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LCCN EXCLUSIVE

Central Basin General Manager Who Was Illegally Fired Could be Reinstated

In less than a week, the Central Basin Gang of Four has been rebuked by the DOJ and a Los Angeles Superior Court Judge.

By Brian Hews

Central Basin Municipal Water District [CB] directors were handed an embarrassing legal setback this week, which could see the directors having to reinstate Alex Rojas, who was illegally terminated on November 1, 2024, during a questionable special board meeting as the agency's general manager.

Los Cerritos Community News was the only media outlet to report on the "special meeting" in November 2024 – that was illegally called – a meeting that saw CB Board members Juan Garza, Martha, Camacho Rodriguez, Nem Ochoa, and Joanna Moreno defy a 2015 California State Audit Mandate and Central Basin Administrative Code and fire Rojas.

The meeting was illegal because it violated Government Code 54956 24-hour meeting notice rule, which states, "A special meeting may be called at any time...by delivering written notice to each member of the legislative body and each local newspaper of general circulation... the notice shall be delivered personally or by any other means and shall be received at least 24 hours before the time of the meeting as specified in the notice."

At the time, Garza, Ochoa, and Moreno were all appointed, not elected, because AB 1794 mandated three appointed directors to "watch over" the other elected directors. However, the appointed directors, like Garza, Ochoa, and Moreno, have proven they are the directors who need to be watched, as evidenced by the illegal removal of Rojas. Ochoa and Moreno had been on the Board for only three weeks when they violated the Code, appointed in Oct 2024.

[See REINSTATED, page 6]

Weather Service Investigates Possible Tornado in Pico Rivera

By Brian Hews

A possible tornado was reported early Thursday in Pico Rivera as a late winter storm brought rain and strong winds to Los Angeles County.

The National Weather Service is sending a survey team to investigate the report in the El Rancho neighborhood near Pico Vista Road and Holbrook Street.

[See TORNADO, page 13]



AT 3:15 on Thursday morning, a "possible" tornado occurred in Pico Rivera on several residential streets near Pico Vista Road and Holbrook Street. Several trees were downed, and residents were without power for a short time. No injuries were reported. Courtesy Pico Rivera Sheriff's

Brother and Sister Charged With Murder in Cerritos

LCCN Staff Report

A brother and sister from La Palma have been charged with murder in the shooting death of a 66-year-old businessman during an attempted robbery at a Cerritos park, according to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

John Chong Moon, 54, and Cindy Kim, 57, both of La Palma, face one count of murder and one count of attempted second-degree robbery in the case. Their arraignment is scheduled for today in Department 4 of the Bellflower Courthouse. If convicted, each could face life

[See MURDER, page 13]



SOROPTIMIST MARDI GRAS RAISES OVER \$39,000

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL of Artesia-Cerritos hosted its 'Mardi Gras' 31st Annual Monte Carlo Gala Fundraiser on February 22 at the Center at Sycamore Plaza in Lakewood. The charity event is the foundation for Soroptimist financial support for over ten non-profit organizations in the Artesia-Cerritos area and its signature program Live Your Dream and Dream It Be It. The Gala Fundraiser, which consisted of Vegas style games, live music and a buffet dinner, raised over \$39,000 and was well attended by numerous dignitaries, other state, city and local elected officials. This year's publicist for the event was Manjula Ramanathan and Norma Williamson was Chair. Photo courtesy Artesia-Cerritos Soroptimist.

CIF STATE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS -

Whitney Claws Back in 4th Quarter, Advances to State Title for First Time

By Loren Kopff

MONTEBELLO-For the second time in 18 days, Whitney High made the visit to Cantwell Sacred Heart of Mary High with a trip to the CIF Division IV state championship game on the line. In the first meeting, the Wildcats were plagued by nine turnovers in the first quarter and fell to the Cardinals 41-36 in the CIF-Southern Section Division 3A semifinals.

This past Tuesday, Whitney found itself down by as many as 12 points in the second quarter and six points with 2:25 left in the third quarter. But senior Haylie Wang had a monster fourth quarter with 10 points as the Wildcats knocked off CSHM 47-42 in the Southern California Division IV finals. Whitney will face Half Moon Bay High for the Division IV state championship on Saturday morning at the Golden 1 Center in Sacramento. The Cougars, who defeated Lowell High 49-47 in the Northern California regionals, are from the CIF-Central Coast Section.

"I told them we have [eight] minutes left," said Whitney head coach Myron Jacobs as part of his speech to the team entering the fourth quarter, "I told them, 'for the seniors, this is it; empty the tanks. We have to believe in our defense; we have to improve our rebounding, and we have to start making better shot selections.'"

"We were down by 12 and we just had to fight back and trust



THE WHITNEY HIGH girls basketball team defeated Cantwell Sacred Heart of Mary High 47-42 this past Tuesday to become CIF Southern Regional champions for the first time in school history. The Wildcats will face Half Moon Bay High in the CIF State Division IV finals on Saturday in Sacramento. Photo by Loren Kopff.

each other," said Wang. "I started off slow, but you have to trust the process and then after that, we got going as a team."

Wang tied the game at 35-35 less than a minute into fourth quarter and the game remained tied until the 5:32 mark when Wang grabbed a rebound, fed a pass to sophomore Alyssa So who put the Wildcats in front for good with her only fourth quarter basket. The next score wouldn't come until there was 3:29 left, which was senior Keira Kato's lone basket, followed by a steal and basket from Wang with three minutes remaining completed the 8-0 run.

Whitney (27-9) would have the lead for 14 seconds in the first quarter at 5-4, then watched the Cardinals go on a 20-7 run that lasted until the 3:50 mark

of the second quarter. But the 605 League champions ended the first half strong, going on an 11-2 run as So scored seven points, Wang two points and senior Sarai Carter the other two points.

Wang's only basket of the third quarter cut Whitney's deficit to a point 70 seconds in before the hosts went on a 7-2 lead to hold a six-point lead with 2:25 left in the stanza. Despite trailing, the Wildcats were staying strong on the boards, collecting eight rebounds.

After scoring 11 points in the first meeting with CSHM on four of 19 shooting from the field, So led everyone with 22 points with four three-pointers while Wang, who has been consistent in her scoring since the loss to

[See WHITNEY, page 13]

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FEMA Hiring Local Residents to Support Wildfires Recovery

LCCN Staff Report

FEMA is hiring to continue its support of California’s recovery from the Eaton and Palisades wildfires in Los Angeles County.

California residents who are interested in a temporary position with FEMA and a variety of emergency management functions can apply through USAJobs.gov. Applicants will be called for interviews, and those hired will join the recovery team.

The following departments have positions available in Los Angeles County: Acquisitions, Civil Rights, External Affairs, Disaster Field Training Operations, Hazard Mitigation, Human Resources, Individual Assistance, Interagency Recovery Coordination, Information Technology, and Public Assistance and Planning.

Working for the federal government has many perks, including excellent benefits, flexible work schedules, opportunities for professional growth, stability, and lateral movement across agencies.

FEMA does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, national origin, political affiliation, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, membership in an employee organization, retaliation, parental status, military service or other non-merit factor. Applicants requiring reasonable accommodation during any part of the hiring process, should contact FEMA-DR4856-Local-Hire@fema.dhs.gov. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Interested applicants can visit USAJobs.gov to apply. For questions about a position or if you need additional information, please email: FEMA-DR4856-LocalHire@fema.dhs.gov

Artesia Winter Youth Basketball League Champs



CONGRATULATIONS to the City of Artesia’s Winter Youth Basketball League champions. The D3 champions were the Warriors led by Coach Jayden. The D2 champions were the Lock Ins led by Coach Albert, and the D1 champions: were the Triple Threats led by Coach Leon.

La Mirada Symphony’s Reaching for the Stars March 30

The La Mirada Symphony proudly presents Reaching for the Stars – a concert “filled with breathtaking performances, extraordinary musicians, and an amazing repertoire.”

The concert will be on Sunday, March 30, 2025 at the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts. A pre-concert lecture will

begin at 2:15 p.m. and the concert will begin at 3:00 p.m.

Whether you’re a lifelong symphony enthusiast or experiencing it for the first time, this magical afternoon is one you won’t want to miss.

Tickets are not required. All seats are general admission.

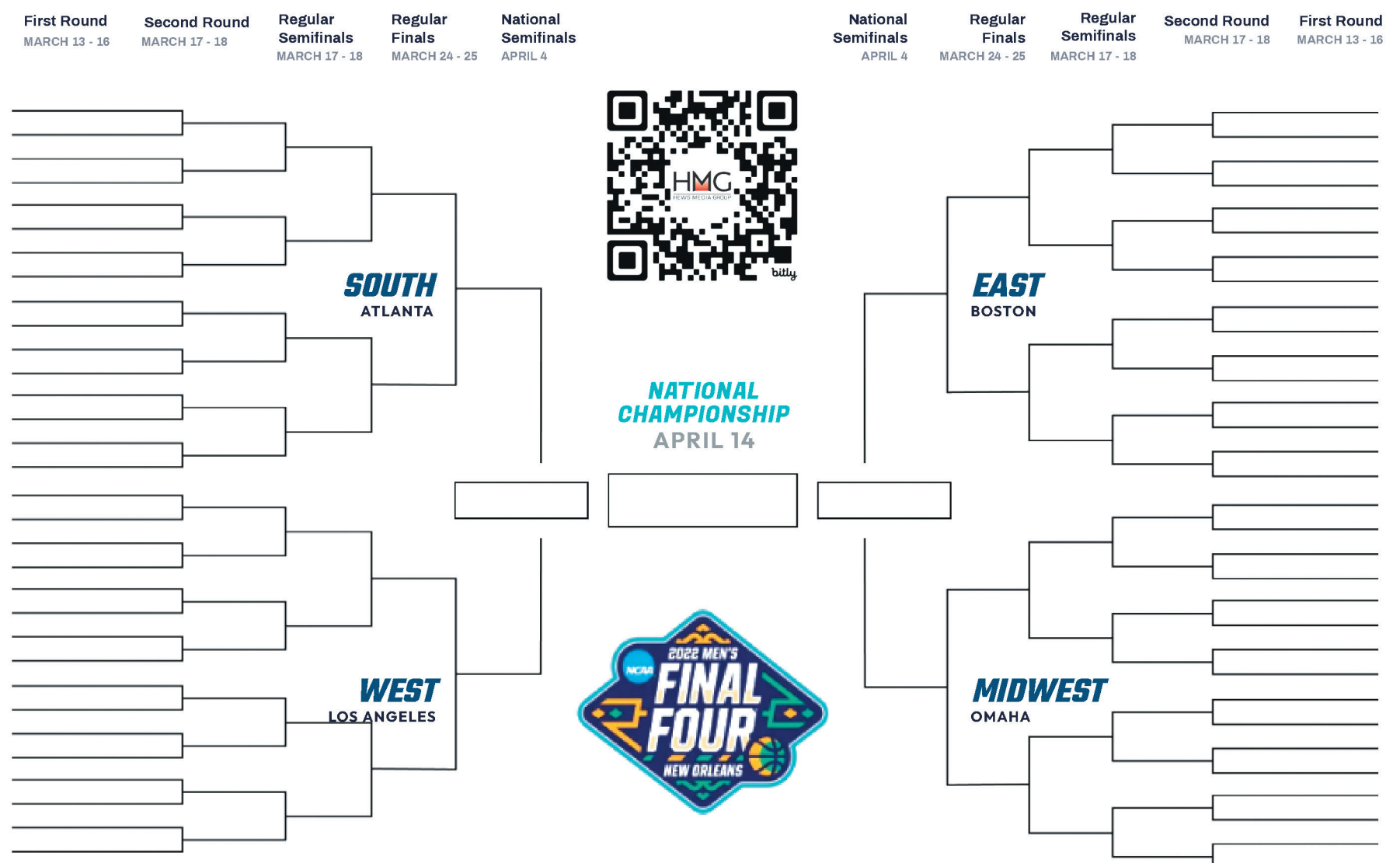


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Tommy Faavae Sworn in as West Basin Water Director Division I



SWEARING-IN: Tommy Faavae takes the oath of office after his appointment as Director of West Basin Municipal Water District Division I.

Staff Report

At a special meeting of the West Basin Municipal Water District Board of Directors last week, Tommy Faavae was unanimously appointed as the Division I Director, filling the vacancy following Harold Williams' resignation in January.

Division I services the areas of Carson, Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates, and the unincorporated Los Angeles County areas of Rancho Dominguez.

Faavae, a lifelong Carson resident, has dedicated his career to environmental advocacy and workforce development. He has led major legislative initiatives, securing funding for large clean energy projects, and is deeply committed to public service.

Faavae helped establish the Alliance for Renewable Clean Hydrogen Energy Systems, ARCHES, which secured \$1.2 billion in federal funding for renewable hydrogen solutions in California in 2023.

From his technical expertise as a journeyman installing electrical systems for water infrastructure projects at Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant and the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant to his workforce development mentorship for entry-level and formerly incarcerated people within the electrical industry, Faavae remains devoted to public service and advancing community resources.

Faavae has been a proud member of IBEW Local 11 for more than 25 years, where he currently serves as the Business Development Manager representing more

than 11,000 members and 350 electrical contractors.

"We are pleased to have so many good candidates apply, and it was a difficult decision. However, we are excited to welcome Tommy Faavae to the West Basin Board of Directors," said West Basin Board President and Division II Director Gloria Gray.

"His professional acumen will contribute significantly to the leadership of the District. The Board will continue to foster impactful progression as we tackle the complex challenges and opportunities of ensuring sustainable and equitable water solutions for the communities we serve. This collective work will further advance our mission of providing safe, reliable water and improving environmental stewardship across our region."

"I am honored to be appointed as the West Basin Division I Director. I strongly believe in the significant impacts of public service," said Faavae.

"I am focused on ensuring safe, clean, and reliable drinking water for our residents. Together, I look forward to building a resilient future for the District and the people we serve."

In accordance with the Municipal Water District Law (Water Code section 71000 et. seq.), the appointment of Faavae as the Division I Director will be in effect for the remainder of the position term. The General Election on November 3, 2026, will determine the director position for a full four-year term of office that would commence once the election has been certified in December 2026.

Enrollment Open for the 2025 Taiwan Mandarin Language and Culture Summer Camp

In 2024, 24 students from Cerritos College and Rio Hondo College traveled to Chihlee University of Technology in New Taipei City, Taiwan, to participate in a four-week Taiwan Summer Mandarin Study Tour. Organized by Chihlee University of Technology in New Taipei City, Taiwan and co-sponsored by the Education Division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Los Angeles, this program provided students with a fully immersive Mandarin learning and cultural experience.

Each morning, students engaged in interactive and engaging Mandarin language classes, rapidly improving their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills while gaining confidence in using the language. In the afternoons, a variety of cultural exploration activities allowed students to experience the unique charm of Taiwan—visiting historical landmarks, tasting authentic Taiwanese cuisine, strolling through vibrant night markets, practicing calligraphy, and experiencing traditional tea ceremonies. Additionally, students had the opportunity to interact with local students, fostering cross-cultural friendships and expanding their global perspectives.

To continue this unforgettable journey of learning and discovery, we are excited to announce the 2025 Taiwan Mandarin Language and Culture Summer Camp! This three-week program warmly welcomes students aged 16 and above to join us in exploring the joy of Mandarin learning while deeply experiencing Taiwanese culture.

Program Dates: June 23 – July 11, 2025
Program Fee: Only \$450, which includes:

- **Free accommodation** in university dormitories (shared rooms for 2 or 4)
 - Daily breakfast and lunch
 - Transportation and entrance fees for all cultural experiences and excursions
- Registration Website: talk2natives-peak.com/2024-short-term-study-chihlee-university-2/

Application Deadline: March 31, 2025

Contact Information: For any inquiries, please email Professor Shin Liu at shinliu2020@gmail.com

We eagerly look forward to welcoming more students on this exciting journey of learning and cultural exploration. Join us and create unforgettable memories!

La Mirada Celebrates 65 Years

La Mirada is celebrating its 65th anniversary as an incorporated city. Join the festivities on Saturday, March 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Neff Park, located at 14300 San Cristobal Drive.

The public will have an opportunity to tour the historic Carriage Barn, George House, and Neff House, and explore exhibits and a historical timeline showcasing key moments from La Mirada's rich history.

The celebration will also feature a craft fair, food vendors, family-friendly activities, and entertainment. For more information on La Mirada's 65th anniversary Celebration, visit cityoflamirada.org.

California Credit Union Offering Summer Internship Program

Applications are now available for California Credit Union's Summer Internship Program for college students. The program offers *paid internships* to provide students with professional work experience and mentoring in multiple areas throughout the organization, including in the Accounting, Electronic Services, Human Resources and Treasury & Finance departments.

"An important part of our educational support initiatives is providing hands-on work experience and mentoring local students to help open doors to a future career," said California Credit Union President/CEO Steve O'Connell.

College students can learn more and apply for the internships through the credit union's website. The CCU internships will provide students with practical work experience within and across multiple departments, leadership development skills, and school-to-career readiness, with direct training and mentoring with managers. All internships will be paid, full-time, 30 – 40 hours/week opportunities at the credit union's Glendale headquarters office from June 16th through August 15th.

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Building Catholic Faith and Community Through Coffee

By Britney Zint
OC Catholic

Life after covid brought many changes, but there was something Jeff Acton wasn't going to easily accept — the loss of community at his local parish. So, when he found Trevor Rothaus had a similar idea, the two decided to do something to bring back that lively sense of parish community.

Enter Blessed Knight Café, a pop-up coffee cart that brings the coffee shop experience — settling in and chatting for a while — to St. Norbert Catholic Church in Orange.

"It's giving them a place to be social and have a community outside of just praying and going to Mass or being a part of a ministry," Acton, 38, said. "They are staying after Mass because they want to genuinely talk to people and they are more comfortable doing that over a cup of coffee or tea."

Blessed Knight Café has been bringing high-quality coffee and tea to St. Norbert on select Sundays for more than a year. The pop-up has also served at the Mercado del Niño Jesus Christmas market at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in La Habra and Servite High School events. It now serves St. Joseph Catholic Church in Placentia on the last Sunday of the month.

Blessed Knight Café serves organic coffee with beans that are ethically sourced from Mexico and locally roasted. The hot beverages are given out for a donation. No one is ever turned away.

"I've seen more connections being made," Rothaus said. "So, instead of people just grabbing a coffee and going,



BLESSED KNIGHT CAFÉ has become a nonprofit ministry building Catholic faith through coffee and art. Owners Jeff Acton (left) and Trevor Rothaus (back left) serve coffee at St. Norbert Catholic Church in Orange to parishioners following Sunday Masses. "It's great coffee," says LCCN Publisher Brian Hews. Photos by Scott Smelter.

people put in their order, wait around and in that process of waiting, meet other people at the parish. Different connections have been made by people who have never talked before."

The idea started in fall 2023 when Acton and Rothaus discovered their mutual love of coffee. While Acton was thinking of ways to rebuild community in the parish, Rothaus had recently returned from a trip to Montreal where he was inspired by a priest who served coffee and provided community to the homeless. Separately, they both wanted to start a coffee ministry.

"When we found each other, we were like, 'This is amazing. We both have the same or similar idea,'" Rothaus

said.

Through a refining of the vision, they presented their concept to St. Norbert's pastor, Fr. John Moneyppenny, and some of the staff. Since then, Blessed Knight Café has become a nonprofit, with a mission of building Catholic faith through coffee and art.

"I am happy that they got their start at St. Norbert," said Fr. Monetpenney. "When we began to reopen after COVID, volunteers were scarce. But along came these men from the parish who had this great idea, and I welcomed it. Blessed Knight Café has aided me as a pastor to build community."

"When people have a passion or even just a good idea, I think it should

be supported and encouraged," he added. "This is what happened with my friends Jeff and Trevor. They have a passion for service and community."

Acton sees a real need for Catholic art. An artist himself who focuses on drawing, Acton didn't see many others creating Catholic art. The visual storytelling medium is a "huge part of faith, but we don't give it credit," he noted.

Acton's love of art started as a child when he would draw superheroes. Although he admitted he wasn't very good at first, he took classes in high school to get better. He persisted through college, earning his bachelor's degree in art. The long-term goal is to turn the pop-up into a brick-and-mortar store — a dedicated Catholic space.

"Giving a space in general where people can feel welcome and at home in their faith — not just in a church but also be openly practicing their faith outside the church — is something I think that is really needed," Acton said.

Being outwardly Catholic in all spaces wasn't always a move Acton wanted to take. When he went to college to study art, Acton said he discovered how some celebrated Mass daily and participated in Adoration. He realized he too could pray before Jesus whenever he wanted in a way that felt more intimate and truly meaningful. He also met many exemplary priests and religious sisters who modeled for him living a life that was openly Catholic — an idea that changed his life for the better.

"You didn't have to hide it," Acton said. "You didn't have to pretend like you were completely in the world one minute, but when you went to church, you could be Catholic."

"It's OK to be Catholic no matter what you are doing, as long as you are doing it in a holy and respectful way."

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Lenten Labyrinth Walk at St. Irenaeus Catholic Church



THE LABYRINTH JOURNEY is unique each time because each person is at a different point in their personal journey. The candlelit, quiet Labyrinth environment will calm their thoughts and offer a healing respite from stress. Photo courtesy of Monica Kovach.

By Rosemary Lewallen

St. Irenaeus' Health Ministry invites you to experience the Lenten Labyrinth Walk on Monday, April 7th, at St. Irenaeus Catholic Church Parish Hall, 5201 Evergreen Ave, Cypress, CA 90630, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. This free event is a great way to prepare spiritually for the Easter season.

When you arrive at the Parish Hall, you will notice that the lights are dimmed and that meditative music envelops the large room.

The Labyrinth itself is an inter-weaving circular path with only one way in and one way out, unlike a maze. There are chairs set up on one side of the room near where you enter.

Please take off your shoes before you start your walk. We provide socks for those who aren't wearing them.

St. Irenaeus Health Ministry suggests that participants **RELEASE** as they begin this full-body prayer journey, **REFRESH** as they reach the center, taking time with God and shedding troubles, and then **RETURN** as they re-enter the world.

The labyrinth journey is unique each time because each person is at a different point in their personal journey.

The candlelit, quiet Labyrinth environment will calm their thoughts and offer a healing respite from stress. If you have any questions, please get in touch with Monica Kovach, Chair of Labyrinth Ministry, at 310-490-6113.

Journalist Finds Grocery Savings Despite Inflation

By Laurie Hanson

With grocery store prices endlessly ever increasing, there are ways to beat them by using tried-and-true strategies learned from older generations.

As one of 5 children surviving on my father's single paycheck, I learned a few things that helped keep our household filled with nutritious foods. I was the one who always went grocery shopping with him and employed his tips in today's inflationary times.

Empower yourself by making informed choices. We shopped at several stores, where Dad looked for seasonal and sale items. Today, I shop at four different stores once to twice a month. Before leaving the house, I compare prices and develop a list using the store apps, giving me a great sense of what I am spending to stick to a budget.

My first stop is Dollar Tree, where I buy soaps and cleaners, including shampoos and body wash. Occasionally, I will pick up food items there, like bread and hamburger buns, where I spend only \$1.25 on a loaf compared to \$3 to \$5 on average elsewhere.

For fresh vegetables and other items, my second stop is an international market called Super King in Stanton. Like many Mexican markets such as Northgate or Superior, Super King tends to have low

prices on produce. I have also found sales on bulk paper goods like bath tissue and paper towels at Super King. Weekly sales on service deli items include lunch meats, cheeses, and olives. Beef, pork, fish, and bulk nuts are also available there. Frequently, I leave there spending only \$10 or less on produce, including cauliflower, bulk carrots, zucchini, onions, and my favorite, golden delicious apples. So far, they are the only store in my area to carry this variety of apples.

Fresh, flavorful strawberries and bagged sweet navel oranges are found at my third stop. At Aldi, I have found their berries to be very ripe and delicious. Family packs of Kirkwood chicken thighs run about \$7, and eggs at Aldi are the most reasonable next to Walmart at about \$8 a dozen. Greek yogurt cups in 4 packs at Aldi run for about \$2.50 each. I have found bags of Stevia sweetener for about \$5 instead of \$7 or more at Walmart. Instead of purchasing soft drinks, I make pitchers of sugar-free Kool-Aid. I purchase the packets at Walmart. Aldi also has my favorite kind of Yukon Gold potatoes in 4-pound bags for about \$4.25. Some reasonable prices on cabbage and other produce, frozen salmon and tilapia, salsa, and kitty litter can also be found at Aldi.

My last stop is the Walmart Superstore in Long Beach, completing a shopping loop that takes about 2 hours. Despite the distance, the Walmart Superstore is worth the visit for its reasonable prices on items like nonfat milk and ground turkey. At Walmart, they are the most



reasonable for nonfat milk at about \$3.52 a gallon. By shopping their Great Value brand, I found items like English muffins, chicken stuffing mix, brown rice, sour cream, and sliced American cheese singles more affordable than elsewhere. I get things like green bell peppers, corn on the cob, and chubs of ground turkey that are more reasonable than anywhere. Festive frozen ground turkey is priced at \$1.98 a chub instead of \$4 fresh ground turkey in the meat case, which helps me economize even more.

Take control of your grocery budget by following a few key strategies. Never shop while hungry, always shop with a list, and take inventory before leaving the house to avoid buying what you already have. Buying in bulk and using generic brand-name items also helps keep costs

down, as does meal planning for the next week or two ahead of time. Developing a list of what you want to shop for on the store apps without purchasing them online will also help keep costs down. You can freeze leftovers by picking up meal storage containers at Walmart or Dollar Tree to prevent wasting food.

A big key to cutting food costs is not eating out as much. Cooking at home is both nutritious and less expensive. It helps to have appliances like an InstaPot pressure cooker/slow cooker and an air fryer. I especially like making roasted garlic chicken thighs in the air fryer and choose to make chicken thighs over chicken breasts because they are less expensive, more tender, and do not require bringing Kosher salt. I cook them with the skin on, removing them before eating.

Stocking rice and legumes like dry kidney beans, lentils, and Great Northern beans to make homemade chili and soups is also cost-effective and cheaper than canned beans. Purchasing canned items like tomato sauce at Dollar Tree and getting tomato paste and pasta at Walmart are affordable for making spaghetti or other dishes. Canned tuna and canned chicken, most reasonably priced at Walmart, can also be found at Aldi, and are ideal for making casseroles.

Due to nitrates and salts, I, like others, have eliminated sausages, bacon, and deli meats from my diet. I make canned tuna or turkey sandwiches. By purchasing frozen chicken breast patties at Walmart, which I cook in the air fryer and have on artesian buns from Dollar Tree, I make a tasty sandwich comparable to any fast-food. But for the most reasonably priced sausages, bacon, and deli meats, look to Aldi. Plus, their generic brand breakfast foods, including boxed cereals, oatmeal, granola, and frozen waffles or French toast sticks, are more reasonably priced than elsewhere.

Occasionally, I like eating beef and pork. Due to the high prices of beef, I mostly purchase beef shank cuts on sale periodically at Super King, along with other cuts like bone-in steak. With the beef shanks, you can make beef stew and soups in its own bone broth, which is very healthy. In order to cut down on the fat, I refrigerate the broth and meat after cooking them and later skim the fat from the top before throwing together the dish. Reasonably priced, pork is regularly on sale at both Super King and Aldi. Thin sliced bone-in pork chops in the family pack cost an average of \$5 to \$6 at Aldi. Super King regularly sells pork shoulder roasts for about \$5.99 a pound.

While none of us can control inflation, with a few tips and ideas, hopefully, everyone's grocery bills can level out and be more reasonable. My dad taught me how to save on food costs, so I have cut my grocery bills in half by purchasing at multiple stores. Though it takes time to run from store to store and to compare prices online, it is doable. By employing some or all of these ideas, eating healthy while keeping grocery costs down is attainable, and consumers can beat grocery store inflation.



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REINSTATE from page 1

According to documents obtained by LCCN, the agenda was sent out at 2:30 pm the day before the next day's 1:00 pm meeting. In addition, LCCN is the adjudicated newspaper for the City of Commerce and did not receive the notice via email; both were violations of 54956.

The calling of the special meeting also violated Central Basin's Code under Article 3, section 3.3, Duties and Role of Board Officers, which states, "The President shall: (1) Preside over all meetings of the Board. (i) Have final approval on the contents of the agendas for all regular, special, and emergency meetings of the Board." Chacon was not asked to approve the November 1 agenda.

Illegally Fired Rojas

After the debacle between 2011 and 2014, a 2015 California State Audit mandated that if the Board wanted to fire the CB GM, it needed six votes. Only four CB Directors were present to fire Rojas.

In addition, Rojas's personal employment contract mandated a 7/8 vote of the Board, which is also six given the board configuration in November 2024.

It did not matter. Probably telling themselves they would settle with Rojas (like two other CB GMs) using taxpayer dollars, Garza, Camacho, Ochoa, and Moreno fired Rojas.

Eventually, Rojas filed a preliminary injunction (temporary restraining order) and permanent injunction enjoining and restraining the District from hiring a new general manager.

Superior Court Judge Kurtis A. Kin denied the Rojas' restraining order but then scheduled a trial for June or July of this year to rule on the petition.

Judge Kin determined that the temporary restraining order was unnecessary because the court could not prevent the Dis-

trict from moving forward on hiring a new general manager, in essence saying that if Rojas was reinstated and the District had two general managers, that would be an issue for the District to figure out.

The District's attorney tried to have the entire petition denied claiming that it was a wrongful termination case; however, the judge rebuked the attorney saying that the petition's focus was exactly what LCCN reported on in November 2024: procedural and compliance issues regarding public notice (Government Code 54956 and Central Basin Code Article 3, section 3.3) and sufficient affirmative votes (2015 State Audit and Rojas' employment contract.)

The attorneys for the District appeared at times unprepared while providing conflicting information to the judge. At one point, the attorney for the District claimed they were not authorized to receive service (a subpoena) on behalf of the District, which was contrary to a conversation the District's attorney had with Rojas's attorney.

If case precedent is considered, Rojas has a good shot at getting his job back. The petition is very similar to the Commerce v. Central Basin Municipal Water District petition, which ruled that the affirmative vote count of conducting District business is based on the total number of board members, not on vacancies.

For example, if a board had eight seats, the affirmative vote must be five even if the Board had vacant seats; CB attorneys argued that any affirmative vote is based on the number of board members present at a meeting and not on the total board seats.

The judge in that case, Judge Chalfant, ruled against CB. CB attorneys are making the same argument in the case of Rojas' firing, stating that four votes to terminate Rojas (Garza, Camacho, Ochoa, and Moreno) was sufficient.

The trial on the petition could be heard as soon as June or July.

Kaiser Permanente Awards \$ 315,000 to Area Non-Profits



BIG CHECK: from (l-r) KP Senior VP Murtaza Sanwari, Food Share reps. Monica White and Kristy Pollard, and Brooke Ball, KP CAO. **Courtesy Kaiser.**

LCCN Staff Report

Kaiser Permanente recently awarded a total of \$315,000 in community benefit funding to several nonprofit organizations in Ventura County. Among the 15 recipients were Boys and Girls Club of Ventura, Senior Concerns, Casa Pacifica Centers for Children & Families, Food Share, SEEAG (Students for Eco-Education and Agriculture) and Hueneme High School.

The grants were in recognition of these organizations' commitment to improving physical, mental and behavioral health in the local community. Services provided through these organizations are designed to address chronic disease and disability; improve income, employment, housing and education in local communities; and expand family and social support for lower-income and uninsured individuals.

"Kaiser Permanente is dedicated to improving the social, economic and environmental conditions in our communities

as we know that health and well-being extend beyond the doors of our hospitals and medical offices," stated Murtaza Sanwari via a press release. Sanwari is senior vice president and area manager of Kaiser Permanente Woodland Hills and West Ventura service area. "We're grateful to work with these extraordinary community-based nonprofit partners serving our Ventura County neighbors through their essential programs and services."

"We're proud to support these incredible organizations that are making a tangible difference in the health and well-being of our community," added Brooke Ball, chief administrative officer. "Their dedication and commitment to improving access to healthcare and addressing social determinants of health are truly inspiring."

For more information about Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit programs, visit community.kp.org, and follow @kplacounty on Instagram.

Find our paper at these convenient locations:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>AAA
18642 S. Gridley</p> <p>ABC Adult School
12254 Cuesta Dr.</p> <p>ABC District Office
17215 Studebaker Road Suite 290 Cerritos, CA 90703</p> <p>ABCFT
19444 Norwalk Blvd.</p> <p>Aikan Sushi
12155 South St</p> <p>All Cerritos Parks</p> <p>Amor Y Tacos
13333 South St</p> <p>IHOP
12741 Towne Ctr. Dr.</p> <p>Artesia City Hall
18747 Clarkdale Ave.</p> <p>Artesia Library
18722 Clarkdale</p> <p>Artesia Cemetery
11142 Artesia Blvd.</p> <p>Artesia Christian Home
11614 183rd St, Artesia</p> <p>Artesia Senior Apts
10427 Artesia, Bellflower</p> <p>Ave. 3
12612 South Street</p> <p>Bellflower City Hall</p> <p>Bellflower Terrace Apts.
9920 Flora Vista</p> <p>Belmont Place Apts.
9830 Belmont St., Bellflower</p> <p>Ramona Senior Ctr.
9843 Ramona St. Bellflower</p> <p>Bellflower Friendship Manor
9550 Oak St.</p> <p>Cassidy's Cafe
15010 La Mirada Blvd</p> <p>Cerritos Chamber
13259 South St.</p> <p>Cerritos College</p> <p>Cerritos City Hall</p> <p>Sheriff's/Community Center</p> <p>Cerritos Library</p> <p>Cerritos Park East
18125 Bloomfield Ave</p> <p>Cerritos Medical Center
11911 Artesia Blvd.</p> | <p>Cerritos Senior Center
12340 South St.</p> <p>Cevitas Coffee
14218 Rosecrans Ave</p> <p>CTA Travel
12750 Center Ct Dr S.</p> <p>ContunEM
6430 South St</p> <p>Don Knabe Park
At the Tennis Center</p> <p>El Tepeyac
13926 Imperial Hwy</p> <p>Foggia Deli
5522 Del Amo Blvd.</p> <p>Grocery Outket
15745 Imperial Hwy,</p> <p>Grove at Cerritos
11000 New Falcon Way</p> <p>Goodyear Auto
19404 Norwalk Blvd.</p> <p>Gardens Casino
11871 E Carson St.</p> <p>Hawaiian Gardens City Hall,</p> <p>Rec. Center, Library
21815 Pioneer</p> <p>Holy Family Church, Artesia</p> <p>IHop
15140 La Mirada Blvd</p> <p>Imperial Healthcare Center
11926 La Mirada Blvd</p> <p>It's A Grind
13295 South St.</p> <p>Kindred Hospital
14900 Imperial Hwy.</p> <p>Knabe Park</p> <p>Kristens Beauty Salon
13952 Valley View Ave</p> <p>La Casa de Concineria
15711 Imperial Hwy,</p> <p>Lakewood Regional
3700 South St.</p> <p>La Mirada City Hall, Library, Resource Center, Sheriff's</p> <p>LA Nails
13239 South St</p> <p>La Palma City Hall</p> <p>La Palma Community Center</p> <p>La Palma Intercomm.</p> | <p>Hospital Liberty Park
9211 Studebaker Rd,</p> <p>Long Beach Memorial
2801 Atlantic Ave.</p> <p>Manila Sunset
13347 South St</p> <p>Massage & Stone
13247 South St.</p> <p>Medipost
13299 E South Street</p> <p>Norwalk Arts/Sports
13000 Clarkdale</p> <p>Norwalk SR. Center
14040 San Antonio Dr.</p> <p>Norwalk City Hall</p> <p>Offstreet Café
11020 Artesia Blvd.</p> <p>Olive Lawn
13926 La Mirada Blvd
11832 E Carson St</p> <p>Pico Rivera Chamber
5016 Passons Blvd</p> <p>Pico River City Hall and Sheriffs
6615 Passons Blvd</p> <p>Rosewoods
10769 South St.</p> <p>State Farm
12616 South St</p> <p>LAFD Station 30</p> <p>Silverlake Ramen
11103 183rd St</p> <p>Sophia Hair Salon
13243 South St.</p> <p>Splash! La Mirada</p> <p>Sukos Sushi
14156 Rosecrans Ave</p> <p>Tacos San Pedro
11832 E Carson St</p> <p>Tour Le Jour
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A PLEA FOR DONALD TRUMP TO RESIGN

Dear President Trump:

I was born 80 years ago in a working-class neighborhood in Philadelphia. I was taught to respect all people, regardless of wealth, power, or status, and to be wary of the empty promises of politicians. Cops and firemen lived in my neighborhood: Some still do. Some likely voted for you, thinking that you respected them.

Then came your order pardoning the thugs who attacked the police officers at the Capitol. Despite the fact that some of those officers died. Despite the fact that they had children and families that loved them. You called the thugs “patriots” and pardoned them. That filled me with disgust. It showed me that you don’t give a damn about “law and order.” You only pretend to care about the cops and firefighters who put their safety at risk every single day to protect our communities.

I do not carry water for the Democratic Party. I was a member of the Republican Party when it stood for fiscal responsibility and the rule of law. When Republican presidents stood strong with our allies and never groveled before a dictator. Prostrating yourself to Putin is despicable. Your actions desecrate a flag that generations of Americans in uniform bled and died for. Americans like John McCain. His heroism showed us who he was. When you disrespected him, you showed us who you are.

You show contempt for poor and middle-class Americans, allowing Elon Musk to dismantle agencies they rely on while he prances around the Oval Office and you sit inert at your desk. You place unqualified lackeys in charge of those agencies. You have contempt for anyone more loyal to God and country than to you; ask Mike Pence. Your tax cut in 2017 yielded hundreds of millions of dollars for your billionaire friends and pennies for the middle-class blue-collar families that make America great. You intend to do it again: to take benefits from those who have the least to sate the gluttony of the rich.

You have refused to reject White Supremacy, an especially odious Christian heresy that finds no support in scripture or church doctrine, and that has caused incalculable suffering among Black and Native Americans. You have encouraged support for the White Christian Nationalist movement, rejecting the “separation of church and state” grounded in the First Amendment of the Constitution you swore to protect, and honored by every president since Thomas Jefferson coined the phrase in 1802.

Imagine an elder speaking to a gathering of children: “There are two fierce tigers in my spirit: Anger-Hatred and Love-Compassion. They are fighting to the death.” A fearful child asks: “Which will win?” The elder replies: “The one that I feed.”

You have fed us a diet of your anger and hatred. It has divided us and made us sick.

But in so doing, you have shown Americans of all colors, of all faiths, how dark our nation can become when our leaders act without wisdom, honor or integrity; how precious is our democracy and the love of neighbor that Jesus commanded.

Many patriotic Americans voted for you. You have betrayed them.

For the sake of God and country: Resign.

Paid for by Grant Grissom NYT • trumptimetoresign@gmail.com



By Brian Hews

It's elementary, my dear Shelia Watson.

The Laguna Playhouse is currently hosting the unique and entertaining musical comedy, The Remarkable Mister Holmes.

This production, book by Omri Schein and David Ellenstein, lyrics by Schein, and music by Daniel Lincoln, offers a fresh and humorous take on the classic Sherlock Holmes story.

Directed by David Ellenstein, the show features choreography by Jill Gorie and musical direction by Alby Potts. Don't miss this one-of-a-kind musical, playing now through March 30.

Schein and Ellenstein's witty tale revolves around the iconic detective Sherlock Holmes, played by the Broadway-experienced Paul Slade Smith. Holmes, a confirmed bachelor, meets his match in the form of Shelia Watson, the younger sister of Dr. Watson, played by the Broadway-experienced Shannon O'Boyle.

The dynamic between these two characters, each with their own unique traits and quirks, is sure to keep you

entertained, and their witty interactions are the heart of the show, promising to keep you engaged and entertained throughout.

Miss Watson is so attractive that she even gets the attention of Bachelor Watson, even sometimes making him very angry. However, she has a keen mind and insists on helping Holmes with the cases at hand.

She finds Holmes' skillset "Impressive," as one song has it, and is arrogant enough to think she has every right to be next to him to help solve a heist and then a string of killings.

In this fast-paced, comedic musical, Holmes must solve baffling crimes without the help of his trusted partner, who has been "missing."

The first case is a jewelry heist, but as the show moves hilariously on, they

REMARKABLE: (l-r) Paul Slade Smith, Jason Graae, Pat Towne, Katie Karel, Martin Kildare, Michael Scott Harris and Darcy Rose Byrnes star in "The Remarkable Mister Holmes," and now playing at the Laguna Playhouse in Laguna Beach.

start investigating multiple murders, all Bishops attending a conclave.

The following scenes occur inside the Hotel Magnificent as Sherlock, Sheila, and Scotland Yard Investigator Lestrade try to crack the cases.

Nearly every song is upbeat, and you could use any word here to describe the songs: lighthearted madcap - with the occasional expletive - the show is an excellent tribute to one of fiction's most beloved characters.

Scenic designer Stephen Gifford's set includes many Holmes symbols, such as the pipe, magnifying glass, and stage adorned with many gaslights.

The running time, 2.5 hours, was a bit long; not every character needs a song, but the fast-paced hilarity makes up for the length.

The cast of nine is truly impressive, with their quick character and costume changes creating the illusion of a much larger ensemble. The superb wardrobe and wig array, designed by Alex Jaeger,

is a spectacle in itself.

All the performers in The Remarkable Mister Holmes are not only excellent actors but also impressive singers. Accompanied by an outstanding four-piece offstage band conducted by musical director Potts, their performances are sure to leave you impressed and wanting more. The high-quality production, from the performances to the set design, is a testament to the Laguna Playhouse's commitment to delivering top-notch entertainment.

Laguna Playhouse presents The Remarkable Mister Holmes through March 30 on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.; Thursdays at 2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.; Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.; Sundays at 1:00 p.m. & 5:30 p.m., with no performance Sunday, March 30 at 5:30 p.m., Laguna Playhouse is located at 606 Laguna Canyon Rd., Laguna Beach, CA, 92651.

Tickets at LagunaPlayhouse.com or call (949)497-2787.





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Certified Farmers Market Starts April 2 in Pico Rivera



THE SEASONAL Certified Farmers Market returns and will run every Wednesday, beginning April 2 through July 30, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Pico Park.

LCCN Staff Report

A Certified Farmers Market (CFM) in California is a market that has been officially authorized by the state to allow farmers to sell their locally grown produce directly to consumers. They are regulated by the California Department of Food and Agriculture to ensure that they meet specific standards such as:

Verification of Products: Only products that are grown, produced, or crafted locally by the vendor can be sold at a certified market.

Standards for Selling: The market must provide a direct link between local farmers or producers and the consumers.

Direct-to-Consumer Sales – Farmers sell their produce directly to the public, cutting out middlemen.

Seasonal & Local Produce – Items sold are typically fresh, locally grown, and seasonal.

Health & Safety Regulations – Markets operate under state health and safety

codes.

Distinct from Flea Markets – CFMs are not swap meets; resellers are not allowed to sell produce.

The seasonal Certified Farmers Market is returning to Pico Park every Wednesday, beginning April 2 through July 30, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Certified Farmers Markets will bring local residents the freshest, local fruits, vegetables, bakery items, eggs, nuts, honey, beef jerky, potted plants and cut flowers, and directly from California family farmers. Live entertainment will be featured weekly, vendors will vary on a weekly basis.

Admission to the Certified Farmers Market is free. For the safety and courtesy of others, no pets are allowed except for Service Animals.

Pico Park is located at 9528 Beverly Boulevard. For more information, call the Parks and Recreation Department at 562.801.4430.

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NEWS AND NOTES FROM PRESS ROW

Basketball Season Finally Ends on Saturday With Whitney Girls Playing for State Title

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on X

The last area basketball team still standing will play its last game on Saturday, 118 days since beginning the season with a 60-23 win over Covina High. That would be the Whitney High girls squad, which proved many wrong by advancing to the CIF State Division 4 championship game for the first time in school history.

Whitney, which rallied in the fourth quarter to get past Cantwell Sacred Heart of Mary High 47-42 this past Tuesday night in the Southern California Regional finals, will face Half Moon Bay High at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday at the Golden 1 Center in Sacramento. The Cougars defeated Lowell High 49-47 in the Northern California Regional Finals. Half Moon Bay and Whitney were seeded second in their respective Division 4 brackets and will be seeking their first state championship.

Whitney, which finished in first place in the 605 League for the program's 10th league crown since 2003, has set a school record with its 27 wins opposite nine losses and has won 14 of its past 16 games. The Wildcats eliminated Pilibos High 74-32, Chatsworth High 57-38 and Granada Hills Charter High 45-39 in the regionals before the CSHM game.

The starting five is led by sophomore Alyssa So, who has scored 90 points in the four regional games and senior Haylie Wang (62 points) along with seniors Sarai Carter, Rachel Moyher and Allie Yamaguchi, who are known for their defense and rebounding.

All nine losses have been by nine points or fewer including a 62-61 affair to Kamiak (WA) High, and three-point setbacks to Rancho Cucamonga High and Long Beach

Poly High.

Half Moon Bay enters the state finals with a record of 23-7 and defeated St. Patrick-St. Vincent High 52-45, West Campus High 52-47 and Rio Linda High 58-40 in its first three regional contests. The Cougars finished in third place in the Peninsula-Bay League of the CIF-Central Coast Section and three of their seven losses were by a combined eight points while the other four losses were anywhere from 10-14 points. Half Moon Bay is led by Delaney Dorwin and six-foot center Zoey Lemonge, the only players scoring in double figures.

BASEBALL

Artesia High, which fell to South El Monte High 7-3 this past Tuesday, is off to a 5-2 start as it will host Cerritos High in the 605 League opener on Friday at Angel Stadium. The Pioneers will then host Anaheim High on Saturday and Foothill Tech on Monday.

Cerritos lost to San Marino High 8-1 this past Monday to drop to 3-6. The Dons went to Mayfair High on Mar. 13 and will travel to Downey High on Monday.

Gahr High is winless in five games, scoring five runs after getting blanked in the first three games. The Gladiators won't be in action until Mar. 25 when they face Corona High in the first game of the Boras Classic.

John Glenn High snapped a six-game losing streak to begin the season with a 9-1 win over South Gate High last Friday. The Eagles hosted Long Beach Cabrillo High on Mar. 13 and will go to Valley Christian High on Monday.

La Mirada High is off to a 6-1 start that includes three wins in Gateway League action. The Matadores doubled up Warren High 4-2 this past Tuesday and faced the Bears again on Mar. 13 before going to Bell-

flower High on Friday.

Norwalk High even its overall record after eight games and its Mid-Cities record after two games with an 8-1 win over Paramount High this past Tuesday. The Lancers will host Dominguez High on Friday, Santa Fe High on Saturday, Lynwood High on Tuesday and Rim of the World High on Thursday.

Valley Christian High has lost a pair of games to begin this past week, the latest a 7-2 setback to Long Beach Wilson High this past Tuesday. The Defenders fell to 4-7 as they will host Providence High on Friday before travelling to Providence on Tuesday.

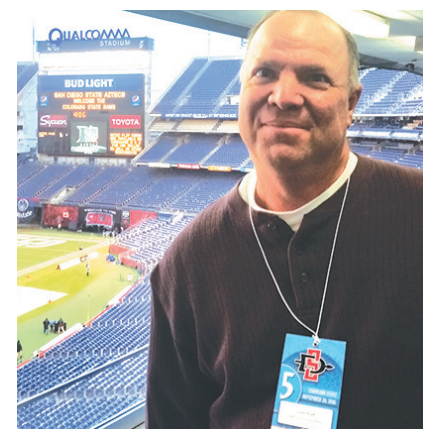
Whitney has won two straight games after losing the first two of the season but the Wildcats haven't played since Mar. 1, a 19-0 thrashing of St. Pius X-St. Matthias Academy. Whitney will host Santa Ana Valley High on Friday, Compton High on Monday and Wilson on Thursday.

SOFTBALL

Artesia saw its four-game winning streak snapped last Saturday when it lost to Downey 12-2 and Northview High 8-4 in the Santa Fe Tournament. The Pioneers (4-3) will face Arroyo High in the first of two tournament games on Saturday, then host Anaheim on Monday.

Cerritos is 2-3 and visited Sunny Hills High on Mar. 13 ahead of its road contest against Fountain Valley High on Tuesday while Gahr, which tied South Hills High 3-3 on Mar. 4, is 2-4-1 as the Gladiators visited Downey on Mar. 13 and will go to Huntington Beach High and Paramount High on Tuesday and Thursday, respectively.

Glenn has won its first four games and entertained Bellflower High on Mar. 13 before going to Saddleback High on Tuesday while La Mirada, back from the Dave Kops



LOREN KOPFF'S NEWS AND NOTES FROM PRESS ROW

Tournament of Champions where it went 4-1, welcomed Fullerton High on Mar. 13 in its home opener on its new field turf surface. The Matadores (8-3) will also host Kennedy High on Wednesday.

Norwalk tied Arroyo High 10-10 last Saturday and is 2-5-1 as the Lancers hosted Sultana High on Mar. 13 and will be home to Sunny Hills on Friday. Norwalk will then visit Segerstrom High on Tuesday.

V.C. began the season with seven straight wins but that was snapped by Crescenta Valley High this past Wednesday in a 11-2 defeat. The Defenders will go to Capistrano Valley Christian High on Monday and Lakewood High on Thursday while Whitney dropped to 3-2 after Buena Park High blanked the Wildcats 10-0 this past Monday. Whitney was home to Bolsa Grande High on Mar. 13 and will welcome Estancia High on Friday and Western High on Tuesday before going to Oxford Academy on Thursday.



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2025 SOFTBALL PREVIEW**La Mirada Seeks Longer Playoff Run While 605 League Is Up In The Air**

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on X

The powerhouse softball team in the area, La Mirada High, has been as dominant as any team could be in the regular season, but when it comes to the CIF-Southern Section divisional playoffs, it's a different story. The Matadores, behind a well-seasoned, experienced lineup, hope to change their postseason misfortunes in May.

Cerritos High, the queens of the 605 League since its inception, could be in trouble this season as other teams have improved while Gahr High and Valley Christian High hope to build off last season's championship runs.

Returning players in italics

ARTESIA PIONEERS

13-8-1 overall last season, 8-2 in the 605 League, second place, lost to Carter High 13-12 in eight innings in the Division 5 first round playoffs.

Head coach: Johnathan Shapiro (first season)

Team's record previous five seasons: 49-38-1

Last time missed the playoffs: 2018

Key losses: Adrianna Franco, Irma Gonzalez, Melissa Mendoza, Vanessa Soto, Maya Torres

Projected lineup:

P-Alea Medina (SR)/Briseyda Munoz (FR)

C-Celeste Cabrera (SR)/Adela Saucedo (SR)

1B-Munoz/Cabrera

2B-Saucedo/Paulina Nava (SO)/Mia Soto (JR)

3B-Kaleyse Foster (SR)

SS-Khloe Loquellano (FR)/Nava

LF-Loquellano/Brendy Sarni (SR)

CF-Sarni/Medina

RF-Soto

Johnathan Shapiro is one of two new head coaches, both in the 605 League, and replaces Ed Blanck, who had a successful four-year run at Artesia High. The Pioneers return enough experience to possibly supplant Cerritos for the top spot in league and capture a league title for the first time since 2019.

Senior Alea Medina, a four-year varsity starter, moves from the outfield to become the team's number one pitcher. She also has power with her bat as she was the league's second leading hitter last season and is a two-time Distinguished Nominee for Softball Performer of the Year for the City of Lakewood.

She and senior third baseman Kaleyse Foster, the other returning top hitter, led the Pioneers in slugging the past two seasons and is slated to be the cleanup hitter.

While Shapiro is banking on those two to be the leaders, he's also looking to the future of the program, especially freshman left fielder Khloe Loquellano, who will also spend time at shortstop, and freshman first baseman and backup pitcher Briseyda Munoz. According to Shapiro, Loquellano has the ability to be plugged in anywhere and succeed and has a consistent bat while Munoz

also has a strong bat and a keen knowledge for the game.

"I'm expecting a strong and successful season this year," he said. "We have some key players returning this year along with the return of assistant coach Alyssa Medina. We have a competitive group of underclassmen as well who consist of two freshmen starters and a sophomore starter. I expect to be highly competitive and successful in the 605 League."

CERRITOS DONS

15-4 overall last season, 9-1 in the 605 League, first place, lost to La Canada High 7-4 in the Division 3 first round playoffs.

Head coach: Michelle Steck (first season)

Team's record previous five seasons: 68-18

Last time missed the playoffs: 2008

Key losses: Danielle Baca (JR), Natalie Gardea, Presley Hendrix, Kylee Manibusan, Toafaoalii Pua

Projected lineup:

P-Ava Ceron (JR)/Michelle Meza (SR)/Jasmyn Romulo (JR)

C-Demi Lagare (FR)/Jeanine Mauricio (JR)

1B-Zoe Corrales (SO)/Mauricio

2B-Ceron/Lana Javier (SR)/Meza

3B-Alianna Calderon (SR)/Meza SS-Noelle Martinez (FR)/Romulo/Katherine Villegas (SR)

LF-Dalani Cooley (SR)/Martinez/Megan Wallace (SR)

CF-Anaya Granflor (SR)/Romulo

RF-Corrales/Javier/Lagare/Ralyssa Raphiel (SR)

If anything, Cerritos has been consistent the past three seasons-15 wins, 10-0 in league and three straight first round exits in the playoffs. Replacing Todd Denhart at the head coaching position is former Kennedy High and UCLA standout Michelle Steck. This is her first coaching experience at the high school level. While at UCLA, when she was known as Michelle Turner, she was a teammate of former Cerritos standout Julie Hoshisaki.

Steck inherits a team that's experienced but may not have put up the numbers that would suggest better things. Junior pitcher Ava Ceron, who saw some time alongside Kylee Manibusan last season, is slated to be Cerritos' number one pitcher with senior Michelle Meza and newcomer, junior Jasmyn Romulo as her backups. The Dons will feature two new catchers with junior Jeanine Mauricio slated to be the starter.

The return of senior shortstop Katherine Villegas is vital for the team if it's supposed to make a statement this season. She missed her entire junior season with an injury shortly before the regular season began. Senior third baseman Alianna Calderon returns and gives Cerritos a solid left side of the infield. Steck says the two of them have great hands, strong bats and lead by example.

Except for seniors Anaya Granflor and Megan Wallace, the outfield is inexperienced and of the 14 players Steck has, six have been brought up from the junior varsity team while six are returning. The new coach says freshman right fielder Demi Lagare and freshman left fielder Noelle Martinez are expected to be starters.

"I think we have a very strong defense led by our upperclassmen," said Steck. "I think we will continue to grow in the preseason and head into the league looking to repeat. The girls are really starting to gel and play well together."

GAHR GLADIATORS

19-10 overall last season, 6-2 in the Gateway League, defeated California High 5-4 in the CIF-SS Division 2 championship game.

Head coach: Rey Sanchez (seventh season, 98-44-2)

Team's record previous five seasons: 74-38-2

Last time missed the playoffs: 2013

Key losses: Alyssa Aguilar, Olina Burgueno (JR), Marley Cortez, Larissa Flores, Natalia Hill, Rio Mendez, Vivian Tavera

Projected lineup:

P-Isabella Gonzalez (SO)/Lea Hilbert (SO)

C-Cierra Contreras (SO)

1B-Abbygail Perez (JR)/Gonzalez

2B-Jackie Gachupin (SR)

3B-Megan Wong (FR)

SS-Hazel Anglo (FR)

LF-Malaia Huskey (SR)

CF- TBD

RF-Emma Maldonado (JR)

For several seasons, Gahr has been staying competitive enough to produce a championship-caliber team, and last season it paid off as the Gladiators brought home the Division 5 title. But it was the last time eight seniors put on a Gahr jersey. Seven return this season with second baseman Jackie Gachupin and left fielder Malaia Huskey, who is committed to California State University, San Marcos, being two of the four seniors on the team. Head coach Rey Sanchez says Gachupin is out with a knee injury and is hoping to get her back into the lineup.

Even with the small number of seniors returning, there's enough experience for the Gladiators to make another deep run in the playoffs. and it begins in the circle where sophomore Isabella Gonzalez is the top hurler. Unlike the past few seasons where there was a competition between three or four pitchers, that won't be the case in 2025. Sanchez says she will keep the Gladiators in every game she is pitching in and is a dominant force in the circle.

The left side of the infield will be tested as a pair of freshmen, Hazel Anglo and Megan Wong, will lock down shortstop and third base, respectively. Sanchez has penciled Wong as the leadoff hitter, followed by Anglo, Huskey, sophomore catcher Cierra Contreras and junior right fielder Emma Maldonado to round out the top five.

"We will definitely be rebuilding after graduating one of Gahr's most talented groups last year," said Sanchez. "We will be a young, yet hungry group that will look to gel immediately. We will rally together and look to grow both sides of the game. We have a young group eager to learn and they are ready to play hard and compete."

JOHN GLENN EAGLES

2-18 overall, 0-10 in the 605 League, sixth place

Head coach: Javier Galvez (third season, 17-22-1)

Team's record previous five seasons: 42-45

Last time made the playoffs: 2024
Key losses: Diana Bravo, Sienna Contreras, Veronica Flores, Aileen Lopez, Anais Perez, Kristy Rodriguez

Projected lineup:

P-Carissa Galvan (SR)/Joslyn Guerrero (SR)

C-Ariana Delgado (JR)

1B-Erin Perez (SR)

2B-Alma Castillo (JR)

3B-Marina Rios (SR)/Delgado

SS-Galvan

LF- TBD

CF-Evelyn Gonzalez (SR)

RF- TBD

It was a disappointing 2024 campaign for John Glenn High, which was banking on its four-year varsity players to make one final push for something special. The Eagles won just a pair of the games, the program's lowest win output since 2018 when that team finished 2-17. The shortened 2020 season saw Glenn go winless in four games.

While it may seem like a rebuilding season, the Eagles return eight players but will have nine freshmen and a sophomore new to the squad.

LA MIRADA MATADORES

19-6-2 overall last season, 8-0 in the Gateway League, first place, lost to JSerra High 3-2 in the Division 1 first round playoffs.

Head coach: Brent Tuttle (10th season, 175-73-4)

Team's record previous five seasons: 87-34-2

Key losses: Rebecca Eckart, Amber Valdez

Projected lineup:

P-Quira Castillo (SR)/Montserrat Reyes-Cardenas (SR)/Allison Ortega (SO)

C-Riley Hilliard (SO)/Juliana Rivera (FR)

1B-Reese Hilliard (SO)/Rivera

2B-Alyssa Avila (SR)/Hilliard, Re.

3B-Angelyna Conde (SR)

SS-Amanda Urbina (SR)

LF-Angelina Ratzlaff (SR)

CF-Angelie Kennedy (SR)

RF-Betty Mae Acevedo (JR)/Megan Avila (SO)

One of these days, La Mirada will advance far in the playoffs. And that day might come sooner than later as head coach Brent Tuttle once again returns a plethora of talent that includes six senior starters and a pair of sophomore sisters who are regarded as among the best in Southern California.

Senior Montserrat Reyes-Cardenas is one of the top pitchers in the Southern Section, quite possibly the state and will be called upon to lead the Matadores. Sophomore Allison Ortega is her backup as she is grooming to be the starter next season. Barring injuries, the rest of the lineup is set in stone and if necessary, sophomore Reese Hilliard can move around the infield.

Tuttle says the most improved veteran is senior center fielder Angelie Kennedy, who has made the biggest improvement with her bat at the bottom of the lineup.

PREVIEW from page 11

Sophomore Riley Hilliard, who broke her hand in one of her early freshman practices and missed a good chunk of last season, replaces Rebecca Eckart behind the plate while freshman Jiliana Rivera, who is slated to be the designated player, is the lone newcomer in the lineup. But waiting in the wings for later in the season to be ready for next season are junior Alexis Flores and sophomore Jasmine Rodriguez. Both are coming from the junior varsity team, and Tuttle doesn't expect them to be 'big time' contributors this season, but he said as the team needs them, they'll step in.

La Mirada, already off to an 8-3 start which includes going 4-1 in the recent Dave Kops Tournament of Champions, will play their home opener on their brand new field on Mar. 13 against Fullerton High. Former La Mirada standout Jennie Finch will be on hand for the pregame festivities to christen the new digs.

"The field is awesome," said Tuttle. "[The University of] Oklahoma was out practicing just the other day, and they were amazed of the high school field. They said it was probably nicer than some of the college facilities they go play games on. I don't know if there's another high school field like [ours] in Southern California."

Tuttle said 2024 was the toughest because the team was plagued with injuries throughout the entire season and even though the Matadores won another league title, it was the second straight one and done in the playoffs. This season, La Mirada figures to be

in Division 1 again, but it won't be officially known until late April or early May.

"Now we're 100 percent healthy," said Tuttle. "We're hitting the ball probably better than any La Mirada team I've ever seen. In 11 games, I think we're at 21 or 22 home runs already and all starting nine players have hit a home run. We have power all the way through the entire lineup."

NORWALK LANCERS

19-8 overall, 8-2 in the Mid-Cities League, second place, lost to J.W. North High 7-6 in eight innings in the Division 4 second round playoffs.

Head coach: Fred Perez (fourth season, 56-22)

Team's record previous five seasons: 69-34

Last time missed the playoffs: 2019

Key losses: Jaylynn Banda, Amarie Encarnacion, Itzel Hernandez, Kendall Nakano

Projected lineup:

P- TBD

C-Jezrael Acosta (SR)

1B-Nayeli Sanchez (JR)

2B-Jaslene Pelayo (JR)

3B- TBD

SS- TBD

LF-Yanelli Vega (SR)

CF-Gabriela Hughes (JR)/Sanchez

RF-Diana Avina (SR)/Anahi

Rodriguez (SR)

The two biggest needs for Norwalk High will be in the circle and at shortstop with the graduation of Jaylynn Banda and Kendall Nakano, both of whom spent a lot of time flip-flopping between those two positions during their time with the Lancers. Norwalk is off to a slow start this

season but has 10 returning players who combined for 149 hits and 95 runs batted in last season. Senior Anahi Rodriguez pitched in two games while two other players each made a brief appearance in the circle.

VALLEY CHRISTIAN DEFENDERS

19-7 overall, 5-3 in the Olympic League, tied for second place, defeated Liberty High 8-7 in the CIF-SS Division 5 championship game, lost to Steele Canyon High 3-1 in the CIF Southern California Division III regional first round playoffs.

Head coach: Chet Kingery (fourth season, 32-29-1)

Team's record previous five seasons: 39-48-1

Key losses: Bella Bulthuis, Julia Gonzales

Projected lineup:

P-Rachel Zhang (SO)/Lejanna Charley (FR)/Lesal Charley (FR)

C-Peyton Kingery (JR)/Brianna Ramirez (JR)

1B-Kayla Martin (SR)/Zoe Barrett (SR)

2B-Lydia Dietz (SO)/Aubrielle Ramirez (JR)

3B-Ramirez, B./Molly Douglas (FR)

SS-Britton Brown (SR)/Douglas

LF-Barrett/Khloe Dahlenburg (SO)/Olivia Wise (SR)

CF-Choyce Chambers (JR)

RF-Tallulah Ireland (SO)

Can life get any better for Valley Christian after winning the Division 5 title last season? The immediate answer is yes as the Defenders return all but two players from last season's team and added enough players to field more than two teams.

There really isn't an easy out in the lineup but the one noticeable change will be in the circle where a pair of freshmen twin sisters, Lejanna and Lesal Charley, will backup sophomore Rachel Zhang, who was nothing short of spectacular last season when she split time with Bella Bulthuis. Junior catcher and University of North Texas commit Peyton Kingery spent the majority of time last season in her position. But head coach Chet Kingery says junior Brianna Ramirez, will also get time there when she's not locking down her customary third base position. Replacing Julia Gonzales at second base is sophomore Lydia Dietz while all other starters return to their 2024 positions.

Look for freshman Molly Douglas, an up and coming basketball star, to be a key force for the Defenders, who look

to supplant Whittier Christian High as Olympic League champions. Douglas already has a few home runs and is not scared of the big moment, according to Chet Kingery. Aubrielle Ramirez is a transfer from Whittier Christian and when she becomes eligible, will slide into the starter's role at second.

The fourth-year head coach says the most improved player returning is Dietz as she came into this season with more power and is squaring up more balls than she did last season.

"Our outlook this season is to go out and just do what we do," said Chet Kingery. "If we upset some people, great. If we don't, it is what it is. If the cards are to be, we're in Division 4. Wherever we fall, that's where the cards fall, and we'll go compete to the best of our ability."

WHITNEY WILDCATS

11-11 overall last season, 2-8 in the 605 League, fifth place

Head coach: Stephanie Machado (fourth season, 17-35)

Team's record previous five seasons: 18-53

Last time made the playoffs: 2019

Key losses: Mariana Botello, Alise Garcia, Kristen Sutton, Luisa Tuipulotu, Andrea Victoria

Projected lineup:

P-Amaya Dugal (FR)/Monicka Manni (SR)/Olachi Anyama (JR)

C-Ella Nelson (SO)

1B-Madison Velazquez (SR)/Anyama, O.

2B-Dugal

3B-Velazquez/Dugal

SS-Chiugo Anyama (SR)

LF- TBD

CF- TBD

RF- TBD

The window might be closing for Whitney High if it is to win the 605 League or even make the playoffs. A talented group that has been with the program since head coach Stephanie Machado have either graduated or are seniors this season, and the Wildcats will have 11 players this season.

Senior shortstop Chiugo Anyama, senior pitcher Monicka Manni, senior first baseman Madison Velazquez, junior backup pitcher Olachi Anyama and sophomore catcher Ella Nelson are the only returning players as Whitney brings in three freshmen among the six varsity rookies. The outfield will be entirely new. Already making a name for herself is freshman Amaya Dugal, who leads the team in hitting after five games with seven hits.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

Olympic Sports

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

Alpine, Badminton, Biathlon, Biking, Bobsleigh, Boxing, Bronze, Challenge, Combine, Cricket, Croquet, Curling, Dive, Endurance, Event, Gold, Golf, Hockey, Judo, Kayaking, Luge, Nordic, Pentathlon, Records, Rugby, Silver, Skiing, Snowboarding, Sport, Strength, Swimming, Tennis, Torch, Train, Triathlon, WaterPolo, Winter, Work, Wrestling.

Solution on page 15

Solution: 6 letters

Catherine Grant Wieder

Attorney & Mediator

Probate, Wills & Trusts, Conservatorship, Guardianship, Dispute Mediation



562-404-4039



LCCN'S 2025 NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL DIVISION 1 BRACKET CHALLENGE

WIN A \$475 VISA CARD FOR OVERALL WINNER, \$75 CARD FOR EACH ROUND!

SIGN UP AT LOSCERRITOSNEWS.NET/BRACKET



OR SCAN THE CODE

WHITNEY from page 1

CSHM on Feb. 22, added 16 points, nine rebounds and five assists. In fact, her two free throws with 22 seconds remaining in the game all but secured the victory. She would go to the line again nine seconds later for the only two trips Whitney made to the charity stripe.

But of all the heroes on the team, the one that stood out once again was Carter, who led Whitney with 11 rebounds. Since the loss to CSHM, Jacobs replaced sophomore Cheyanne Cheung with Carter in the starting lineup and the results have been impressive. She had seven points and five rebounds against the Cardinals in the first meeting, four rebounds, an assist and a steal in a 57-38 win over Chatsworth High on Mar. 6 in the second round of the regionals, and nine offensive rebounds two nights later against Granada Hills Charter High.

“She earned it,” said Jacobs of Carter. “She came out from the first time we played Cantwell and don’t get me wrong Cantwell is a great team. But they played a good game plan against us and Carter took over that game. Ever since then, I said I was going to go with my senior.”

Marina Leiva paced the Cardinals with 14 points while Shahanna Chavez added nine points, all on three-pointers. In the 41-36 win over Whitney, Alicia Lara led everyone with 16 points while Leiva had seven points.

“We knew she was going to score but we didn’t want to double [Leiva] because if we double her, we leave open a three [point shooter],” said Jacobs. “We said if we score, just make sure it’s a contested shot. I can live with that. I think in the second half, she wasn’t consistent; she went cold. We stuck with the plan, and we got on track.”

“We knew this was the only opportunity we have, especially with the six seniors,” said Wang. “If we lost today, that’s it and we want to prolong our season as

long as possible. And we’re one step closer now that we won today.”

Whitney began the regionals on Mar. 4 with a 74-32 win over Pilibos High behind a career-high 39 points from So. The Wildcats then bolted out to a 16-0 lead against Chatsworth and breezed past the Chancellors last Thursday. So led the way with 19 points, four assists, two rebounds and two steals while Wang added 16 points, eight rebounds, three assists and three steals. Carter pitched in with four rebounds and an assist as the Wildcats led anywhere from 14-23 points since that 16-0 run in the first 3:15 of the contest.

Two nights later, the Wildcats were put to the test against Granada Hills Charter and after a sluggish second quarter in which they attempted just five shots and turned the ball over 10 times, So’s only basket of the game, a three-pointer with 21.8 seconds left in the third quarter, gave Whitney its last lead at 31-28 and it held off the Highlanders in the fourth quarter in a 45-39 victory. The Wildcats were 12 of 46 from the field, but crashed the boards for 35 rebounds, 11 each from senior Rachel Moyher and Wang, who led all scorers with 14 points. So added 10 points and Carter had nine rebounds, all on the offensive and as the team survived a 17 of 29 performance at the free throw line.

“[CSHM] doesn’t know what I know, which is heart. They showed it time to time. Granada got us battle-tested and ready for this team and we finally brought it home. I’m just happy. It’s not just for Whitney; it’s for the city and it’s for a lot of these girls that didn’t get a chance to be in these shoes.”

“I was doing [this] for everyone,” said Wang. “I was doing this for the past players and [assistant] coach Wayne [Muramatsu] who has been here for so long. And I was doing it for my sister [Kylie] because she took the time to watch the film from last time and told me what I did wrong and what I had to improve on, and I made sure to keep that in my mind.”

TORNADO from page 1

“We’d been talking about the potential for tornados in this area for days in advance,” said Ariel Cohen, of the National Weather Service. “We had a line of intense showers that reformed over central and southern Los Angeles County. This activity exhibited some weak rotation with it.”

Daylight revealed pocked of damage in the neighborhood, including a large tree down near Church and Underwood streets. Juan Valencia said he was sleeping when he heard the tree fall outside his family’s home.

“I woke up to a big boom,” said Valencia, who said the tree fell on his family’s car, crumpling the hood and damaging the windshield.

One tree was ripped from the ground and leaning on the roof of a house. Another tree appeared to have split at the trunk. The NWS team will look at the damage pattern to determine whether a tornado touched down and its strength on the Enhanced Fujita Scale, used to assign a tornado rating between 0 and 5 based on estimated wind speeds and damage. An EF rating of 0 indicates wind speeds of 65 to 85 mph. An EF 5 indicates speeds over 200 mph.

There were no immediate reports of injuries.

The brunt of the storm arrived overnight, bringing steady rain and windy conditions to Los Angeles County. The increased rainfall rates also raised the threat of slides and debris flows, leading to evacuation warnings in several LA County burn zones, including neighborhoods near the Palisades and Eaton fires.

“There is a local maximum of tornado frequencies across the LA basin, especially areas between Downey, Montebello, Compton, Carson areas, East Los Angeles,” Cohen said. “That entire area has a very localized, meteorologically prime set of ingredients that can support the development of weak small tornados. We

actually have seen them occur with actual frequencies that rival some portions of the Midwest.

“It’s certainly something that these folks should be prepared for as storms move through.”

Statement From Pico Rivera

PICO RIVERA, CA – At approximately 3:15 AM this morning, an EF-0 level tornado, with wind speeds reaching up to 85 miles per hour, touched down in the City of Pico Rivera. The tornado spanned approximately one mile in length and 80 yards in width, causing damage to several homes, toppling trees onto structures and vehicles, downing power lines, and rupturing water pipes.

In response, the City of Pico Rivera swiftly activated its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and mobilized crews to assess and mitigate hazards. City teams, in collaboration, are actively working to clear debris, assess structural damages, and restore essential services.

“We are grateful that there have been no reported injuries. I want to commend our emergency responders and city personnel for their immediate action in keeping our community safe,” said Mayor John R. Garcia. “Our top priority is ensuring all hazards are addressed and utilities are restored as quickly as possible.”

The City has received assistance offers from Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn, Assemblywoman Lisa Calderon, and Senator Bob Archuleta. It will continue coordinating with regional and state agencies to secure resources for impacted residents.

Residents are urged to exercise caution in affected areas and report hazards such as downed power lines, gas leaks, or unsafe structures. The City will provide updates as recovery efforts progress.

For assistance or to report damages, residents can contact the City’s Public Works Department at (562) 801-4421 or visit <https://www.pico-rivera.org> for further updates.

**CITY OF CERRITOS
CITY'S FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS REPORT
SUMMARY AND STATISTICS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

Fiscal Year: 2024		
SUMMARY		
	Governmental Funds	Proprietary Funds
Revenues	\$ 109,108,657	\$ 19,626,126
Expenditures/Expenses	104,076,947	26,161,806
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	\$ 5,031,710	
Income (Loss) Before Capital Contributions, Transfers, and Special and Extraordinary Items		\$ (6,535,680)
Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(4,863,555)	-
Capital Contributions		83,083
Proprietary Fund Transfers In (Out)	-	7,216,555
Special and Extraordinary Items	(24,336,699)	24,336,699
Change in Fund Balance / Net Position	\$ (24,168,544)	\$ 25,100,657
Fund Balance/Net Position (Deficit), Beginning of Fiscal Year	\$ 238,030,909	\$ (15,455,882)
Adjustments (Specify)	-	-
Specify Governmental Fund Adjustments		
None		
Specify Proprietary Fund Adjustments		
Restatement		
Total:		\$ -
Fund Balance/Net Position (Deficit), End of Fiscal Year	213,862,365	9,644,775

Statistics	
Current Transient Occupancy Tax Rate	12%
Effective Date of Current Transient Occupancy Tax Rate	3/5/15
Current Utility User Tax Rate	-
Appropriations Limit	\$ 242,673,238
Total Annual Appropriations Subject to the Limit	\$ 74,606,934

MURDER from page 1

in state prison. The District Attorney’s Office has recommended bail be set at \$3 million for Moon and \$2 million for Kim.

The incident occurred on February 25, when Cuauhtemoc Garcia was exiting his vehicle to walk along the Coyote Creek Bike Path near Don Knabe Park in Cerritos. The defendants allegedly attempted to steal Garcia’s car, and when he refused to hand over the keys, they reportedly shot and killed him. The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department identified the suspects through a video posted on TikTok.

“This was a senseless and brutal act of violence,” District Attorney Nathan J. Hochman said. “We will pursue justice to the fullest extent of the law to hold those responsible accountable.” The case is being prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Craig Kleffman of the Bellflower Branch and was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department.

The charges are allegations, and the defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



@cerritosnews

**CITY OF PICO RIVERA CITY COUNCIL
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ZONE CODE
AMENDMENT NO. 199 REGARDING UPDATES TO TITLE 18, ZONING OF THE
PICO RIVERA MUNICIPAL CODE AMENDING TABLE 18.40.040, LAND USE CHART-
CONTENTS, SECTION 18.40.050, SPECIAL USE CONDITIONS AND CHART NOTES,
AND CHAPTER 18.04, DEFINITIONS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the City of Pico Rivera City Council to consider a recommendation by the Planning Commission to approve Zone Code Amendment No. 199 updating Title 18, Zoning of the Pico Rivera Municipal Code amending Table 18.40.040, Land Use Chart-Contents, Section 18.40.050, Special Use Conditions and Chart Notes, and Chapter 18.04, Definitions

WHEN: Tuesday, March 25, 2025
TIME: 6:00 P.M.
WHERE: City Hall Council Chambers
6615 Passons Boulevard
Pico Rivera, CA 90660

In accordance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), to the extent that the actions constitute a project, there is no possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environmental and as a result, no further CEQA review is necessary. This determination is in accordance with Section 15061 (b) (3) and 15060 (c) (2) of the CEQA Guidelines that states, a project is exempt from CEQA where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment.

PERSONS INTERESTED IN THIS MATTER wishing to observe the meeting may do so in the following ways:

- (1) City's website at <https://bit.ly/picorivera-ctv3live> ;
- (2) Email public comments to publiccomments@pico-rivera.org prior to 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting;
- (3) Attend the Public Hearing in person.

Copies of all relevant material including project specifications are available to the public for review in the Community & Economic Development Department at City Hall, 6615 Passons Boulevard, Pico Rivera, California. Please contact Julia Gonzalez, Deputy Director at 562-801-4447 or email juliagonzalez@pico-rivera.org for additional questions.

If you challenge the consideration or adoption of the proposed applications 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 correspondence delivered to the City of Pico Rivera City Clerk at, or prior to, the public hearing.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the City of Pico Rivera is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for a person with a disability. Please contact Cynthia Ayala at (562) 801-4389 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 News 3/14/25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File Number 2025045800 THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: CERRITOS CHINESE SCHOOL, 18908 NORWALK BLVD ARTESIA, CA. 90701 LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Registered Owner: CHINESE CULTURE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, 18908 NORWALK BLVD ARTESIA, CA. 90701 INCORPORATED IN CA. THIS BUSINESS IS CONDUCTED AS AN CORPORATION. The date registrant started to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above: N/A. I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). /S/CHINESE CULTURE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, VICE PRESIDENT, LINDA LAY. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on 3/6/25. 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 office 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 3/14, 3/21, 3/28, 4/4/25

**CITY OF BELLFLOWER
NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD
REGARDING A DRAFT SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021
ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE CARES ACT CDBG-CV ALLOCATION**

TAKE NOTICE that the Bellflower City Council will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, April 14, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at 16600 Civic Center Drive, Bellflower, California, 90706 to consider a draft Substantial Amendment to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021 Annual Action Plan. The Substantial Amendment re-programs Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds appropriated under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020.

The draft Substantial Amendment to the FY 2020-2021 Annual Action Plan establishes specific activities and programs to be undertaken using CDBG-CV funds. The proposed budgeted activities may be added, increased, reduced, or eliminated by the City Council during the meeting.

The City of Bellflower invites members of the public to review and comment on this item. A copy of the draft Substantial Amendment will be available for public review on the City's website at www.bellflower.org beginning March 14, 2025, and ending on April 14, 2025, or by appointment in the City Clerk's Office at Bellflower City Hall, 16600 Civic Center Drive, Bellflower, California, 90706; telephone number (562) 804-1424, extension 2220. All written comments concerning this draft Substantial Amendment may be submitted to the City Clerk's Office at 16600 Civic Center Drive, Bellflower, California 90706; or by email at cclerk@bellflower.org.

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

For more information, please contact Karla Pineda, Management Analyst II at (562) 804-1424 ext. 2013 or by email at kpineda@bellflower.org.

MAYRA OCHIQUI, CITY CLERK

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 3/14/25

**County of Los Angeles Department of the
Treasurer and Tax Collector**

Notice of Divided Publication

Pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code (R&TC) Sections 3702, 3381, and 3382, the Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collector (TTC) is publishing in divided distribution, the Notice of Online Public Auction of Tax-Defaulted Property Subject to the Tax Collector's Power to Sell in and for the County of Los Angeles, State of California, to various newspapers of general circulation published in the County. A portion of the list appears in each of such newspapers.

Notice of Online Public Auction Tax-Defaulted Property Subject to the Tax Collector's Power to Sell (Sale No. 2025A)

Whereas, on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, State of California, directed the County of Los Angeles Treasurer and Tax Collector (TTC), to sell certain tax-defaulted properties at the online public auction.

The TTC does hereby give public notice, that unless said properties are redeemed, prior to the close of business on Friday, April 18, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time, the last business day prior to the first day of the online public auction, TTC will offer for sale and sell said properties on Saturday, April 19, 2025, beginning at 3:00 p.m. Pacific Time, through Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. Pacific Time, to the highest bidder, for not less than the minimum bid, at the online public auction at www.govease.com/los-angeles.

The minimum bid for each parcel is the total amount necessary to redeem, plus costs, as required by R&TC Section 3698.5.

If a property does not sell during the online public auction, the right of redemption will revive and remain until Friday, June 6, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time.

The TTC will re-offer any properties that did not sell or were not redeemed prior to Friday, June 6, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time, for sale at the online public auction at www.govease.com/los-angeles beginning Saturday, June 7, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. Pacific Time, through Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. Pacific Time.

Information regarding this sale is available at ttc.lacounty.gov. Bidders are required to pre-register at www.govease.com/los-angeles and submit a deposit of 10 percent of the spend limit that is set by each registered bidder. Bid deposits must be in the form of a wire transfer, cashier's check or bank-issued money order at the time of registration. Registration will begin on Friday, March 14, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. Pacific Time and end on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time.

Pursuant to R&TC Section 3692.3, TTC sells all property "as is" and the County and its employees are not liable for any known or unknown conditions of the properties, including, but not limited to, errors in the records of the Office of the Assessor (Assessor) pertaining to improvement of the property.

If TTC sells a property, parties of interest, as defined by R&TC Section 4675, have a right to file a claim with the County for any proceeds from the sale, which are in excess of the liens and costs required to be paid from the proceeds. If there are any excess proceeds after the application of the minimum bid, TTC will send notice to all parties of interest, pursuant to State law.

Please direct requests for information concerning redemption of tax-defaulted property to the Treasurer and Tax Collector, at 225 North Hill Street, Room 130, Los Angeles, California 90012. Phone calls can be directed to (213) 974-2045, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time. TTC's website is located at ttc.lacounty.gov and emails can be directed to auction@ttc.lacounty.gov.

The Assessor's Identification Number (AIN) in this publication refers to the Assessor's Map Book, the Map Page, and the individual Parcel Number on the Map Page. If a change in the AIN occurred, the publication will show both prior and current AINs. An explanation of the parcel numbering system and the referenced maps are available at the Office of the Assessor located at 500 West Temple Street, Room 225, Los Angeles, California 90012, or at assessor.lacounty.gov.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed at Los Angeles, California, on February 27, 2025.

Elizabeth Buenrostro Ginsberg
ELIZABETH BUENROSTRO GINSBERG
Treasurer and Tax Collector
County of Los Angeles
State of California

The real property that is subject to this notice is situated in the County of Los Angeles, State of California, and is described as follows:

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE OF SALE OF TAX-DEFAULTED PROPERTY SUBJECT TO THE POWER OF SALE (SALE NO. 2025A)
4006 AIN 8040-008-005 BROWN, CHRISTOPHER LOCATION CITY-LA MIRADA \$41,419.00
4165 AIN 8037-047-140 RIGGINS, LLEWYN W LOCATION CITY-LA MIRADA \$20,404.00
CN114603 607 Mar 15,22,29, 2025

**County of Los Angeles Department of the
Treasurer and Tax Collector**

Notice of Divided Publication

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Elizabeth Buenrostro Ginsberg
ELIZABETH BUENROSTRO GINSBERG
Treasurer and Tax Collector
County of Los Angeles
State of California

The real property that is subject to this notice is situated in the County of Los Angeles, State of California, and is described as follows:

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE OF SALE OF TAX-DEFAULTED PROPERTY SUBJECT TO THE POWER OF SALE (SALE NO. 2025A)
3916 AIN 7028-012-022 KANG, BEOM S LOCATION CITY-CERRITOS \$2,295.00
3917 AIN 7034-018-113 TENORIO, EDUARDO V TR AMERICA TRUST LOCATION CITY-CERRITOS \$52,143.00
CN114584 538 Mar 14,21,28, 2025

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CITY OF BELLFLOWER
16600 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE,
BELLFLOWER, CA 90706

Take Notice that the City of Bellflower is holding funds as set forth below. If funds are not claimed by May 13, 2025, these funds will become the property of the City of Bellflower in accordance with Government Code § 50052.

Funds may be released to the depositor, their heir, beneficiary, or duly appointed representative provided a claim form is completed with the necessary information. The required information is as follows:

- Name, address, and telephone number.
Proof of identity such as a copy of driver's license, passport, permanent resident card or birth certificate with another form of photo ID.
If the owner is deceased, a copy of the legal document authorizing the transfer of funds to the legal custodian / trustee / heir such as trust documents or probate court order with a copy of the death certificate.
Amount of claim.
Grounds on which claim is founded.

The Unclaimed Money Claim Form is available at the City of Bellflower Finance Department, located at 16600 Civic Center Drive, on the 2nd Floor.

Funds on deposit for over 3 years are:

OUTSTANDING CHECKS

Table with 5 columns: Check / Deposit Collection Date, Check No., Payee, Fund, Check Amount. Lists various checks from 1/7/2021 to 1/20/2021, totaling \$59,003.64.

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 3/14/25

CITY OF PICO RIVERA CITY COUNCIL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ZONE CODE AMENDMENT NO. 197 AMENDING TITLE 18 ZONING OF THE PICO RIVERA MUNICIPAL CODE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the City of Pico Rivera City Council to consider approval of Zone Code Amendment No. 197 amending Chapter 18.40, Land Use Regulations of Title 18, Zoning of the Pico Rivera Municipal Code.

WHEN: Tuesday, March 25, 2025
TIME: 6:00 P.M.
WHERE: City Hall Council Chambers
6615 Passons Boulevard Pico Rivera, CA 90660

The proposed ordinance is not subject to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3). An activity is not subject to CEQA if: The activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. The activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378. The activity is covered by the commonsense exemption that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Here it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed ordinance may have a significant effect on the environment, therefore the proposed ordinance is not subject to CEQA.

PERSONS INTERESTED IN THIS MATTER wishing to observe or comment may do so in the following ways:

- Turn your TV to Channel 3
City's website at https://bit.ly/picorivera-ctv3live
Email public comments to publiccomments@pico-rivera.org prior to 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting
Attend the Public Hearing in person

Copies of all relevant material and project specifications are available for public review at City Hall in the Community & Economic Development Department, 6615 Passons Boulevard, Pico Rivera, California. For additional information please contact Estefany Franco, Planner at 562-801-4026.

If you challenge the consideration or adoption of the proposed applications 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 correspondence delivered to the City of Pico Rivera City Clerk at, or prior to, the public hearing.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the City of Pico Rivera is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for a person with a disability. Please contact Cynthia Ayala at (562) 801-4389 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 News 3/14/25

Extra Space Storage, on behalf of itself or its affiliates, Life Storage or Storage Express, will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at location indicated: 17701 Ibbetson Ave. Bellflower, Ca. 90706 on March 26, 2025 at 12:30 p.m.

Justin Jan Bumotad

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

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 3/14/25

NOTICE INVITING SEALED BIDS
FY 2024-25 PAVEMENT REHABILITATION PROJECT

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the CITY OF COMMERCE, referred to as "CITY", invites sealed bids for FY 2024-25 PAVEMENT REHABILITATION PROJECT, and will receive bids on PlanetBids, up to the hour of 2:00 PM, Thursday, April 4, 2025, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud online. Late submittals will not be considered. It is the bidder's responsibility to upload the bid proposal file by the due date to City's portal on PlanetBids.

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

The work includes pavement rehabilitation of a number of Alleys in the City. The Work shall be completed within 80 working days after the City's Notice to Proceed.

Each Bidder shall possess a valid California Class A General Engineering Contractor's License issued by the California State Contractors License Board at the time of the Bid submission for this project. The successful Contractor must also possess a current City business license before commencing work.

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

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

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 3/6 and 3/13/25

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: KATHRYN ELIZABETH JENSEN
CASE NO. 25STPB01948
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of KATHRYN ELIZABETH JENSEN.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by JOHN ORRIS HOFF in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that JOHN ORRIS HOFF 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: 03/27/25 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
ELIZABETH APODACA - SBN 220578
MY ATTORNEY LA, PROF. CORP.
13601 WHITTIER BLVD #101
WHITTIER CA 90605
Telephone (562) 693-5027
2/28, 3/7, 3/14/25 CNS-3899212# LA MIRADA LAMPLIGHTER

Notice Inviting Proposals
City of Santa Fe Springs
Charter Bus Services

The City of Santa Fe Springs invites proposals from qualified contractors to provide charter bus services in accordance with the terms and conditions of Request for Proposals (RFP) No. 25-10.

To view the complete proposal package and associated documents visit: https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/65093/portal-home and click "Bid Opportunities" or to https://vendors.planetbids.com/portal/65093/bo/bo-detail/126689 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 Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 2 PM Pacific. The City will not respond to any questions/inquiries submitted after this deadline.

Please review all related documents in their entirety before submitting a response. Responses must be submitted electronically via the City's PlanetBids Portal by Thursday, April 17, 2025, at 2 PM Pacific. Any proposals received after this deadline will be deemed non-responsive, and the City reserves the right to reject them.

Responses to this request will be evaluated to determine the most qualified and responsive contractor. Responses must adhere to the format and content described.

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 3/14/25

CITY OF LA MIRADA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT NO. 2023-04
BEHRINGER PARK TURF RENOVATION

Notice is hereby given that the City of La Mirada, California invites sealed bids for the furnishing of all labor, materials, equipment, and services for Capital Improvement Project No. 2023-04, Behringer Park Turf Renovation. Project Documents are available online by visiting the ARC Southern California website: https://customer.e-arc.com/arcEOC/PWELL_Main.asp?mem=29. You can also contact ARC at (949) 660-1150 or costamesa.planwell@e-arc.com to request Plans and Specifications. Work includes furnishing all necessary labor, materials, equipment and other incidental and appurtenant work necessary to satisfactorily complete the Project, as more specifically described in the Contract Documents. Sealed bids shall be delivered to the City Clerk at or before 11 a.m. on April 14, 2025. Bids must be submitted on the blank forms, prepared and furnished for that purpose and included in the Plans and Specifications. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or delete portions of any or all bids, or waive any informality or irregularity in the bid or the bid procedures.

Anne Haraksin, City Clerk

Published at La Mirada Lamplighter 3/14 and 3/21/25

Extra Space Storage, on behalf of itself or its affiliates, Life Storage or Storage Express, will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at location indicated. 10753 Artesia Blvd., Cerritos, CA 90703 on 03/26/2025 at 11:30 a.m.
Mentas Ann, Christian Guzman, Julita Centola, Jerome Quiette, Jazzlyn Walker, Eva Hoffman, Valerie Solis, Eva Hoffman, Hernan Calonic, David Rodriguez, David Larsen, Charlotte McCraw, Rose Hadley, Allen Mekdara, Miguel Rangel, Claudia Loren, Chavez Jose, Luis Gomez, Jose Luis Gomez, Ryan Myers, Debra Steward, Suzanne Santos, Sandra Arballo, Destiney Malone, Natasha Castillo Madrid, Taja Hardy, Cheyne Garcia, Enoch Chamberlain, Jeffrey Pierce, Alexis Alvarez, Marcel Santos, Shelby Pagaduan, Erik Quiroz, Raeanna Brown, Caesar Cordova, Summer Simpson, Warren Arias, Derenique Burt, JAMES WILLIAMS, DAMION SMITH, yumiko norris, Vicente Joseph.

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

PUBLISHED AT LCCN 03/14/2025

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ATTORNEY

Catherine Grant Wieder
 Probate, Wills, Living Trusts, Special Needs Trusts, Powers of Attorney & Advance Directives.



562-404-4039

ATTORNEY

THE LAW OFFICE of **LEWIS & LEWIS**



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14241 E. FIRESTONE BL., #400, LA MIRADA

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