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## AFSCME AUDIT

### Fred Licon Used Money Donated to Union as Personal Slush Fund

HMG-CN investigation triggered AFSCME audit which found Licon withdrew thousands without approval & held extravagant Xmas parties.

By Brian Hews

In June of 2019, Hews Media Group-Community News exclusively obtained a written decision showing that Hawaiian Gardens Local 3624, who's president was Hawaiian Gardens resident and city employee Fred Licon, was placed under receivership/administrators after allegations of serious financial fraud and administrative irregularities were levelled against Licon.

Others accused included Frank Amaro, Armando Soto, Luis Polanco, Eric Leon, Claudia Raya-Ortiz, and Luis Gonzales.

Staff Representative Pete Schnauffer leveled the serious allegations of financial fraud against Licon including large amounts of cash that was withdrawn from the union bank account.

Licon told HMG-CN that, "the [International Union's] audit will exonerate me. This is all political; three union members

want to take control."

Nearly two years later, an audit has proved Schnauffer was correct.

Hews Media Group-Community News has obtained documents from the AFSCME, AFL-CIO audit department that outlines Hawaiian Gardens employee Fred Licon's massive misuse of AFSCME Local 3624 funds while he was president.

Licon and his cronies tapped money donated to 3624 to spend any way they pleased without transparency or proper reporting.

The review, "revealed concerns about various actions of 3624 that depart from AFSCME's Financial Standard Code, and concerns about the nature of some of the transactions.

More concerning, 90 percent of the 3624's revenue stems from donations, which triggers a fiduciary responsibility or "duty" to safeguard the funds; the misuse of trust funds by Licon could catch the attention of the Los Angeles District Attorney's Public Integrity Division.

The process started with Licon and his buddies shamelessly soliciting donations, telling companies that the money would fund community youth sports, drug education, health fairs, and

See **AFSCME** page 12

## More Truck Coming to Cerritos

By Jack Witthaus  
CoStar

Z logistics company has inked a sizable lease in Cerritos amid a rising demand for industrial space that has reduced the number of large available sites in the region to about two dozen.

Z Global Logistics signed a roughly 120,000-square-foot lease for industrial space at 16290-16310 Shoemaker Ave., the second-largest industrial lease signed in Cerritos in the past year.

Logistics firms have been

snapping up real estate across Los Angeles as e-commerce and the region's population growth feed demand for industrial space in markets close to the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, the busiest in the United States.

In the Cerritos-Norwalk area, logistics firms account for 17 million square feet of leasing in the 21.5 million-square-foot market.

The greater L.A. industrial market has a mere two dozen locations with more than

See **TRUCKS** page 12



**JENNIFER PEREZ – WHERE THE OLIVE TREES GROW:** Jennifer looked back to La Mirada's history in harvesting and cultivating olives when creating her art piece. Olive trees and the Neff Estate had a major influence on the creation of her submission.

## LA MIRADA TRAFFIC CONTROL BOX ART WINNERS

### HMG-CN Staff Report

The La Mirada City Council recognized four Traffic Control Box Art Contest Winners at the March 22 City Council meeting. Each win-

ner was recognized with a certificate and a \$250 contest prize.

The Traffic Control Box Art Contest was created to give local artists who live, work, or attend school in La

Mirada an opportunity to create designs for traffic control boxes, providing more public art in public spaces. Winning artwork will be applied to traffic control boxes located

See **LA MIRADA** page 14

## \$2M to La Palma for Street Medians

By Tom Fyne

Last week, President Biden signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022.

La Palma residents will be happy to learn that contained in the budget bill is \$2 million in funding from Congresswoman Linda T. Sánchez for the City of La Palma's Arterial Street Medians Rehabilitation Project.

"Our residents will now see a vital project completed in our community, and I look forward to a ground-breaking ceremony later this year." La

See **LA PALMA** page 12

## Downey Continues to Decry New Adult Bar



**DOWNEY RESIDENTS** line up to speak against the new bar the CEO calls his restaurant "breastaurants."

By Tammye McDuff

Residents, protestors and several local news channels converged on the Downey City

Council at its last meeting on March 22.

The continued fight against allowing the Ojos Locos Sports

See **DOWNEY** page 15



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CERRITOS HIGH CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY SATURDAY MAR. 26

10:00 - 10:30 a.m. • Opening Ceremony/Welcome - EAST GYM

10:30 - 2:00 • Entertainment - QUAD

10:35 - 11:00

Tetzlaff Jazz Band

11:00 - 11:30

CHS Jazz Band

11:30 - 12:00

Dinosaurs - CHS Staff Rock Band

12:10 - 12:25

CHS Pep Squad

12:25 - 12:40

JC Culture Foundation

12:40 - 12:50

CHS Dance Drill Team

12:55 - 1:00

Isabella Gavilanes

1:00 - 1:10

Dance Drill Team

1:10 - 1:30

Chris Cruz & Friends

1:30 - 1:50

CHS Drama Department

1:50 - 2:00


Closing: Mr. Walker & Dr. Smuts - QUAD

11:00 - 2:00 - BLACKTOP AREA

Game Booths & Food Trucks

11:00 - 2:00 - VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN THE QUAD

Meet & Greet the Teachers



Cerritos Resident Named Mother of the Year

By Brian Hews

For more than eight decades, American Mothers, Inc. (AMI), a non-profit organization that educates, inspires, and recognizes mothers, has worked to recognize moms' maternal service and sacrifice, honoring the legacy of this country's great mothers and grandmothers.

AMI has also celebrated its mission by searching for and selecting a Mother of the Year in every state, district, and territory.

The Mother of the Year award was established in 1935 by the American Mothers Committee of the Golden Rule Foundation. The recognition of an "admirable" mother was made to provide an inspiration to the nation who would represent a mother's unconditional love, inner strength, and courage.

Every year since, AMI has named an inspirational mother from nominees across the 50 states, the District of Co-



Vanessa Lopez

lumbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for this significant honor.

So it was a pleasant surprise to find one of Cerritos' mothers, Vanessa Lopez, named AMI's 77th California's Mother of the Year.

If some of you recognize the name, Ms. Lopez is the wife of Cerritos' Director of Public Works, Water & Power Robert Lopez.

Ms. Lopez will be honored at the 87th Annual Mother of the Year Virtual Convention on April 30.

Congratulations to



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## LAC Fire Department Sends Surplus Equipment to Ukraine



**L.A. COUNTY SUPERVISOR** Janice Hahn joins LA County Fire Chief Daryl Osby at Fire Station 171. The supplies include boots, turnouts, helmets, bulletproof body armor, medicine, medical equipment, and personal protective equipment. Photo by Bryan Chan.

Los Angeles, CA— L.A.County Supervisor Janice Hahn joined L.A.County Fire Chief Daryl Osby to announce the department would send surplus equipment to Ukraine to aid first responders.

“They have been under attack for three long weeks they are running out

of supplies.”  
The supplies, which include boots, turnouts, helmets, bulletproof body armor, medicine, medical equipment, and personal protective equipment, will be transported by private entity to Poland. From there the logistics will be handled to get supplies to firefighters.

## Brief History of Cerritos High School



**STUDENTS** in front of Cerritos High, which was under construction in the early seventies. The first graduating class of Cerritos High was the Class of 1974.

The first two years of Cerritos High School were double sessions with Gahr High School on their campus. Gahr students had the morning session, and Cerritos the afternoon session. In 1971/72: Cerritos High consisted of two grade levels, 9th & 10th. In 1972/73, the student body grew with additional incoming 9th graders while adding 11th grade. The rapidly increasing student population during the 1970s prompted the

construction of its current campus in 1973. The first graduating class of Cerritos High was the Class of 1974.  
**Time Capsule Memorabilia**  
In 1996, Cerritos High celebrated its 25th Anniversary with festivities and a time capsule. The capsule was really a small case filled with CHS memorabilia, such as a school yearbook, a few issues of The Informer News, & mementos. All will be on display at the anniversary event.

VOTE to Re-Elect Councilmember FRANK AURELIO YOKOYAMA

Voting Begins March 14 – Mail or Drop Off Your Ballot ASAP!

Councilmember Frank Yokoyama’s Track Record

Keeping Cerritos Clean, Safe & Fiscally Strong

✓ 81% reduction in residential burglaries from 2017-2020.



✓ 29,500 trees trimmed, 450 trees removed

✓ Streets paved, sidewalks fixed, potholes filled


✓ Brought 4,591 new LED streetlights to Cerritos

✓ Approved City balanced budgets five years in a row

✓ Maintained healthy City reserves of approximately \$114.5 million. (City Manager’s Budget Message, June 25, 2021)



Frank is endorsed by Mayor Grace Hu, former Mayor Diana Needham and former Mayor Mark Pulido.



www.frankyokoyama.com

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Frank Yokoyama for City Council 2022 FPPC ID# 1442100



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## 2.55M Middle & High School Students Use Tobacco Products

### Staff Report

In March 2022, the FDA and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released findings on use of tobacco products by high school, grades 9-12 and middle school grades 6-8 students from the 2021 National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS).

The latest analysis of smoking habits among U.S. youths describes 2.55 million middle school and high school students as users of some type of tobacco product, combustible, smokeless or electronic. Approximately 9.3% students reported current-past 30-day use-of a tobacco product: 2.06 million, 13.4%, high school students and 470,000, 4.0%, middle school students.

The findings stem from data from a nationally representative sample of 20,413 students from 279 public and private schools.

E-cigarettes especially flavored ones were found to be young smokers' most commonly used product, followed by cigarettes, cigars, smokeless tobacco, hookahs, nicotine pouches, heated tobacco products and pipe tobacco.

The number of users grew when the students were asked if they had ever used these products. Then, more than 6.5 million youths said yes — 34 percent of high school and 11 percent of middle school students.

Youth e-cigarette use remains an ongoing concern as the survey found that more than 2 million U.S. middle school and high school students reporting current use of e-cigarettes in 2021, and e-cigarettes were the most commonly used tobacco product among students.

Among students who currently used e-cigarettes, 53.7% used a disposable device, 28.7% used a prefilled/refillable pod or cartridge device, 9.0% used a tank or mod system - a system that can be customized by the user - and 8.6% did not know the device type.

Among students who currently used e-cigarettes, Puff Bar was the most commonly reported usual brand, 26.8%; followed by Vuse, 10.5%; SMOK 8.6%; JUUL, 6.8% and Suorin, 2.1%.

Health experts agree that smoking comes with a wide range of negative health effects. It can harm nearly every organ in the body and lead to lung and oral cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, high blood pressure, blood clots, vision problems and more. It is described as the leading cause of preventable deaths.

The number of youths who smoke constitutes a serious public health issue, according to the CDC, and could lead to millions of today's teens dying prematurely from a smoking-related disease.

## Here Comes Spring, and Along With it Allergy Season

### Staff Report

The arrival of spring brings with it a sense of renewed hope and joy along with seasonal blooming flowers, budding leaves and – yes – dreadful allergies.

In fact, more than 50 million Americans experience various types of allergies each year, and allergies are the sixth leading cause of chronic illness in the U.S., according to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America.

Dr. Salima Thobani, an Allergist Immunologist with Kaiser Permanente Southern California, says the biggest spring allergy trigger is pollen.

“As the weather gets warmer and drier, trees, grasses and weeds release these tiny grains into the air to fertilize other plants,” Dr. Thobani explained. “When they enter the nose of someone who's allergic, their defenses haywire.”

When a person has an allergic reaction, his/her immune system produces a “weapon” called an antibody, according to Dr. Thobani. These antibodies help to recognize allergens we are exposed to, and cause our immune cells to fight off the allergen, resulting in the typical symptoms associated with allergy.

Symptoms of seasonal allergies we

all know well: itchy, watery eyes; sneezing; runny, stuffy or itchy nose; headache and fatigue; sore throat.

You can reduce your exposure to pollen by: Keeping your house and car windows closed; using your air conditioning system can be helpful; Limiting the time you spend outside when pollen counts are high (during mid-day and afternoon).; Wearing a pollen mask or dust mask if you need to mow the lawn; Rinsing your eyes with cool water or saline eyedrops after you come indoors; Taking a shower and changing your clothes after you work or play outside.

According to Dr. Thobani, there's no cure for seasonal allergies. However, there are several medications, including antihistamines and nasal steroids, which can provide relief.

“Because allergy symptoms typically peak in the morning hours, taking your 24-hour allergy medication before going to bed often means that you'll get the maximum relief.”

"If a person has more severe allergy symptoms, use a OTC steroid nasal spray such as fluticasone (Flonase) or triamcinolone (Nasacort), said Thobani.

## Top-Rated Craft Breweries in Anaheim

We put together a list of the top and leading Craft Breweries in Anaheim. To help you find the best Craft Breweries the addresses and websites are after the short review.

### Brewery X

The owners are a group of passionate beer lovers that come from various backgrounds and have come together because of their shared passion for beer. They are a collection of friends who are also family.

Their experience and agility set them apart from other brewery teams, with over 100 years of combined brewing experience among the Brewery X crew. The place is big and spacious and staff attentive, parking is at a premium.

**Brewery X is located at 3191 E. La Palma Ave. in Anaheim; 657-999-1500; brewery-x.com.**

### Brewheim

Brewheim is a family of beer creators. They are obsessed with making the most delectable craft beer recipes possible with the freshest and highest-quality ingredients. The spot is the go-to in Anaheim. The reds, golden ales, and light beers are all good. The nice cozy decor and the outside seating. The pizza food truck on Friday is really good as well.

**Brewheim is located at 1931 E. Wright Cir. in Anaheim; 714-453-4346; brewheim.com.**

### Unsung Brewing

The Unsung production brewery (no tasting room) is located at a top-secret location in Tustin, where they package their dispersed product in cans and kegs. Across the street from the Packing House in Anaheim, they have established a tasting room and a pilot brewhouse. They will have both their small-batch R&D beers and their core brews on tap. Throughout the taproom, you will find customer-curated treasures.

**Unsung is located at 500 S. Anaheim Blvd. in**

**Anaheim; 714-844-2300; unsungbrewing.com.**

### All-American Brew Works

All-American Brew Works is a veteran-owned and managed craft brewery. It was started by a group of relatives and friends who brewed in their garage with a desire for wonderful American-style beers that they wanted to share with their neighbors.

Their goal is to deliver a patriotic brewery experience for their consumers while producing American-style ales and lagers. These varieties will include everything from traditional American beers to modern twists on West Coast hopping, barrel aging, and radical brewing.

**All-American is located at 5120 E. La Palma Ave., unit 103, Anaheim; 714-463-4474; allamericanbrewworks.com.**

### Radiant Beer Co.

Radiant Beer Co. is a recent, smart concept that has been years in the making. They have come to celebrate a passion for the extraordinary, to create an experience worthy of a rapt audience. Radiant Beer Co. is run by a group of craft beer enthusiasts and industry veterans that have decades of combined experience. President Jonas Nemura, Director of Brewing Andrew Bell, and Director of Marketing Cambria Griffith are in charge of their daily operations.

**Radiant is located at 1566 W. Lincoln Ave., Anaheim; 714-661-5790; radiantbeer.com**

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## Ramen Nirvana in La Mirada



By **Tammye McDuff**

Located in a quaint shopping center on La Mirada Boulevard is one of the best ramen restaurants in the city, YoshiHaru’s

Making authentic Japanese ramen for over 12 years, the head chef originated from Japan, bringing a broth recipe distilled from pork bones. It is boiled for 14 hours to extract everything good, and the result is a broth high in collagen, rich in gelatin and amino acids. Bone broth is a new miracle food, rich in nutrients and full of anti-aging qualities.

The meal began with spicy garlic Edamame garnished in a very savory sauce. The appetizer can be requested to move either way on the spicy scale according to your taste buds. Several other appetizers looked particularly tasty. Takoyaki is round balls of fluffy dough smothered with a fruity, tangy Worcestershire sauce, basically known in English as Japanese octopus balls, a quintessential Japanese street food. Then there was the Korokke which is mashed potato cakes coated with panko

**VEGGIE RAMEN:** delivered as an enormous helping of broccoli, mushrooms, carrots, sprouts, rice and wheat ramen as well as chopped spinach. YoshiHaru also offers different meats that can be added to the bowl.

and deep-fried, a well-loved food in Japan.

Next, we ordered the baked Salmon and Shrimp Tempura Roll, a perfectly crunchy sushi roll with baked and battered shrimp, sushi rice, nori, cucumber, and avocado. A little Unagi sushi sauce as the garnish gave each bite a slight tang to balance the flavors.

With over a dozen different dishes, we opted for the vegetable ramen, which was delivered as an enormous helping of broccoli, mushrooms, carrots, sprouts, rice and wheat ramen, and chopped

spinach.

The soup was filling and delicious, and different meats can be added to the bowl if you prefer. We also added the teriyaki chicken bowl, a generous helping of tender chicken glistening with savory, salty, sweet teriyaki sauce, smothered to perfection, served with bright, crunchy colorful vegetables dressed in a nutty sesame oil dressing and all on bed of hot rice.

The restaurant incorporates a clean, contemporary design combining authentic Japanese architecture while embracing a very modern atmosphere. The service was fast and the waiter was very attentive.

***YoshiHaru is located at 12806 La Mirada Blvd in La Mirada. You can visit their menu and other locations at [yoshiharuramen.com](http://yoshiharuramen.com)***

## Lakewood Beautiful Returns, Nominate Now

### Staff Report

The Lakewood Beautiful program is ready to recognize Lakewood residents who take extra care to keep their homes and yards (and local neighborhoods) looking great

Studies show that home upkeep and beautification by caring, committed residents keeps crime rates low and property values healthy, thereby benefiting the whole community.

You can help honor those Lakewood residents who go “above and beyond” to keep their home and yards looking beautiful by submitting a nomination form by May 6, 2022.

There are four ways to honor your home or a neighbor’s home:

- Beautiful Home Award. This is the city’s most traditional award, which has honored hundreds of Lakewood homes over three decades. This award recognizes the front-facing exterior and landscaping of a home, displaying excep-

tional care and pride of ownership.

- Jackie Rynerson “Transformation Award.” This will honor homeowners who have remodeled the front-facing exterior and landscaping of their property within the past three years.
- Neat and Tidy Award. This newest category was added to recognize homeowners who are consistent with maintaining their landscaping and a clean home exterior.
- Water-Wise Award. This honors beautiful homes nominated in one of the first two categories that deserve extra recognition for landscaping that utilizes water-conserving irrigation devices and plantings.

Lakewood Beautiful judges aren’t looking for the most expensive or elaborately landscaped homes. Past winners’ homes were distinguished not just by attractive style, but for displaying exceptional care and pride of ownership.

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**AAA Travel Alert:** Many travel destinations have implemented COVID-19-related restrictions. Before making travel plans, check to see if hotels, attractions, cruise lines, tour operators, restaurants and local authorities have issued health and safety-related restrictions or entry requirements. The local tourism board or State Department may be a good resource for updated information. Not responsible for errors or omissions. Your local AAA club acts as an agent for Pleasant Holidays®. CST 1016202-80. To learn how we collect and use your information, visit the privacy link at AAA.com. ©2022 Auto Club Services, LLC. All Rights Reserved.

**Pleasant Holidays.**



# Cerritos Teen Attained Literary Status While in Elementary School

By Laurie Hanson

While only in the 5th grade, Nathan Grant Schloessmann of Cerritos accomplished something some people long their entire lives to do.

At the age of 10, he authored and published his very own book, *The Ticking Time Watch*. It is a fiction story about two 12-year-old best friend boys who find themselves sent back in time to the California Gold Rush (between 1848 to 1855), with no way to return to the present.

Nathan and his family just moved to Cerritos in November 2021. His parents, Sandra and Tom Schloessmann, both work in pharmaceutical sales, and he has an 18-year-old sister, Natalie.

"After talking with friends, Nathan thought that Max and Bill's journey in time would make an engrossing plot for readers," said his mother, Sandra. "He felt that the Gold Rush was a good timeframe because he would be able to use a lot of descriptive adjectives and adverbs to describe their experience. He felt it would be a place and time where he could use a lot of imagination."

The now 14-year-old is a Freshman at Valley Christian High School with has broad interests and aptitudes that have for the time being carried him away from the literary world. However, the possibility exists for a series to follow.

According to his mother, Nathan's aptitude for writing began in the 1st grade. The now a straight "A" student who loves to play tennis, pickleball and hanging out with friends, has interests in



**PUBLISHER** and Cerritos resident Nathan Grant Schloessmann published a fiction adventure story *The Ticking Time Watch* when he was in the 5th grade. He now attends Valley Christian. Courtesy photo Sandra and Tom Schloessmann.

Math and Science.

"He's busy with high school," said Sandra. "He feels his writing style has changed a lot, and thinks if there were a sequel or series, he'd have to begin from scratch. However, since he now knows how to publish, the potential opportunity is always there."

"He decided they would not have a way to journey back so that he could write sequels of the book if he wanted to continue it as a series," she added. "It would keep that door open."

The family's interest in reading cultivated Nathan's interest in writing.

"We read a lot of books when he was younger and visited the library often," she said. "But what really helped spark his interest was when a group of his friends started drafting a book together. He found that to be so fun."

It began with Nathan and a group of his friends from different schools attempting to author a book together on Google Docs. The work was never completed, but from

there, Nathan decided to start drafting a new book on his own. Most of its research was done online on Google.

"Initially, I read the book with him while he edited it along the way," said Sandra. "He also read the book with his grandmother for hours over the phone, and she helped him edit it as well. We also took a publishing class through Cerritos Community College. It was just a one-day two-hour course that was informative."

"Ultimately, we decided to hire someone to conduct the final edit," she added. "We hired a family friend [Isabella Meader] to draw the image for the book's cover. It took a little encouragement for him to agree to finally publish it."

"We're so proud of him," Sandra said. "Now he knows the process of how to get a book published from start to finish."

***The Ticking Time Watch is published through KDP (Kindle Direct Publishing) and available on Amazon in both Kindle and paperback for \$9.95.***

## Community Car Show Series in Lakewood April 8

Bring the entire family out to Palms Park, 12305 207th St., for the Spring Community Car Show series on the second Friday of the month in April, May and June from 6 to 9 p.m.

The series kicks off on Fri., Apr. 8, a variety of cars will be displayed along with a selection of food trucks, vendors and a kids zone.

All cars are welcomed and no entry fee is required. This is a free event to the public.

To register a vehicle, complete a registration form at [lakewoodcity.org/car-showregistration](http://lakewoodcity.org/car-showregistration).

**For more information, contact Kristin Preciado at Lakewood City Hall at [kpreciado@lakewoodcity.org](mailto:kpreciado@lakewoodcity.org) or at 562-866-9771, extension 2408.**

## Freedom City Church to Distribute 3,000 Easter Baskets

Freedom City Church through its Freedom Kids and The Chocolate Factory ministry will distribute 3,000 Easter Egg baskets and give five Golden Tickets redeemable for bicycles and gift cards on Easter.

The giveaways will be part of an Easter at Freedom weekend.

Good Friday service will be held at 7 p.m. on April 15. Easter services will take place at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and a Spanish service at 3 p.m.

The event will be held at Freedom City Church located at 6355 Greenleaf Avenue in Whittier.

**For additional information visit [go2freedom.org](http://go2freedom.org) and Freedom City Church's instagram page @go2fcc.**

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HIGH SCHOOL



# Sam Sachs, veteran and former Lakewood resident, passes away

## Staff Report

World War II D-Day veteran and former Lakewood resident, Sam Sachs, has passed away at the age of 106, just one month shy of his 107th birthday, which would have been on April 26.

Sam was an Army paratrooper who landed behind enemy lines as part of the 1944 Allied D-Day liberation of Europe from Nazi Germany.

It was on June 6 when Allied forces launched the largest amphibious invasion in the history of warfare.

Codenamed Operation 'Overlord', the Allied landings on the beaches of Normandy marked the start of a long and costly campaign to liberate north-west Europe from Nazi occupation.

D-Day marked the turn of the tide for the control maintained by Nazi Germany; less than a year after the invasion, the Allies formally accepted Nazi Germany's surrender.

D-Day was a day that cost many lives on all sides of the conflict, changing not only the future of countries, but of families as well.

Once landed, Sam went on to lead troops in liberating prisoners of a Nazi concentration camp.

After returning to civilian life, Sam became a school teacher in Southern California.

Sam lived in Lakewood for several of his later years and became an active member of the community, speaking at and attending numerous city events, in-



**SACHS WAS HONORED** by Assembly Speaker Rendon as the 2017 Veteran of the Year for the 63rd Assembly District. With him is then-Governor Jerry Brown.

cluding Memorial Day and Patriot Day.

Lakewood residents and the city teamed up for a massive celebration of Sam's 105th birthday on April 26, 2020, made challenging since it occurred during the early months of the COVID pandemic.

Thousands of residents of Lakewood...and people from throughout the nation and world...contributed to honoring Sam as a hero on his 105th birthday with a car parade.

Sam received over 6,000 birthday cards, and gifts.

In 2021, Sam suffered a serious injury to his leg when he was struck by a car while taking his daily walk around the block in Lakewood.

Sam recovered at a long-term care facility in Bell Gardens before settling

into a senior facility in Seal Beach.

On March 14, 2022, Sam passed away from natural causes.

His family told Lakewood city staff that they were able to visit with him during his final hours, that his final medical bout was relatively brief, and that he remained mentally sharp until the end.

The Sachs family says they are very grateful to the people of Lakewood, and they welcome any condolence messages that people would like to leave on the online guestbook page of the cemetery where Sam was buried, Mount Sinai Memorial Park in the Hollywood Hills.

You can leave a 60-character message on the Light a Virtual Candle page.

# Heights Christian Schools' the Lion King Jr. in Fullerton

## Staff Report

La Mirada's Heights Christian Schools (HCS) is putting on a fun-filled adaptation of The Lion King Jr. at Sunny Hills Church of Christ at 2255 North Euclid in Fullerton this month.

Evening performances are set for March 24, 25 and 26 at 7 PM, with a matinee performance on March 26 at 12:30 PM. Tickets are \$10 each.

The Lion King Jr. tells the story of the epic adventures of a curious cub named Simba as he struggles to accept the responsibilities of adulthood and his destiny as king to claim his rightful place on the throne and save his beloved Pridelands, Simba must find his inner strength and confront his wicked Uncle Scar.

Music and lyrics are by Elton John and Tim Rice with additional music and lyrics by Lebo M, Mark Mancina, Jay Rifkin, and Hans Zimmer. The book is by Roger Allers and Irene Mecchi. Disney's The Lion King JR. is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

HCS offers strong fine and performing arts programs with choir, musical theatre, a variety of band options, and art classes for ages K-8 with the knowledge that the inclusion of the arts in a student's education is a wonderful way to cultivate and strengthen their relationship with Jesus.

Directing a cast of 64 students is Paula Poulis. The music director is Julie Sundman, and the stage manager is Brittany Lee.

**For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [buytickets.at/heightschristianschools](http://buytickets.at/heightschristianschools).**

Elect Jennifer Hong

WE NEED JENNIFER HONG TO REPRESENT US!



**Grace Hu**  
**Cerritos Mayor**  
"Jennifer has given the last 14 years to Public Service for the City of Cerritos. Jennifer Hong is the right choice for Cerritos City Council. Let us help her to win the seat".



**Sion Ferrer ,**  
**Cerritos Homeowner since 1979**  
4-time Mayor Grace Hu has appointed the highest number of Filipino Americans as commissioners for the City of Cerritos since 1992. Jennifer Hong will continue this support for Filipino Americans here in Cerritos. Please vote for Jennifer Hong for Cerritos City Council. -Sion Ferrer, Cerritos Homeowner since 1979



**Dr. Sowmya Ananthanarayanan**  
**Soroptomist Member**  
"Jennifer is a successful businesswoman with a vision for a strong Cerritos. She will be a passionate and motivated councilwoman representing our community in the council. I am proud to support her because of her experience and leadership".



**Joanne Witt**  
**Cerritos Volunteer for 45 Years**  
"I am voting for Jennifer because of her 14 years of dedicated service to Cerritos, currently as Commissioner for Parks & Recreation and formerly as Planning Commissioner and LetFreedom Ring Committee. She has passion and ability to continue serving citizens of Cerritos on the City Council".



**Dr. Shin Liu**  
**Cerritos College Trustees**  
"As a successful business woman, Jennifer's strategic thinking skills can help Cerritos city to make sound and effective decisions during this challenging time. As a long term city planning commissioner, Jennifer is well known for her team work with others".



**Soo Yoo**  
**ABC School Board President**  
"Jennifer has a wealth of experience in business and management. I am confident she will support ABC Schools! The partnership with Schools and City is very important".



**Julietta Williams**  
**Resident for 50 years**  
**Fine Arts and Historical Commission**  
"I'll be voting for Jennifer Hong for Cerritos City Council. Jennifer shares my values on education and community involvement. Please join me in casting your vote for Jennifer Hong to continue the growth for the City of Cerritos".



**Sally Harvice**  
**Former Assembly Member**  
"Jennifer has the experience that will enable her the capability and know how to "Hit the Ground Running" on day one".



## 500K Lego Bricks So-Fi Stadium to Open at Legoland



**THE STADIUM** took 6,000 hours to build, the final model is more than 30 feet long, 15 feet wide and over 4 feet tall.

### Staff Report

Inspired by the NFL’s first indoor-outdoor stadium and home to the Rams, the SoFi Stadium Lego model is the first addition to the Park’s Miniland U.S.A. in more than two years.

The massive Lego structure joins other top Southern California attractions featured in Lego form, including Griffith Park Observatory, Hollywood Bowl and Grauman’s Chinese Theatre.

An massive architectural model that took a team of 25 Master Model Builders more than 6,000 hours and more than 500,000 Lego® bricks to build.

The final SoFi Stadium model stands at more than 30 feet long, 15 feet wide and over 4 feet tall. It’s currently considered the largest Lego® stadium in the world.

Due to its size, Miniland’s newest

model arrived at LegoLAND Resort in more than 60 pieces and was assembled on site.

More than 3,000 "Minilanders" are seated inside the Stadium to catch the day’s big game or concert. The structure’s most notable feature is the roof, which features more than 3,500 pounds worth of Lego.

More than a dozen members of the Legoland Model Shop team completed the final installation of the model, which took four days.

Fans cheer and musicians also make appearances

To celebrate the grand opening of the stadium next week, Aaron Donald, defensive tackle for the Los Angeles Rams, and members of the Los Angeles Rams Cheerleaders will visit Legoland California Resort for special opening day festivities.

## FAMOUS CERRITOS HIGH STUDENTS

**Tony An, Class of 1996** - Korean Pop Singer, former H.O.T member

**Marcelo Balboa, Class of 1984** - member of the US Men's National Soccer Team who was inducted into the MLS Hall of Fame in 2005.

**Anthony Chatmon, Jr.** - actor on Broadway appearing in the musical “HadesTown” and also appeared in “Be More Chill,” “Book of Mormon” and “Into the Woods.”

**Rickey Cradle, Class of 1991** - former Pro Baseball Player for Seattle Mariners

**Carlos de la Garza, Class of 1992** Grammy Award winning producer and musician

**Jeff Hearn, Class of 1977** - former Pro Baseball Player for Toronto Blue Jays

**Toby Henderson** - Pro BMX Rider, inventor of the Henderson Hop, and ABA (BMX) Hall of Fame

**Ben Howland, Class of 1975** - former UCLA Head Basketball Coach (2003-2013)

**Sidney Johnson** - Played for the Kansas City Chiefs and the Washington Redskins

**Jimmy Kim** - athlete who won the Gold Medal at the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul in the sport of Taekwondo

**Eddie Lewis, Class of 1992**- soccer, Los Angeles Galaxy

**Alex Lim, Class of 2010** - Entrepreneur Chief Executive Officer, Empower Trading, LLC

**Roger Lodge** - TV host of “Blind Date” and currently announcer for the Los Angeles Angels

**Todd McMillon, Class of 1991** - former NFL cornerback, Chicago Bears and GAP model

**Justin H. Min** - actor best known for “The Umbrella Academy”

**Ed Morrissey** - conservative blogger at Hot Air

**Jae Park, Class of 2010**, member of the South Korean K-Rock band Day

**DJ Rhettmatic** - Hip Hop DJ and producer Member of the Beat Junkies

**Lela Rochon, Class of 1982** - Actor, most notably in the films “Waiting to Exhale” and “The Chamber”

**Jorge Salcedo** - Pro Soccer Player, Head UCLA Men's Soccer Coach

**Dave Serrano, Class of 1982** - Head Baseball Coach Tennessee, Head Coach Cal State Northridge

**Eddie Soto** - soccer player, assistant coach at UCLA

**Kirsten Vangsness, Class of 1990** actress, “Criminal Minds”

**Tim Walton** - baseball, Philadelphia Phillies, Head Coach of University of Florida Softball team

**Han Ye-seul** - Korean actress and model



# Congratulates Cerritos High School on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary

Education is the most powerful tool that we can use to change the world.





## Celebrating Women’s History Month and the Legacy Project



**MEMBERS OF THE LEGACY** of the Women’s Suffrage Movement Project, known as the Legacy Project, pre-registering teens and promoting the right to vote. Legacy Project members participating that day included, left to right, Legacy Project Coordinator Norma Williamson, Artesia High School student Alejandra Espinosa, Whitney High School student Amber Wang, Cerritos High School student Jamie Gokim, Gahr High School student Leah Triana, and ABCUSD CTE/Legacy Project liaison Evangelina Romero. Photo and I.D. by Edna Ethington.

By Edna Ethington

The public is invited to join the members of the La Palma-Cerritos Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) as they celebrate the last day of Women’s History Month and the conclusion of the Legacy of the Women’s Suffrage Movement Project at their General Meeting in March.

Its General Meeting will occur on Thursday, March 31, 2022, at the Cerritos Library, 18025 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, CA.

Two of the young high school women who participated in the Legacy Project, Leah Triana (a junior at Gahr High School), and Alejandra Espinosa (a senior

at Artesia High School), will be guest speakers.

The Legacy of the Women’s Suffrage Movement Project was a joint project of Norma Williamson of the La Palma-Cerritos AAUW, and the ABC Unified School District, as part of Career Tech Education (CTE) and the Community Partnership Office coordinated by Ms. Sasha Leonardo under the direction of Dr. Crechena Wise.

Ms. Evangelina Romero served as the CTE liaison for the ABCUSD. The Legacy Project was designed by Norma Williamson as a virtual after school program for 11th and 12th grade young women to introduce them to the Women’s Suffrage Movement and learn to appreciate their right to vote.

Women suffragists worked for 72 years from 1848 to 1920 until they finally obtained the right to vote with the ratification of the 19th Amendment by the U.S. Congress on August 26, 1920.

The Legacy of the Women’s Suffrage Project was made possible by a grant awarded by AAUW California to Norma Williamson as Coordinator of the Legacy Project. Besides exposing the young women about the Women’s Suffrage Movement, the project included having them experience two voter pre-registration drives for high school students, learning about election issues, and interviewing former women elected officials.

The former elected officials who were interviewed by the students in virtual meetings included Diana Needham, Celia Spitzer, and Dr. Tina Cho. Diana Needham was mayor of the City of Cerritos for three terms. Celia Spitzer was a former president of the board of ABC Unified School District and served as a board member for four terms. Dr. Tina Cho was a former member of the Cerritos College Board. By having these former elected officials be interviewed by the young women of the Legacy Project, it was hoped that the students will be inspired to explore careers in public office and become active civic leaders in their communities.

There were five other high school young women who actively participated in the Legacy Project besides Leah Triana and Alejandra Espinosa. Jamie Gokim, Alessa Gomez, Krishna Hajari, Isabel Rivera, and Amber Wang were unable to be present at this meeting due to conflicts with other school related activities.

*For more information about the Legacy of the Women’s Suffrage Movement Project, contact Legacy Project Coordinator Norma Williamson by e-mail at [nvwilliamson@gmail.com](mailto:nvwilliamson@gmail.com).*

## ABCUSD Students Recognized at L.A. County Science Fair

Judges recognized ten students from the ABCUSD at the 72nd Annual Los Angeles County Science & Engineering Fair. The students from Ross Academy of Creative and Media Arts, Cerritos High School, and Whitney High School participated in the competition, with well over 1,200 students in 38 categories ranging from animal biology to physics.

“Our students are simply amazing, so I’m not surprised at all to see so many place so highly in this year’s fair,” said Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu. Those recognized at this year’s Science & Engineering Fair include:

**Cerritos High School**  
*Environmental Management Category:*  
**Adarsh Senthilnathan - Recognition**

**Ross Academy**  
*Biochemistry & Molecular Biology:*  
**Chloe Linsangan - Honorable Mention**

**Christina Le - Recognition**  
*Engineering Research :*  
**Sophia Diva - Recognition**

*Product Science:*  
**Jason Quach - Recognition**

*Materials Science:*  
**Andrea Monis - First Place**

**Zoe Holmes - Recognition**

**Whitney High School**  
*Engineering Research:*  
**Abhi Prajapati & Vamsi Vempati-Recog.**

*Engineering Applications:*  
**Benjamin Chen - Honorable Mention**

*Chemistry:*  
**Sana Rajesh - First Place**

The L.A. County S. and E. Fair is an all-volunteer non-profit organization providing an annual competition for public and private school students to showcase their knowledge beyond the textbook.

*You can learn more about the fair at [lascifair.org](http://lascifair.org).*


# HAPPY 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

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OLYMPIC LEAGUE BASEBALL

Wilkinson’s pitching plus top of the lineup help bring back mental toughness to Valley Christian

By Loren Kopff

@LorenKopff on Twitter

For the past two and a half weeks or so, Valley Christian High baseball coach Matt Dahlenburg talked to his team about being mentally tough. Since the first day of the month, the Defenders had lost four of six games and entered last Friday’s home game with Heritage Christian on a two-game losing streak.

But against a team fielding seven freshmen, seven sophomores and two seniors, V.C. took advantage of the youth and shutout the Warriors 10-0 in a game that ended with two outs in the bottom of the sixth inning. It was the first Olympic League win for V.C. in three tries and the second shutout of the season for the Defenders.

“We kind of kick ourselves in the foot when we get down,” said Dahlenburg. “So, that’s just been the talk. It just finally kicked in today and we played like we should be playing all year, which was amazing. That’s how we should be playing Valley Christian baseball.”

The fact that the Defenders haven’t been playing with as much mental toughness as they did last season is the confusing part. V.C. went 18-8 last season and won 10 of 12 league contests. Entering last Friday’s game, the

Defenders already had seven setbacks. On top of that, V.C. has 10 seniors on a team of 18 players.

“It takes another level because in the four years I’ve been here, that’s the main thing we talk about, is being mentally tough,” said Dahlenburg. “Last year we were mentally tough and if we made a mistake, we just got over it. Having a senior loaded team and not being able to come back from it is the worst part.”

With one out and on the fourth pitch of the game, senior third baseman Carson Slager hit a home run over the right center fence. But in the next inning, the Defenders began to take advantage of Heritage Christian’s youth. Sophomore catcher Joseph DeYoung, a recent callup to the varsity squad, singled to left. Senior right fielder Colin Abrahams then reached on an error and senior shortstop Ben Carter laid down a beautiful bunt up the third base line to load the bases. After a pop-up and a strikeout, senior center fielder Ryan Zamarripa singled to left field to plate a pair of runs. But when the ball got past the left fielder, Carter came around to make it 4-0. Slager then brought home Zamarripa for the final tally of the inning.

After a perfect third and fourth innings by Heritage Christian’s Kyle Zahn, the Defenders put another four-spot on the board. Junior first baseman Jeremy Gallagher singled, followed by a two-run shot from Zamarripa. Following a strikeout, junior second baseman Nolan Lynott reached on an infield single and senior left fielder Armand Rizo was safe on an error with Lynott

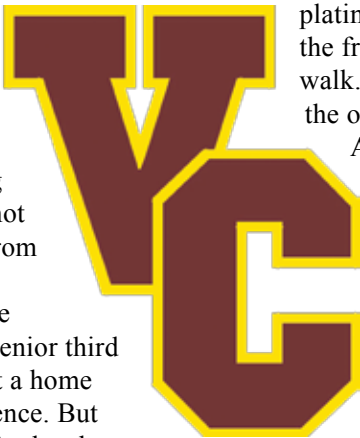
coming home. DeYoung then came up with a base hit to left to make it a 9-0 affair.

The final run came when Zamarripa doubled down the left field line with two outs in the sixth inning, plating Carter who began the frame by reaching on a walk. But it wasn’t all about the offense. Senior pitcher Austin Wilkinson was nearly unstoppable in a complete game performance. After loading the bases in the top of the first inning on two walks and a hit, he allowed six runners to reach base over the next five innings.

Wilkinson struck out John Ordonez to end the first inning, then stranded Zahn at third in the next inning when he got Luke Backes to pop-up to Slager. Wilkinson struck out seven, scattered five hits and walked three.

“When Austin is battling, Austin is really good, as you saw today,” said Dahlenburg. “We need him to throw like that every time out.”

V.C. would double up St. Anthony High 8-4 last Saturday to even its mark at 7-7 as the team began its weekly home and home series with Village Christian High this past Tuesday at home with the third and final meeting with the Crusaders today on the road. The Defenders lost to Village Christian 5-1 on Mar. 4 in the league opener, but in that contest, the score was tied 1-1 through five innings. The defenders will also host Bishop Montgomery High on Tuesday for their only action until Apr. 4.



605 LEAGUE SOFTBALL

CERRITOS GETS ANOTHER COMPLETE TEAM PERFORMANCE, RUNS AWAY FROM ARTESIA LATE

By Loren Kopff

@LorenKopff on Twitter

Cerritos High had gone two weeks between games when it began 605 League action last Friday at Whitney High. The Dons blasted the Wildcats 22-2 in that contest, then hosted upstart Artesia High this past Tuesday, hoping to keep the momentum going.

Despite playing in its seventh game, Cerritos showed there isn’t much rust as it took care of the Pioneers 11-2, scoring three runs in the bottom of the third inning and four more in the sixth inning

“That’s a good team right there; that’s a good pitcher,” said Cerritos head coach Todd Denhart, pointing to the Artesia dugout. “That’s the best pitcher we’ve seen in three weeks. You can simulate live pitching all you want, but until you actually see it...I thought we had some good hacks there. There was a little bit of a lull swinging the bat in the middle of the game, whether we got comfortable with it or [something else].”

Denhart was referring to Artesia sophomore pitcher Maya Torres, who just came back to action last Friday against Oxford Academy after being absent for a good chunk of the season. Torres injured her index finger on her

pitching hand in practice a month and a half ago, according to head coach Ed Blanck. She missed three weeks, then when she came back, she began to feel sick and was gone another week and a half.

Swinging the bats was the one concern Denhart had after the team had not seen live action since Mar. 4 prior to the Whitney game and after collecting 10 hits against the Wildcats, the bats came out in full force against the Pioneers early and often. In the bottom of the first, with senior shortstop Jadyn Nielsen aboard on a walk issued from Torres, junior center fielder Camille Lara laid down a bunt towards third base with the speedy Nielsen taking third. Three pitches later, senior second baseman Katelyn Caneda doubled in both runners before being thrown out trying to stretch the double into a triple. Senior first baseman Makayla Sur then doubled, senior pitcher Erin Gibbs was walked and sophomore left fielder Natalie Gardea was hit by a pitch to load the bases before a groundout ended any further damage.

Two more runs came across in the next inning, both with two outs when Caneda tripled in freshman catcher Alianna Calderon and Sur’s base hit plated Caneda. The Dons (6-1 overall, 2-0 in league) made it 7-0 in the third, highlighted by a run-scoring double from Gardea an infield single from

sophomore right fielder Kylee Manibusan, a sacrifice fly from Calderon and a double steal from Nielsen and Manibusan, the latter coming home.

“What she was struggling with was with her spins, and all of those rise balls weren’t rise balls,” said Blanck of Torres. “Those were supposed to be curves and she was struggling with her movement.”

Artesia broke through in the fourth inning when Gibbs walked senior second baseman Alexis Duenas, who then scored on an error. The Pioneers made it 7-2 in the sixth inning, but the hosts made sure to put the game on ice in their half of the frame. Singles from sophomore pinch hitter Mia Rafael and Calderon, the latter with the bases loaded, brought in senior courtesy runner Madeleine Morante and sophomore third baseman Toafaoalii Pua. A sacrifice fly from Nielsen and a base hit from Lara completed the scoring.

Every starter reached base, all but one starter had at least one hit and seven starters scored at least once as the Dons pounded out a season-high 15 hits. The second, third and fourth hitters in the lineup-Lara, Caneda and Sur-combined to go seven for 13 with five runs batted in.

“If we’re going to have any success, that’s what it’s going to have to be like,” said Denhart of the offensive performance. “We don’t have two or three kids who are going to carry us. We’re



State Looking to Rebate CA Drivers \$800 for Gas Prices

Staff Report

With gas prices soaring nationwide and some of the highest prices being seen here in California, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced a new \$11 billion proposal aimed at easing the pain at the pump.

As part of the relief package announced Wednesday, all Californians with a registered vehicle, up to two vehicles per person, would receive \$400 tax rebates on a debit card. That part of the plan, would cost \$9 billion, which would be funded from the state budget surplus.

According to the Governor’s office, the average California driver spends approximately \$300 in gasoline excise tax over a year.

Newsom also proposed spending another \$750 million in grants to incentivize public transit and rail agencies to give Californians free rides for three months.

Another \$600 million would be used to pause part of the state’s diesel sales tax rate for a year and another \$523 million to put a hold on inflationary adjustments made to gas and diesel tax rates.

At the pump, you’ll see the state and federal taxes listed. But the reason why we are paying more in California is what you won’t see on your receipt.

The Governor’s office said Newsom is expected to meet with the Legislature to discuss the relief package. If approved, Californians could see payments by July.

going to have to, no matter who we’re playing, chip away. That seven, eight, nine hitter is going to have to come up big at some point in the game.”

Gibbs, who had not pitched in exactly one month, yielded one hit-a two-out single to Soto in the sixth, struck out seven and walked four. Against Whitney, Gibbs allowed a pair of hits.

“She’s not where she was at this this last year,” said Denhart. “But I saw some good things out of her today. She threw well against Whitney the other day and she came out and threw strikes today. With her, the more she pitches, the sharper she gets.”

Despite the one hit, the Pioneers had runners on base in five innings, but stranded freshman center fielder Alea Medina at second with one out in the first inning, senior left fielder Miriam Estrada at first with one out in the third and sophomore first baseman Allisiah Valenzuela at third after Soto’s hit.

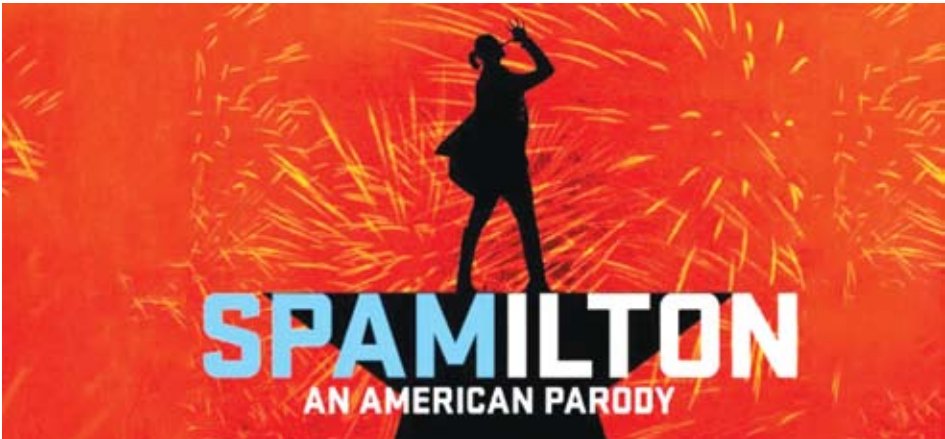
“They didn’t give up when they were up at bat,” said Blanck. “They were struggling, and they laid off the rise ball, which I was really happy with them. I just still need them hitting their pitch.”

The two teams faced each other at Artesia on Mar. 24 and the Dons will be home to Pioneer High on Tuesday while Artesia, which dropped to 4-9, 1-1 entertains Whitney on Tuesday. All four of the Artesia wins, including three in the last six games, have been shutouts.

“Maya would have been awesome if we would have had her,” said Blanck. “But I’m still struggling on my defense, and I have a young defense. They’re all sophomores, so I’m working on them having the positive attitude.”



## Spamilton: An American Parody



By Tammye McDuff

Get ready to laugh through hysterical history with a night of music, comedy, and satire. Musical Theatre West proudly presents the first-ever regional production of Spamilton: An American Parody in Long Beach from March 25 to April 10, 2022 at the Carpenter Performing Arts Center at Cal State Long Beach, 6200 E Atherton Street.

Spamilton: An American Parody was originally produced at The Triad Theater in New York City by John Freedson, David Zippel, Gerard Alessandrini and Christine Pedi, and performed by a versatile cast of five. The side-splitting new musical comedy, Spamilton: An American Parody is a rapid-fire reference round of everyone's favorite Broadway blockbusters that includes celebrity satires, pop culture zings, and original material written specifically for Musical Theatre West audiences.

The New York Times calls Spamilton smart, silly and compulsively hilarious, written and created by award-winning writer and director Alessandrini, best known as the brains behind the musical series Forbidden Broadway, which spawned

12 albums, was nominated for five Drama Desk Awards, and earned a Tony Honor for Excellence in Theatre award. Alessandrini has tackled musical theatre's juggernaut and has not eliminated his shot excellence. In addition to lampooning Broadway's biggest hit, Spamilton takes on top talent from the Great White Way, including Stephen Sondheim, Liza Minnelli, and Barbra Streisand. Raise a glass to humor and make sure you're in the room where this show happens.

The story of Musical Theatre West is a 70 year journey from a group of volunteers performing in a high school auditorium to one of the largest and most respected theatrical production companies in Southern California. Utilizing professional talent, and producing regional world premiere musicals while honoring the tradition of classic musical theatre, MTW is the largest arts producer in the Long Beach.

***Purchase online at [musical.org](https://musical.org) or call 562-856-1999. Proof of vaccination OR proof of a negative test in the last 24 hours and a mask is required for attendance. Please see <https://musical.org/covid> for the latest in COVID policy.***

## Downey Spring Street Faire Returns



**DOWNEY HIGH'S** south parking hosted classic cars from car clubs throughout SoCal, some vehicles dating back to the 1920s.

By Tammye McDuff

The Downey Street Faire returned after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic on Saturday March 19, making this the 28 year for the Downey Chamber of Commerce event.

The festival was held at Brookshire Avenue and Firestone Boulevard from 10 am to 4 pm, and it was a beautiful spring weekend for residents to get out and about celebrating the Spring Equinox.

Downey proudly boasts this annual event that brings everyone out into the great California weather. With over 200 vendors, antique vehicles and family-friendly entertainment, Brookshire Avenue was the place to be, attracting thousands of residents and visitors. The fair was once again located on Brookshire Avenue outside Downey High School.

Food vendors offered various food

and drink, including pulled pork sandwiches, empanadas, Navajo fried tacos, sweet potato pies, pizza, kettle corn, barbecue chicken, Cuban pastries, funnel cakes, fresh-squeezed lemonade and more. Children enjoyed a kids' area, and in Downey High's south parking lot were classic cars from car clubs throughout SoCal, some vehicles dating back to the 1920s. The show, hosted by the Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis, included custom motorcycles and pedal bikes.

Mayor Blanca Pacheco remarked, "The Street Faire continues to be one of our favorite events throughout the city. We congratulate the Chamber of Commerce for hosting it and the 10,000 people from our community who enjoyed the fair this year. The Street Faire has something for everyone, and it continues to show what a great place our city is."

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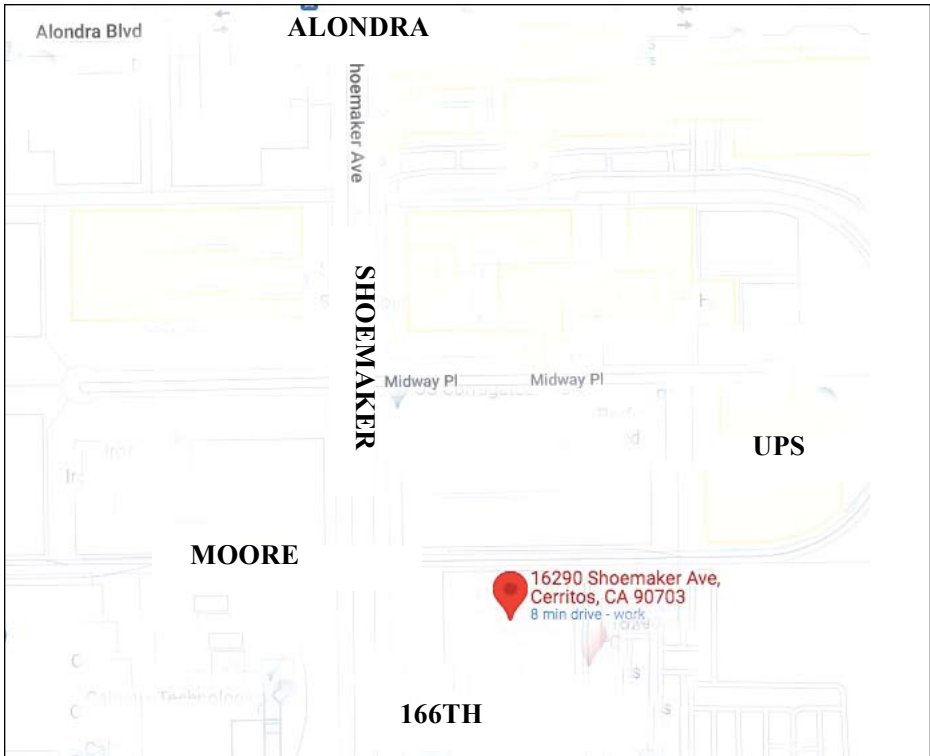
TRUCKS from page 1

100,000 square feet of available space illustrating the depth of demand there is for this type of real estate.

In Cerritos, it appears that no spaces of this size are now available for lease, according to CoStar data.

The Cerritos-Norwalk industrial market saw a more than 12% bump in rents over the past year, the market's biggest annual rent growth in more than a decade.

The market's average annual rent is \$13.93 per square foot, lower than the greater Los Angeles average of \$16.09



ADDRESS LOCATION where the company leased the warehouse.

LA PALMA from page 1

Palma Mayor Michele Steggell said.

“For the first time in over a decade, Members of Congress were able to request funding for specific community projects in the Appropriations funding package.

As part of that effort, I am proud that I was able to successfully secure \$2 million in funding for the City of La Palma to redesign and revitalize medians across the city,” said Congresswoman Linda T. Sánchez.

“Taxpayers deserve to have a say in where their money is spent, and I am glad to have secured this funding at the City's request.”

The project will reconstruct 48 median islands and add three new median islands throughout the City.

The islands will include a variety of drought-tolerant plants and trees with a drip irrigation systems.

The system wil significantly reduce water usage and water runoff into the streets, reflecting the City’s commitment to protecting the environment while also improving the aesthetics of our streets.

Additionally, the project will be constructed with an ability to use reclaimed water for irrigation in the future to reduce the use of drinkable water.

La Palma Mayor Pro Tem Debbie S. Baker said, “This is a great day for La Palma! I am thrilled and grateful for the support of Congresswoman Sánchez.”

La Palma Council Member Marshall Goodman added, “In La Palma we are fortunate to have excellent relationships with our County, State, and Federal elected officials. Thank you, Congresswoman Sánchez, for your strong support.”

La Palma Council Member Nitesh P. Patel said, “I am proud that during my tenure as Mayor, we secured federal funding to beautify our city’s medians with the assistance from Congresswoman Sánchez. Due to the pandemic, we temporarily postponed the project but now to see this come to fruition with little impact to the city’s budget is a great day for La Palma.”

“As a small city with less resources than our neighbors, this funding will go a long way toward improving La Palma,” said La Palma Council Member Mark I. Waldman.

La Plama wanted to thank other officials for their letters of support for this project: State Senator Josh Newman, Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva, Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley, Anaheim Union High School District Board of Trustee Brian O’Neal, La Palma Mayor and La Palma Community Foundation President Michele Steggell and La Palma Council Members Nitesh P. Patel and Marshall Goodman.

**More information about the project can be found at [www.cityoflapalma.org/medians](http://www.cityoflapalma.org/medians)**

AFSCME from page 1

senior fairs.

But according to the auditors, "the majority were spent on union activities."

The investigation found several areas of concern, including unapproved large cash withdrawals, transfers to personal checking accounts, no canceled check reports, and extravagant Christmas parties.

The audit found that Licon wrote checks out of the union fund, payable to him, in the amount of \$43,000 between 2014 and 2018; Alfredo Licon cashed another \$5,000 check; no canceled checks were saved.

The auditors also stated the checks were paid, "without documenting where the money went."

AFSCME's code prohibits personal withdrawals because "they circumvent the policies that expense reports must be submitted and that two officers must sign the disbursement checks."

The audit also found that Licon's personal bank account and the 3624's bank account were at the same bank.

In October and December of 2016, Licon again tapped his personal union piggy bank, initiating an inter-bank transfer of \$7,000 for "Christmas raffle and prizes."

Licon documented the expenses but, "there was no documentation approving the transfers."

Finally, and most flagrant, the audit found Licon spent the union funds on "extravagant Christmas parties," for an organization that has only forty members.

From 2012 to '19, Licon authorized the spending of nearly \$96,000 on lavish union holiday parties, averaging an eye-opening \$12,000 per event or \$300 per union member; funds that were meant for youth and senior programs.

Licon paid himself \$73,000 from 2012-2019 for Christmas raffle and prizes, once again not documenting any expenses.

His buddy, Luis Polanco, was given a check for \$18,000 one year for Christmas raffle and prizes and Luis Gonzales was paid \$3,000.



**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 is

publishing in divided distribution, the Notice of Sale 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 of Tax-Defaulted  
Property Subject to the Tax Collector's Power to Sell  
(Sale No. 2022A)**

Whereas, on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, State of California, directed me, KEITH KNOX, Treasurer and Tax Collector, to sell at online public auction certain tax-defaulted properties.

I hereby give public notice, that unless said properties are redeemed, prior to the close of business on the last business day prior to the first day of the online public auction, or Friday, April 22, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time, I will offer for sale and sell said properties on Saturday, April 23, 2022, beginning at 3:00 p.m. Pacific Time, through Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Pacific Time, to the highest bidder, for cash or cashier's check in lawful money of the United States, for not less than the minimum bid, at online public auction at [www.bid4asests.com/losangeles](http://www.bid4asests.com/losangeles).

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, May 20, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time.

I will re-offer any properties that did not sell or were not redeemed prior to Friday, May 20, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time, for sale at online public auction at [www.bid4asests.com/losangeles](http://www.bid4asests.com/losangeles) beginning Saturday, May 21, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. Pacific Time, through Tuesday, May 24, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Pacific Time.

Prospective bidders should obtain detailed information of this sale from the County of Los Angeles Treasurer and Tax Collector (TTC) at [ttc.lacounty.gov](http://ttc.lacounty.gov). Bidders are required to pre-register at [www.bid4asests.com](http://www.bid4asests.com) and submit a refundable \$5,000 deposit in the form of cash, cashier's check or bank-issued money order at the time of registration. Registration will begin on Friday, March 18, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. Pacific Time and end on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time.

Pursuant to R&TC Section 3692.3, the TTC sells all property "as is" and the County and its employees are not liable for any known or unknown conditions of the property,

including, but not limited to, errors in the records of the Office of the Assessor (Assessor) pertaining to improvement of the property.

If the 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, the TTC will send notice to all parties of interest, pursuant to 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. You may also call (213) 974-2045, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time, visit our website at [ttc.lacounty.gov](http://ttc.lacounty.gov) or email us at [auction@ttc.lacounty.gov](mailto: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](http://assessor.lacounty.gov).

I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed at Los Angeles, California, on February 3, 2022.

KEITH KNOX  
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. 2022A)  
05537 AIN 7016-014-026 PERRY, BRIAN LOCATION COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES \$10,262.00  
05539 AIN 7025-003-011 LOGAN, OSCAR B AND ELIZABETH B LOCATION CITY-CERRITOS \$7,253.00  
05541 AIN 7040-009-015 MUNOZ, DEBRA E LOCATION CITY-ARTESIA \$33,194.00  
05625 AIN 8070-022-027 REYES, MIGUEL G AND FLORES, ANTONIO G LOCATION CITY-NORWALK \$10,579.00  
CN985238 538 Mar 25, Apr 1,4, 2022

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: THOMAS A. DAWSON AKA THOMAS DAWSON AKA THOMAS ALEXANDAR DAWSON CASE NO. 22STPB02242  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of THOMAS A. DAWSON AKA THOMAS DAWSON AKA THOMAS ALEXANDAR DAWSON: A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by CAROLE M. FOURIE in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that CAROLE M. FOURIE 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: 04/13/22 at 8:30AM in Dept. 9 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012  
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.  
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.  
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.  
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.  
Attorney for Petitioner  
RONALD E. WISKELL - SBN 47254  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
1820 EAST 17TH STREET  
SANTA ANA CA 92705  
BSC 221348  
3/18, 3/25, 4/1/22  
CNS-3565207#  
LA MIRADA LAMPLIGHTER



@cerritosnews



Los Cerritos Community Newspaper







LA MIRADA from page 1

at major intersections as a vinyl wrap. As the inaugural contest year, the theme for the contest was “La Mirada’s Rich History,” and artists were asked to complete an entry form and digital rendering of their proposed artwork.

Forty submissions were received, and members of the Community Services Commission recommended four finalists for recognition by the La Mirada City Council. The art submissions selected for the 2022 Traffic Control Box Art Contest includes:

Janely Avalos – The View: Janely Avalos is a 16-year-old student at La Mirada High School. Janely looked to four of the City’s main attractions including the La Mirada Golf Course, Splash! La Mirada Regional Aquatics Center, La Mirada Regional Park, and the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts for inspiration in preparing her art submission.

Wes Brewster – A Scrapbook of La Mirada Rich History: Wes Brewster is a La Mirada High School Alum and has been a resident for over 35 years. His art submission was inspired by childhood memories visiting his grandparents in the Greenhills area and playing in the empty fields that are now the Hillsborough neighborhood.

Jennifer Perez – Where the Olive Trees Grow: Jennifer Perez is 22 years old, a student at Fullerton College, and a resident of La Mirada. Jennifer looked back to La Mirada’s history in harvesting and cultivating olives when creating her art piece. Olive trees and the Neff Estate had a major influence on the creation of her submission.

Madeline Thomas – Early La Mirada History: Madeline Thomas is an active member of the Arts Colony of La Mirada, and long-time resident of 50 years. In creating her art submission, Madeline was inspired by La Mirada’s earliest years. This is seen in depictions of settlements of the Tongva and Kizh people, Abel Stearns and the McNally Ranchos, and the Stage Road route to Los Angeles.

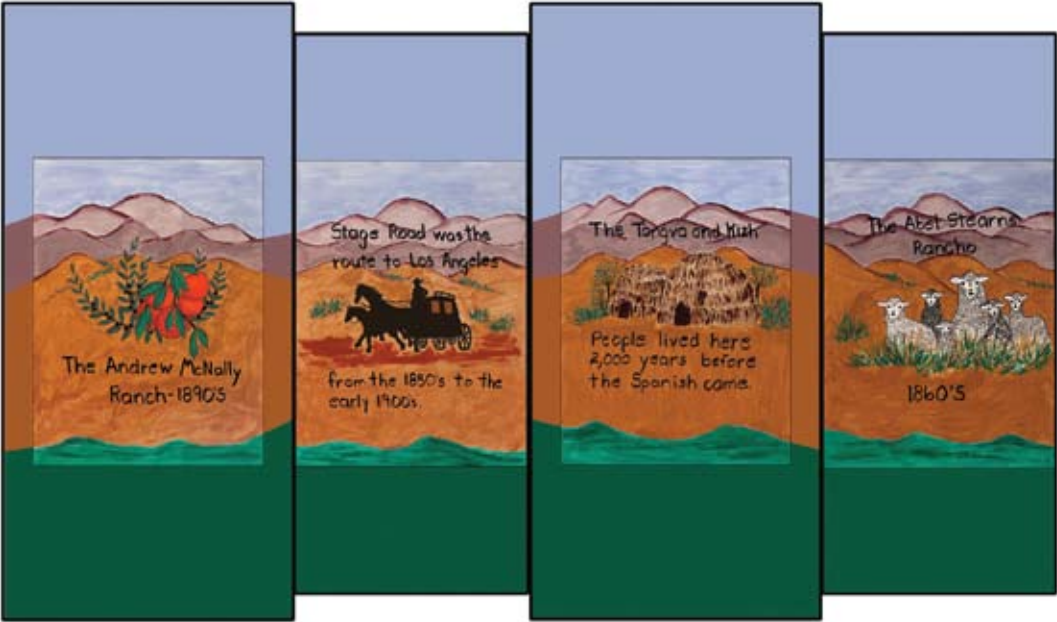
For additional information regarding the contest winners, please contact the La Mirada Community Services Department at (562) 943-7277.



**WES BREWSTER – A SCRAPBOOK OF LA MIRADA RICH HISTORY:** Wes Brewster is a La Mirada High School Alum and has been a resident for over 35 years. His art submission was inspired by childhood memories .



**JANELY AVALOS – THE VIEW:** Janely Avalos is a 16-year-old student at La Mirada High School. Janely looked to four of the City’s main attractions for her inspiration.



**EARLY LA MIRADA HISTORY:** Madeline Thomas is an active member of the Arts Colony of La Mirada, and long-time resident of 50 years. In creating her art submission, Madeline was inspired by La Mirada’s earliest years.

Festival of Nations Coming to La Palma



**By Tammye McDuff**

In 2019, the La Palma City Council asked City staff to plan a new signature event to reflect La Palma’s diversity and sense of community. The City had to postpone the event in 2020 and 2021, but now it is back for a one day experience celebrating La Palma’s cultural heritage through dancing, performances, and exhibits.

This community event will kick off with a Hometown Parade starting at Houston Avenue to La Palma Avenue and continuing down Walker Street, featuring local schools, organizations, neighborhoods, and local businesses.

La Palma will host its inaugural Festival of Nations on Saturday, April 30, 2022. The parade will begin at 10:30 a.m. in front of Central Park

Following the Parade, the Festival will feature fun attractions for all ages, kids-zone, petting zoo, carnival games, international food trucks, and a beer and wine garden. Throughout the day musical performances and dances will be held at the Central Park Pavilion.

COVID-19 pandemic situation in United States has been changing regularly. Status of the outbreak and stay home guidelines varies by location. Some events may be cancelled or postponed due to risk to public health and safety concerns.

Applications for the festival and parade are still being accepted. To be part this new event, go to [www.cityoflapalma.org](http://www.cityoflapalma.org) or email [festival@cityoflapalma.org](mailto:festival@cityoflapalma.org). Information can be requested by mail: FON Vendor Committee 7821 Walker Street, La Palma, CA 90623 or visit the La Palma Community Center at 7821 Walker Street.



NEWS AND NOTES FROM PRESS ROW

Short-handed Cerritos baseball team roughed up by El Rancho in Lions Tournament

By Loren Kopff  
@LorenKopff on Twitter

Through the first 10 games of the season, the Cerritos High baseball team was off to one of the best starts the program has seen, losing a pair of four-run games. One was on a walk-off grand slam to Valley Christian High in the second game of the season and the other was to Downey High on Mar. 9 in which the game was tied 1-1 after three innings.

But in the back of his head, first-year head coach Martin Rodriguez knew it was a matter of time before the Dons would have one of those, ‘we came out flat’ games. In the first of two games last Saturday and the third of five in the prestigious Anaheim Lions Tournament, Cerritos was knocked off by El Rancho High 9-2, giving up a season-high 14 hits while being held to a season-low three hits and committing a season-high four errors. Even without the services of a few key players, Rodriguez concurred it was the worst performance his team has played thus far.

“I would say so,” Rodriguez agreed. “We knew going into it we were short-handed with [sophomore shortstop] Carter Chi out. [Sophomore outfielder] Noah Gapuz was out; he broke his hip a couple of weeks ago. He’s out for about five to six weeks. And then we knew [senior catcher] Owen Gott was on borrowed time today. We wanted to see how far he could go.”

Gott has had a deep bone bruise on

his kneecap since the second game of the doubleheader against V.C. on Feb. 12 and played the first three innings against El Rancho while Chi felt a pull during a swing against South East High on Mar. 16, the first game of the tournament.

El Rancho scored once in the top of the second and third innings but Cerritos had chances to score in the early innings. In the bottom of the second inning, sophomore right fielder Johan Gibbs was safe on an infield single and moved to second on a sacrifice from senior first baseman Anthony Rincon. Senior third baseman Ethan Vo then reached on a fielder’s choice but would be caught leading off first to end the inning. In the third with one out, senior pitcher Evan Geppert and junior center fielder Paul Kim each were ahead of the count 3-0 before both struck out looking.

“Cerritos would shutout Marshall 3-0 later in the day behind a complete game from junior pitcher Brandon Casas, the got past California High 5-2 this past Monday to finish no worse than second place in the 67-team tournament which runs through Apr. 29. Cerritos would begin 605 League action this past Tuesday with a 12-4 win against Artesia High to improve to 11-3. The two teams face each other today at Artesia in the back end of the home and home series before the Dons host Oxford Academy on Tuesday in the front end of that home and home series.

In other baseball action, the surprise team of the season continues to be Artesia, which fell to 7-5 after the loss to Cerritos. It’s the first time the Pioneers have won seven games since 2014 (7-19) and the seven wins are one more than the combined total of the past four seasons. The Pioneers will host John Glenn High on Tuesday in the first of two against the Eagles next week.

DOWNEY from page 1

Bar is raising interest and causing quite a stir. A Facebook group called ‘Downey United against Ojos Locos’ is gaining traction and insisting that the city not allow the restaurant to finish renovations or open.

There were about 75 protestors that showed up in front of City Hall, and a petition was available for signature. About half of those people were ready to step up and address the council during public comment. Each councilperson seemed to agree with residents, but that didn’t ease

stated that it was encouraging to see residents speaking up and standing up when they are angry with city decisions. Mayor Blanca Pacheco added that it is important for residents to voice their concerns, “I know many of you are here to voice your opposition to Ojos Locos, and I am glad. It is important for us to hear what you have to say.”

Ojos Locos co-founded by Randy DeWitt, who also previously founded sister restaurant Twin Peaks is quoted in a previous interview about his ‘breastaurants’ “It’s about 80 percent male patrons and it is absolutely a sports bar. We don’t use that in our tagline because we want people to use us as an everyday restaurant too – and they do, our core customer does but we compete in the sports bar segment.”

The City Council suggested that residents reach out to CEO Rich Hicks at 214.455.3003 or email: rhicks@reachrg.com.

Organizer Jennifer Alvarez, a teacher in DUSD for over 20 years, stated, “It’s not too late, make your first call or send your email to Rich Hicks, CEO of Ojos Locos today. Keep calling and put the pressure on him to keep his adult playground away from our children!”



PROTESTORS and local media outside Downey City Council Chambers.

the tension before public comments began with outbursts from attendees.

One man was so disruptive that he was escorted out of the council chambers by the Downey Police Department.

Councilmember Mario Trujillo congratulated residents for getting involved, “I agree with my council colleagues that resident involvement is crucial, thank you for taking the time to stand up for your values and those of the city. Engaged communities are strong communities.”

Councilwoman Claudia Frometa

Give your input on Norwalk Transit Village!

The City has a unique opportunity to rehabilitate a state property that is no longer in use, by transforming it to include a mix of new homes, as well as new commercial and open spaces for the entire City to enjoy. The draft plan for Norwalk Transit Village is now available for your input and feedback. For more information and to give your feedback or to join an upcoming community meeting, please use the QR code.



RSVP for our community workshop:  
Wednesday, March 30th  
from 4:30 - 6:30 PM  
at the Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex

[norwalktransitvillage@gmail.com](mailto:norwalktransitvillage@gmail.com) | (562) 231-6631





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