



## BIOLA CHORAL ENSEMBLES HOLD FALL CONCERT

**FULL ENSEMBLE:** The Biola Chorale and University Chorus held their fall ensemble concert, "I Believe," in Biola's Crowell Music Building. Dr. Shawna Stewart directed the chorale and John Tebay led the chorus in an afternoon of songs sung in English, Latin and French. Courtesy Biola University.

By Hannah Larson

On Sunday Nov. 5 the Biola Chorale and University Chorus held their fall ensemble concert, "I Believe," in Biola's Crowell Music Building. Shawna Stewart directed the chorale and John Tebay led the chorus in an afternoon of songs sung in English, Latin and French.

The concert opened with the university chorus singing a Latin piece, "Dies Irae," or "Day of Wrath," by composer Ryan

Main. Tebay explained that this "day of wrath" represented a final judgment when God would end evil once and for all. The chorus then transitioned to singing "A Mighty Fortress is our God" and "Wayfaring Stranger." The first song ended triumphantly on a soaring high note, then there was a brief pause before the chorus began singing "The Wayfaring Stranger." This was a mellow, slower piece — the chorus sang softly

[ See ENSEMBLE, page 14 ]

## Soroptimists at Cerritos Taste of the Region



**THE ARTESIA-CERRITOS** Branch of Soroptimists International enjoyed displaying their many activities and charitable contributions at the Cerritos Taste of the Region. The yearly event was held on November 2 at Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts.

## New Law to Bring Speed Cameras to Area Cities

Los Angeles, Long Beach, Glendale, San Francisco, San Jose & Oakland will implement the pilot program.

By Brian Hews

Speeding drivers in Los Angeles, Long Beach, Glendale, Oakland, San Francisco, and San Jose could get quite a surprise in their mailbox early next year: a speeding ticket under a pilot speed-camera program that was signed into law by Gov. Gavin Newsom.

For this publisher, it is a great idea, and data shows that people do slow down.

In 1987, Paradise Valley, Arizona, became the first in the nation to utilize photo enforcement. That year saw over 400 reported traffic collisions; after photo enforcement, the town saw 160 fewer collisions, a 42% decrease in collisions.

[ See CAMERAS, page 13 ]

## Former Bellflower Mayor Juan Garza Operated an Unlicensed Business in City for Three Years While on Council

Garza has not paid fees for three years; he also voted for a pay raise while on City Council.

By Brian Hews

A Los Cerritos Community News investigation has found that former Bellflower Mayor and current Central Basin (CB) Director Juan Garza has not registered his home-based Bellflower business with the city's business license office; Garza's company has been operating since 2019.

For nearly four years, Garza shirked payments to his own city - all while serving as a "trusted elected official" on the Bellflower City Council - taking thousands

in cash and outside committee stipends while violating the city's Municipal Code [Section 5.04] and committing fraud on the city and Bellflower taxpayers.

Garza even voted to increase his monthly pay while on the Council to \$1,470 per month starting the term after the Nov 2018 elections.

Documents obtained by LCCN from the California Secretary of State's office show that Garza registered his company, Six Heron LLC, in 2019 with an ad-



Juan Garza

[ See GARZA, page 6 ]

## California High School Academic Mentors Learn Courage, Teamwork at OC Ropes Course

By Andrea Garcia

**WHITTIER** – The California High School Academic Mentors are a group of juniors and seniors who help support teachers by working in small groups or one-on-one with mentees in classes designed to provide extra support to at-promise students.

In October, the Mentors embarked on a field trip to the

Orange County Ropes Course, where they were pushed out of their comfort zones and taught valuable lessons in teamwork, courage, and risk-taking.

In the classroom, mentors are often tasked with approaching reluctant learners, and it can be challenging to get started engaging as a role model. The goal in coordinating this field

[ See MENTORS, page 13 ]



**CALIFORNIA HIGH** School Academic Mentors at the team-building rope course. Mentors work with "Mentees" to provide support to at-promise students.

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## Mother Who Lost Son to Fentanyl Guest at St. I's Event



**AMY NEVILLE** speaking at the event. Her son Alexander died of fentanyl poisoning at age 14. In Orange County, fentanyl was the leading cause of death of teens age 17 or younger in 2021. Photo by Jennifer Dagarag.

By Rosemary Lewallen

Amy Neville, head of the Alexander Neville Foundation, spoke on October 25th at the Facts on Fentanyl Forum to a group of about 65 parents and teens at St. Irenaeus' Parish Hall.

The dramatic documentary film, "dead on arrival," was shown after a welcome by Jennifer Dagarag, St. Irenaeus' Faith Community Nurse. Pastor, Fr. Binh Nguyen, offered an opening prayer. Then, Amy Neville, whose son, Alexander, died of fentanyl poisoning at age 14, presented stark statistics about fentanyl.

We learned that one pill containing fentanyl can kill a grown person. It is "a powerful synthetic opioid, similar to morphine, but 50-100 times more powerful." Fentanyl is odorless and tasteless and more addictive than heroin.

Doctors prescribe fentanyl for pain in micrograms, not grams. The maximum dose is 75 micrograms. However, it is also distributed illegally as a powder or pill that looks the same as prescription drugs.

Fentanyl creates feelings of euphoria, but can lead to slowed breathing, chest rigidity, slowed heart rate, unconsciousness, coma, and death.

Between 2020 and 2022 there was a 70% increase in fentanyl-related deaths.

In Orange County, fentanyl was the leading cause of death of teens age 17 or younger in 2021. There has been a 1800% increase in fentanyl deaths since 2016.

It is not unusual for teens in junior high and high school to experiment and seek new experiences. They are curious,

smart, but often impulsive. It is estimated that 44% of high school students are likely to try drugs. Unfortunately, the poor choice of taking even one pill containing fentanyl is often lethal. Amy discussed the ease of purchasing illicit drugs like OxyContin, Xanax and Percocet on social media sites like Snapchat. That's what Alexander Neville did. He thought he was buying OxyContin online, but the street drug delivered to his home contained a deadly amount of fentanyl. Amy tearfully told Alexander's story. Her mission is to prevent this tragedy from happening to other families.

The take-away messages to teens were to remember what they had seen and heard that evening, seek help from a trusted adult, and never take anything not prescribed for them. Amy advised that Naloxone, the antidote to fentanyl, be a normal part of our first aid kits because you never know whose life you may save. She suggested that parents take the time to find out what's motivating their kids, empathize with them, don't minimize their problems, but listen and try to understand. It's also helpful to find out what they already know about drugs.

The Alexander Neville Foundation is a non-profit organization that promotes peer-to-peer youth education and spreading drug awareness. All work is pro-bono. If you are interested in more information, see [info@anfhelp.org](mailto:info@anfhelp.org). If you would like Amy Neville to share her experience and knowledge about fentanyl and other drugs with your organization, you can contact her at [amy@anfhelp.org](mailto:amy@anfhelp.org) or 480-213-3705.

## Longtime Soroptimist Lou Kaku Passes

By Linda J. Hernández

The entire Artesia-Cerritos Soroptimist Community was shocked and saddened at the sudden passing of Louzana "Lou" Kaku. Lou, as she was affectionately known by all, passed away in her sleep on Sunday, November 5. Very active in the local community and the matriarch of a loving family, Lou was especially proud of her involvement with Soroptimists.

In 2022, she shared the prestigious Kathy Lovell Award with Amy Dominguez. Her Facebook page proudly announced what the charitable group achieved in the 2021-22 year alone:

"Earlier this year, we supported eight women who are head of household while attending school through our "Live Your Dream" awards. At the luncheon, we also made monetary donations to the Family Guidance Center, Su Casa - Ending Domestic Violence, and SAHARA. SIAC had previously donated to Ukraine through World Central Kitchen, Save the Children and the International Rescue Committee. We had a lot to celebrate in our 50th year



**MISSED:** Lou Kaku was always ready to help in Soroptimist mission to support women and girls.

as a club. We look forward to continuing our mission to support women and girls accessing the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment."

Lou will be greatly missed by all who knew her and helped to advance the mission of Soroptimists in countless ways over her many years as an active member.

## Donate to Community Programs in Cerritos This Holiday Season

Cerritos residents can donate to community programs this holiday season.

The annual Toys for Tots program, sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps and Cerritos, provides gifts to local underprivileged children. New, unwrapped toys may be dropped off Mon., Nov. 6 through Wed., Dec. 13 in the Toys for Tots bins at Cerritos City Hall, Cerritos Library, Cerritos Senior Center at Pat Nixon Park, Liberty Park, Cerritos Park East and Cerritos Sheriff's Station.

The Salvation Army Angel Giving Tree Program helps brighten Christmas for needy children. To participate, pick up one or more tags at the Cerritos Senior Center between Monday, November 6 and Friday, December 8. Each tag will list the child's age, gender, clothing size and toy request. Submit your donation, along with the original tag, to the Cerritos Senior Center on or before Wednesday, December 13.

**For more info., call the Community Participation Division at (562) 865-8101.**

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# Cerritos, Artesia and Hawaiian Gardens Crime Summary - Oct. 31 - Nov. 3, 2023



Map created by Los Cerritos Community News  
Source: Crimemapping

## La Mirada Crime Summary

### Notable Arrests

- Six suspects were arrested throughout La Mirada for various warrants and narcotics violations.
- One suspect was arrested for battery.
- Four suspects were arrested for burglary and vandalism charges.

### Aggravated Assault

- An assault occurred on the 12600 blk. of La Mirada Blvd. Victim sustained minor injuries; suspect was arrested.

### Other Structure Burglary

- An early morning burglary occurred on the 12800 block of Valley View Ave.

### Grand Theft

- A catalytic converter theft occurred on the 14000 block of El Espejo Rd.
- A theft of a catalytic converter occurred on the 14300 block of Rosecrans.

### Vehicle Burglary

- A daytime window smash vehicle burglary occurred at 14900 block of La Mirada Blvd. A purse was reported stolen.

### Grand Theft Auto

- Two vehicles were reported stolen on the 14600 block of Ermita Ave.
- A sedan was stolen on the 15900 block of Canary Ave.

## Man Fatally Shot in Bellflower

The L.A. County Sheriff's Homicide Investigators are looking into the incident that occurred in the 9000 block of Artesia Boulevard.

The victim, a Hispanic male aged between 40-50 years, suffered a gunshot wound to the upper torso and was pronounced dead at 1:22 a.m. Currently, there are no leads; authorities are seeking help from the public. Any individual who might have information call (323) 890-5500. Anonymous, they can contact "Crime Stoppers" at (800) 222-TIPS(8477).

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# ABCUSD Superintendent Guest Speaker at La Palma-Cerritos AAUW Meeting

By Edna Ethington

The members of the La Palma-Cerritos Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) held their monthly meeting mid- October in the Skyline Room of the Cerritos Library.

Joan Pylman and Gail Ross presented the La Palma-Cerritos Branch's second AAUW Fund Named Gift Honoree Award for 2022-2023, to Maria Cecilia "Ceci" Borja-Van Zitter, for her service as Hospitality Chair for the Branch.

Celia Spitzer, former ABCUSD Board President, and past Branch President introduced the guest speaker of the night, newly selected ABCUSD Superintendent Dr. Gina Zietlow.

Members learned that Dr. Zietlow earned her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from Biola University, and a Doctor of Education Degree from the University of La Verne. She was an English teacher, cheer advisor, and Activities Director before becoming the Assistant Principal, and then Principal at Gahr High.

While she was at Gahr, she was named the Secondary Principal of the Year in California by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the State Secondary Principal of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), and the ACSA Region 14 Secondary Principal of the Year. Zietlow has spent the last six years as Assistant Superintendent. With her hiring as Superintendent of ABCUSD, Dr. Zietlow has been working in the same district for



**SUPERINTENDENT VISIT:** at the La Palma-Cerritos Branch AAUW meeting in October at the Cerritos Library, are, left to right, Co-Administrators Gail Ross and Joan Pylman, Guest Speaker ABC Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Gina Zietlow, and Facilitator Celia Spitzer. Photo and caption by Edna Ethington.

30 years.

Dr. Zietlow explained that the ABC of the Unified School District stood for Artesia, Bloomfield, and Carmenita School Districts that unified in 1965. The Artesia District included most of Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens, and parts of Lakewood, Norwalk, Long Beach, and La Mirada.

Dr. Zietlow said that the ABC Unified School District received California State Funds for free breakfast and lunch for all students. The district also received funds for before and after school care at no cost that would help working parents.

These State Funds could be used for specific purposes such as math enrichment, STEM subjects, physical education, etc. Additional help is given for reading assistance to students in lower grades, for math help in middle schools, and for writing help in high schools.

Dr. Zietlow showed charts of how the

\$258 million that was approved in Measure BB in 2018 has been used to date. All schools received security cameras, elementary schools have new playground equipment and surfaces, and all high schools and middle schools will have upgraded classrooms with new technology, furniture, new media centers, and upgraded or new science facilities.

*The next meeting of the La Palma-Cerritos AAUW will be held on Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at Cerritos College, Fine Arts Building Room 138. Use Parking Lot 10 for that day. Guest speaker will be Hameeda Banai on the topic of "Living in Afghanistan Coming to America." For more information about the program, contact Co-Facilitators Harriet Moses at 714-994-1487 or Thea Siegel at 562-926-3667.*

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**GARZA** from page 1

dress on Felson St. in Bellflower.

An online title search reveals that Garza and his wife, Mayra, who is currently President of the Bellflower Unified School District Board, own the house at that address.

A check on Bellflower's website shows that Garza continues his illegal ways; a search of Garza's address, PO Box, and/or name related to Six Heron is met with "nothing registered in that name," adding another year of business license fees to his fraud tally.

The revelation is another in a long line of corruption occurrences for the embattled CB Director. Yet Garza's cronies on the CB Board - Leticia Vasquez-Wilson, Martha Rodriguez and La Habra Heights Water GM Michael Gualtieri - continue to blast CB GM Alex Rojas for his alleged crimes while turning a deaf ear to the corrupt actions of Garza.

**Conflicts of Interest From the Beginning**

In May 2023, just like he did in his home city of Bellflower, Garza "failed to inform the board and management" of his many conflicts of interest and questionable business connections with lobbying firms during his appointment interview.

After replacing one of the most well-respected politicians in Southern California, former California Assemblyman, CB Director, and MWD Board member Phil Hawkins, who had passed away, Garza immediately got to work attempting to help one of his friends who owns a lobbying firm secure CB's lobbying contract while getting the CB's current firm fired.

Sources told LCCN that Garza became "very angry" that CB GM Alex Rojas chose not to retain California Advocacy, LLC, a lobbying firm Garza works with; Garza is also friends with the owner of California Advocacy, Marvin Pineda.

Pineda donated to Garza's failed re-election campaign for Bellflower City Council in 2022.

Garza's campaign statement showing Pineda's \$2,000 donation in June 2022. Click on image to view larger document.

Adding to the conflict, Garza is the Executive Director of California Cities for Self-Reliance-JPA; California Advocacy is the lobbying firm for the JPA; Garza has renewed the contract with California Advocacy since 2020.

CB GM Alex Rojas went on the record confirming Garza's illicit maneuver to get California Advocacy in as CB's lobbying firm, "Garza called a meeting and demanded we fire Lucien Partners, our current lobbying firm, and replace them with Cal Advocacy; there was another board member at the meeting."

**Handing Out No Bid Public Contracts**

The JPA that Garza works for is a formal legal organization with member cities subject to the same laws as other public agencies, including the bidding process.

Public agencies must publish in print and online Request for Proposals (RFPs) when the agency solicits bids for projects. California law mandates that the agency accept the "lowest responsible bid" for the project.

LCCN learned of Garza's JPA arrangement with California Advocacy and submitted a public records request asking for lobbying firm RFPs published by the JPA since 2020.

Garza, who oddly handled LCCN's request through his unlicensed Six Heron LLC email, admitted he never sent out RFPs for the lobbying contract.

It is unknown why the JPA's attorney-of-record, Olivarez Madruga Law Organization LLP, did not handle LCCN's request, maybe because the Evergreen PAC gave Garza \$2,000 for his 2022 campaign.

Garza took 24 days to respond to the records request, writing, "...there are no documents responsive to your request."

The overall budget of the JPA is \$235,000; the California Advocacy contract is \$80,000 annually or an eye-opening 34 percent of the JPA's budget.

**Interference in Award of Contracts**

A few weeks ago, without any evidence, CB Directors Vasquez, Camacho, Garza, and newly recruited La Habra Heights Water GM Michael Gualtieri moved to send out a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to hire an investigative law firm to look into a company called Capstone. Sources are telling LCCN the investigation will cost over \$100,000.

Vasquez' litigious husband Ron Wilson, along with his wife Leticia Vasquez, have been very vocal and alleging at public meetings that "major financial fraud is occurring" concerning Capstone and CB and that he [Wilson] has "the checks to prove it."

LCCN has emailed Wilson seven (7) times, asking him for the proof, but has yet to receive a response.

Strangely, Wilson has yet to give the checks to his Whittier Daily News reporter-on-speed-dial Jason Henry, who has written extensively about Capstone without producing evidence.

That did not matter to Vasquez, Camacho, Garza, and Gualtieri, per the board vote, CB published the RFQ for an investigation firm and waited for responses.

To prevent any possible undue influence, conflicts of interest, and corruption, most public agencies prohibit prior contact with any firm that has responded to an RFQ.

Prior contact is a violation under CB's Administrative Code, yet once again, similar to his attempt to hire his buddy Pineda and California Advocacy, document obtained by LCCN show Garza violated the Code and called San Francisco-based Renne Public Law Group (RPLG) on September 29, the day RPLG was set to present its company for consideration as the investigation firm looking into Capstone.

Garza did not inform anyone at CB about the call before, during, or after RPLG's presentation, which occurred Friday, September 29.

In addition, the RPPG employee who took Garza's call, Dane Hutchings, did not inform anyone in his company about Garza's call.

Andrew Shen, Principal of RPLG, was asked if anyone at his company had any contact with anyone at Central Basin. Shen said no.

Shen said he subsequently "found out" about the Garza-Hutchings conversation but waited three days to call CB attorney Derrick Lowe to explain the highly unusual call. Lowe asked for a letter explaining the incident.

Shen wrote, "The functions of RPLG and RPPG are entirely different. Although RPPG is a subsidiary.... the two groups operate separately, which is why we were unaware of the Garza-Hutchings call."

LCCN sent questions via email asking Shen how he discovered the Garza-Hutchings phone call if the two "operate separately," Shen refused to answer.

Garza's call and the subsequent cover-up of the call is a direct violation of the Central Basin Administrative Code, changed after the 2015 state audit revealed several conflicts of interest between vendors and board members, similar to Garza's interference.

RPLG's contract was an item on the October 23 CB agenda, but the CB Board chose another firm.

Sources tell LCCN that the article LCCN published October 20 related to Garza call to RPLG "opened the eyes of certain board members."

Meanwhile Garza violated CB's Code once again voting yes to hire RPPG instead of recusing himself from the vote for illegal prior contact.

**Give Yourself the Gift of Peace at the Thanksgiving Labyrinth Walk**

**THE THANKSGIVING LABYRINTH** is a valuable meditation tool to help you begin your inward journey before facing the hectic holiday season and a perfect time to reflect on our many blessings.

**By Rosemary Lewallen**

If you need a break from disturbing world news, personal issues, or just crave serenity, come to the Thanksgiving Labyrinth Walk on Tuesday, November 21st from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at St. Irenaeus Parish Hall, 5201 Evergreen Ave., Cypress, CA 90630.

This is a full-body prayer in which you walk along a set path.

It takes only about 20-30 minutes, so drop by to experience this unique form of prayer or even if you are just curious. There is no charge.

The Thanksgiving Labyrinth is a valuable meditation tool to help you begin your inward journey before facing

the hectic holiday season and a perfect time to reflect on our many blessings.

There is no set way to walk and pray the labyrinth. You first need to quiet your mind, walk at your own pace, and enjoy prayerful reflection.

St. Irenaeus Health Ministry invites you to let God relieve your stress at the Thanksgiving Labyrinth.

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28).

You deserve to receive this gift of peace.

*If you have any questions, please contact Monica Kovach, Chair of Labyrinth Ministry, at 310-490-6113.*

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## A Student's Perspective on ABCUSD's Turmoil

### Dear ABCUSD Trustees:

As a 2004 graduate from Gahr High, I have read the local news about the ABC school board meetings with keen interest. To my dismay, ABCUSD has veered far off track by partisan politics. Needless to say, my schooling at ABC, which prepared me to graduate with honors from Penn State, was not weighed down by divisive politics nor hidden political agendas.

From my observation, it only takes one zealous trustee to ardently lead the charge for frenzied supporters to be triggered by an issue; such as, parental rights. Indeed, parental rights is an emotional hot button. As a parent, I believe parents must be informed with hard facts, not misled nor misinformed. For example, the district lawyers, versed in state policy, spelled out the limitations of school districts once policies become law. Noncompliance could lead to litigation as we see in a handful of neighboring school districts now battling litigation for noncompliance. Both lawyers and teachers, present at the board meeting, explained the consequence of noncompliance and the potential drain of school funds for students should litigation ensue. Teachers explained the government is not the enemy, that education experts write the new policies, which are reviewed and debated by policymakers, voted, & signed into law.

Villainizing Governor Gavin Newsom and exaggerating falsehoods to stir hysteria about gender identity issues is simply wrong. As far as ever having been indoctrinated by my teachers or forced to lie to my parents (which some parents believe) I have never had that experience at ABCUSD. I believe knowledge is power; that equipping parents with facts, hard data and knowledge regarding the scope of limitations and viable solutions to address issues is the better path to go forward. I agree parents have every right to voice their opposition to policies they believe violate their rights; however, not at the school board. The board's time and energy should be dedicated to improving scholastic achievement and meeting the many needs of students and the community.

I urge the ABC school board to refrain from caving in to public pressure intended to strip away state policies, one by one. What's next? Book bans? CRT? The entire education code? I challenge you to continue the fine work you have been tasked to do and to make a difference in students' lives. I extend my immense gratitude to both my parents and teachers for an educational opportunity that has been life-changing.

*Respectfully, Victoria Herrarte  
Former ABCUSD student*

## An Educator's Perspective on the Turmoil at ABCUSD

As a retired educator, I have reflected on what is happening in ABCUSD and to public education in general. The aim is strategic, targeted, funded; and is a scaled attempt to destroy the ideals of equity, social justice and inclusion in public education. The resolution document, presented by the board and passed by a unanimous vote, is only as effective as a responsive governing school board. Without accountability in holding firm to the resolution and in censuring imprudent behavior from within the school board, the resolution document is meaningless. However, I believe it was created in good faith.

What is not in good faith is on-going partisan politics. A school district cannot have a trustee sowing the seeds of distrust in our school system, challenging ABCUSD from a seat of privilege, a position the trustee is entrusted to serve. We cannot have a leader challenging the school district unapologetically without regard to the heat-

ed backlash it has painfully caused. We cannot have a trustee disparage students, their families and communities, nor use a position of authority to have others make baseless accusations against educators, many of whom feel outraged and overwhelmed with the claims of teaching students to lie to their parents or of indoctrinating students. This is simply not happening in classrooms at ABCUSD schools.

It is unconscionable to stir defamatory claims when, in fact, educators are painstakingly trying to do their job by adhering to state curriculum guidelines. Educators do not need more stress and drama. What they need is our respect.

It is a great disservice to the ABCUSD community when a public servant fuels discord, tipping the balance of a hard-working district, formerly esteemed for its innovation, partnerships, collaboration and mutual respect. Unfortunately, what we now see is polarization, distraction, and distrust. Sadly, ABC students lose when the focus is NOT on a rigorous education; on nurturing the whole child; when the working climate for educators grows more uncertain and potentially oppressive by needless partisan politics.

If the board is serious about correcting the wrong and doing what is right for students, then pass a board policy which holds leaders firmly to the proposed resolution, embedded with precise language as suggested and written in the proposed pledge be the teacher retirees chapter; e.g., Racism. Declare racism won't be tolerated at ABC in any shape or form by any party.

Let us commit firmly to a higher professional standard by giving the resolution a fair chance to be a living, flexible document; and let us get back to the business of educating students, who must be placed before unabashed, partisan politics. Why? Students should be the essential element.

*Sandy Mercado, ABC Retirees Chapter*

**Editor's Note:** This is a transcript of Dr. Christine Valenciana's ABCUSD School Board Meeting speech on November 7.

### Good evening:

I am Dr. Christine Valenciana, Associate Professor Emeritus in the Department of Elementary and Bilingual Education at California State University Fullerton and Historian of ABC Federation of Teachers Retiree Chapter. My comments are related to Resolution 23-11.

"Adverse remarks about a person's race, ancestry, ethnic group identification, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender, mental or physical disability, or age may not be made."

Those words are a new beginning to honor policies within ABCUSD and public education in California in place for decades to respect all students, parents, employees, and community members regardless of their racial, ethnic or language identify.

As a former young tenured teacher in ABCUSD, I have been particularly unhappy at very hateful racist microaggressions made in a public venue within the ABCUSD area, on a media venue and in this very room over the last two years.

I watch board meetings on You Tube, listen to media venues, speak to community members, read articles about ABCUSD activities and students.

Many of us know that racism is alive and well in our society. Our society is very uncomfortable even mentioning the word racism. Most of us don't understand the complexity of racism, so tonight I will speak about microaggressions in ABC which caught my attention and that of many others in this community. So, what are microaggressions?

Microaggressions are often disrespectful statements made with little thought to their meaning related to race, ethnicity, language, culture, gender and so on. Here are some examples that have occurred in a public venue in ABC, at board meetings and in

at least one media interview.

"Families need to stop spending money on vacations and spend money on tutoring." The ethnic group referred to is a community of families whose first priorities are God and family.

I will share a couple more. "Jovenes, young people, you should work with your peers on the drug problem." Latino students are not the only community in ABC who have problems with drugs.

"We need to get over the slavery thing." Slavery is an uncomfortable yet factual part of our history not to be ignored! This is particularly disrespectful to Black Americans in ABCUSD.

So how do we stop such disrespectful racist microaggressions?

My expectations are that hateful microaggressions and language need to stop. My expectation is that board members will take a stand against such comments immediately when they are made anywhere in ABC or where a board member is introduced as a trustee of ABCUSD or speaks as a trustee. My expectations are that board members will set the tone with respectful, non-racist comments.

I have had the pleasure of meeting and speaking to several of our board members over the last year. I am counting on them to be the positive leaders that I know that they are and wish to continue being.

I have the same expectation as a beginning teacher here in ABCUSD so many years ago...that ABCUSD Trustees respect all students, parents, employees and community members to become an even better respectful inclusive community.

*Thank you.*

*Christine Valenciana, Ph. D.  
Associate Professor Emeritus  
Dept. of Elementary and  
Bilingual Education  
California State University Fullerton*



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## Must-Have Gifts for Your Favorite Gardener

By Melinda Myers

Every gardener, new or experienced, appreciates tools to help them better enjoy their hobby. Some may be looking for ergonomically designed tools to help them garden longer while newbies may need some basic tools as they are getting started. A peek in their shed may help you decide which must-have tool to give them this holiday season.

Every gardener needs a bypass pruner for deadheading, trimming and pruning stems between ¼" and 1". Bypass pruners have two sharp blades like scissors, making a clean cut that closes quickly.

Bypass loppers allow your gift recipient to cut larger diameter branches and long handles for greater leverage and long reach. The extra reach makes it easier to prune all parts of small trees, shrubs and roses. Consider gifting one with a compound cutting action that boosts cutting power with less effort.

If your favorite gardener doesn't have one, your gift of a weed knife also known as a Hori Hori knife will soon become a favorite tool. It is useful for cutting through sod and roots, planting small bulbs, digging weeds and so much more. Select one like Corona's Hori Hori Garden Knife with a ComfortGel grip ([www.coronatoolsusa.com](http://www.coronatoolsusa.com)) to help reduce muscle fatigue. The metal runs all the way through, providing added durability and leverage. Include a sheath so they can keep this universal tool handy whenever working in the garden.

Digging small holes for planting in

containers and garden beds is a seasonal reality and a hand trowel is the perfect tool for the job. Gift a new durable trowel or upgrade the existing one. Look for one that is sturdy, lightweight and has an ergonomic grip.

A long-handled pointed shovel is a versatile tool. You can plant, transplant, dig holes and more. Look for one with a foot pad to help reduce foot fatigue and shoe damage. Avid flower gardeners may prefer a short-handled spade that makes working in tight spaces easier. Perhaps your gift recipient needs both.

With an expandable leaf rake, you can adjust the width of the teeth, allowing you to reach into tight spaces or cover larger areas. An iron rake is great for moving soil and one with a bow head makes it easier to adjust the depth.

For something different consider an auger bit available in a variety of lengths and bit diameters. Attach this to a cordless drill and you have the perfect tool for planting bulbs and small transplants, aerating soil, and vertically mulching planting beds.

Perhaps you're just looking for a few stocking stuffers. Safety glasses are a must but are often overlooked. Help them protect their eyes from stray branches and debris when in the garden. Tinted ones will also protect eyes from UV light, providing an added layer of safety when gardening in the bright sunlight.

Make it easy for them to keep their tools sharp with the gift of a tool sharpener. Sharp tools make cleaner cuts and require less effort, allowing them to garden longer. A small sharpener with a cap allows them to keep it handy in their tool caddy or scabbard. If they have easy access, they are more likely to use it to keep their tools in the best cutting order.

Drop a pair of snips in their stocking and they are sure to thank you any time they deadhead a flower, snip off a way-



**WEED KNIVES**, like this Hori Hori knife, are multi-purpose as they can be used for cutting through sod and roots, planting bulbs, digging weeds, and more. Photo courtesy of Corona Tools.

ward or dead stem, or harvest herbs and flowers. This is another tool gardeners appreciate duplicates of – one for the kitchen and one for the garden.

Keep them gardening longer throughout the day and for years to come. Gift a kneeling pad or knee pads that protect young and old joints while kneeling in the garden to plant, weed, and more.

Tools make a wonderful gift that will provide years of enjoyment and benefit. Whatever gift you select, your favorite gardener is sure to thank you each time they head to the garden.

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

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## CIF-SOUTHERN SECTION DIVISION 11 FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

### GAHR'S OFFENSE SHUT DOWN IN SECOND HALF BY TOP-SEEDED QUARTZ HILL

By Loren Kopff  
@LorenKopff on X & Instagram

QUARTZ HILL-In a battle of 7-3 teams playing on a clear, crisp evening on the western side of the Antelope Valley last Friday, Gahr High was right where it wanted to be against Quartz Hill High in the CIF-Southern Section Division 11 first round playoffs. The Gladiators scored the first points of the game, was nearly even in first half yardage and was within a score of tying the top-seeded Royals by halftime.

Even after the opening drive of the second half, Gahr was still within striking range of the Royals. But Gahr was limited to 54 yards in the second half, punted on three straight possessions, then fumbled twice in a span of eight seconds late in the game as Quartz Hill knocked out the Gladiators 28-7. The second-place representatives out of the Mid-Cities League finishes the season at 7-4.

For longtime head coach Greg Marshall, he has seen this script before in the team's other three losses, in which it has given up at least 44 points all three times and committing crucial turnovers at the worst time. This time, it was a fumble in the first quarter that led to the tying touchdown and another one later in the contest that sealed the win for Quartz Hill.

"The problem was the fumble," said Marshall. "Every game that we've lost... but we stop them and [we] fumble the ball and they get it back and they score, in all our losses. We're playing well, then we stop them and give them a short field."

On paper, this was a battle between the leading ground gainers of both teams whose uniform number is #1 and who have rushed for 1,000 yards this season. Gahr senior running back Kalen Montgomery, who entered the game with 1,339 yards and 25 touchdowns, carried the ball on the game's first four plays, then scored from five yards out after a 22-yard pass play from senior quarterback Frank Williams to junior wide receiver Markell Slaughter.

The Gladiators would force the tri-champions of the Golden League to punt on their first drive of the game. But immediately, Max Gunter recovered a fumble at the Gahr 31-yard line and five plays later, Jaden Graham tied the game with a seven-yard run. Graham, who also wears #1 on his uniform, led the Royals with 1,107 yards and 11 touchdowns in the regular season.

After an eight-yard loss on Gahr's first play following the tying touchdown, a holding infraction, and an incomplete pass, Gahr was pinned back at its eight-yard line facing third and 22. But Slaughter had a pair of runs totaling 22 yards. Three plays later and facing third and

11, Williams found senior wide receiver Noah Taylor for 12 yards. The Gladiators would eventually get to the Quartz Hill 40-yard line before turning the ball over on downs. Four plays later, Graham's 41-yard touchdown gave the hosts a 14-7 lead.



The Gladiators answered back thanks to Montgomery gaining 11 yards on five plays and senior wide receiver Myles Merchant hauling in a 47-yard reception to get the ball to the six-yard line. But on third and goal, Williams was intercepted by Daryl Lawrence at the two-yard line with 1:19 left before halftime.

"We had the guy wide open; we just couldn't execute the play," said Marshall. "I told them in the playoffs, you can't leave points on the board."

Gahr had put together 173 yards of offense in the first half despite the two turnovers, but the second half would be a different story. On the third play following intermission, Graham was at it again, scoring on a 59-yard run to increase the score and to make things worse for Gahr, the stanza would see Gahr run 11 plays and punt twice while the Royals were held on downs on their second possession and punted less than a minute into the fourth quarter.

With the score still 21-7, Gahr put together another solid drive, this one of 5:22. But for the third straight time in the second half, it ended in a punt and with 5:41 left in the game, the Royals knew it had to stay with the run and chew up some time.

The final score of the game came when Slaughter caught an 18-yard pass, was immediately hit on a questionable helmet to helmet play and fumbled. The ball was picked up by Lawrence who returned it 45 yards for the final score.

"We were fine until the second half," said Marshall. "They kind of got us offensively. We couldn't put anything together."

Williams was seven of 15 for 114 yards but had a hard time getting his footing as he slipped backwards several times, especially in the second half while Montgomery wrapped up his Gahr career

with 82 yards on 24 carries. Slaughter picked up 35 yards on seven carries and caught two passes for 30 yards. Merchant also caught two passes for 65 yards while on defense, senior linebacker Royal Nwoso and junior linebacker Isaiah Portillo each had four and a half tackles while Merchant and Slaughter each added three tackles.

"I don't think we handled the turf very well," said Marshall. "I don't know if we all needed to get new cleats or not play on grass. But we were slipping, and we didn't look very fast tonight."

"We were missing our assignments," he continued. "The inside linebacker; we never picked up and we weren't good on our combinations tonight. So, we were never able to spring [our running backs]. We were just off tonight."

For Quartz Hill, which will face Linfield Christian High in the quarterfinals, it was all about Graham, who had a season-high 205 yards on 28 carries, five of which went for at least 11 yards. Only twice did he not get positive yardage. Quarterback Brody Larey was six of 18 for 78 yards.

"I had to change the defense; I had to go to a four-man line," said Marshall of defending Graham. "And it slowed him down. Other than that one long play, we pretty much managed him once we changed the defense. I thought we did a good job of adjusting to him."

This was Gahr's first trip to the playoffs since 2019 and sixth in school history. But the Gladiators have not won a postseason game since 2007 when Corey Nielsen and his 4,363 yards and 35 touchdowns through the air guided them to a semifinal appearance where they lost to St. Paul High 18-14. Before that season, Gahr's only other trip to the quarterfinals was in 1974 when it fell to El Dorado High 42-14 in the 2A Division.

"When your consistent and you build it, then you're happy with the product you put on the field because there's a lot of hard work," said Marshall. "Being in the [Mid-Cities] league helps that. Being in the league really helps our ability to build the program. We're losing a lot of seniors, but as far as our numbers we have 80 kids in the program. We do have half the line coming back; we have enough to build on and we have some big, young linemen coming back."

"But for us, we have to figure out what we have and put it back together and try to go in the right direction again," he continued. "I think we'll be okay. It shouldn't be a big drop-off."

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**NEWS AND NOTES FROM PRESS ROW**

**BASKETBALL, SOCCER SEASONS BEGIN WHILE PAIR OF AREA FOOTBALL TEAMS ADVANCE TO QUARTERFINALS**

By Loren Kopff  
@LorenKopff on Twitter

As the postseason continues for the fall sports, the winter season begins with a handful of basketball and soccer games on tap for the first week of the season, which begins on Monday. While that is going on, two area football teams remain alive in the CIF-Southern Section playoffs cross country preliminaries begin on Friday.



**FOOTBALL DIVISION 12**

**#13 Cerritos High (6-5) @ #12 Western Christian High (7-4)**-For the first time since 2001, and the third time in school history, the Dons are in the quarterfinals. Cerritos, which is now 3-7 all-time in the playoffs, upset fourth-ranked Fillmore High 24-12 last Friday in the Santa Clarita River Valley of Ventura County. Junior running back Dikshanta Adhikari was a workhorse as he gained a game-high 179 yards on 23 carries and scored on a 57-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter. As a team, Cerritos rushed 51 times for 390 yards and scored three touchdowns. Senior Moises Mendoza booted a 36-yard field goal in the fourth quarter as the Dons were up 14-12 entering the final stanza. Junior linebacker Nathaniel Crawford led the way on defense with 13 tackles. It's the fourth straight game the Dons have allowed less than 20 points.

Western Christian, based in Upland, finished fourth in the Mesquite League, which houses teams from Redlands, Riverside, San Juan Capistrano, Temecula and Riverside. The Lancers began the season on a four-game winning streak and won five of their first six games. The offense will be the most explosive the Dons have seen all season as Western Christian has scored 437 points, including 34 points or more in all seven victories. Last Friday, the Lancers edged fifth-seeded Victor Valley High 50-48 as they were training 28-24

after three quarters. The lead changed hands seven times in the final stanza with the winning score coming with less than a minute to play.

Quarterback Jared Doolittle completed 21 of 45 passes for 368 yards and four touchdowns but was picked off twice. For the season, Doolittle has thrown for nearly 2,900 yards with 37 touchdowns and 11 interceptions. His favorite target are Elijah Vasquez (63 receptions, 1,007 yards, 12 touchdowns), J.J. Hooper (47 receptions, 857 yards, 10 touchdowns) and Darryl Booker (41 receptions, 811 yards, 10 touchdowns).

Defensively, the Lancers have allowed an average of 29 points per game and have been involved in a pair of one-possession games decided by a total of three points. In three of its losses, Western Christian yielded 58, 42, and 44 points. Booker has six of the team's 11 interceptions.

The winner of this game faces either top-seeded Coachella Valley High or Don Lugo High on Nov. 17.

**Prediction: Cerritos 48, Western Christian 42**



**DIVISION 14**

**#1 Artesia High (7-4) @ #8 Santa Rosa Academy (7-4)**-There were no upsets in the upper half of the bracket, which included Artesia's 56-23 victory over Temecula Prep last Friday. The Pioneers built a 42-13 halftime lead and cruised to their second highest point production in 2023. Artesia blasted Workman High 68-6 in the season opener and the win over Temecula Prep marked the sixth time the Pioneers have scored at least 35 points in a game this season. After first round exits in 2019 and 2021, the Pioneers return to the quarterfinals for the first time since 2018 when they advanced to the Division 12 finals and overall, they are 9-21 in the playoffs.

Against Temecula Prep, junior running back Julius Padilla had career-highs in yards (249) on 18 carries and touchdowns (four) while junior

quarterback Charlie Lopez added another 180 yards on the ground and scored three times out of his 14 carries. Senior Chase Adams, normally a center and a linebacker, even added a four-yard touchdown run. Santa Rosa Academy can also put up the points, scoring 413 so far, including over 40 points in its six regular season victories. The Rangers got past Rancho Alamitos High 24-20 last Friday as the Vaqueros were stopped at the five-yard line with half a minute remaining in the game. Quarterback Daniel Joseph Marlow completed nine of 12 passes for 155 yards and rushed for 110 yards on 15 carries while scoring

once. For the season, he has thrown for over 1,600 yards with 16 touchdowns and just two interceptions. Like Lopez, he is also the team's leading rusher with 941 yards and 18 touchdowns and as a team, the Rangers have rushed for 2,600 yards.

The winner of this game will face either fifth-ranked Bell Gardens High or fourth-ranked Ocean View High.

**Prediction: Artesia 42, Santa Rosa Academy 35**

**Last week's predictions: 1-2  
Season to date: 50-16**

[ See NEWS & NOTES, page 14 ]

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**WONDERWORD**

By DAVID OUELLET

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

**WHAT NOT TO WEAR**

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

Adam, Arrojo, Bill, Blazer, Boutiques, Carmindy, Clinton, Closet, CreditCard, Crew, Decisions, Dress, Earrings, Episode, Film, Friends, Gibson, Hair, Insight, Kelly, London, Makeup, Mirror, Necklace, NewYork, Nick, Opinions, Pants, Room, Rules, Sale, Season, Sell, Series, Shock, Shoes, Shop, Skirt, Stacy, Stages, Style, Team, Tips, Upscale, Visa

Solution to puzzle on page 15.
**Solution: 8 letters**

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## AURA Academy IB Mathematics - Numbers for Life

By Eddie Vargas, Ryan Papazian, and Brent Davis

What is the connection between your sleep and your health? Compute the correlation coefficient for the data in Table A. Which of these two is of more interest to you? Probably the first question. Did you even note that the connection between health and sleep could be expressed as a correlation?

In an IB math class, such as at AURA high school in Signal Hill, students are expected to use mathematical operations to answer life questions. This inquiry approach creates more interest and helps students to see the use of mathematics in the real world. The AURA Middle Years Program (MYP) develops skills and concepts, treats students as individuals, applies learning to service, and prepares them to transition to the Diploma Program.

### Course Concepts

As students progress through the Middle-Years Program they will develop key foundational and soft skills, which help build the framework of the IB program. IB rewards students for their collaboration, communication, and presentation abilities. These foundational and soft skills will prepare them for the projects required in the last two years of their high school careers, when they are part of the Diploma Program.

AURA will implement mathematics from the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program. In the IB Math course, each unit will feature a single Key Concept, and one or more Related Concepts. In addition to the concepts taught in class, AURA mathematics will also feature a Global Context, or theme, in which students can apply math to real-world scenarios and experiences! IB Mathematics will also include the following aspects of math: Form (any visual representation of math), Logic (critical thinking applied to formulas and their processes) and Relationships (functions and relationships in different forms of math).

### Personalized Service Learning

AURA will feature a significantly lower student-teacher ratio compared to the national average, allowing our students to receive more care and attention from their instructors. Teachers not only build Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) for every student, but also care for and manage each student optimally! The different ways students learn will be identified and used to help them succeed in their own way. During each class session, students are provided a state-



ment of inquiry related to the course material from which they derive questions like the one we began the article with.

Students will be assessed in conventional ways, but also, they will give presentations on the research they did to answer their questions. Another key aspect is that students will apply their learning to service opportunities, connecting values and skills in authentic learning experiences that serve the community.

### Middle Years to Diploma Program Transition

The International Baccalaureate (IB) provides a comprehensive educational framework for students transitioning from the Middle Years Program (MYP) to the Diploma Program (DP). The mathematics curriculum in the MYP focuses on developing students' mathematical understanding, problem-solving skills, and critical thinking abilities. Key features of MYP Mathematics include conceptual understanding, real-world applications, inquiry-based learning, holistic development, and assessment. This foundation prepares students for the Diploma Programme (DP) Mathematics which is more specialized and rigorous, but still differentiates course concepts to suit student abilities and interests. Examples of mathematical concepts covered in DP Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches include sequence and series, proofs, differential and integral calculus, probability and statistics, and linear algebra. As a Christian, IB high school in the Long Beach area, AURA is committed to providing the STEAM curriculum necessary to prepare our students for success in the health sciences and any area using mathematics.

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## CAMERAS from page 1

"Slowing cars is imperative to saving lives," the bill's author, Assemblywoman Laura Friedman, D-Burbank, said in a statement last month when the bill was approved by the Legislature.

A CDC study found automated speed camera enforcement effectively reduces speed and speed-related crashes. In one review, all studies evaluating speed cameras saw reductions in speed and crashes when the cameras were present.

A 2016 study reported on the results of a comprehensive study in Montgomery County, Maryland, seven and a half years after the cameras were installed. The streets saw a decrease in speed and a reduction in the likelihood of a crash resulting in an incapacitating or fatal injury.

In the survey, 95% were aware of the speed cameras, and 76% of those aware had reduced their speeds because of the cameras.

According to Friedman's office, statistics from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health show that motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death for people under 30. Data shows that 4,379 Californians died in traffic collisions in 2021, 1,275 of whom were pedestrians or bicyclists.

Under the legislation, the pilot program will allow the cities to install a limited number of cameras designed to photograph and generate speeding tickets that are then mailed to offenders.

In a head-scratcher, the first ticket issued to a driver would only be a warning, and there will be no effect on the driver's car insurance. "Why give a warning? The person is speeding, the state and city spent the money, give the speeder a maximum fine," said one resident, "where is the incentive to slow down?"

Subsequent tickets also provide little incentive to slow down; fines would "begin at \$50, and subsequent tickets would be issued similar to parking tickets, sent to drivers through the mail without adding any points to the driver's records or impacting the driver's insurance."

The legislation also includes a legal appeals process and avenues for low-income offenders to have the fines waived or reduced by up to 80%.

Damien Kevitt, Executive Director of Streets Are For Everyone, told LCCN, "The fines were negotiated as a compromise with several equity-focused organizations that didn't want to see hefty fines for speeders. The fine structure is based on what worked in New York City, which has a \$50 fine. In New York, they had a 73% drop in speeding after the program's first two years. So, it does work in other areas.

"Since this is a pilot, we will see if these fines will do enough to deter speeders or not. A lot of people will care, but some won't care at all. \$50 is an expensive cup of coffee for them."

Regarding no penalty on insurance, Kevitt said, "Since the program uses a camera that only takes a photo of a license plate in addition to measuring the speed, there's no way to identify who the vehicle's driver actually is. Is it the owner or maybe their teenage son or daughter? As a result, you can't add points to the record of the car's registered owner; otherwise, it could cause an injustice and, thus, a legal reason why people can avoid paying the ticket. That is one of the reasons the red-light camera system failed, the same legal loophole."

## MENTORS from page 1

trip was to help the Mentors gain more confidence and realize the potential of positive words in their work.

The Orange County Ropes Course is an elaborate network of above-ground obstacles, climbing structures, and a final zipline designed to test a person's physical and mental abilities. The Mentors faced the rope course building a strong mentality of overcoming obstacles that they will now bring to their mentoring sessions in the classroom.

"It was difficult to find the courage to go down the zipline at first, but the instructor helped me to relax and gave me the confidence to go for it," senior Academic Mentor Justine Alvarez said. "It ended up being fun, and I learned that you shouldn't be afraid to take some risks in life!"

As the Mentors navigated the ropes course, they discovered the importance of effective communication and encouragement. Whether crossing a wobbly bridge or making the exhilarating descent down the zipline, they were taught that success often relied on their ability to support and uplift one another.

The Academic Mentors also gained a deeper understanding of the importance of patience, looking just one step ahead at a time, and the benefit of pushing past comfort zones and developing a growth mindset.

"Our Academic Mentors play an integral leadership role in the school," Principal Bill Schloss said. "They dedicate much of their time to helping all students achieve academic and personal success, as well as helping support them socially and emotionally."

"Congratulations to California High School's Academic Mentors for taking on the Orange County Ropes Course, exemplifying the values of teamwork, courage and pushing boundaries," Board President Jaime López said. "Whittier Union is proud to provide many growth opportunities across the District that nurture our students as they continue 'To Achieve and Maintain Excellence.'"

## Cerritos Library Seeks Teen volunteers

The Cerritos Library Volunteer program is seeking dependable teen volunteers for a variety of tasks.

Applications for the 2024 Spring session will be available on Monday, November 13 at the Circulation Desk. The session runs from Monday, January 8 through Saturday, May 25, 2024.

Volunteer duties include shelving library materials, helping with arts and crafts projects, monitoring the children's computer workstations, operating the Friends Bookstore, assisting with birthday party packages and participating in the Child and Teen Read Aloud program.

Volunteer applications are open to students at least 13 years old in grades 7 through 12.

Applicants must have a Cerritos Library card in good standing and are required to successfully pass a criminal background assessment in accordance with City policy, which includes a live scan records check, prior to their start date.

For more information, call (562) 916-1338 or email [volunteer@cerritos.us](mailto:volunteer@cerritos.us). Cerritos Library is open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.



### It's Annual Property Tax Time!

The Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collector mailed bills in October, with a first installment due date of November 1st. Submit a Public Inquiry and access many available self-service options online and in several languages at <https://ttc.lacounty.gov/>, including:

- Paying online (no cost for eChecks)
- Viewing a copy of your annual tax bill
- Reviewing your payment history
- Learning how to avoid penalties
- Managing multiple properties

**NEWS & NOTES** from page 11**CROSS COUNTRY**

The CIF-SS boys and girls preliminaries take place on Friday and Saturday at Mt. San Antonio College and nine area teams will begin their journey towards a divisional championship and/or a trip to the state championships.

In Division 2 action, the Cerritos boys will run on Friday at 8:42 a.m., followed by the Norwalk High boys at 8:54, the Cerritos girls at 9:14 and the Norwalk girls at 9:28. In Division 3 action, the Gahr High girls race at 11:00 while on Saturday, the Valley Christian High boys get started at 8:13 while the girls go at 8:42. In Division 4 action, the Whitney High boys start at 11:34 and 20 minutes later, it will be the Whitney girls running.

**GIRLS TENNIS**

In a Division 2 second round match last Friday, Whitney fell to San Clemente High 11-7 while in Division 3, third-ranked Cerritos defeated Millikan High 11-7, then knocked off Torrance High 10-8 this past Monday before falling to second-ranked Cate High 10-8 this past Wednesday in the semifinals. It's the eighth time since 2005 that the Dons have reached the semifinals, advancing to the finals in 2011, 2012 and 2013. In Division 5 action, sixth-ranked V.C. eliminated Rim of the World High 11-7 last Friday before edging third-ranked Citrus Hill High this past Monday. The match was tied 9-9 and 66-66 in games played before the Defenders won 11-7 in another tiebreaker, which

was resumed the next day due to darkness. But V.C.'s dream season ended this past Wednesday with a 12-6 loss to seventh-ranked Immaculate Heart High in the semifinals.

**BOYS BASKETBALL**

One of the top early preseason events begins on Monday with the 6th Annual "Rumble for Rosecrans Ave." Tournament as La Mirada and V.C. are part of the 32-field that takes place at four different sites. V.C., which went 17-12 last season, takes on Quartz Hill High in the first of four games to be played at Santa Fe High. Later in the evening, La Mirada, coming off a sensational 25-10 campaign, will face Torrance, also at Santa Fe. The Defenders will face either El Modena High or Los Altos High on Tuesday while the Matadores will take on either El Segundo High or Santa Fe on Tuesday. Regional games will continue Wednesday and Friday with the last day on Saturday. The last two days will see games played at either Fullerton High or Sunny Hills High.

Also on Monday, John Glenn High will visit Magnolia Science Academy while on Tuesday, Artesia visits Calvary Chapel Downey High, Cerritos goes to Cypress High and Loara High travels to Whitney.

On Wednesday, Glenn entertains Vista Meridian Global Academy and Norwalk goes to Rancho Alamitos High.

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

On Monday, Gahr hosts Lawndale High, Glenn visits Magnolia Science Academy, Norwalk goes to Millikan and V.C. host Santa Fe while on Wednesday,

Glenn is home to South El Monte High, Norwalk travels to Wiseburn-Da Vinci High and Whitney goes to Walnut High. On Thursday, Gahr welcomes Compton High, Glenn goes to Gardena High and Norwalk makes the trek to Western High.

**BOYS SOCCER**

Gahr visits V.C. on Monday while the next day, Glenn hosts Mark Keppel High, Norwalk travels to Long Beach Jordan High and Whitney visits Chadwick High. On Thursday, Gahr goes to Oxford Academy while Glenn visits V.C.

**GIRLS SOCCER**

Norwalk entertains Pioneer High on Tuesday while two days later, Gahr hosts Chadwick, Glenn welcomes Rancho Alamitos and Norwalk goes to Bell Gardens.

**ENSEMBLE** from page 1

as violin strains gradually increased in volume and grew more pronounced.

"Wade in the Water" was an energetic and upbeat song led by student conductor Marcos Torres about God stirring up the water for the ancient Israelites to pass through. The chorus repeated the song's two lines several times in a round, then moved into another short four-line piece, "I Love the Lord." This piece had rich, flowing tones as the notes swelled and built with the whole chorus singing in unison.

The Biola Chorale came on stage next. Stewart introduced the chorale's first two pieces, "Ma Bohème" and "Os Justi." Stewart explained that the first

song is about a "Bohemian traveler full of youthful invincibility. He is happy to sleep and dream and walk unknown roads." Stewart contrasted that song with the traveler in "Os Justi," who is "firmly rooted in the way of Christ."

After singing "Ma Bohème" in French, the chorale immediately transitioned to singing "Os Justi," a calm, peaceful piece that blended high notes with deeper tones, in Latin. The Australian composer Joe Twist's song "Hymn of Ancient Lands" followed with three languages — Latin, Old English and English — woven throughout. The chorale moved on to another Latin piece, "Crucem tuam adoramus, Domine" or "We adore your cross, Lord." According to Stewart, this hymn "brings an ancient, mystical feel that movingly celebrates the power of the Cross by which joy is brought into the world."

Stewart introduced the last songs of the afternoon as a set titled "Hope in the Darkness." The first was a piece titled "Even When He Is Silent." This song set three lines written on the wall of a concentration camp during World War II to music. It was a hopeful piece, with the author declaring that even when the sun is not shining, he feels no love and God is silent, he still believes these good things exist. The concert ended with "Get Away, Jordan," a traditional spiritual that interspersed tenor Evan Dickerson's solo with vocals from the rest of the chorale.

The choral ensembles will perform next month at a multimedia Christmas concert, "A Glorious Morn," at the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts. Tickets and more information can be found at [biola.edu/events](http://biola.edu/events).

## Arts Colony of La Mirada 'Mirrors of Your Mind' Art Show

November 13th to 17th, 2023

Call for entries, all artists welcome, cash awards for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Place.

The Arts Colony of La Mirada will present its "Mirrors of Your Mind" Art Show. Art take-in will be November 7, 8, & 9 at the La Mirada Activity Center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The art exhibit will be open to the public on Monday, November 13 through Friday, November 17 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the La Mirada Activity Center. An award reception will conclude the art show on Saturday, November 18 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. This is an Open Show, artists do not need to be a member to submit their art.

For more info, contact Victoria Pflanzner-artscolonylm@gmail.com or call Mike Lamb at (562) 760-3175.



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**NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE**  
(Division 6 of the Commercial Code)  
Escrow No. 120-32473-CM  
(1) Notice is hereby given to creditors of the within named Seller(s) that a bulk sale is about to be made on personal property hereinafter described.  
(2) The name and business addresses of the seller are: LISA BEN-TAL, TRUSTEE OF THE SURVIVOR'S TRUST UNDER KANIEL FAMILY TRUST AS AMENDED AND RESTATED IN 2010, AND STANLEY KANIEL, 9555 RAMONA STREET, BELLFLOWER, CA 90706  
(3) The location in California of the chief executive office of the Seller is: SAME AS ABOVE  
(4) The names and business address of the Buyer(s) are: MARILYN NGUYEN, 5527 BURNING TREE DRIVE, LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE, CA 91011  
(5) The location and general description of the assets to be sold are: CERTAIN FURNITURE, FIXTURES, EQUIPMENT, GOODWILL, INVENTORY AND OTHER ASSETS of that certain business located at: 9555 RAMONA STREET, BELLFLOWER, CA 90706  
(6) The business name used by the seller(s) at said location is: RAMONA GUEST HOME  
(7) The anticipated date of the bulk sale is DECEMBER 1, 2023 at the office of: GLEN OAKS ESCROW, 24018 LYONS AVE. SANTA CLARITA, CA 91321, Escrow No. 120-32473-CM, Escrow Officer: CYNTHIA MOLLER  
(8) Claims may be filed with Same as "7" above.  
(9) The last day for filing claims is: NOVEMBER 30, 2023.  
(10) This bulk sale is subject to Section 6106.2 of the Uniform Commercial Code.  
(11) As listed by the Seller, all other business names and addresses used by the Seller within three years before the date such list was sent or delivered to the Buyer are: NONE.  
DATED: OCTOBER 30, 2023  
BUYER(S): MARILYN NGUYEN  
1966494-PP LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS 11/10/23

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 11/21/2023 at 11:00 AM.  
  
Nichole Zellmer - Furniture, boxes, fabric  
Desiree Cumpian - Clothes in bags, small cabinet.  
Eddie Ramirez - Furniture, boxes, household items  
Madhouse Creative Studio Inc - Justin Cayco, - Boxes  
Elizabeth Lizarraga - household items, clothing  
Tanya Fuller - Fridge, washer, dryer, stove, patio set, twin mattress  
Gentle Hands Inc., Eduardo Santos - Boxes  
George Encisco - tools, bed, boxes  
Rizza Goodus - Personal Items  
Albert Penn - Stove, refrigerator, shoe boxes  
  
The auction will be listed and advertised on [www.storage treasures.com](http://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 on 11/03/2023 and 11/10/2023

Extra Space Storage, on behalf of itself or its affiliates, Life 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 11/21/2023 at 12:00pm.**  
  
**Laura Ashley – Household items**  
  
The auction will be listed and advertised on [www.storage treasures.com](http://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 on 11/03/2023 and 11/10/2023

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE**  
(SECS. 6104, 6105 U.C.C.)  
Escrow No. 6748-EY  
Notice is hereby given to creditors of the within named Seller that a bulk sale is about to be made of the assets described below. The name(s) and business address(es) of the Seller(s) are: KIM TEK-MUY, 20941 NORWALK BLVD, LAKEWOOD, CA 90715  
The location in California of the chief executive office of the Seller is: 20941 NORWALK BLVD, LAKEWOOD, CA 90715  
As listed by the Seller, all other business names and addresses used by the Seller within three years before the date such list was sent or delivered to the Buyer are: NONE  
The name(s) and business address(es) of the Buyer(s) are: SOPHEAR SAM, 20941 NORWALK BLVD, LAKEWOOD, CA 90715  
The assets to be sold are described in general as: FURNITURE, FIXTURES, EQUIPMENT, GOODWILL, TRADE NAME, LEASE, TENANT'S IMPROVEMENT AND COVENANT NOT TO COM-PETE of a certain DONUT SHOP business known as DONUT CITY and which are located at: 20941 NORWALK BLVD, LAKEWOOD, CA 90715  
The anticipated date of the bulk sale is DECEMBER 1, 2023 at the office of: SAPPHIRE ESCROW, 17100 PIONEER BLVD., SUITE 110, ARTESIA, CA 90701  
This bulk sale is subject to California Uniform Commercial Code Section 6106.2.  
If so subject, the name and address of the person with whom claims may be filed is: SAPPHIRE ESCROW, 17100 PIONEER BLVD., SUITE 110, ARTESIA, CA 90701, and the last date for filing claims shall be NOVEMBER 30, 2023, which is the business day before the sale date specified above.  
Dated: NOVEMBER 2, 2023  
BUYER: SOPHEAR SAM  
1963317-PP LOS CERRITOS COMM-NITY NEWS 11/10/23

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE AND OF INTENTION TO TRANSFER ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE(S)**  
(UCC Sec. 6105 et seq. and B & P Sec. 24073 et seq.)  
Escrow No. 12076-JT  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a bulk sale of assets and a transfer of alcoholic beverage license(s) is about to be made. The name(s) and business address(es) of the Seller(s)/Licensee(s) are: L & JEE LLC, 13337 ARTESIA BLVD, CERRITOS, CA 90703  
Doing Business as: KOKIO CHICKEN  
All other business names(s) and address(es) used by the Seller(s)/Licensee(s) within the past three years, as stated by the seller(s)/licensee(s), is/are: NONE  
The name(s) and address of the buyer(s)/applicant(s) is/are: 247 MJ INC, 17942 CHAPARRAL WAY, CERRITOS, CA 90703  
The assets being sold are generally described as: EQUIPMENT, FIXTURES AND FURNITURE, GOODWILL, LEASE, LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENT, AND COVENANT NOT TO COMPETE and is/are located at: 13337 ARTESIA BLVD, CERRITOS, CA 90703  
The type of license(s) and license no(s) to be transferred is/are: 41/ON-SALE BEER & WINE EATING PLACE/#606377. And are now issued for the premises located at: SAME  
The bulk sale and transfer of alcoholic beverage license(s) is/are intended to be consummated at the office of: TIME ESCROW INC, 3055 WILSHIRE BLVD, # 1150, LOS ANGELES, CA 90010 and the anticipated sale/transfer is DECEMBER 7, 2023  
The purchase price or consideration in connection with the sale of the business and transfer of the license, is the sum of \$95,000.00, including inventory, which consists of the following: DESCRIPTION/AMOUNT CASH \$95,000.00.  
It has been agreed between the seller(s)/licensee(s) and the intended buyer(s)/applicant(s), as required by Sec. 24073 of the Business and Professions code, that the consideration for transfer of the business and license is to be paid only after the transfer has been approved by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.  
Dated:  
L & JEE LLC, SELLER(S)/LICENSEE(S)  
247 MJ INC, BUYER(S)/APPLICANT(S)  
ORD-1969750 LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS 11/10/23

**CITY OF PICO RIVERA CITY COUNCIL**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO ADD CHAPTER 9.52 TO THE PICO RIVERA MUNICIPAL CODE ESTABLISHING A SOCIAL HOST LIABILITY ORDINANCE**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a public hearing will be held before the City of Pico Rivera City Council to consider amendments to Title 9 Public Peace, Morals and Welfare of the Pico Rivera Municipal Code (PRMC) to establish Chapter 9.52 Social Host Liability. A Social Host Ordinance holds accountable the host of a gathering where alcoholic beverages, marijuana and illegal substances are served to or consumed by underage persons. The ordinance deters hosts from creating dangerous and illegal situations involving minors and reduces the nuisance that loud gatherings inflict on the community. Penalties for a violation of the social host ordinance begin at \$2,500 for the first violation, \$3,500 for the second, and \$5,000 for the third in addition to law enforcement or emergency personnel response fines.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, November 14, 2023  
**TIME:** 6:00 P.M.  
**WHERE:** City Hall Council Chambers  
6615 Passons Boulevard Pico Rivera, CA 90660

Pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the proposed amendments to Title 9 are exempt under State CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3) common sense exemption. It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed amendments would have a significant effect on the environment; therefore, the amendments are exempt from CEQA under the common sense exemption.

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

(1) Turn your TV to Channel 3;  
(2) City's website at <https://bit.ly/picorivera-ctv3live>  
(3) Email public comments to [publiccomments@pico-rivera.org](mailto:publiccomments@pico-rivera.org) prior to 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting;  
(4) 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 Estefany Franco, Planner at 562-801-4026 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 Anna M. Jerome at (562) 801-4389 if special program accommodations are necessary and/or if program information is needed in an alternative format. Special requests must be made in a reasonable amount of time in order that accommodations can be arranged.

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 11/3/23

**CITY OF LA MIRADA**  
**NOTICE INVITING BIDS**

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT NO. 2023-01**  
**CARPET AND FLOORING REPLACEMENT AT VARIOUS CITY FACILITIES**

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. 2023-01.

Project Documents are available online from American Reprographics Company (ARC). Bidders may obtain free copies of the Plans, Specifications and other Contract Documents online by visiting the ARC Southern California website: [https://customer.e-arc.com/arcEOC/PWELL\\_Main.asp?mem=29\\_Look](https://customer.e-arc.com/arcEOC/PWELL_Main.asp?mem=29_Look) under PUBLIC PLANROOM and click GO, then search for City of La Mirada from the dropdown list titled "in all company". You can also contact ARC at (949) 660-1150 or [costamesa.planwell@e-arc.com](mailto:costamesa.planwell@e-arc.com) to request Plans and Specifications.

Sealed bids shall be delivered to the City Clerk at or before 11 a.m. on December 6, 2023. 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 11/10/23

**CITY OF LA MIRADA**  
**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
**NOTICE INVITING BIDS**

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT NO. 2023-03**  
**NEW CABARET LOUNGE AT THE LA MIRADA THEATRE**

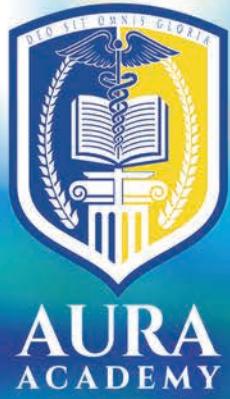
Notice is hereby given that the City of La Mirada, California invites sealed bids for the furnishing of all labor, materials, equipment, and services for Capital Improvement Project No. 2023-03. Work includes interior renovation of existing second floor assembly space into a "Cabaret" lounge.

Project Documents are available online from American Reprographics Company (ARC). Bidders may obtain free copies of the Plans, Specifications and other Contract Documents online by visiting the ARC Southern California website: [https://customer.e-arc.com/arcEOC/PWELL\\_Main.asp?mem=29\\_Look](https://customer.e-arc.com/arcEOC/PWELL_Main.asp?mem=29_Look) under PUBLIC PLANROOM and click GO, then search for City of La Mirada from the dropdown list titled "in all company". You can also contact ARC at (949) 660-1150 or [costamesa.planwell@e-arc.com](mailto:costamesa.planwell@e-arc.com) to request Plans and Specifications.

Sealed bids shall be delivered to the City Clerk at or before 11 a.m. on December 14, 2023. 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 11/10/23



# AURA OPEN HOUSE

## ART-SCI WORKSHOP

### DEAR PARENTS,

AURA Academy, an IB Candidate High School invites you

### WHAT...

- Free **ART-SCIENCE WORKSHOP EXPERIENCE**
- Experience how IB students learn
- An art workshop and science experiment
- Explore your naturalistic talent

### HOW...

*Join us for science lab, and figurative drawing*

- *Age Group: 13-16 years old*

### WHEN...

Date: **Saturday, December 09, 2023**

Time: **9:30 AM – 12:30 PM**

### WHERE...

**AURA ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL**

Location: **1600 E. Hill St., Building 2, Signal Hill, CA 90755**

- Bring your friends to create beautiful art together.
- No prior experience is required.
- All materials provided.

**RSVP by scanning the QR code and FILL OUT THE FORM or call 562.800.0249**



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