritos—supporting families, seniors, and small businesses while keeping our community safe. I'd be honored to earn your vote.

Riaz Surti  
Candidate for Cerritos City Council



## VOTE RIAZ & TURN IN YOUR BALLOT NOW!



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## Trump Funding Cuts Hits Home..and Altadena

Medical research, cancer research... now trees? Trump has ordered a sweeping freeze on federal funding, affecting pollution reduction, childcare education and HIV prevention research, among other programs.

And one program could hit home at Whitney High School.

A grant that was funded by the Inflation Reduction Act, a **bipartisan law** adopted by Congress and signed by Biden has been frozen by Trump. Cost : \$28 million, all to prevent the planting of trees in cities.

Local nonprofits were awarded the grant from the EPA to plant trees in less-affluent, pollution-burdened communities.

Wes Reutimann, an organizer of the San Gabriel Valley Collaborative a nonprofit that supports environmental projects such as bike lanes and drought-resistant gardens, told SCNG that an \$8 million urban forestry grant also was frozen.

The USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act Grant was being administered by TreePeople, a Los Angeles-based nonprofit that planted hundreds of trees a year before the funding stopped.

The USDA Grant is a federal funding program designed to support urban and community forestry projects that help address climate change, improve public health, and enhance green infrastructure in underserved and disadvantaged communities.

The purpose is to increase tree canopy and green spaces in urban areas, mitigate climate change impacts, and create jobs in urban forestry and green infrastructure.

Whitney High has collaborated with

Tree People to sell trees for fundraising.

The grant went to communities with a low number of trees (unlike Cerritos) and focused on communities with asphalt-created heat islands, including Altadena.

TreePeople was moving ahead with planting 3,600 public trees and was also planning on giving away 4,100 fruit trees to the public (like at Whitney High) before losing the funding.

After dozens of states rightfully sued, a U.S. District Court Judge issued an order to unfreeze the money on Jan. 3.

But true to his “dictator on day one” proclamation, Trump did not following the court’s order.

A lead agency of a \$20 million grant recently tried to authorize the release of money but was locked out. Now, local non-profits will not be reimbursed causing a furlough of employees.

A coalition of 22 states and the District of Columbia filed the lawsuit against Trump and won. The states involved include: Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Only one of those states is Red, with Arizona and Nevada Purple; the remaining are Blue states proving AG’s in Red states don’t care about pollution reduction, childcare education and HIV prevention research.

Elections have consequences.

## Married Women Could Be Stopped From Voting Under SAVE Act

The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act could prevent many married women from being able to register to vote.

The act, reintroduced by Texas Republican Representative Chip Roy, would require people to present in-person documentation as proof of citizenship when registering to vote and the birth certificate that matches the person registering to vote.

As many as 69 million married women in the United States have changed their legal name since getting married, meaning their name does not match their birth certificate

The SAVE Act would make it significantly harder for married women, as well as many other members of the population, to exercise their right to vote as Americans.

If they do not have a passport, which nearly 146 million people in the U.S. do not have, it will be much more difficult for those who have changed their name to register to vote under the SAVE Act.

It is also already illegal to vote as a non-citizen, and several measures, including providing a social security number to register, are in place across the country to ensure only citizens can cast a ballot.

The SAVE Act lists several types of documentation that would be accepted, including a form of identification issued consistent with the requirements of the REAL ID Act of 2005.

Many of these forms of ID, other than a passport, either include a birth certificate or must be presented alongside a birth certificate.

The SAVE Act does not include proof of name change or a marriage certificate as acceptable proof of identity. This is vital for

married women with a birth certificate that does not match their current legal name.

Roy’s statement read, “The legislation provides myriad ways for people to prove citizenship and explicitly directs states to establish a process for individuals to register to vote if there are discrepancies in their proof of citizenship documents due to something like a name change.

Atta boy Chip, trying to have it both ways here, by mandating this proof of citizenship requirement at the federal level and then saying, ‘Oh, but actually, it’s up to the states.’ That’s really not how the legislation is crafted, its the feds that have the mandate.

If you have a government-issued photo ID that does not indicate U.S. citizenship, which is what most IDs are, you can only register if you have some other document, like a certified birth certificate or a naturalization certificate.

LCCN asks married woman who have changed their name, do you have a birth certificate or other kind of citizenship document with you married name on it?

### Repercussions

Republicans introduced the act. However, if passed, it may reduce voting opportunities for Republicans, as a Pew study found that more Republican than Democratic women choose to change their name after getting married.

The SAVE Act also accepts valid passports as proof of ID. The states with the fewest number of people with passports are West Virginia, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. All of these states voted for President Donald Trump in 2024.

## LETTERS

### No on Cerritos Measure J

#### Dear Editor:

On March 4, 2025, Cerritos will hold a general election to vote for members of the City Council, Measure J, and Measure K. I am concerned about Measure J and recommend voting NO on Measure J.

A YES vote for Measure J will keep the current Cerritos general election dates to ODD-numbered years, e.g., 2025, and to not be aligned with the EVEN-numbered state and federal elections. If Measure J passes, it demands that any change to our city election date be done only through another general election (the earliest year being 2027). By the way, the three members of our Council responsible for approving this resolution (Measure J) are the same three in 2023 that changed Cerritos’s election dates to ODD years, against the wishes of many voters.

By voting NO for Measure J, the new City Council will retain their ability to return the elections back to the EVEN-numbered years, again matching state and federal elections. The Council can quickly and inexpensively revise the election date to EVEN-numbered years by simply passing the change as an ordinance to the City Charter, without the need for another general election.

Cerritos’s voter turnout, as reported in the recent Council candidates’ forum, in ODD-numbered years was less than 20% versus 80% when voting took place in EVEN-numbered years. We need to have Cerritos’s future decided by more voters, not less! Please vote NO on Measure J.

**Jill Nishida**  
52-year Cerritos Resident

### State’s Pension Fund Needs

#### to Act on Climate Change

#### Dear Editor:

I am writing to express my concerns regarding our state’s public pension fund. I’m urging them to vote for climate action at this spring’s shareholder meetings for the major corporations the pensions are invested in, it’s clear that it’s all hands-on-deck for stopping the climate crisis.

Our economy—and my retirement savings—depend on a thriving planet. Which is

why my pension fund needs to play a leadership role in stopping climate change. Public pensions are some of the country’s biggest shareholders and should champion sound business practices that respect people and the planet. Holding corporations accountable for their climate-wrecking is a critical way to reduce risk to workers’ retirement savings and protect our future.

I want my pension fund to strengthen its proxy voting guidelines—the policy that outlines their beliefs about what defines good corporate behavior—to tackle the climate crisis. I want our pension fund to care about our future as much as I do.

**Diana Kliche**  
Long Beach

### Re: Mass Deportation:

#### Repeated Betrayal

#### Dear Editor:

In reference to the article dated 1-31-25, Mass Deportation: Repeated Betrayal, family stories emerge surrounding the social injustice and economic impact expulsion had on families of Mexican ancestry during the 1930s into the 1040s. Comparably, although distinct, the unjust internment of Japanese families during the 1940s also serves as a reminder of the disservice done to these American-born citizens.

During this era, well-documented in Decade of Betrayal: Mexican Repatriation in the 1930s by Francisco E. Balderrama and Raymond Rodriguez, both immigrant and American-born citizens alike had little recourse to push back against the U.S. government. As in my father’s case, unintended consequences followed. His family, forcibly deported from Morley, Colorado to Mexico during the Great Depression, endured undue economic loss. When Mexicans, documented and undocumented, were prevented from being hired across all sectors of the U.S. workforce, such punitive measures produced broader economic consequences: few Americans took their jobs; the coal mining company, where my grandfather labored, struggled to survive and years later shut down. The town depleted its workers; and homes, businesses, the school and church were all demolished. Morley, Colorado became a ghost town, erased from Las Animas

County, and became one of America’s casualties. Americans will learn soon enough, why mass deportation is destructive, especially on a broader scale.

In essence, mass deportation and internment, especially that of American-born citizens, came with severe economic losses. Families of both Mexican and Japanese ancestry can testify to the financial losses imposed by the U.S. government’s eminent domain grab. These families had no other choice but to later return to the U.S. or to their country of origin. Once orders were lifted, they repatriated to their birthplace, reclaimed their freedom, coped with their family losses and eventually re-established financial mobility while striving to relive the American dream.

Family stories, like my father’s, hit home for many Baby Boomers, who recount similar stories of injustice. For many first and second generation Mexican Americans, the travesty of justice did not produce hatred, as Trump and White Nationalists would have one believe. Instead our painful history motivated advocates for social justice, not only for immigrant rights, but for human rights; for there is no greater time than now to stand up against Trump’s unjust deportation policies and his demonization of immigrants. I don’t advocate open borders, rather a bipartisan, humane immigration plan. What can we do now? Reject Trump’s mass deportation policy;

Resist his destructive Project 2025 playbook, now bulldozing our democratic institutions. Raise your voice in protest. Prove your economic strength. Harness your political power with your vote. Pay attention to the threat of losing our democracy. Pay attention to the people running for local city council seats, the school board and state officials. Are their views aligned with your values? Support organizations like CHIRLA, DEMOCRACY FORWARD, the ACLU and the like that fight for your rights. Vote in the primaries to tip the balance of power in the House and Senate. Write articles. Basically, we have a stark choice: either reclaim our democracy or harness Trump’s dictatorial form of governing which is a certain downward spiral toward authoritarianism.

**S. Mercado, Cerritos**

### Cities Can Stop ICE Raids

#### Dear Editor,

In one of Donald Trump’s first acts in office, he stripped away protections for schools, hospitals, and places of worship from immigration enforcement. These were once safe spaces where people could learn, receive health care, and pray without fear. Now they have been turned into targets for ICE raids.

This is unconscionable. As the world’s largest historical climate polluter, the United States has a responsibility to immigrants. Our pollution is causing the climate chaos — droughts, floods, hurricanes, rising waters — that is forcing people in Latin America, Asia, Africa and elsewhere to leave their homes. Others are fleeing violence, poverty, and hunger — all of which are caused or made worse by the climate crisis.

People have the right to be able to leave their homes and migrate with dignity to find safe haven. But right now, immigrant families are facing the unimaginable: the fear that seeking education or health care could mean deportation, or that a peaceful moment of prayer might be shattered by ICE agents barging in.

As municipal leaders, mayors have the power to fight this. They can protect immigrant families by ordering police not to participate in ICE raids and even to block ICE agents’ entry into schools, hospitals, and places of worship.

The future of so many families in our communities is on the line. We must call on local leaders to do the right thing, even as the federal government does not. I’m writing to urge mayors to hear this call and take action to protect immigrants.

**Irma R. Carrasco**  
East La Mirada

## WRITE US! LET YOUR OPINION BE KNOWN!

Send letters to editor@cerritosnews.net.

Letters can edited. The opinions expressed here are not necessarily the views of the publisher.



## ABCUSD Measure BB Citizens' Oversight Committee Opening



The ABC Unified School District's Measure BB Citizens' Oversight Committee has openings for the following representatives:

- **Senior Citizens' Organization Representative** - Must be an active member of a senior citizen's organization.
- **Taxpayer Organization Representative** - Must be active in a bona fide taxpayer association.
- **Community-At-Large Representative (2 openings)** - Must be a resident in a community served ABCUSD.
- **Parent of Enrolled ABC Student Representative** - Must be a parent or guardian of a child currently enrolled in ABCUSD.

This committee was established as part of Measure BB, the \$258 million school facilities improvement bond passed by voters in November 2018. The committee is responsible for ensuring the proper spending of Measure BB funds by carefully reviewing expenditures. The committee typically meets quarterly but may convene more frequently if necessary.

Applications for the position can be found online at [www.abcusd.us](http://www.abcusd.us).

For further questions, please contact the Deputy Superintendent/Chief Financial Officer's Office at (562) 925-5566, extension 21257.

ABCUSD Medida BB  
Puestos Vacantes del Comité de Supervisión Ciudadana

El Comité de Supervisión Ciudadana de la Medida BB del Distrito Escolar Unificado ABC tiene puestos vacantes para los siguientes representantes:

**Representante de una Organización de Personas de la Tercera Edad** - Debe ser miembro activo de una organización de personas de la tercera edad.

**Representante de una Organización de Contribuyentes** - Debe ser miembro activo de una asociación de contribuyentes de buena fe.

**Representante de la Comunidad en General (2 puestos vacantes)** - Debe ser un residente en una comunidad servida por ABCUSD.

**Representante de Padres de Estudiantes Inscritos en ABC** - Debe ser un padre o tutor de un niño actualmente inscrito en ABCUSD.

Este comité se estableció como parte de la Medida BB, el bono de mejora de las instalaciones escolares de \$258 millones aprobado por los votantes en noviembre de 2018. El comité es responsable de garantizar el gasto adecuado de los fondos de la Medida BB revisando cuidadosamente los gastos. El comité normalmente se reúne trimestralmente, pero puede reunirse con más frecuencia si es necesario.

Las solicitudes para los puestos se pueden encontrar en línea en [www.abcusd.us](http://www.abcusd.us).

Si tiene más preguntas, comuníquese con la Oficina del Superintendente Delegado/ Director Financiero al (562) 925 - 5566, extensión 21257.

## Colorful Houseplants for Lower Light Locations

By Melinda Myers

Take your indoor garden to the next level. Include some colorful houseplants for some added interest throughout the year. Even those with low to moderate light in their homes can boost the color of their indoor gardens.

Philodendron has long been a favorite houseplant for low light situations. Update your collection with the bright chartreuse leaves of the trailing Lemon Lime philodendron or upright Pink Princess with splashes and streaks of pink on its dark green leaves.

Chinese Evergreens (Aglaonema) are a good choice for gardeners who prefer low-light plants that tolerate drier soil. You can find Chinese evergreens with a variety of colorful leaf patterns. Siam Red has broad leaves with red edges, Red Valentine offers green leaves with pink and red blotches, and the white markings on its green leaves inspired Split Milk's name.

Nerve plants (Fittonia) on the other hand prefer consistently moist well-drained soil to keep their green leaves with pink, purple, red, or white variegated leaves looking their best. Regular trimming will help this plant look its best and starting new plants from these trimmings will keep your plant collection filled with these colorful but often short-lived plants.

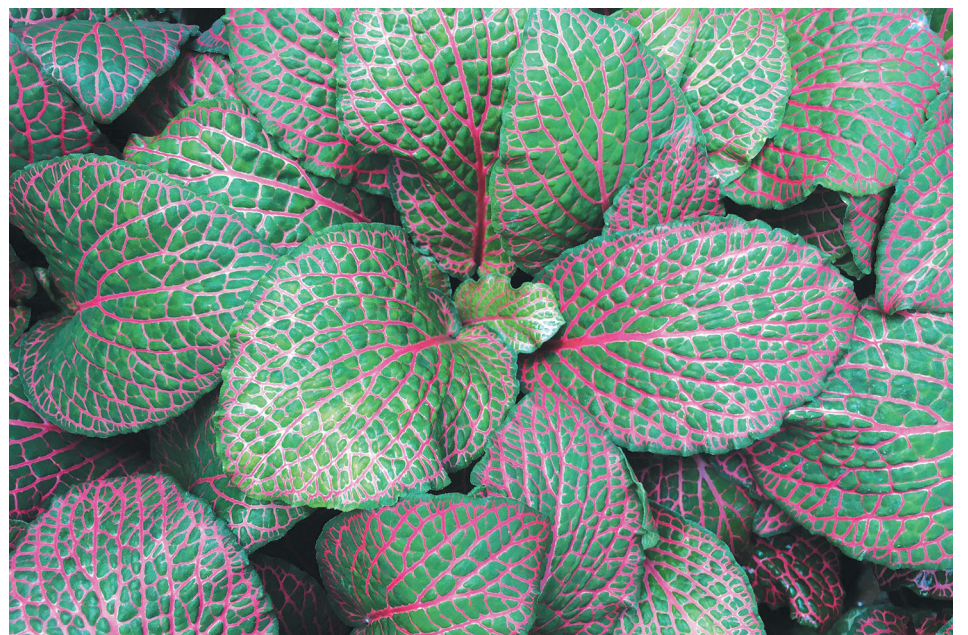
Reduce maintenance and increase success with this and other houseplants by amending the potting mix with an organic and sustainable soil additive

like Wild Valley Farms wool pellets ([wildvalleyfarms.com](http://wildvalleyfarms.com)). Research found this amendment holds 20% of its weight in water and slowly releases it into the soil when needed, helping keep the soil consistently moist but not soggy wet.

Prayer plants, including the Marantas and Calatheas, can be a bit more challenging but their unique foliage that folds up like praying hands at night makes them well worth the effort. These plants prefer moderate indirect light and can scorch in direct sunlight or pale when the light is insufficient. Like nerve plants, they prefer consistently moist soil and high humidity. Boost humidity by grouping houseplants together and placing them on gravel trays. The pebbles in the tray elevate the pots above the water kept in the saucer. As the water evaporates, the humidity level increases around the plant. Use rainwater or distilled water to avoid brown tips on prayer plants, dracaenas, and spider plants caused by fluoride and chlorine in tap water.

For those with a bit more light add a few spots of color with polka dot plant (Hypoestes phyllostachya). You may have grown this plant as an annual in your garden and containers, but it also performs well as an indoor plant. Regular trimming of the green with white or pink-dotted leaves keeps the plant full and compact.

Peperomias prefer bright indirect light, but some varieties will tolerate a bit less. Ripple Peperomia (Peperomia caperata) adds texture and a bit of color



**RED NERVE PLANT** (Fittonia) adds color and interest to indoor plant collections. Photo courtesy of MelindaMyers.com.

while watermelon peperomia (Peperomia argyrea) offers a nice contrast with its smooth leaves colored like watermelon rind.

Dracaena plants offer a wide variety of textures with narrow and broad leaves and various types and intensities of variegation. Dorado's leaves have thin yellow leaf edges, Lemon Lime's green leaves are highlighted with white stripes and chartreuse leaf margins, and Limelight with its wide neon bright chartreuse leaves are just a few of the many colorful dracaenas now available.

If the colorful leaves of any of these plants tend to pale or fade to green you may need to increase the amount of light the plants receive. Try moving them closer to an east- or west-facing window or supplement those lowlight situations with artificial lights.

Consider these plants a piece of

living art or a way to refresh your indoor décor. Not only do they improve the view, but they also help boost your mood, reduce stress, and improve focus when observing and tending these and your other indoor plants.

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"* instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Wild Valley Farms for her expertise to write this article.

Myers' website is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).



### Queen Mary Inducted Into 'Historic Hotels of America'



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The Queen Mary joins a distinguished group of more than 300 historic hotels and resorts nationwide recognized for preserving their architectural integrity, historical significance, and unique ambiance.

To be selected for membership in Historic Hotels of America, a hotel must be at least 50 years old; has been designated by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior as a National Historic Landmark or listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places; and recognized as having historic significance.

Built in Clydebank, Scotland, The Queen Mary was launched in 1934 and became a pinnacle of luxury travel during the Golden Age of Ocean Liners. She transported Hollywood celebrities, world

leaders, and royalty across the Atlantic before being repurposed as a troopship during World War II, earning the nickname "The Grey Ghost." After her wartime service, she returned to passenger travel before retiring in 1967, when she found her permanent home.

Today visitors can explore its history through immersive museum exhibits, guided tours, and captivating storytelling. Guests can dine at signature restaurants like the Promenade Café and Chelsea Chowder House & Bar, enjoy the renowned Royal Sunday Brunch in the Grand Salon, or host memorable events in 14 grand Art Deco salons. With 250 staterooms, including nine luxurious suites, The Queen Mary remains a unique hospitality experience blending history with modern elegance.

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## CIF-SOUTHERN SECTION GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYOFF PREVIEW

### League champions La Mirada, Whitney anticipating deep postseason runs

By Loren Kopff  
@LorenKopff on X

Half of the area's eight girls basketball teams have advanced to the CIF-Southern Section divisional playoffs and of those, La Mirada High and Whitney High won their respective leagues. While the former is banking on another long run through the playoffs like the one it had last season, advancing to the Division 5AA semifinals and winning a pair of Division 5 state playoff games, Whitney is looking to get past the first round for just the second time since 2020 when the Wildcats reached the quarterfinals for the second straight season.

All first round games are on Thursday, Feb. 13 and all second round games are on Saturday, Feb. 15.

#### DIVISION 3A

**# 24 Yeshiva University of Los Angeles (13-10 overall, 6-2 in the Independence League) @ # 9 Gahr High (15-10, 3-5 in the Gateway League)**-Gahr is in the postseason as an at-large representative after tying Downey High for third place in the Gateway League. However, Gahr fell to Downey 64-56 in double overtime in the last game of the regular season and split the season series with the Vikings. The Gladiators have been moving up the division ranks over the past few seasons. Two seasons ago, when they advanced to the divisional finals, they were in Division 5AA, and last season, they were bumped up to Division 4AA. Now, it's Division 3A.

"With the new system...last Monday, we were in Division 2 and after the loss to Downey, we ended up going 3A," said Gahr head coach Alfred Howard. "I'm assuming had we beat Downey we might have been up there in 3AA. So, I'm happy with 3A."

The Gladiators lost their first two games of the season, before winning 10 of their next 13 games entering the 2025 calendar year. Gahr has not scored 60 points in its last 10 contests after getting to that point four times in December.

Only 10 players are on the team, but Howard has used a solid starting lineup all season long, which includes three seniors, two sophomores and one junior. Senior Christine Ho began the season as a starter, missed the last tournament in December and has rejoined the starting lineup. Senior Simar Sogi has also been a starter at times and is the top player coming off the bench with senior Karen Barrocan not far behind.

"We bring those two off the bench; they have kind of been in a slump but any one of them can get going at any time," said Howard. "We really need them to kind of lock in and be focused on this last run that they have being seniors."

YULA tied Holy Martyrs High for the

top spot in the Independence League, a game ahead of third place Pacifica Christian High/Santa Monica. At one point, the Panthers won five in a row and nine of 11 but enters the playoffs with two straight losses. Gahr's longest winning streak was five games from Dec. 12-27.

"I don't know much about them now... but usually those private schools play hard," said Howard. "They've played some good competition in Santa Monica and a couple of other teams that I saw on their schedule. So I know they're going to be good."

A potential quarterfinal game would be Gahr against top-seeded Lawndale High, whom the Gladiators edged 51-50 on Jan. 3.

**Projected starters: Senior Jody Colbert, junior Chloe Beard, sophomores Rachel Fredenburg and Ella Mims and Ho.**

The winner plays either #8 Loma Linda Academy or #25 Shalhevet High in the second round.

**#19 Bishop Amat High (16-12, 7-5 in the Camino Real League) @ #14 Whitney (20-8, 9-1 in the 605 League)**-For the first time since the 2018-2019 season, Whitney won at least 20 games in the regular season. The next season, head coach Myron Jacobs took over the reigns of the program and reached the quarterfinals, but since then, the Wildcats have reached the second round once. This season could be different as Whitney has a talented team built to at least reach the finals.

"I think we have a perfect chance to win a CIF ship," said Jacobs. "We're playing some solid teams, but I think these are teams who are beatable."

Jacobs believes his side of the bracket is better than the other half and he's not alone with that assessment. Other coaches, including Howard, have said the same thing.

Whitney played one of the program's toughest schedules ever, going to the Central Valley and to the Pacific Northwest for a pair of three-game tournaments, going a combined 3-3 in those games including a one-point loss to Kamiak (WA) High. Whitney also lost to Lakewood High by eight points in the third game of the season, Rancho Cucamonga High by three points four days later, Long Beach Poly High by three points and Pioneer High by

eight points. Jacobs said the loss to Pioneer on Jan. 31 helped Whitney get situated in Division 3A because just weeks earlier, it was ranked higher.

"I don't think anybody can prepare to be where they're at because we didn't know how the rankings were going to be this year," said Jacobs. "I just think I did my schedule the best to my talent. I think we played some solid teams, and I think we played some okay teams, and that was basically safety measures because you don't want to get anyone hurt."

Senior Haylie Wang is the leader of the team but is complemented well with fellow starters senior Rachel Moyher and sophomore Allysa So. Look for senior Keira Kato, junior Tina Namaranian and sophomore Keila Kurihara to provide some spark off the bench.

Whitney played Bishop Amat last season and came out on top, 68-31. But the Lancers, who lost five seniors last season, return five players. Jacobs said for the Wildcats to make a deep run, they need to be consistent, take care of the ball and stop being so passive, adding more players need to score.

**Projected starters: Senior Allie Yamaguchi, sophomore Cheyanne Cheung, Moyher, So and Wang.** However, it may change based on matchups.

The winner plays either #3 La Serna High or #30 Foothill High in the second round.

#### DIVISION 3AA

**#30 Cerritos High (13-15, 7-3 in the 605 League) @ #3 Lancaster High (21-5, 11-3 in the Golden League)**-After falling to Oak Park High in last season's Division 3AA championship game, Cerritos finds itself in the same division, but this time will open the postseason against the third-ranked team. The Dons finished in third place in a top-heavy 605 League and had a roller coaster of a season. Head coach Marcus Chinen has had to alter his starting lineup just about every game because of injuries, illness or waiting until junior Mady Macaraeg, a transfer from Whitney, became eligible. In fact, 10 players missed a combined 54 games for a variety of reasons.

"I think it will be good for our girls," said Chinen of the bracket. "I think we've prepped ourselves during the preseason. Not only that, throughout the season, with injuries, illness and whatnot, we've had to shuffle our lineups a lot. So, I think we have more girls prepared this year, from our starters to those coming off the bench more than we have ever been."

Chinen added that this season has been challenging because he didn't know he was going to miss a potential starter the next game for whatever reason. A lot of times, he would replace an everyday starter with someone who could go both offensively and defensively.

The one starter who did not miss a game is senior Ambar Multani, who leads the team in scoring by nearly 100 points over the next player. Had Macaraeg played the entire season instead of sitting out the first 12 games, she clearly would be the leading scorer. No matter who is on the court at the opening tip-off, this is a solid team with junior Cameron Lacorte complementing Macaraeg and Multani in the scoring department. After that, Chinen has several options he can go to for the other two start-

ing spots-seniors Lauren Sakamoto, Miya Scammahorn, Megan Wallace and Sophie Watanabe and sophomores Kalana Nguyen and Jordin Pulley. Those six players have started at least five games and in fact, all 14 players have started at least once.

After winning the first two games of the regular season, Cerritos went into a slump, losing 14 of the next 17 games, including the first two league games. Of those 14 losses, four were by six points or fewer.

Lancaster finished in third place in the Golden League and began the season with 11 straight wins before falling to second place Highland High.

"At the end of the day, we have to do our job offensively and defensively," said Chinen. "I would probably say defensively first, then the offense will come. But if we play our game, then hopefully we'll be able to pull a home game. If we can, that's great, but if not, then we'll be on the road [again] and hopefully fight for another game to get a home game."

**Projected starters: Lacorte, Macaraeg, Multani, Nguyen and Scammahorn.**

The winner plays either #14 California High or #19 Beaumont High in the second round.

#### DIVISION 4A

**#25 Orange High (14-10, 4-4 in the Grove League) @ #8 La Mirada (16-10, 9-1 in the Mid-Cities League)**-After falling a basket short of playing for a Division 5AA championship last season, La Mirada moved up a notch and is prepared to go one step farther this season. While the Mid-Cities League champions didn't have quite as good of a record as last season, the group of eight returning players plus two varsity rookies is more well-rounded.

"Whatever we were handed, I was going to take it with a grain of salt and kind of take it game by game," said La Mirada head coach Victoria Luong of the bracket. "I think the first thing the girls noticed was Colton is also in Division 4A. But the definite warning; that revenge of last year against Colton...I told the girls we have to take it one game at a time and get there first."

If there is to be a rematch, it wouldn't come until the semifinals, and Colton is seeded 20th. And, if the Matadores are to do any damage in the playoffs, this is as good as it will ever get as nine of the 10 players are seniors. The lone underclassman is sophomore Jordin Shaw, the team's second-leading scorer with 306 points. Joining her in the starting lineup are leading scorer Jael Arreguin, Destiny Elmore, Emily Gonzalez and Hailey Medrano. The top two bench players throughout the season have been Simran Sahota and Nayeli Tamayo, both of whom have combined to score 108 points. One improvement has been in the rebounding department, where Gonzalez and Medrano have joined forces with Elmore, who was the go-to rebounder last season.

"Nayeli, in the last couple of games, at least defensively, has improved and really stepped up; being more aggressive and knows what she needs to do," said Luong. "And even with Simran, making some key plays, we need them as far as defensively. I think towards the end of the season, they've actually stepped up and played better than they had at the beginning of the season."

The key strength for the Matadores is fluidity as most of the seniors have been playing together for three or four seasons. Luong insisted that because of that, the team needs to get off to a strong start to the game.

"They just need to show up," she added. "I need their 'A' game; I need them to be on point from the get-go and start off

[ See **GIRLS BASKETBALL**, page 12 ]



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**CIF-SS BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYOFF PREVIEW:**

**Battle-tested La Mirada ready for Open Division, to begin with four road playoff games**

**By Loren Kopff**  
@LorenKopff on X

For the first time since the CIF-Southern Section added the Open Division to its playoffs, La Mirada High will be a part of it. The Matadores concluded the regular season with 24 victories in 28 games, won all eight Gateway League games by an average of nearly 34 points and played one of the toughest non-league schedules around.

La Mirada is seeded ninth in the 10-team bracket and will visit top-seeded Harvard-Westlake High (27-1) on Feb. 12, Notre Dame High/Sherman Oaks (22-6) on Friday, Santa Margarita High (22-5) on Feb. 21 and JSerra High (21-7) on Feb. 25.

“We assumed we would drop to number 9; that’s why we were hoping [the division] would expand only because of Notre Dame’s wins against Sierra Canyon,” said La Mirada head coach Randy Oronoz. “We’ve been scouting Harvard-Westlake and prepping for them last week. We just didn’t know where the other ones were. We’re just happy and blessed to be in this position. I’m excited for the boys.”

This is the first time the CIF-SS basketball divisional playoff brackets are put together based off computer rankings instead of a team’s performance from the previous two seasons. Oronoz added that he didn’t know how many teams would be in the Open Division and was hoping his team would at least be in the top eight in the event the division would have eight teams.

“I think the computers did a pretty accurate job of saying who was where, and I

think CIF did it right,” said Oronoz.

To say that the Matadores are more than ready for the Open Division is an understatement as they defeated a top five team from Illinois (Morton High), Florida (St. Petersburg-based Gibbs High), Utah (Layton Christian High) and New Mexico (Volcano Vista High). They also defeated Redondo Union High 82-72 on Dec. 27, and the Seahawks are the seventh-seeded team in the Open Division. Two of the four losses came to St. John Bosco High, which is the third-seeded team.

Harvard-Westlake is the top-ranked team in the state, according to MaxPreps.com and second in the nation. The lone loss for the Wolverines came in the 10th game of the season when they fell to Timpview High out of Provo, Utah 61-49.

“The hardest part for us is a lot of these private schools have been playing in their league really good teams, and I’m not knocking our Gateway League, but it was kind of down this year,” said Oronoz. “Instead of complaining and saying, ‘hey, we haven’t been able to continue to sharpen our skills’, we’ve been getting after it in practice. We might be well-rested.”

One of the interesting things about the

2024-2025 La Mirada team is the fact that it has played in front of its home fans just four times, all coming in league action (Jan. 24-Feb. 5). The Matadores began the season winning the Rumble on the Hill Tournament, then went to the Kevin Brown Memorial Tournament of Champions the week of Thanksgiving. La Mirada came home to compete in the St. John Bosco Braves Winter Classic and the Classic at Damien before heading out to Arizona the first week of January for a three-game tournament.



La Mirada’s starting lineup is one of the best in Southern California with the tandem of senior Julien Gomez and sophomore Gene Roebuck along with seniors Jarret Cole and M.J. Smith and junior King-Riley Jones. But there’s a

plethora of bench players who would be solid starters on a lot of teams.

Some of those would be senior Chris Perez, junior Daquan Idemudia, a 6’6” wing player and sophomore Santiago Lopez, who last played on Jan. 2. In fact, he had been a starter earlier in the season.

Oronoz has reached the Division 2A finals in 2022 and 2023, but the Matadores, under the tutelage of Bryce Jones, won the Division II state title in 2015 despite falling in the Division 2A championship

game. The 24 victories are the most for the program since winning 25 games two seasons ago and the four losses are the fewest since the 2014-2015 team went 31-5.

The top four teams in each pool automatically move on to the CIF State Southern California Regionals.

**Projected starters: Cole, Gomez, Jones, Roebuck and Smith**

For the other divisions, all first round games are on Wednesday, Feb. 12 and all second round games are on Friday, Feb. 14.

**DIVISION 2A**

#23 Artesia High (20-7, 9-1 in the 605 League) @ #10 Orange Vista High (18-6, 10-0 in the Sunbelt League)-This is one example of the new playoff system as both teams are league champions. In the old system, league champions would never have met in the first round. The Pioneers won the 605 League for the third time in the last four seasons. Only Cerritos High has finished in first place more than Artesia (four) in the history of the league.

“Coming into the season, I thought we would probably be a 3A team or a 3AA team,” said Artesia head coach Jeff Myles. “I never thought we would be a 2A team. So I guess that’s kind of a good thing [when] people say we had a good season. I don’t think we’ve been in a 2A division in a long time. But it’s sports and no matter if you’re in 2A, 3A, or 5A, you still have to play the guys who are in front of you.”

Artesia began the season with three straight wins, then went through a stretch

[ See **BOYS BASKETBALL**, page 12 ]

**NEWS AND NOTES FROM PRESS ROW**

**Whitney boys basketball buried early, unable to recuperate in first round setback**

**By Loren Kopff**  
@LorenKopff on X

The Whitney High boys basketball team picked the worst time to have one of its poorest performances of the season as the Wildcats were blown out by Providence High 64-41 at home in a CIF-Southern Section Division 3A first round playoff game this past Wednesday. The Wildcats, who were held to their seventh lowest point total in the past 14 games, wrap up the 2024-2025 season with a 13-16 record.

Whitney senior Morgan Marks scored the first points of the game a minute into the contest, but after that, it was all Providence as it led 18-8 after the first quarter. The Pioneers kept the pressure on in the second quarter as they controlled the boards on both sides of the ball and didn’t allow much scoring from the rest of the Wildcats. With a halftime score of 29-16, Marks accounted for 10 points while

senior Peter Poitras was next with simply a three-pointer.

It deteriorated in the third quarter as Marks scored the team’s lone basket of the stanza as the Wildcats watched Providence increase its advantage to 45-18 entering the final eight minutes. Whitney would go on runs of 8-0 and 6-0 in the final six minutes of the game, but it wasn’t enough.

Marks tallied a team-high 17 points, had three assists, three rebounds, a block and a steal while Poitras added 15 points and two steals. Senior Rafael Mercado led the Wildcats with four rebounds while senior Jeffrey Nishida pitched in with three rebounds. Griffin Berschneider and Elijah Orjuela each had 14 points for the Pioneers while J.P. Birotte and Riley Murphy each added 10 points.

In other boys basketball first round action this past Wednesday, La Mirada High fell to Harvard-Westlake High 73-50 in the Open Division. The Matadores (24-

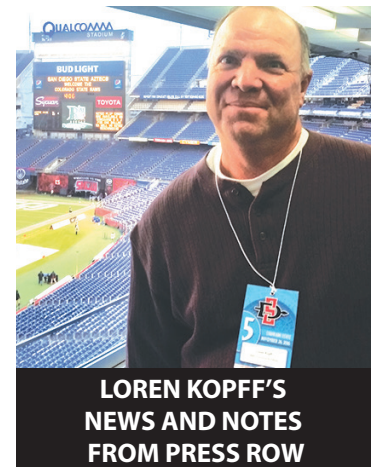
5) will visit Notre Dame High/Sherman Oaks on Friday.

Artesia High (21-7) got past Orange Vista High 39-36 in Division 2A and will host a second round game on Friday.

In Division 3AA, Cerritos High was on the south end of a 66-59 decision to El Toro High, finishing the season at 13-15. Also on the division, Gahr High lost to Ayala High 61-50 also wrapping up the season at 13-15.

In Division 2 boys soccer action, Artesia edged Rialto High 3-2 this past Wednesday evening, improving to 17-2-5 while in Division 4 girls soccer action, Artesia upset top-seeded Marlborough High 1-0 this past Wednesday. The Pioneers (17-2-3) will host Chadwick High on Friday. Also in the division, La Mirada (10-8-3) blanked Mayfield High 2-0 and will travel to South Pasadena High on Friday.

In Division 5 action, Cerritos fell to Ramona High 2-0, ending its season at



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

9-13-0 while Valley Christian High was edged by Tahquitz High 2-1. The Defenders finish the season at 10-9-2.

Gahr (9-9-2) lost a high-scoring affair to Citrus Hill High 7-6 while in Division 7, Norwalk shutout Big Bear High 1-0.

The Lancers improved to 12-8-2 and will travel to Rim of the World High on Friday.

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**GIRLS BASKETBALL** from page 10

strong and not get off to a weak start.

La Mirada's lone league loss was to Warren High by four points on Jan. 10 and since then, the Matadores have won seven of eight games. Meanwhile, Orange finished in third place in the Grove League and has won three straight games three different times and in the last 10 games, the Panthers are 5-5.

La Mirada and Orange have played four common opponents in Bellflower High, Costa Mesa High, Fullerton High and Pacifica High with the Matadores going 5-0 against them, including a five-point win over Pacifica in the season-opener and a two-point win over Costa Mesa four games later. The Panthers defeated Bellflower and Pacifica, lost to Costa Mesa and split with Fullerton. The victories against Fullerton and Pacifica were by a combined three points.

**Projected starters: Arreguin, Elmore, Gonzalez, Medrano and Shaw**

The winner plays either #9 Mayfield High or #24 San Marino High in the second round.

**BOYS BASKETBALL** from page 11

where the black and red went 3-5 before ending the season strong. In fact, the last three losses, all since Jan. 3, have been by six, three and five points, respectively. Offensively, the Pioneers have scored over 60 points 11 times. To go one step further, winning the 605 League was not as easy as it appeared because the first three games were five-point victories and in the second round, Artesia lost to Oxford Academy by five points before bouncing back to edge Whitney High by three points.

"We knew coming into the season that every [league] game would be between five

to seven points and every game was going to be a battle," said Myles. "We knew the 605 [League] was going to be a lot tougher this year. So, we wanted to schedule some tough games out of league."

The Pioneers have been flying under the radar, sort of speak, without a go-to player, or two, unlike the past when it was a given that Aaron Banks or Zion Staples would be the players to stop. The most consistent starting rotation this season have been seniors with Jovell Tate leading the way with 318 points. Senior Judd Sajise and juniors Christian Stewart and Kobe Young are the top bench players, all of whom have started at least once.

Orange Vista, based in Perris, began the season with three straight losses, but now has won 12 straight games while Artesia enters the playoffs as winners of its past 14 of 16 games with the only setbacks coming to Warren High by three points and Oxford Academy by five points.

**Projected starters: seniors Cayden Del Rosario, C.J. Okeke, Jaylen Reed, Christopher Vargas and Tate.**

The winner plays either #26 Holy Martyrs High or #7 Villa Park in the second round.

**DIVISION 3AA**

**# 19 Cerritos (13-14, 7-3 in the 605 League) @ # 14 El Toro High (15-13, 3-5 in the Sea View League)**-The four straight losses to begin the season for Cerritos seems like a long time ago as the Dons gradually got better as the campaign went on. And while the team never reached the .500 mark during the regular season, it enters the playoffs winners of nine of the last 12 games. Head coach Jonathan Watanabe, who has been around the coaching ranks for 23 seasons, says the team and coaching staff is just happy to qualify and they're ready for the challenge of playing.

"We just focused on league and not knowing what division and what teams could possibly be in your division, I think

in my case in particular, was kind of a blessing because I wasn't stressed over trying to get film on all the teams in our division because we didn't know who was in our division," said Watanabe.

The Dons have used the same starting lineup 17 times and all five of them are seniors. But Watanabe has emptied his bench in virtually every game, minus injuries, and because of that, all 16 players have had game experience. This way, the nine players who are not seniors will have that going for them next season.

In fact, all five of the everyday starters have scored over 150 points which gives the Dons a great opportunity to make another deep run just like last season when it took home the Division 4AA title. Watanabe added that his six sophomores have finally adjusted to the play at the varsity level. Making key contributions off the bench on a consistent basis have been sophomores Rocco Chua, Noah Lai and Antonious Youseff, all first-year varsity players.

El Toro has had somewhat of a streaky season, losing four of its first six games before winning seven of its next eight games, then ending the regular season with four wins in 11 games. The Chargers were tied for third place in the Sea View League and are an at-large representative because they finished with at least a .500 record.

"That's the whole point of the bracket," said Watanabe. "The way that [CIF] is doing everything, is that regardless of whether you're the first seed or the 32nd seed in the bracket, all the teams are going to be pretty equal. You might face somebody who is a little bit stronger or a little bit weaker than you thought. But the idea of it is where anybody can win it. As long as you make the playoffs, you have a chance to win your division regardless of where your position is."

**Projected starters: Seniors Jaylen Barsana, Benson Cho, Nathan Ju, Jaden Ribac and Demetrius Washington**

The winner plays either #3 Capistrano Valley Christian High or #30 Kennedy High in the second round.

**# 20 Gahr High (13-14, 3-5 in the Gateway League) @ #13 Ayala High (17-11, 5-5 in the Palomares League)**-After the first round of Gateway League action, Gahr needed to win at least three wins in its final five games, including a non-league tilt against Marquez High. Knowing that La Mirada and Mayfair High were still on the docket, there wasn't much margin for error. But the Gladiators defeated Dominguez High on the final day of the regular season to lock down third place and get an automatic qualifier. Last season, Gahr was in Division 3A, but despite moving up, head coach Marcus Girley says there are some winnable games in this season's bracket.

"I thought there was a slight chance we might slide to 3A by the looks at the teams," he said.

The heart and soul of the team is senior Josh Pearson, but two other veteran seniors have shined as well-Ethan Carey and Uchenna Okoli. Junior Austin Woon has been a solid starter, but the pleasant surprise of the season comes from senior Jaison Joyce, a transfer who wasn't eligible since late December. All he has done is score at least 20 points in five times and over 10 points five other times.

The top players coming off the bench have been junior Roman Acosta and freshmen Xavier Brown and Bryce Titus.

"Roman is the starting quarterback of our football team, and he plays basketball like he plays football," said Girley. "He's just extremely competitive and always has the energy. He gets the guys going and worked up before the game starts. He's just passionate and never takes a play off."

Ayala began the season with a loss, followed by five straight wins, then another loss before reeling off five consecutive victories. Like Gahr, the Bulldogs are also a third place representative, and the two teams have played twice since 2011 with each team picking up a win.

**Projected starters: Carey, Joyce, Okoli, Pearson and Woon**

The winner plays either #4 Price High or #29 Pacifica Christian High/Santa Monica in the second round.

**DIVISION 3A**

**#19 Providence High/Burbank (12-12, 6-1 in the Prep League) @ #14 Whitney (13-15, 6-4 in the 605 League)**-The last time Whitney hosted a playoff game was two seasons ago on Valentine's Day. Before that, you have to go back to 2013 when the Wildcats, members of the Academy League, lost to JSerra in the first round. How times have changed since then as Whitney has reached the playoffs three straight seasons, the longest stretch since going in five straight seasons from 2009-2013.

The most intriguing aspect of this division, according to Whitney head coach Nasir Akmal, is the fact that the Wildcats shot up from Division 4AA. He felt Whitney would have stayed in Division 4AA or 4A based on the small enrollment of the school.

"I do know that the CIF system this year has kind of been all over the place," he said. "But opponents-wise, I guess it's more balanced than in previous year. I would have liked us in [Division 4] at highest. But at the end of the day, hey, we're in Division 3; I'm cool with that too. These guys earned their place into [this division], so now, let's go do something."

Whitney, the third place representatives from the 605 League, have hovered around the .500 mark most of the season and once sported a 3-1 mark, and of the six league wins, three came by three points or fewer while the Wildcats fell to Artesia by five points.

The heart and soul of the Wildcats for four seasons has been Morgan Marks. But, senior Peter Poitras and sophomore Jezreel Dela Cruz have been turning up the heat this season and all three have combined to score 874 points.

Whitney has 15 players on the team with another one who has missed the entire season. Akmal hasn't been shy about unloading his bench this season and outside of his normal everyday starters. His top player coming off the bench figures to be senior Alex Cheng. But don't overlook junior Shayan Saravanakumar, whose height and wingspan provides an extra spark in the rebounding department.


"The thing about our team is our guys already know what they have to do in terms of opponents," said Akmal. "It's just a matter of us executing, and if we do that, I like our chances against anyone. We played San Clemente earlier [in the season] and they're in D1 now. Obviously, it was a blowout; it wasn't a competitive game. But they know what it's like to play a D1 team, and we're a D3 team."

Providence finished in second place in the Prep League but comes into the playoffs having split its last eight games. At one point, the Pioneers won four straight games while Whitney's longest winning streak was three games. The Wildcats did have losing streaks of three and four games respectively before league play started and have reached the .500 mark five times while never getting more than two games above .500.

"It is a testament to our guys and the program and how far we've come," said Akmal. "And also the fact that I think that we'll be competitive in [Division] 3. We've played some of the teams; Pioneer is in there with us. So, I'm good. I'm more than happy to show that we can compete in Division 3 and not only compete; we want to go out there and win."

**Projected starters: Seniors Alex Cheng and Jeffrey Nishida, Dela Cruz, Poitras and Marks.**

The winner plays either #3 Salesian High or #30 La Salle High in the second round.



By **DAVID OUELLET**

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

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S	S	C	R	A	B	C	A	K	E	S	P	U	O	S

Appetizers, Avocado, Brie, Bruschetta, Calamari, Chef, Chicken, Chips, CrabCakes, Crackers, Crostini, Delicious, Dessert, Dips, Dishes, FriedPickles, Jalapeno, Meatballs, Mini, Parties, Pinwheels, Poppers, Quesadilla, Quiches, Recipes, Salsa, Seed, Serve, Shells, Shrimp, Soups, Spreads, SpringRolls, Starters, Stew, Stuffed, Tortilla, Wings, Wrap

Solution on page 14

**Solution: 8 letters**

**Notice Inviting Bids**  
**City of Santa Fe Springs**  
**Request for Quotes No. 25 - 7**  
**As-Needed Temporary Fencing and Barriers - Delivery, Installation, and Removal**

The City of Santa Fe Springs invites bids from qualified contractors to provide temporary fencing and barriers on an as-needed basis in accordance with the terms and conditions of Request for Quotes (RFQ) No. 25 - 7.

To view the complete proposal package and associated documents, visit: <https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/65093/portal-home> and click "Bid Opportunities" or <https://vendors.planetbids.com/portal/65093/bo/bo-detail/125982> to access the project directly. You can also visit the City's website and find the link on the "Bids & Proposals" webpage.

Questions/inquiries regarding this opportunity must be submitted via the PlanetBids Portal by no later than **Thursday, March 6, 2025, at 2 pm Pacific**. The City will not respond to any questions/inquires submitted after this deadline.

Please review all related documents in their entirety prior to submitting a response. Responses must be submitted electronically via the City's PlanetBids Portal by **Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 2 pm Pacific**. Any proposals received after this deadline will be deemed non-responsive and the City reserves the right to reject the proposal.

Responses to this request will be evaluated to determine the most qualified and responsive vendors. Responses must adhere to the format and content described in the RFQ. Responses will not be evaluated unless all parts requested are submitted in a complete package.

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 2/14/25

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:  
 J. ROBERT GRAY AKA JAMES ROBERT GRAY AKA BOB GRAY  
 CASE NO. 25STPB01166

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of J. ROBERT GRAY AKA JAMES ROBERT GRAY AKA BOB GRAY.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by CYNTHIA A. PARRISH in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that CYNTHIA A. PARRISH be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

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

A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 03/07/25 at 8:30AM in Dept. 9 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

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

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

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

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

Attorney for Petitioner  
 JENNIFER N. SAWDAY, ESQ. - SBN 228320,  
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 Telephone (562) 923-0971  
 BSC 226393  
 2/14, 2/21, 2/28/25  
 CNS-3895020#  
 LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:  
 HELEN R. GRAY AKA HELEN RAY GRAY  
 CASE NO. 25STPB01168

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of HELEN R. GRAY AKA HELEN RAY GRAY.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by CYNTHIA A. PARRISH in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that CYNTHIA A. PARRISH be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

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

A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 03/06/25 at 8:30AM in Dept. 44 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

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

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

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

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

Attorney for Petitioner  
 JENNIFER N. SAWDAY, ESQ. - SBN 228320  
 JANA HAGEKHALIL, ESQ. - SBN 340962  
 TREDWAY, LUMSDAINE & DOYLE LLP  
 3900 KILROY AIRPORT WAY, STE. 240  
 LONG BEACH CA 90806  
 Telephone (562) 923-0971  
 BSC 226386  
 2/14, 2/21, 2/28/25  
 CNS-3894735#  
 LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF VICTOR MIGUEL SUAREZ aka VICTOR M. SUAREZ aka VICTOR SUAREZ  
 Case No. 25STPB01157

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of VICTOR MIGUEL SUAREZ aka VICTOR M. SUAREZ aka VICTOR SUAREZ

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Raul M. Suarez in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Raul M. Suarez be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

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

A HEARING on the petition will be held on March 6, 2025 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 62 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

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

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

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

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

Attorney for petitioner:  
 CYNTHIA R. COX ESQ  
 SBN 153298  
 LINDA S. STOCKWELL ESQ  
 SBN 277324  
 REENA SHAH ESQ  
 SBN 339391  
 COX LAW GROUP INC  
 23326 HAWTHORNE BLVD  
 STE 390  
 TORRANCE CA90505-3771  
 CN113990 SUAREZ Feb 14,21,28, 2025

**CITY OF PICO RIVERA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**FOR THE PLANNING COMMISSION**

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the project described below.

Project Location: Citywide

Project Description: Zone Code Amendment No. 197 amending chapter 18.40, Land Use Regulations of Title 18, Zoning of the Pico Rivera Municipal Code to require a Conditional Use Permit for the following two uses, Contracting Equipment Storage and Rental Yards and Building Materials Sales and Storage.

Environmental Review: The proposed general plan amendment(s) and zone change(s) is not subject to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c)(2) and 15061 (b)(3).

The Planning Commission Public Hearing will be held:

**DATE:** Monday, February 24, 2025

**TIME:** 6:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** City Hall Council Chambers 6615 Passons Boulevard Pico Rivera, CA 90660

If you challenge the action taken on this proposal 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 written in correspondence delivered to the City of Pico Rivera City Clerk prior to or at the public hearing.

Those desiring a copy of the staff report or additional project information should contact:

Project Planner: Estefany Franco, Planner  
 efranco@pico-rivera.org 562-801-4026  
 or visit the Community & Economic Development Department at City Hall 6615 Passons Boulevard, Pico Rivera, California.  
 Online: <https://www.pico-rivera.org/our-city/city-commissions/planning-commission/>

\*\*\*\*\*

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 City Clerks Office at (562) 801-4389 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.

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 2/14/25

**CITY OF SANTA FE SPRINGS**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**RESOLUTION NO. 9947**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** that pursuant to the California Mitigation Fee Act (the Act) contained in Government Code Sections 66000 et seq which requires that a city increasing certain fees must establish that there is a reasonable relationship between the specific amount of the fee imposed as a condition of approval and the cost of the public facility attributable to that project. A Public Hearing will be held before the City of Santa Fe Springs City Council to consider the following:

**RESOLUTION NO. 9947:** A Resolution to amend Resolution No. 9933, approving an update of the City's Fire Services Fee Schedule and amending and revising the City's Master Fee Schedule.

**THE HEARING** will be held before the City of Santa Fe Springs City Council in the Council Chambers of the City Hall, 11710 Telegraph Road, Santa Fe Springs, on **Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.** At that time, anyone wishing to speak in regards to this matter will be given an opportunity to be heard.

**ALL INTERESTED PERSONS** are invited to attend the Public Hearing and express opinions upon the items listed above. If you challenge the nature of these proposed actions 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 of Santa Fe Springs City Council at, or prior to the Public Hearing.

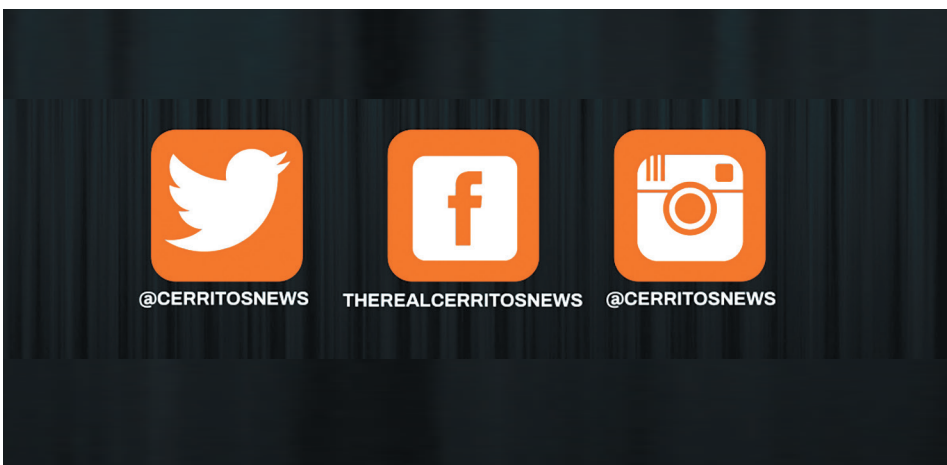
**PUBLIC COMMENTS** may be submitted in writing to the City Clerk at City Hall, 11710 Telegraph Road, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 or, otherwise, e-mail the City Clerk at [cityclerk@santafesprings.gov](mailto:cityclerk@santafesprings.gov). Please submit your written comments by 12:00 p.m. on the day of the City Council meeting. You may also contact the City Clerk at (562) 868-0511.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 6062a, this notice was published twice on February 14, 2025 and February 21, 2025.

**FURTHER INFORMATION** on this item may be obtained at the City of Santa Fe Springs Finance and Administrative Services, 11710 Telegraph Road, Santa Fe Springs, California 90670 or by telephone or e-mail: (562) 409-7520, [lanadich@santafesprings.gov](mailto:lanadich@santafesprings.gov). A copy of the Comprehensive User Fee Study is available for public inspection during regular business hours, at the office of the City Clerk and on the City's website at [www.santafesprings.gov](http://www.santafesprings.gov).

Lana Dich, Director of Finance and Administrative Services  
 City of Santa Fe Springs, 11710 Telegraph Road, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

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**LEGAL NOTICE  
CITY OF BELLFLOWER  
ORDINANCE NO. 1442**

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING 1) ZONE CHANGE CASE NO. ZC 25-01 TO: (A) ESTABLISH ZONING OVERLAYS (“HOUSING OPPORTUNITY OVERLAY ZONE – HOOZ”) FOR CERTAIN PROPERTIES TO ALLOW MIXED USE OR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS; AND (B) EXPAND AND MODIFY BOUNDARIES OF THE TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT SPECIFIC PLAN (“TODSP”) AREA; AND (2) APPROVE ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT CASE NO. ZOTA 25-01 TO: (A) ESTABLISH REGULATORY FRAMEWORK OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND USES WITHIN THE “HOOZ”; AND (B) AMEND THE TODSP DOCUMENT RELATED TO REGULATIONS AND EXPANSION OF THE BOUNDARIES TO IMPLEMENT THE HOUSING ELEMENT.**

The City Council of the City of Bellflower introduced Ordinance No. 1442 at its Regular Meeting of February 10, 2025.

If adopted, Ordinance 1442 would establish zoning overlays for certain properties located within eight specific areas to allow for mixed-use or residential developments and establish a regulatory framework of future development and uses for certain properties located within the twelve specific areas as it pertains to the Certified 2021-2029 Housing Element, including residential developments/uses that are permitted by right.

For a copy of Ordinance No. 1442, 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 2/14/25

**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**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 36933(b), Ordinance No. 1439 is summarized as follows:

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.

Ordinance No. 1439 had its first reading on January 27, 2025, its second reading on February 10, 2025, and was duly passed, approved, and adopted by the City Council of the City of Bellflower at its Regular Meeting of February 10, 2025, by the following vote to wit:

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

Effective Date: March 12, 2025. 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 2/14/25

**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**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 36933(b), Ordinance No. 1441 is summarized as follows:

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.

Ordinance No. 1441 had its first reading on January 27, 2025, its second reading on February 10, 2025, and was duly passed, approved, and adopted by the City Council of the City of Bellflower at its Regular Meeting of February 10, 2025, by the following vote to wit:

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

Effective Date: March 12, 2025. 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

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**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

**TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS**

VANESSA DE JESUS CHAIDEZ GARCIA AND CESAR OMAR BRAVO FOR ANDREA JULISSA BRAVO CHAIDEZ filed a petition with this court for a decree changing name as follows: ANDREA JULISSA BRAVO CHAIDEZ TO ANDREA JULISSA BRAVO. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant a petition without a hearing. Court date 4/11/25, at the SUPERIOR COURT COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 12720 NORWALK BLVD. NORWALK, CA 90650. A HEARING will be held APRIL 11, 2025 at 9:30 am, Dept C ROOM 315. Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 2/14, 2/21, 2/28, 3/7/25 Case number 25NWCPOOO67

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT  
A NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Bellflower has prepared an Environmental Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the following project and location:

**PROJECT:** Office/Warehouse Development  
Development Review Case No. DR-7-23-14488 / Variance Case No. V 23-01 / Initial Study (IS) and Negative Declaration No. ND 24-01

**LOCATION:** 10145 Artesia Place, Bellflower, California

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The IS and ND 24-01 evaluates potential environmental impacts resulting from a proposed office and warehouse development at 10145 Artesia Place, near Woodruff Avenue to the east and Beverly Street to the north. Commercial development was previously located on the site. Industrial and commercial uses currently neighbor the site. The development will be constructed on a 31,490 square feet (0.723 acre) site and will include: (a) a 7,220-square-foot warehouse building with mezzanine, and a 4,842-square-foot office building, and (b) 25 parking spaces and one loading stall. The proposed office building will include five enclosed offices with ancillary uses; the warehouse will park trucks and store equipment/materials. The project requires Development Review and Variance approvals.

**APPLICANT:** Bellflower Somerset Mutual Water Company

Based on the environmental information gathered and analyzed for the project during the IS process, the City of Bellflower has determined that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record, that the project may have a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, the IS and ND 24-01 were prepared to analyze the project pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

**The 20-day public review period for this document begins on February 14, 2025, and closes on March 6, 2025.**

The IS and MND are available online ([https://www.bellflower.org/departments/planning/planning\\_division/environmental\\_documents\\_and\\_information.php#outer-234](https://www.bellflower.org/departments/planning/planning_division/environmental_documents_and_information.php#outer-234)) and may be reviewed by the public during normal business hours at: 1) City of Bellflower - Planning Division located at 16600 Civic Center Drive, Bellflower, CA, and 2) Los Angeles County Library in the City of Bellflower located at 9945 E. Flower Street, Bellflower, CA.

The Planning Commission of the City of Bellflower will conduct a public hearing to consider the proposed IS and ND on March 17, 2025, at 7:00 pm or as soon thereafter as possible, in the Bellflower City Council Chambers, City Hall, 16600 Civic Center Drive, Bellflower, California.

Please address all written comments (before the close of the environmental review period noted above) to: City of Bellflower, Attn: Rowena Genilo-Concepcion, 16600 Civic Center Drive, Bellflower, CA 90706; or by email to [rgenilo@bellflower.org](mailto:rgenilo@bellflower.org). For questions, please call (562) 804-1424, ext. 2228.

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**PUZZLE ANSWER: EGGROLLS**

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