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VALLEY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL WIND ENSEMBLE AT FESTIVAL

SUPERIOR: Members of the VCHS Wind Ensemble earned a Superior Rating at the SoCal School Band & Orchestra Association Festival this past week. This rating represents the finest conceivable performance for the event and the level of participants being adjudicated; worthy of being recognized as among the very best. The group was adjudicated based on prepared material and a sight reading.

To Combat Graffiti, Artesia Will Go After Parents

$250 for the first violation, $500 for a second, and $1,000 for each subsequent violation within the same year.

By Brian Hews

At its regular February meeting, the Artesia City Council took a proactive response to combating graffiti in the city, adopting an ordinance that will hold the parents and guardians of minors who commit acts of graffiti financially responsible.

Some other cities in the U.S. have similar ordinances, including Chicago, Los Angeles, New York City, Houston, and San Francisco, California: San Francisco.

Like many jurisdictions in Los Angeles County, Artesia has been faced with an escalat-

{See **Graffiti** pg. 5}

Neurodivergent Kids Take Flight Without Fear



AIRPORT EXPERIENCE: Patients from Stramski Children's Developmental Center participate in the "Take Flight Without Fear" event where they immersed themselves in airport culture, fostering confidence, independence, and empowerment in children with various neurodevelopmental disabilities.

By Brian Hews

On Saturday, March 2, the Stramski Children's Developmental Center at MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach, in collaboration with the Long Beach Airport, hosted the inaugural "Take Flight Without Fear" event.

This groundbreaking initiative provided neurodivergent children and their families with a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in airport culture, fostering confidence, independence, and empowerment in children with various abilities.

Neurodiversity itself is not a medical diagnosis, it is an umbrella term that encompasses a range of neurodevelopmental disabilities and other conditions that impact brain function including Autism spectrum disorder; attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder; learning

{See **Immersion** pg. 12}

Bellflower to Study Possibly Converting to a Charter City

By Brian Hews

The city of Bellflower will hold public hearings on April 8 and May 13 to discuss possible adoption of a city charter; the public hearings are scheduled 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

A charter city in California is a municipality that operates under its own charter, which is essentially its own local constitution. This charter grants the city greater autonomy and flexibility in governing itself compared to general law cities, which operate under the laws set forth by the state government. Charter cities have the authority to enact their own laws, ordinances, and regulations, as long as they don't conflict with state law. This allows them to tailor their governance structures and policies to better suit the needs and preferences of their local communities. Many larger cities in California, such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, and San Diego, are charter cities.

Adopting a city charter involves crucial decisions that will impact the governance and future of the city. The hearings provide an opportunity for residents to voice their opinions, ask questions, and contribute to the decision-making process.

Detailed information about the proposed city charter, including resolutions,

{See **Bellflower** pg. 12}

Supervisor Hahn Ahead of Villanueva, Rep. Sánchez and La Mirada's Eng Look to be Winners

By Brian Hews

L.A. County Supervisor Janice Hahn looks to be heading for her final term Wednesday, maintaining enough of a margin to avoid a November runoff with former Sheriff Alex Villanueva.

Unofficial results from Tuesday's election showed Hahn with 56.3 percent or 116,673 votes with Villanueva trailing badly at 29.34 percent or 60,792 votes.

The District 4 seat represents more than 50 communities, including Artesia, Long Beach, Pico Rivera, Torrance, Whittier, along with the unincorporated areas of East La Mirada, Santa Catalina Island, Westfield, and the Los Angeles neighborhoods of Harbor City, San Pedro and Wilmington.

In other local races Rep. Linda Sánchez was ahead of her opponent Edward Ching 37,161 to 17,128 or 54.55 percent to 25.14 percent.

La Mirada Councilman Ed Eng was far ahead of his opponent John Acconero 1,358 to 191 votes, or 87.67 percent to 12.33 percent.

Two Local Companies Involved in Cinnamon Lead Poisoning Outbreak

Food Safety News

In response to the problem with elevated levels of lead in cinnamon in children's applesauce and recalls of products in the fall of 2023, the FDA initiated a review of ground cinnamon and has issued warnings.

Two of the companies involved in the outbreak are local: La Fiesta Food Products in La Mirada and MTCI in Santa Fe Springs.

During the review the Food and Drug Administration found elevated levels of lead in several products. The products are not targeted toward children, but

{See **Cinnamon** pg. 12}

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Rep. Sánchez Invites Pico Rivera Councilman to State of the Union



REP. LINDA SÁNCHEZ with Pico Rivera Councilman Gustavo Camacho leaving to attend receptions prior to Thursday's State of the Union address by President Biden.

State May Adjust Social Media Feeds to Protect Minors

By Sam Dean

Social media companies design their feeds to be as gripping as possible, with complicated algorithms shuffling posts and ads into a never-ending stream of entertainment.

A proposed California law would require companies to shut off those algorithms by default for users younger than 18, and implement other mandated tweaks that lawmakers say would reduce the negative mental health effects of social media on children.

The bill, dubbed the Protecting Kids From Social Media Addiction Act by its author, state Sen. Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley), was announced at a news conference with California Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta, alongside another proposed law that would tighten privacy protections for minors.

"Social media companies have the ability to protect our kids," Skinner said. "They could act; they have not."

One of the act's key provisions is making a chronological feed the default setting on platforms, which would show users posts from the people they follow in the order that they were uploaded, rather than arranging the content to maximize engagement.

This change would show young users "the things that they want to see, as opposed to the addictive algorithmic feed that is presently being fed to our children," Bonta said.

The act would also require the default settings on social media apps to mute notifications between midnight and 6 a.m., cap use at one hour daily, and remove the visibility of "like" counts. Parents — and in practice, most likely, the children using these apps — would have the ability to change these default settings.

Assemblymember Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland), who introduced the bill to tighten privacy protections for minors, said changing the settings can yield big benefits for children.

"We know there are some kids that will change the default setting," Wicks said, "but the default setting is a very powerful tool."

The bills are just the latest in a string of legislative and regulatory actions taken by California lawmakers and lawyers in recent years aiming to change how social media companies do business.

In October, Bonta's office filed a lawsuit against Meta, the parent company of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, alongside 32 other states, alleging that the company designed its apps specifically to addict young users while misleading the public about the adverse effects of these "harmful and psychologically manipulative platform features."

Portions of internal company documents included in that lawsuit show that Meta knew that more than a million children under 13 were using Instagram, while company officials publicly stated that underage users were not allowed on the platform. The suit also alleges that Mark Zuckerberg, the company's chief executive, personally vetoed a proposal that would have banned filters that simulate the effects of plastic surgery, despite pushback over the negative effect on girls' mental health.

Bonta's office also won a $93-million settlement in a case against Google last year, which alleged that the company had deceived users by collecting their location data for ad targeting and other applications after they had opted out.

But a prior law intended to rein in social media companies' treatment of young users ran into trouble in the courts last year. A federal judge in San Jose issued a temporary injunction against the California Age-Appropriate Design Code Act in September, ruling that the law probably violates the 1st Amendment rights of the tech companies that it seeks to regulate.

The law, which was co-authored by Wicks and signed into law in 2022, would require companies to provide privacy protections to children by default. The court found that enforcement of these provisions could either require more data collection— to verify the age of certain users— or limit the content that adult users were allowed to see. Bonta's office is appealing the decision.

The lawmakers at the news conference cited research published by the U.S. surgeon general last year as evidence of the harms that social media use inflicts on minors. That report found that "adolescents who spend more than three hours per day on social media face double the risk of experiencing poor mental health outcomes," nearly half of adolescents said that social media made them feel worse about their body image, and a majority saw "hate-based content" on a regular basis.

"Profit is being made off of our kids and at expense of their well-being," Skinner said Monday. The new law "is designed to prevent these very preventable harms."

Gahr HS Band Director Recognized by Assemblywoman Quirk-Silva



RECOGNITION: Darren Loney, Gahr High School Band Director, center back, is surrounded by staff and friends after receiving a Certificate of Recognition from Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva. Loney stated, "Thank you to Joe Pak, Senior Field Representative; ABCUSD Board Member, Ernie Nishii; ABCUSD Communications Officer, Scott Smith; Principal Jeffrey Hernandez and our entire Gahr High School administration; Associate Band Director, Matt Miller; and current and past band booster board members and parents. I am humbled and honored to receive this recognition and to at such an incredible music program and serve such amazing students, parents, and the community."

AAUW Author's Day Event for Scholarships

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) Long Beach will hold its 12th annual Author's Day Event featuring mystery novelist Iris Yamashita on Saturday, March 30 at 12:00pm at Long Beach City College. The event begins at Noon with a lunch and silent auction, followed by a talk by the author and her signing of books. Proceeds from this event go to scholarships for students at both Long Beach City College and California State University Long Beach.

Featured author Iris Yamashita gained widespread recognition for her screenplay for the critically acclaimed film "Sands of Iwo Jima", directed by Clint Eastwood. She has taught screenwriting at UCLA and traveled to many parts of the world.

All are invited to attend this benefit event which will be at Long Beach City College in Building T 1200 with complimentary parking in the nearby structure off Clark Street.

The cost to attend is $75 and may be made via Zelle or by check sent. Invest in the future of promising young women by participating in this special event.

For more information and event reservations call JoAnn Kuroda at 562-429-6923.



La Mirada Theatre Showcases Local Talent



SURROUNDED by friends and family, Sandra Scoltock-Martínez (center) with her husband Armando (to her left) watching, delighted the audience gathered at La Mirada Theatre on March 2 with her performance in "So Now You Know".

By Linda J. Hernández

"So Now You Know" played at the La Mirada Theater last Saturday with four local residents participating; Sandra Scoltock-Martínez was one of them.

According to their program, each production of "So Now You Know" begins with listening to the stories of community members as well as the Mixed eMotion Theatrix Company to uncover a little gem, a lived experience that speaks to who they are and that provided them a life lesson. The stories give them a special insight into their humanity and provides connection to the other performers.

Once they have the stories, they begin to integrate music and movement. These elements lift the stories to new heights.

Retired ABC teacher and volunteer La Mirada Theatre usher Ms. Scoltock-Martínez related how she met her husband Armando 49 years ago and their ongoing love story. Accompanied by dance and movement from the rest of the troupe, she told an engaging story that held those present spellbound.

The performance seeks to tell powerful stories from La Mirada residents and volunteers through words, dance and music. She was joined by fellow La Mirada Community Performers Julia Fraser, Summer Moore and Graciela Rojas. Backing up these first-time performers were members of the MeMT Company: Kate Coleman, Cristyn Dang, LT Martínez, Camal Pugh, Andrii Strelkivskyi and MaryAnn Welshans.

The entire troupe wish to thank La Mirada Theatre's Producing Artistic Director, BT McNicholl, who believed in the project and brought them back this year.







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Historic Preservation Can Lead to Property Tax Savings

By Jeff Prang
Los Angeles County Assessor


Jeff Prang

The Mills Act is an economic incentive program in California for the restoration and preservation of qualified historic buildings by property owners. Enacted in 1972, the Mills Act legislation grants participating cities and counties the authority to enter into contracts with owners of qualified historic properties who actively participate in the rehabilitation, restoration, preservation, and maintenance of their historic properties. The Mills Act permits property tax relief to offset the costs.

Mills Act contracts are for an initial term of 10 years. A contract automatically renews each year on its anniversary date and a new 10-year agreement becomes effective, creating a rolling contract term that is always equal to the initial terms of the contract.

How does the property tax relief work?

After a property owner enters into a contract, the local government agency notifies the Assessor of the contract. The Assessor annually determines the value of a Mills Act property based upon a prescribed capitalization rate as provided for in Revenue and Taxation Code section 439.2 (b) or (c). This is a restricted value. The restricted value will be compared to the current market value and the factored base year value (also known as the "Proposition 13" value). The lowest of the three values is then enrolled, which is most likely the restricted value.

In fact, that's where the property tax savings comes in. The restricted value can be considerably lower, many times more than half, than the other values creating a tax savings for the owner. Since all properties are assessed annually, Mills Act properties may even undergo more decreases, possibly increases, in property taxes each year as market conditions change.

Each year all Mills Act enrolled properties are notified by mail of their Mills Act values for that year as determined by the Assessor. This notification is typically sent out when a new contract value is first enrolled, or annually in May for existing contracts.

How can I get my property registered or find out if my property qualifies for the Mills Act Program?

Each city and county (unincorporated Los Angeles County) may have different procedures for local historic designation. Contact the Planning Department or Community Development of your local municipality to confirm whether they participate in the Mills Act Program, the criteria that would need to be met, and the application process. Your building may already be considered a contributing structure to an established historic area. Also, many buildings that were not designated as historic on past surveys may now be eligible to qualify as historic.

For more information, please go to assessor.lacounty.gov/tax-relief/mills-act or review the state guidelines at State Board of Equalization Guidelines.

Letters to the Editor

Re: GOP Supreme Court's Protection of Trump is Both Partisan Election Interference and How Democracies Die

Dear Editor:

I have a rebuttal to Dean Obeidallah's "GOP Supreme Court's Protection of Trump is Both Partisan Election Interference and How Democracies Die". Half of the people in this nation believe January 6 was a legitimate popular revolt against the rigging the 2020 election by the Trump haters. The haters voiced and petitioned the courts that former President Trump was the mastermind and the ring leader of the revolt in order to remove Mr. Trump from the November ballots. These vocal and legal actions are not proofs nor evidences that Trump is guilty of breaking any law. Trump is "innocent until proven guilty" under the court of law. The court, including the Supreme Court, had and will announce this to this Nation that Trump is not guilty to any hoax charges. No, Mr. Obeidallah, Democracies have not died in the USA. Democracies are well and preserved under Trump's performance and achievements. Half of this nation is relieved that numerous courts find Trump to be not guilty of any hoax charges. Thank you, Lamplighter editor, for your time. I have faith in your newspaper that it is fair, balance and will print my article in your paper.

Norman Masai
Buena Park

Letters can be sent to: editor@cerritosnews.net or mailed to PO Box 788, Artesia, Ca 90702. Letters are not necessarily the viewpoint of the editor and may be edited for grammar and length.



MARCH 23 is National Puppy Day, the CTC and Petsmart are giving away a $100 gift card.

Cerritos Towne Center to Host National Puppy Day Giveaway

Cerritos Towne Center invites the community to enter its fur-tastic "National Puppy Day Giveaway" contest for a chance to win a $100 gift card to PetSmart or Petco by visiting @shopcerritos on Facebook and sharing their puppy's name in the comment stream below the post.

Entries will be accepted from March 11th through March 23rd. Must be 18 or older to both enter and win.

One lucky winner will be randomly selected and notified via the center's Facebook comment stream on or around March 26th. The winner must reply within 48 hours or their prize will be forfeited and another winner selected. No purchase necessary.

This giveaway is not sponsored or endorsed by Facebook or Instagram. To enter, visit the center's Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/ShopCerritos. To learn more, visit https://cerritostc.com/promotions.

La Palma-Cerritos AAUW Meeting

At its March 24, 2024 meeting at the Cabrillo Lane Adult School, 20122 Cabrillo Lane in Cerritos, the AAUW La Palma-Cerritos will host Professor Jodi Balma to discuss how reproductive rights have been impacted since the June 24, 2022 SCOTUS decision.

Professor Balma has been teaching political science at Fullerton College since 2000. Meeting social time is 6:30 pm, followed by the program and a short business meeting.

For information contact Cathy Niederman at cathbowls@gmail.com or call (714) 673-1154.

Lakewood Volunteer Day Seeks Project Sites & Helpers

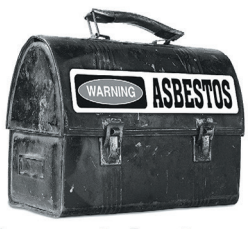
Lakewood's Volunteer Day program is looking for project sites and a few more individual volunteers for its Saturday, April 13 cleanup and fix-up event.

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

If you, or someone you know, can benefit from a Volunteer Day cleanup project please go to www.lakewoodcity.org/volunteerdaysite to submit an application online.

Individual volunteers are also needed. If you are willing to lend a hand, please call the Burns Community Center at 562-925-7512 to sign up to volunteer or to suggest a project site.

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Whittier College's Poet Pledge Scholarship For Local High Schoolers

Staff Report

This week, Whittier announced the Poet Pledge, a four-year full-tuition scholarship for admitted seniors from certain local high schools who demonstrate financial need.

The Poet Pledge is effective immediately for all eligible fall 2024 applications.

"Students with the highest need will be the most impacted by the changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and the resulting delays," said Whittier College Interim President Kristine Dillon '73. "We believe that the Poet Pledge will ease that access."

Founded in 1887, Whittier offers a highly personalized liberal arts experience on a beautiful residential campus. A Hispanic-Serving Institution, the college is one of the nation's top 10 performers on social mobility, according to a U.S. News & World Report that measures how well liberal arts colleges move economically disadvantaged students toward graduation and employment.

"This initiative reflects our deep commitment to nurturing the next generation of homegrown leaders, thinkers, and innovators who will shape the future," said Interim Vice President of Enrollment Ken Woods '84. "At Whittier College, we're not just educating students; we're investing in the future of our community and the world beyond."

To qualify for a four-year full-tuition scholarship, students must meet these criteria:

Be admitted to Whittier College as a first-time, first-year student;

Be a US Citizen or Permanent Resident;

Submit a 2024–25 FAFSA form (Whittier school code: 00134200);

Have a Student Aid Index (SAI) of zero or less;

Qualify for the Cal Grant A;

Be a resident of California and graduate from one of the schools below;

Remain registered as a full-time student in good academic standing 3.0 or above.

Eligible High Schools

Armenian Mesrobian High , Pico Rivera; **California High,** Whittier; **El Rancho High** , Pico Rivera; **Frontier High,** Whittier; **La Serna High**, Whittier; **Pioneer High** , Whittier; **Robert Salazar High,** Pico Rivera; **Santa Fe High**, Santa Fe Springs; **Sierra Vista High**, Whittier; **St. Paul High** , Santa Fe Springs; Whittier **Christian High,** La Habra; **Whittier High,** Whittier; **Homeschooled Students** living in Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, and Whittier.

Pico Rivera to Host the Mobile Vietnam Memorial Wall



THE AV WALL (above) is a grassroots effort conceived and built by citizens of Antelope Valley and was dedicated in 2009 and is engraved with the names of over 58,000 men and women who gave their lives or remained missing during the Vietnam War.

Staff Report

The Mobile Vietnam Memorial Wall (AV Wall), a half-scaled replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C., will be on display in Pico Rivera during Memorial Day weekend at Smith Park, 6016 Rosemead Boulevard.

The AV Wall is a grassroots effort conceived and built by citizens of Antelope Valley and was dedicated in 2009 and is engraved with the names of over 58,000 men and women who gave their lives or remained missing during the Vietnam War. The installation of the AV Wall will take place on the morning of Friday, May 24. In preparation for the installation, Pico Rivera is inviting those who have a family member on the wall to carry their family member's panel and put it in place as part of the "In Memory of" program. On the following night, Saturday, May 25, family members will be able to place a candle when their name is called. If an immediate family member is interested in participating in the City's ceremonies and would like to register to receive certificates and pins from the Department of Defense, please submit the following information via email to Kristin Baca at kbaca@pico-rivera.org, no later than March 8, 2024: Name, rank, date of death, and branch of Service of deceased military member; relationship of the family member to the military member. Please note that your loved one is only on The Wall if they died in Vietnam or later died of wounds inflicted in Vietnam service. The opening ceremony for the AV Wall will take place on Friday, May 24 at 6:30 p.m., and the Candlelight Ceremony will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 25.

For more information, visit pico-rivera.org or call 562.801.4430.

Lakewood Farmers Market Welcomes New Vendors

The Lakewood Farmers Marketplace, now in its second year operating at the corner of Del Amo Boulevard and Clark Avenue, is growing, thanks to support from the community.

Everything offered at the Farmers Market is grown or created directly by the vendors. New vendors offering unique fare are invited to apply.

Here's a sampling of regular Farmers Market offerings: Farm-fresh seasonal fruits, vegetables, dark leafy greens, nuts and egg; Microgreens, plants and herbs; fresh fish; local honey of various flavors; kefir yoghurts; jams, jellies and preserves; hummus and chips; sourdough bread; French bakery desserts and pastries.

There are hot foods cooked on site to enjoy in the seating area or to take home, such as clam chowder, pupusas, quesadillas, tamales, coffee, Chinese dumplings and steamed buns.

Residents can also pick up fresh flowers, potted plants or succulents, as well as unique gift and specialty items, including handmade bar soaps, dog treats, scented candles, tote bags, cups, crocheted gift items, jewelry, shirts, greeting cards, and a knife-sharpening service.

There is plenty of free parking, with spaces for disabled NEAR the entrance.

Artisans, chefs, bakers and growers are welcome to submit an application to be a vendor. For more information, send an email to **fmplb5000@gmail.com** with information about yourself and your creations, along with a few photographs. Or, stop by the Info. Booth at the Lake on Saturday for details.

The Lakewood Farmers Market is open every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Graffiti from page 1

ing dilemma between a rise in graffiti and vandalism and a lack of action from the District Attorney's Office.

The Artesia Municipal Code already allows the city to seek restitution from parents and legal guardians of minors who commit unlawful acts of graffiti within the city.

However, minors who commit graffiti offenses within the city often go without punishment due to the restraints of cities prosecuting a juvenile, while victims of graffiti and the city are forced to remove graffiti, which can become costly.

This new ordinance makes it clear that parents and legal guardians of minors who cause graffiti in the city may also be administratively cited.

Beginning March 13, 2024, if a minor is found to be responsible for causing graffiti within the city, then their parent or guardian may be administratively cited $250 for a first violation, $500 for a second violation in the same year, and $1,000 for each subsequent violation within the same year.

Mayor Tony Lima said, "The lack of action by the District Attorney's Office has made prosecuting minors committing graffiti very difficult, but our community still expects action. With the adoption of this ordinance, we are sending a clear message that graffiti will not be tolerated in Artesia."

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Su Casa – Ending Domestic Violence

Su Casa is a nonprofit community-based organization dedicated to the philosophy that every individual has the right to live free from violence or the threat of violence.

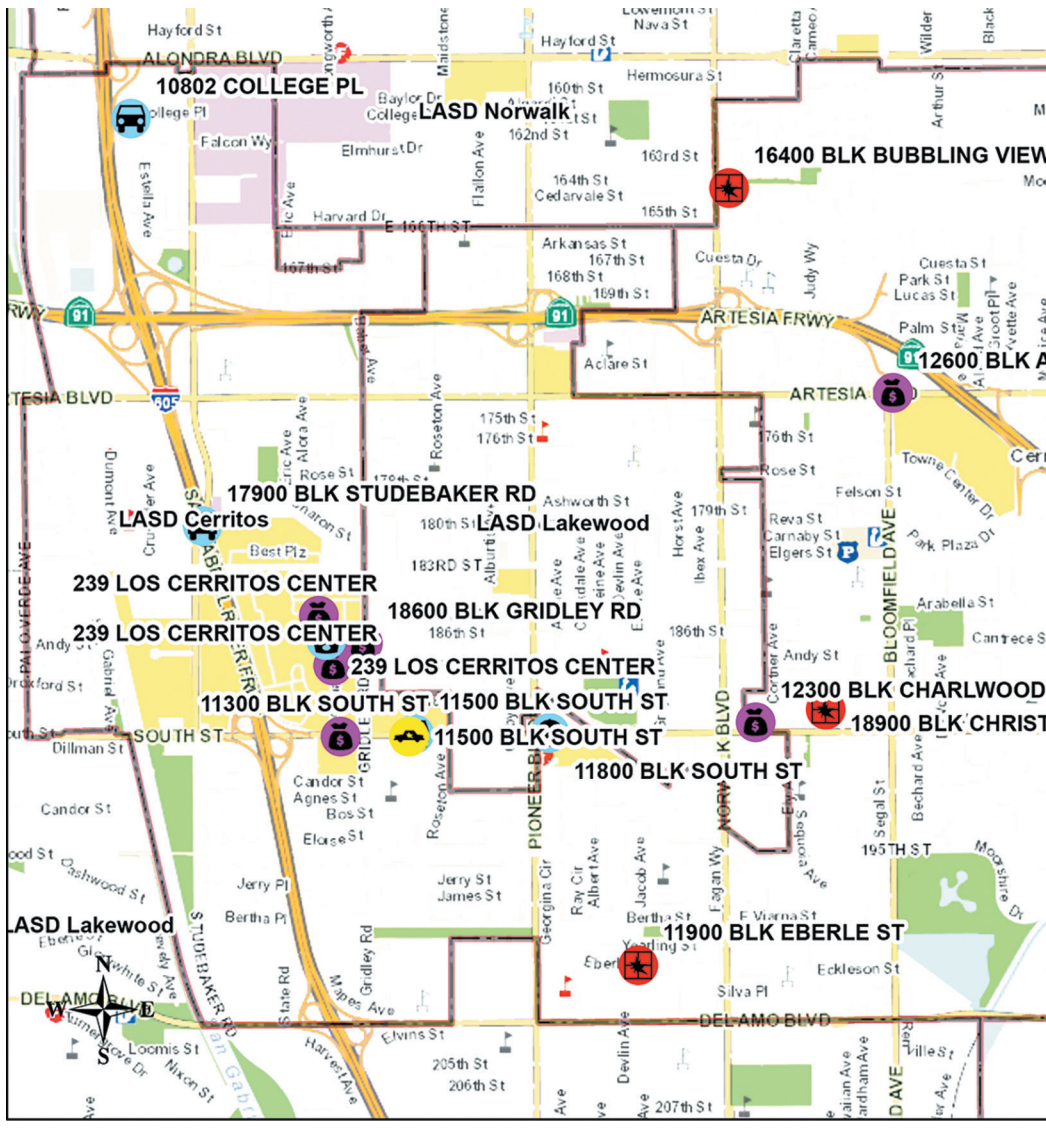
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Published as a public service by Los Cerritos Community News.

Area City's Crime Summaries



CERRITOS CRIME MAP- compiled by the L.A. County Sheriffs.

Cerritos Notable Incidents

Attempted robbery at store

An unknown suspect entered a store at 11800 South St., near Pioneer and South St. and told the employee he needed to look at the cameras.

The employee sensed something and refused; the suspect jumped over the counter, pushed the employee, and attempted open the register.

When he could not open it, he grabbed a pile of lottery tickets and ran out of the store.

Los Cerritos Center incidents

Robbery

Two unknown suspects entered a LCC store, selected some perfumes and exited without paying. Two employees attempted to detain them. Suspect two fled while Suspect one fought with the victims. Suspect one lost the battle and was detained and arrested. Good for those employees!

Robbery

The victim was walking through the LCC when the suspect approached him and suddenly grabbed his necklace from his neck. A struggle ensued and the suspect was able to take the necklace and run away.

Cerritos Crime Summary

Residential Burglary

16400 Blk. Bubbling View Cir; rear sliding door shattered;

11900 Blk. Eberle St; attempt only

18900 Blk. Christina Ave.; residential burglary

16400 Blk. Bubbling View Cir; rear sliding door shattered;

11900 Blk. Eberle St; attempt only

18900 Blk. Christina Ave.; rear sliding door shattered

Burglary Other

17000 Blk. Edwards Rd.; business rollup gate cut open

First Digital Hub Targets Anti-Asian Hate

BySelen Ozturk
Ethnic Media Services

With anti-Asian hate skyrocketing in recent years, helping AAPI communities respond to discrimination is more crucial than ever.

In response, Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California (AJSOCAL) and Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC) have created the Asian Resource Hub — a searchable national directory of AAPI community data, incidents of anti-Asian hate and AAPI-serving organizations offering social services, legal aid, mental health support, civic engagement and policy advocacy.

While the Asian Resource Hub is the first of its kind as a free national digital resource, as of this month it's also available in Korean, Vietnamese and simplified and traditional Chinese.

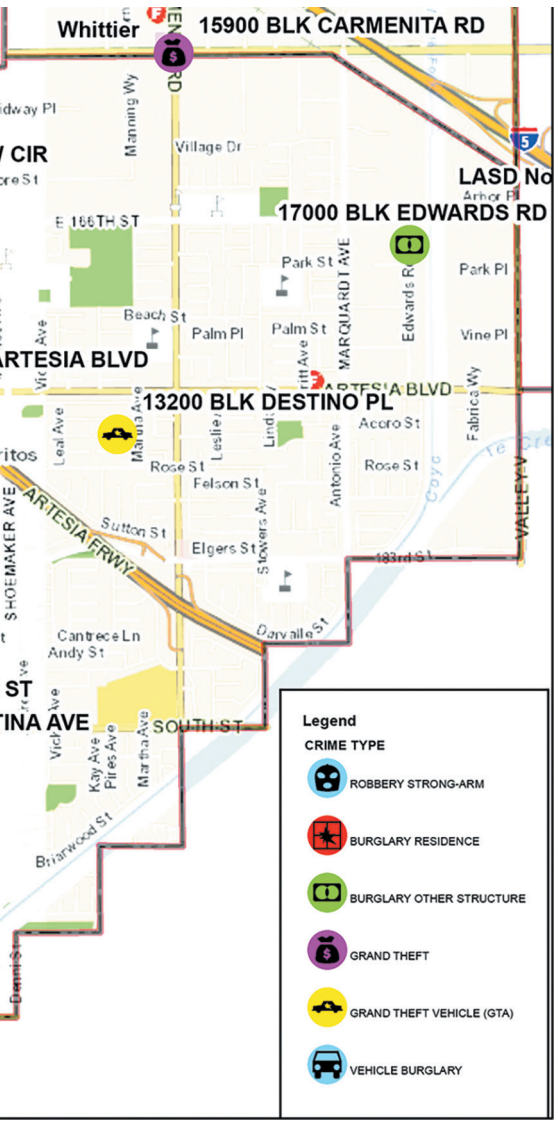
Between 2020 and 2021 alone, reported anti-Asian violence in the U.S. increased by 339%, according to the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism. Furthermore, most hate crimes and incidents are never reported.

AJSOCAL and AAJC came together with leaders from Microsoft to create the hub not only as a culturally and linguistically accessible place for AAPI community members to turn to amid surging hatred, but as an exploration of anti-Asian hatred that uniquely combines data from FBI-reported and locally-reported hate crimes, as well as public and nonprofit sources, to bring the impact of hate on Asian populations to life through visualizations, graphics, charts, photographs, maps and pop-up text stories.

The directory took the form of "storytelling medium to better illustrate the facts about the AAPI population and the hate they face.

Timelines in the directory, for in-

- February 26 - March 3, 2024



Grand Theft

12600 blk artesia blvd.; residence; motorcycle parts taken

239 Los Cerritos Cntr.; makeup stolen, suspect arrested

239 Los Cerritos Cntr.; clothing stolen, suspect arrested

239 Los Cerritos Cntr.; clothing stolen

18600 Blk. Gridley Rd.; stole money

11300 Blk. South St.; alcohol stolen

Grand Theft Auto

13200 Destino Pl.; business; attempt only

239 Los Cerritos Cntr.; Kia Optima recovered

11500 Blk. South St.; Toyota Celica, not recovered

Vehicle Burglary

10800 Blk. College Pl.; business, Nissan Altima; window shattered, wallet stolen

17900 Blk. Studebaker Rd.; business; Honda Accord; window/shattered; wallet

11500 Blk. South St.; Hyundai Sonata; window/shattered wallet, gym bag stolen

La Mirada Crime Summary

February 26, 2024 - March 03, 2024

Notable Arrests

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

Robbery

• A robbery was reported on the 12700 block of Valley View Ave. This incident is still under investigation.

Residential Burglary

• A morning burglary occurred on the 14600 block of Dalmatian Ave. One suspect was arrested during the incident.

Other Structure Burglary

• An early morning burglary was reported on the 12100 block of Tanfield Dr.

Vehicle Burglary

• Tools were stolen during an overnight vehicle burglary on the 12600 block of Bogardus Ave.

• An afternoon vehicle burglary was reported on the 14600 block of San Bruno Dr.

• A vehicle burglary was reported on the 15000 block of Rosecrans Ave.

• A vehicle burglary occurred on the 16100 block of Rosecrans Ave.

Grand Theft

• A catalytic converter theft occurred on the 15000 block of Neartree Rd.

• Handbags were stolen during an evening theft on the 15900 block of Imperial Hwy.

• An early morning catalytic converter theft occurred on the 15300 block of Elmbrook Dr.

• A late afternoon theft was reported on the 12300 block of La Mirada Blvd.

• An overnight theft of a catalytic converter occurred on the 14800 block of San Ardo Dr.

• A catalytic converter was reported stolen on the 14100 block of Whiterock Dr.

Grand Theft Auto

• A pickup truck was reported stolen on the 14000 block of Foster Rd.

• A trailer was stolen on the 14200 block of Rosecrans Ave.

• An attempt was made to steal an SUV on the 14700 block of Firestone Blvd.

stance, examine key policies, events and personal narratives related to anti-Asian discrimination — from the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, to inflammatory rhetoric by policymakers throughout history, to more recent instances of and responses to anti-Asian hate such as pandemic-era violence, the Hate Crimes Act and Stop Asian Hate community protests in cities nationwide.

John C. Yang, Asian Americans Advancing Justice – AAJC (Advancing Justice-AAJC), discussed the impact of hate on the AANHPI community and how the Asian Resource Hub can respond to and strengthen the community as it faces increasing discrimination and violence.

"We always make a distinction between hate crimes and hate incidents," explained Zhang. "Because a crime is defined as a crime in the criminal statutes as an Assault or Battery, or in the worst cases, murder, many incidents we see in the Asian American community might not rise to the level of a crime in the legislative definition. However, that doesn't minimize the impact on our community."

Alongside narrative data highlighting the historical impact of hate on AAPI communities across the U.S. is a national directory of "community-based organizations that offer either free or low-cost direct services to support those experiencing anti-Asian discrimination," he said.

"Right now, about 100 organizations are listed," continued Zhang. "Each one has been personally vetted by us or by one of our close partners, to make sure that it's legitimate and active. We don't want to send people down a closed door. But it's an evergreen site intended to be continually built up, so if you know of an AAPI resource or organization that's missing, please nominate it."

"What stuck out most to me as I was working on this hub was how innovative and resilient our communities have been in the face of unspeakable hate and violence," he added. "Most hate crimes and incidents go unreported, and the hub will provide much-needed help to fill that gap during an incredibly difficult time."

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LA MIRADA'S YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT STUDENTS PROPOSE PROJECTS

LA MIRADA HIGH SCHOOL Youth in Government students pictured with La Mirada City Council at the City Council meeting on February 27 after the student's final presentations. Youth in Government project proposals have often been implemented including Santa's Holiday Caravan and the La Mirada College Banner program.

Staff Report

The City of La Mirada's Youth in Government students concluded this year's program at the City Council meeting held on February 27.

La Mirada High School students participated in the award-winning program and made their final presentations to La Mirada City Council. The students proposed two projects, including a City Fitness Initiative and a Veterans Concert.

The students first proposed a Fitness Initiative that would promote healthy activities including 5K runs, installing fitness equipment at parks, and encouraging mental fitness. The second proposed project aims to combine the City's veteran recognition events with a Veterans Concert that would pay tribute to local veterans. "Since October these students have been researching, writing their reports and preparing for these presentations," says Senior Administrative Analyst Jorge Orozco. "It's great to have so many passionate students involved in the program and participating in local government."

Youth in Government project proposals have often been implemented including Santa's Holiday Caravan, the La Mirada College Banner program, and Farmers Market. The presentation marked the conclusion of the program, which has been in place for 64 years. For additional information, contact La Mirada City Hall at (562) 943-0131.

Local Resident Named to Dean's List at Biola University

Approximately 1,600 students were named to the Biola University Dean's List in Fall 2023. Biola students are placed on the dean's list to honor those with a GPA of 3.6. The dean's list: **Symphony Baldelomar** , Norwalk, majoring in Bible, Theology, and Ministry. **Symphony Kay Carolino** , Norwalk, majoring in Intercultural Studies. **Lydia Cho** , Cerritos, majoring in Psychology. **Kara Chung** , Cerritos, majoring in Nursing. **Joy Hong** , Cerritos, majoring in Art. **Lina Jung** , La Palma, majoring in Nursing. **Joseph Kilis** , Norwalk, majoring in Art. **Ariel Kim** , Cerritos, majoring in Liberal Studies Elementary Ed. **Cara Kim** , Cerritos, majoring in Nursing. **Isaac Kim** , Norwalk, majoring in Engineering Physics. **Kristen Kim** , La Palma, majoring in Art. **Lauren Kim** , La Palma, majoring in Psychology. **Marielena Mc Dermott** , La Palma, majoring in Comm Sciences Disorders. **Arisbeth Melendrez** , Norwalk, majoring in Nursing. **Kayla Miyake** , Cerritos, majoring in Kinesiology. **Ashley Njoku** , Norwalk, majoring in Nursing. **Grace Park ,** Cerritos, majoring in Biological Science. **Tidus Pinkham** , La Palma, majoring in English. **Isabella Prieto** , Cerritos, majoring in Comm Sciences Disorders. **Marylina Saad** , Norwalk, majoring in Biological Science. **Edmund Shryock** , Norwalk, majoring in Political Science. **Daniel Smith** , Cerritos, majoring in English. **Gabriela Tenorio** , Pico Rivera, majoring in Psychology. "Inclusion in the Dean's List is reserved for students who demonstrate exceptional performance in their academic studies." said Dr. Tamara Anderson, Senior Associate Provost.

Interview

Jethro Tull Guitarist Martin Barre Comes to La Mirada Theater in March

By Stepheny Gehrig

Martin Barre, the lead guitarist for the band Jethro Tull, will be coming to the La Mirada Theatre of Performing Arts on March 22 and will perform to an already sold-out show. But before he comes to La Mirada, Barre gave Los Cerritos Community News a detailed look into life with advice, appreciation, and regard for the space he occupies as a musician.

As Barre prepares for his performance in La Mirada, he said that the last time he was in California was before COVID-19. Feeling like time was frozen, Barre rejoices in the opportunity to return to the Los Angeles area and perform for fans who thoroughly enjoy his music.

Barre said that being on stage is a surge of emotions from joy to enthusiasm and adrenaline, but most importantly, a feeling of gratitude for the opportunity to give back to his audience.

"It's always magical because it's like if you're in the worst mood you've ever been in you've had the worst day, travels have been horrible, people are being really rude to you, you're feeling really tired, you're just really negative and then you go on stage and it disappears. And that's the worst day. On a great day, you feel fantastic and then you go on stage and you feel even better. It's a therapy really. I can't really live without it because it's a feeling I never want to lose," Barre said.

Barre played for Jethro Tull, which incorporated the sounds of rock and roll and folk melodies to occupy a niche space as they rose to fame in the '70s, for around 45 years.

But getting to that point in fame, touring with bands like Led Zeppelin and The Who, wasn't a simple feat for Barre.



MARTIN BARRE gave Los Cerritos Community News a detailed look into life with advice, appreciation, and thoughts about the space he occupies as a musician.

For about 60 years, Barre has been playing music in a band and on his own, but being on stage as a performer once posed a challenge for him.

Shyness became a difficult obstacle for Barre to overcome. At 14 years old, when he first picked up the guitar, Barre found his passion with music and began working to overcome his shyness.

"I was incredibly shy when I was in school. I mean horribly, it was an affliction, it wasn't cute," Barre said. "The first year I was in a band, I used to face the back of the stage. I couldn't face the front. I mean, it must look ridiculous — I was that bad."

But as his passion grew stronger, Barre found the only way to get through his shyness was to simply just do it. The remedy, he says, is honing in on confidence rather than inflating one's ego.

"I think you just have to overcome it. You need confidence, but you don't need ego. It's that sort of fine balance. Ego is unpleasant, but confidence is part of being professional, so you have to learn how to have that competence and confidence and appearance of being in control," Barre said. "It can't get harder because it's really hard, so it can only get easier."

But now, Barre said that the only instance when his back will face the audience on stage would be if he needs to pick up a plectrum that has fallen to the ground, as he will soak in the joy and happiness of the atmosphere as he performs. Barre divulges that his passions lie with performing. Although still feeling pangs of nervousness, Barre said that it is a reminder of his humanity and the reignition of the excitement of performing.

"I want to be nervous. I don't ever want to take anything for granted. I think that little adrenaline, you don't know how it's going to go, it's got that unknown factor, and that puts you almost on edge in a really nice way," Barre said.

With the flattery from loyal fans, Barre said that he also appreciates the challenge of entertaining those who don't quite know of his past successes.

"A lot of the fans [of Jethro Tull] would come to 10 [or] 12 shows in a tour -- I mean, you could do exactly the same show. I always felt a little uncomfortable; I always thought they'd seen it all before, the same show exactly, note for note. So when we tour, every few gigs, I'll change a couple of songs and that way I notice people who have been before they just get something a little different. It's like a little nod,a "thank you" for their loyalty." Barre said. "In some ways I quite like the challenge that you are entertaining people who have no idea what you do, so you convince them they're getting entertained"

Barre's heart remains truly with his fans as he continues creating art through song and words. With a book on the way, arranging and recording new music, Barre continues to provide new media for his audience.

"I've been doing a book for a long time. It's an ongoing project," Barre said. "It's difficult because it's something you put on your sideline and really you should do nothing but that and get it done. But it's something that is secondary to gigs writing music and playing music."

Including a medley of both pieces from his career in Jethro Tull and as a solo artist, Barre's La Mirada performance will definitely be an ode to his passions and his fans. Humbly, Barre expresses his gratitude for his experience in Jethro Tull, and as a solo artist, directing his love to the audience.

"I love audiences. I am so lucky to be able to do what I do. And so I respect and appreciate that people want to come and hear me and the band play. It's a fantastic experience and I love every minute of it. I'm going to be very very nice to them and polite and hopefully play the best gig weve ever played," Barre said.



2024 BASEBALL PREVIEW - GAHR, LA MIRADA MILES APART

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on X

Last season, the Gateway League was decided in the final week of the regular season with La Mirada High taking two of three from Gahr High to win the circuit by a pair of games as Warren High finished a distant third with a 5-7 mark. Expect the Gladiators and Matadores to battle it out again for league supremacy and if all goes well, their three-game meeting on the last week of the regular season will decide the title. Norwalk High, with a much less experienced varsity team, joins the Gateway League while Cerritos High will have a target on its back again, trying to repeat as 605 League champions. And Whitney High brings back its program after a three-year hiatus.

Returning players in italics.

ARTESIA PIONEERS

13-14 overall last season, 4-4 in the 605 League, third place in the 605 League, lost to Fillmore High 7-1 in the Division 7 quarterfinal playoffs.

Head coach: Jose Serrano (fourth season, 31-36)

Team's record previous five seasons: 33-62

Last time missed the playoffs: 2021

Division 7

Key losses: Brandon Garcia, Kyle Henderson, Joshua Peck, Vincent Rodriguez, Richard Saad, Phineas Shahon, Reggie Steele, Alex Valdivia

Projected lineup:

P-Angel Estrada (JR)*/Daniel Carbajal (JR)/John Ceballos (SR)*/Ramon Chavez (FR)
C-Daniel Loera (JR)*/Carbajal*
1B-Jorge Vidal (FR)
2B-Michael Nava (FR)/Landon Ahlgrim (JR)
3B-Estrada*/Sanchez*
SS-*Victor Sanchez (JR)*/Estrada/Ahlgrim
LF-Chavez/Daniel Serrano (JR)
CF-*Jose Garcia (JR)*
RF-*Alex Escobar (JR)*

Artesia High is starting to get its groove back like the program had in the early 2000s when the Pioneers went to the playoffs in three straight seasons and four times in a span of five seasons. That happened from 2003-2007 and during that time, Artesia had a winning record four times. Now, head coach Jose Serrano is gunning for his third straight playoff appearance and hopes to put the Pioneers on the north side of .500 for the second time in the past three seasons. Artesia's trip to the CIF-Southern Section Division 7 quarterfinals was the farthest the program had gone since 2003 when that team went to the quarters.

"Looking back on last year, our goal was to win the league," said Serrano. "It really was. I felt like we had a team to win it. But, once we made the playoffs, I felt like the team was clicking; the lineup clicked, and we made a nice run [to the quarterfinals]. But I was a little disappointed with how we ended up in league play."

Serrano was reflecting on how the Pioneers had to sweep John Glenn High to get third place and the final automatic playoff berth. This season presents a bigger challenge as Artesia returns just one senior and four other players. Still, the former Artesia standout believes the program is improving, especially after having consecutive seasons of at least 13 wins. That has not happened since the 2004 and 2005 teams each went 14-13.

"[Former head coach Mike] Gaoghagan left a heavy tag on kind of turning the program around, meaning a lot of our good talent went away to other schools," said Serrano. "Them not going to Artesia kind of affected the program for many years. But I think now, going back to back with 10 wins or more is a big improvement, just because of the kids. Those kids are amazing, and if it wasn't for them, we wouldn't have as many wins as we have. We're improving, but to be honest with you, we're just starting. This is nothing. I have a feeling that our future is bright, and our kids are getting so much better."

Serrano sees 2024 as a rebuilding season and if all goes well, he believes the Pioneers can win the 605 League next season. He is relying on his four returning juniors-Daniel Carbajal, Alex Escobar, Jose Garcia and Victor Sanchez to be the leaders of the team who will guide the remaining 13 into the playoffs. Serrano added that all four of them have the experience of seniors. Sanchez moves from first base to shortstop and is the lone experienced infielder while junior Angel Estrada and senior John Ceballos are slated to be the top two pitchers with Carbajal and freshman Ramon Chavez in the mix. The right side of the infield will be occupied by freshmen.

Serrano isn't concerned about the lack of seniors and in fact, is building the team around the 10 juniors, six of whom were on the junior varsity team last season. He also said it will be tougher to crack the top three in league and get an automatic invitation to the playoffs.

"I know Glenn improved so much," he said. "Oxford [Academy] is just getting better, and Pioneer is very scrappy. So, I think this year is going to be tough getting that third spot. It's not going to be a walk in the park."

CERRITOS DONS

17-10 overall last season, 7-1 in the 605 League, tied for first place, lost to San Clemente High 7-5 in the Division 3 first round playoffs.

Head coach: Matt Joyce (1st season)

Team's record previous five seasons: 83-32

Last time missed the playoffs: 2017

Division 4

Key losses: Wyland Aulick, Dylan Burton, Brandon Casas, Paul Kim, Aiden Manzo, Ryan Martinez, Raymond Sierra

Projected lineup:

P-*Carter Chi (SR)/Nathaniel Corrigan (SR)/Johan Gibbs (SR)/Jack Lake (SR)/ Christian Wright (JR)*
C-*Jonathan Masella (SR)*/Owen Mendez (SR)/Adam Rosa (SR)/Kaden Brickner (JR)
1B-Elijah Pannell (SR)*/Corrigan/Wright*
2B-*Justin Sagun (SO)*/Andres Rubalcava (SR)
3B-*Carter Chi*/Fabian Mejia (JR)
SS-*Dalton Chi (JR)*/Adrian Regis (JR)/ Rubalcava
LF-*Noah Gapuz (SR)*
CF-*Gibbs/Braxton Reed (JR)*
RF-*Tristen Chen (SR)/Reed*

For the fourth straight season, there is a changing of the guard once again as former Artesia standout Matt Joyce replaces Chris Masella, who guided the Dons to a 17-10 season and the program's fourth straight 605 League title. Masella remains on the coaching staff, though, as Cerritos continues to be the team to beat in the league. Joyce was hired about a month before school began last August and this is his first high school head coaching job.

"It's something I've always wanted to do," said Joyce. "I've coached baseball in some way, shape or form. I've assisted at different high schools, but I've been coaching baseball my whole adult life. I have kids, so I have a 17-year old who goes to Los Alamitos, and he's playing right now. But I'm here and I love doing this. I've been wanting to coach high school baseball for a long time, but I was coaching my son and my daughter plays club soccer. The opportunity came up and I jumped at it and [school administrators] offered me the job on the spot and I couldn't say no."

Joyce is no stranger to the league or the area. He was a four-year varsity starter with Artesia and played a lot of games on Cerritos' field, including Sunday adult league baseball for many years. The one thing Joyce had to do when he got the job was take some of the players out of their shells and convince them that they are better than they think.

The one thing that stands out immediately is the number of seniors. Cerritos will field 21 players on varsity with a dozen of them being 12th graders and 11 of the 21 are returners. The pitching staff is well-experienced, and Joyce has penciled in his top three in the rotation-seniors Johan Gibbs, junior Christian Wright and senior Nathaniel Corrigan. Senior Carter Chi goes from a starter to being the team's closer in tight games. When he is not on the mound, Gibbs can cover a ton of ground in centerfield. Senior Noah Gapuz goes from the right side of the outfield to left field and junior Dalton Chi is one of the finest shortstops in the area.

"It's a pretty tight group and everybody knows their role," said Joyce. "We can hit a little bit; we can hit, and we have some really, really mature hitters. But I think our ability to throw strikes is going to serve us well all year."

Joyce said the program has high expectations and he plans to keep that going. The Dons have not had a losing season since 2014 after going 16 straight seasons finishing under .500. Joyce's top goal is winning a game in the playoffs win as the Dons have lost at least seven straight playoff contests. In fact, the last time Cerritos won a playoff game, it defeated Hart 4-1 in the 1989 4A Division championship game.

"I've really, really beefed up our non-league schedule," said Joyce. "Counting with [this one], our next five games are Tustin, Newport Harbor, Laguna Beach, St. John Bosco and Millikan. This is a challenging stretch for us. Point being, in the non-league games, that's where they're going to earn our stripes; to get us through that different stretch in league, which cannot be as challenging. I want to challenge them early, and then challenge them with a couple of games late. We play San Marino, another Division 4 team."

GAHR GLADIATORS

23-7-1 overall last season, 9-3 in the Gateway League, second place, lost to Calabasas High 3-1 in the Division 2 quarterfinal playoffs.

Head coach: Gerardo Perez (20th season, 347-200-4)

Team's record previous five seasons: 67-60-2

Last time missed the playoffs: 1998

Division 1

Key losses: Jaden Alba, Noah Andrunas, Victor Morales, Kyle Panganiban, Alahni Salcedo

Projected lineup:

P-*Andrew "AJ" Gonzalez (SR)/Bryce Morrison (SO)/Jake Ourique (SO)/* Matthew Sandoval (JR)
C-*Jose Perez (SR)*/Oscar Grijalva (SO)
1B-*Gonzalez/Morrison*
2B-*Gonzalez*/Julian Lucero (SO)
3B-*Andres Gonzalez (SO)/Perez*
SS-*Jake Curneen (JR)/Andres Gonzalez*
LF-*Mike Lee (SR)*Jose Jojo Eljaik (SO)
CF-*Curneen*/Adrien Ramirez (JR)/Eljaik
RF-*Aiden Baysa (JR)*/Eljaik

Gahr had a bounce back season in 2023, winning over 20 games for the first time since 2018 and the sixth time since 2013. The Gladiators also advance to the quarterfinals for the first time since 2018 and the 10th time since 1999. All that came after the Gladiators won 12 of 29 games in 2022 and got ousted in the playoffs in the first round. Because of the success of last season, Gahr moves up to Division 1 where every playoff game will seem like a championship game.

"Last year was a success for so many different reasons," said longtime head coach Gerardo Perez. "I wasn't even thinking of comparing the two seasons because every season is unique to itself. Every year is different; every year you have a different group of seniors. Last year was a very successful year against really good teams and competition, which we always face.

"Last year was really rewarding because some of those kids had been with me for four years," he continued. "It was really good for those guys to see it all come together before they moved on to greener pastures as they say."

The area of concern for Perez and his team comes from the pitching department where the Gladiators graduated their top hurlers. But the 20-year veteran head coach says he feels very confident with the young group he has this season. Sophomore Jake Ourique is tabbed as the number one starter followed by senior Andrew "AJ" Gonzalez, who will get more time on the mound. Sophomore and University of Southern California commit Bryce Morrison is another top pitcher.

"It's just going to take a little bit, but I feel confident with the arms that we have," said Perez.

The Gateway League figures to be just as competitive as it was last season, and all signs point towards the last week of the regular season when Gahr hosts two of three games with La Mirada with the potential league title at stake. Last season, the Matadores took the first two in one-run fashion to clinch first place before Gahr won the third game, 8-1, with nothing at stake as the Gladiators had already wrapped up second place. Gahr will face Norwalk High for the first time as a league opponent as the Lancers moved over from the Mid-Cities League.

"I like this team; I think we have an opportunity to go as far as our pitching is going to go," said Perez. "I think [the games with La Mirada] are going to be close. I think it's going to be a play here, a play there. It will be competitive. We'll just see where we're at.

JOHN GLENN EAGLES

5-12 overall last season, 1-7 in the 605 League, tied for fourth place

Head coach: Juan Loza (first season)

Team's record previous five seasons: 20-52-1

{Continued on **next page** 11}

T FROM EVERYONE ELSE IN THE AREA AND GATEWAY LEAGUE

Last time made the playoffs: 2019
Division 8
Key losses: Joseph Chavez, Robert Iniguez, Andres Martinez, Alex Renteria, Gabriel Salcido

Projected lineup:
P-*Benjamin Iniquez (SR)/Angel Aguilar (JR)/Brandon Rivera (JR)/Evan Perez (SO)*
C-*Raymond Acosta (JR)*
1B-Lake Mason (SR)
2B-Jonah Mason (SO)
3B-*Rivera*
SS-TBD
LF-TBD
CF-TBD
RF-TBD

After four disappointing seasons since its last playoff appearance, John Glenn High turns to Juan Loza as its new head coach. Already, the Eagles are 3-3 with the last two wins coming in the form of shutouts. Seniors Benjamin Iniguez and Ivan Vera plus juniors Angel Aguilar and Brandon Rivera are the top pitchers while junior Raymond Acosta is an experienced catcher. Sophomore Jonah Mason was leading the team with a .429 average and six hits while Iniguez had driven in six through the first six games.

LA MIRADA MATADORES

22-8 overall last season, 11-1 in the Gateway League, first place, lost to Santa Margarita High 9-4 in the Division 1 quarterfinal playoffs.
Head coach: Jimmy Zurn (10th season, 185-69-1)
Team's record previous five seasons: 95-36-1
Division 1
Key losses: Alejandro Diaz, Aidan Haller, Pablo Hidalgo, Eric Jeon, Benjamin Kim, Jonah Rowenhorst, Jeremiah Sotelo

Projected lineup:
P-*Walker Calvo (SR)/Carson Flores (SR)/ Donald Murray (JR)/Jacob Oropeza (SO)*/Luke Armijo (FR)/Carson Calvo (FR)
C-*Jacob Celiz (JR)/Justin Torres (SO)*
1B-Kevin Jeon (JR)*/Oropeza/*
Armijo
2B-Calvo/Michael Burgueno (FR)
3B-*Maverek Russell (JR)*
SS-*Aiden Aguayo (JR)*/Calvo
LF-*Noah Rodriguez (SO)/Jakob Ortega (SR)*
CF-*Travis Friend (JR)/Ortega*
RF-*Tyler Primanto (SR)*/Jeon

It was status quo for La Mirada once again as the Matadores won their seventh consecutive league title last season, then came up short against Santa Margarita High in the Division 1 quarterfinals. In six of those seven seasons, La Mirada won at least 20 games and this season's team is primed for another banner season, one that head coach Jimmy Zurn hopes to end farther in the postseason.

"If you go back and look at last year, we played a very good Ayala team in the first round [and] won by one run," said Zurn. "We played a Torrance team in the second round that was a league champ; they only had two losses on the year. Obviously, playing Santa Margarita in the quarters, which was the number one seed, we were up 4-1 with six outs to go. We were six outs away from the semis and tip of the cap to them; we didn't have enough gas in the tank."

Zurn returns more than enough experience from last season's team to make another deep run in the playoffs where every game has that championship game atmosphere. The pitching staff might be deeper than last season, starting with senior Walker Calvo, who committed to United States Military Academy in West Point, N.Y. and will be the team's top ace on the mound. Behind him in the rotation is scheduled to be sophomore Jacob Oropeza with senior Carson Flores, junior Donald Murray and freshman left-hander Luke Armijo, a transfer from Mater Dei High who throws around 89-90 miles per hour also in the mix to get a lot on innings. Zurn says that Oropeza, whose velocity has gone up, has improved the most of the pitchers during the offseason. He saw action against Santa Margarita as a freshman and has seen just about every big program in the fall and winter.

"We're expecting big things from him," he continued. "As a sophomore, colleges can't talk to him until he's a junior. But he's going to be one that's going to be committed pretty quick once colleges can talk to him."

Junior Jacob Celiz and sophomore Justin Torres can be considered as No. 1's behind the plate instead of 1 and 1A and matchups along with who is riding the hotter bat will dictate which one will start what game. Zurn said a good way to put that situation behind the plate is simply they are identical right now.

The left side of the infield just got better as junior Maverek Russell moves from first base to third base, replacing Eric Jeon who is displaying his talents at Columbia University as a shortstop. He will be positioning himself to the right of junior shortstop Aiden Aguayo.

"Obviously, Maverek's as talented and athletic as can be, but it's good for him from a long term standpoint of being able to play multiple positions," said Zurn. "He was probably the most athletic first baseman you're going to find last year. He's only going to continue to get better."

Freshman Carson Calvo, who is ranked fourth nationally by Perfect Game for 2027 graduates, is the leadoff hitter and will occupy second base. He can also close some games on the mound.

Of the 27 players on the roster, eight are seniors, meaning the juniors and sophomores this season will get an abundance of experience which will make the Matadores that much better for 2025. The schedule is once again another tough one as La Mirada has already participated in the Prep Baseball Report Tournament and Stony Brook, state finalist out of New York. The Matadores are scheduled to play Missouri-based Nixa High, another state finalist, compete once again in the Boras Classic, Ayala High, Corona High, Maranatha High and West Torrance High to name a few. That's not including another brutal Gateway League schedule.

"At La Mirada, we want to play the very best to get us ready for the playoffs," said Zurn. "If there's one thing I've learned over my time, your record is great, but it doesn't matter unless you win in league and you're trying to make a run in the playoffs. I would rather take tough losses and that kind of stuff early in the season playing high caliber teams than putting a schedule together where we're beating up on teams. That doesn't get us better."

NORWALK LANCERS

23-5 overall last season, 15-0 in the Mid-Cities League, first place, lost to Hesperia Christian High 8-3 in the Division 6 quarterfinal playoffs.
Head coach: William Wenrick (10th season, 82-104)
Team's record previous five seasons: 50-47
Last time missed the playoffs: 2021
Division 5
Key losses: Caden Barnhill, Gabriel Cancino, Kevin Carrillo, Michael Casteneda, Rudy Gonzalez, Jonathan Guzman, Ricardo Guzman, Randy Martinez, Steven Martinez, Kaleb Nakano

Projected lineup:
P-*Francisco Rodriguez (SR)/Cesar Urueta (JR)*/Ruben Ramirez (SR)/Luis Salazar (SR)/Hector Alvarado (JR)
C-*Brian Marroquin (SR)*/Israel Molina (JR)
1B-*Joseph Davis (SR)*/Drake Davis (SR)
2B-*Juan Bustamante (SR)*/Ruben Ramirez (SR)
3B-*Urueta*/Omar Hernandez (SR)/ Alvarado
SS-*Rodriguez*/Aaron Aguilar (SR)
LF-Ramirez
CF-Angel Martinez (JR)/Molina
RF-Aguilar/Salazar

It was a season to remember for Norwalk last season when the Lancers won 23 games, carved through the Mid-Cities League and advanced to the quarterfinals for the first time since 1999. But having nearly the same success this season will be easier said than done. The Lancers lost 10 seniors, return five and move to the Gateway League where they are predicted to finish in last place. Still, head coach William Wenrick has the program heading in the right direction.

"It was just unbelievable," he said of last season. "It's the first time in school history I think we went undefeated [in league] and we had not won league in 18 years or something like that. Just the group that I had…I had two players that made varsity as a freshman and the other eight that really contributed that I had for three years. It was just a good time."

So, what does Wenrick do as an encore with just the four returning seniors and lone returning junior? For starters, most of the 10 seniors on this season's team have played the last three at the junior varsity level. He says it's almost like a rebuilding year even with the roster he has assembled.

"With the makeup of my team, because I have seniors, you can't really say it's a rebuilding year because I have so many seniors," said Wenrick. "I wouldn't call it rebuilding; I would call it more like trying to maintain."

Norwalk won't have the pitching as it did last year, meaning it doesn't have a hurler who can go six or seven innings. What you'll see this season is two or even three guys pitch each game. Senior Francisco Rodriguez and junior Cesar Urueta will be the top two pitchers with senior Luis Salazar the third guy in the rotation.

Early in the season, the varsity newcomers were impressing Wenrick more than the returning players, however Rodriguez, who has moved from the outfield to pick up the shortstop position 'really well', according to the nine-year head coach, has been the most consistent.

By moving to the Gateway League, the Lancers will be reunited with La Mirada, which has won 19 straight over Norwalk, and Warren High, who they have not faced since 2016. Last season, Warren came in third place at 5-7 and getting that same mark in league is asking too much with a team that is inexperienced at the varsity level.

"I guess you could say it's kind of a nice reward knowing that hey, we're the champions [of the Mid-Cities League] and we get to move up and play where we want to be with good competition," said Wenrick. "Then on the other hand, the areas that they draw from and the areas I draw from; the population count that they have and the quality of players that they get…it's going to be really tough. Winning preseason games is crucial. We just have to work somehow to win in the Gateway."

VALLEY CHRISTIAN DEFENDERS

10-12 overall last season, 6-6 in the Olympic League, tied for third place
Head coach: Tim Blume (second season, 10-12)
Team's record previous five seasons: 55-43
Last time made the playoffs: 2021
Division 6
Key losses: Jaidon Carter, Shawn Del Ray, Kenny Hoogerheide, Nolan Lynott, Evan Sawai, Jacob Smith, Quinn Unfried

Projected lineup:
P-*Kai Delahanty (SR)/Luke Garcia (SR)/ Riley Jones (JR)/Lucas Witt (SO)*/Max Douglas (SO)/Joshua Hulse (SO)
C-*Gavin Murphy (SR)*/R.J. Estrada (SO)
1B-*Seth Dahlenburg (JR)/Witt/Tyler Hayes (SR)*
2B-Nico Villafana (SO)/Estrada
3B-*Witt/Dahlenburg*
SS-Ethan Mertz (JR)
LF-Douglas/Ryan Caracoza (SR)/Micah Tamminga (JR)
CF-*Austin Abrahams (JR)*
RF-*Weston Lynott (JR)*/Caracoza/ Tamminga

It wasn't the first season Tim Blume was looking for when he replaced Matt Dahlenburg and became Valley Christian High's sixth head coach since 2012 and 11th in the past 26 seasons. The Defenders tied Village Christian High and Whittier Christian High for third place and lost to the Heralds 7-2 in a tiebreaker contest to see who would go to the playoffs as the Olympic League's third place representative. V.C. had previously defeated Whittier Christian twice in three games. The 10 losses were the fewest for the Defenders in a complete season since going 7-19 in 2010.

"It was tough; we didn't have a fall [season]," said Blume. "I came in in November and we had to get going. We had to get the wheels turning pretty quickly and at the end of the day, we didn't have a lot of pitching depth, at least enough to get us through the tail end of games. that was kind of what we ran into."

However, the 2024 season is night and day compared to last season. With a full fall season, the Defenders have started off well, splitting their first eight games, including a four-game winning streak. Even though Valley Christian lost its Olympic League opener to Maranatha High, the favorite to finish on top again, last season's 6-6 league mark was just the fifth time since 2011 the Defenders have had at least six league wins.

"It is tough," said Blume of the league. "There are some schools that have an incredible amount of talent depth, in particular Maranatha, who we saw the other night on their field. We faced a guy throwing 93 [miles per hour]. They have a giant roster; they're loaded with talent and they're the Goliath and [the rest of the league] are David's."

The pitching staff should be okay as junior Riley Jones is tabbed as the number one starter while sophomore Lucas Witt is on limited pitching as Blume doesn't want him to throw more than 50 pitches in any game. However, his bat is 'pretty vital in our lineup'

{See **Preview** pg. 12}

Preview from page 11

according to Blume. He is also the starting third baseman. Seniors Kai Delahanty and Luke Garcia figure to get a lot of starts behind Jones. Junior shortstop Ethan Mertz is a transfer from Servite High and Blume will have him batting within the top three spots.

"At the end of the day, we're a pretty young team," said Blume. "I believe there are seven seniors and I like our sophomore and juniors. I think their future is pretty bright and I'm excited to see them as we get to mid-league.

"I do believe this is a playoff-caliber team and I think they have the capabilities of going far once they start to sniff the playoffs," he later said. More fight than last year and a lot more love."

WHITNEY WILDCATS

4-1 in 2020
(last time the school had a program)
Head coach: Daniel Morales (first season)
Team's record previous five seasons (2015-2020): 27-48
Last time made the playoffs: 1984

Projected lineup:
P-Sohan Govan (JR)/Aaron Victoria (JR)/ Ryan Kim (JR)/Kavi Stris (FR)
C-Victoria/Nathan Kim (FR)
1B-Andrew Chavez (SR)/Sarthak Bathla (SO)
2B-Jacob Nunag (FR)/Nathan Kim
3B-Govan/Aahan Nellutla (FR)
SS-Ryan Kim/Nuang
LF-Cameron Raufdeen (FR)
CF-Stris
RF-Nellutla/Nunag/Nathan Kim

The last time Whitney played a baseball team, it defeated Calvary Chapel Downey High 14-7 on Mar. 9, 2020. There were 11 players on the team, seven of whom were seniors, and the Wildcats were primed to finish in the top three of the 605 League. Then came the pandemic and the school has been unable to launch the program until now. Whitney also did not have a team in 2016 and has one winning season in at least 26 seasons.

Daniel Morales, who is the president of the Frontier Youth Baseball League, said he got the green light on Jan. 10 to bring baseball to Whitney. This is the first time Morales has coached at the varsity level. He previously was a freshman and junior varsity coach at Gahr.

"The opportunity came up in late December of the possibility of having a team," said Morales. "The [ABC Unified] school district was talking about it, as was the high school. The problem is there are not enough players at Whitney that are interested in playing baseball. So, the staff decided to go ahead and give it a go with [13] players."

Morales added that he knows the job comes with no pressure, which helped sway him to take the position and start up the program. He has told the players that the expectation to win is not going to be this season, and about half the team has never played baseball before. The Wildcats will have six freshmen, four juniors, two sophomores and one senior.

"We're starting from scratch, teaching them the rules; teaching them why this can happen and why that can't happen," he said. "Just explaining them the game, so the expectation of having new players win at the varsity level is not really there this year. It's more about development and getting them ready for next season."

One area of experience is in the pitching department as Morales has coached juniors Sohan Govan and Aaron Victoria in travel ball. Morales said Victoria is the better of the two, but because he is also the starting catcher, Govan is tabbed as the number one guy on the bump.

Immersion from page 1

disabilities, such as dyslexia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia and dyspraxia' Tourette syndrome and other tic disorders and sensory processing issues.

"The 'Take Flight Without Fear' event is not just about making neurodivergent children and their families more comfortable with the logistics of boarding passes and security checks; it's about opening doors of possibility," said Long Beach Mayor Rex Richardson. "Together, we're paving the runway for inclusivity and empowerment."

Upon arrival at the Long Beach Airport, attendees received travel backpack, filled with travel necessities such as snacks and sensory toys. Patients from the Stramski Children's Developmental Center were welcomed by Juan Lopez-Rios, deputy director of the Long Beach Airport; Megan Kerr, councilwoman, District 5; Gary Feldman, M.D., medical director, Stramski Children's Developmental Center; and Kevin Meno, Long Beach Airport's resident volunteer, who is also on the spectrum. In attendance were several volunteers and donors supporting Miller Children's & Women's Hospital, the Long Beach Airport, and the community efforts of exploring the feasibility of becoming an autism-certified city. The Steel Magnolias – an all-volunteer organization that has been raising funds for the Stramski Center since 1999 – donated their time and resources to help children cope before this immersive and overwhelming experience.

The experience included a tour of the airport facilities, where patients and their caregivers received mock boarding passes and guidance on navigating security screening and procedures from TSA officers.

"This is a transformative experience for our neurodivergent patients," says Gary Feldman, M.D., medical director, Stramski Children's Developmental Center. "Travel opens up new horizons, fosters confidence, and breaks down barriers, and this event is a testament to our commitment at Miller Children's & Women's Hospital to create inclusive opportunities that empower everyone, regardless of their unique abilities, to navigate the world."

After being screened, patients were escorted by Long Beach Airport volunteers to their designated gate, where they awaited the unique opportunity to board a flight ramp and experience the sights and sounds of an airplane up close. Participants were able to watch planes take off and land, a popular hobby among neurodivergent individuals. Afterward, they celebrated their newfound skills with a visit to baggage claim, marking the completion of their training run.

"At Long Beach Airport, we're more than just a hub for flights; we're a gateway to dreams," says Cynthia Guidry, airport director, Long Beach Airport. "Let's show these children that the sky's the limit and empower them to navigate through life's journeys with confidence and courage."

Bellflower from page 1

ordinances, and other relevant documentation, will be available for review during these hearings.

The city "encourages all residents, community members, and stakeholders to attend these public hearings to engage in discussions about the city charter and its implications for our community. Your involvement is essential in ensuring that the city charter reflects the values and needs of Bellflower."

Cinnamon from page 1

are used as ingredients in foods that consumers may make and serve to children.

Parents and caretakers should consult a healthcare provider and ask for blood tests if they suspect a child may have been exposed to the recalled cinnamon applesauce products.

Short-term exposure to lead could result in the following symptoms: headache, abdominal pain/colic, vomiting, and anemia.

Longer-term exposure could result in additional symptoms: irritability, lethargy, fatigue, muscle aches or muscle prickling/burning, constipation, difficulty concentrating/muscular weakness, tremors, and weight loss.

Permanent consequences can lead to developmental delays and brain damage.

"Consistent with the agency's Closer to Zero initiative, which focuses on reducing childhood exposure to lead, the agency is recommending voluntary recall of the products listed below because prolonged exposure to the products may be unsafe. Removing the ground cinnamon products in this alert from the market will prevent them from contributing elevated amounts of lead to the diets of children," according to the FDA warning.

The FDA's targeted survey checked ground cinnamon products from discount retail stores and analyzed the samples for chromium as well as lead.

The FDA is advising consumers to throw away and to not buy these ground cinnamon products. The FDA has recommended that the firms voluntarily recall these products, with the exception of the MTCI cinnamon. The FDA has been unable to reach MTCI to share test findings and therefore has been unable to request that the company initiate a recall. The FDA will post updates with communications from firms that voluntarily agree to recalls.

Contamination thought to be intentional

This past week the FDA confirmed that lead chromate is the source of lead and chromium in cinnamon applesauce marketed for children and imported from Ecuador.

Leaders at the FDA continue to believe the contamination was intentional.

The Food and Drug Administration had already confirmed that applesauce samples had as much as 2,000 times the amount of lead considered safe.

Three brands of cinnamon applesauce pouches were recalled in November of 2023 because of lead contamination: Wanabana, Schnucks, and Weis. The FDA also found elevated levels of chromium in the recalled applesauce.

"People who ate recalled products, especially if they had elevated blood lead levels, may have been exposed to chromium and should inform their healthcare provider so they can monitor health and provide supportive care, as needed," according to the FDA.

"Historically, lead chromate has been illegally added to certain spices to increase their weight and color, increasing the monetary value of the adulterated spices. FDA's leading hypothesis remains that this was likely an act of economically motivated adulteration."

The FDA has limited regulatory power over foreign ingredient suppliers who do not directly ship their products to the United States. Consequently, the FDA cannot take direct action against Negasmart, the supplier of the cinnamon to the Ecuadorean applesauce manufacturer Austrofoods, or Carlos Aguilera, the processor of the cinnamon sticks.

The FDA does not indicate that this issue extends beyond these recalled products and does not have any confirmed reports of illnesses or elevated blood lead level adverse events reported for other cinnamon-containing products or cinnamon."

According to health officials in Ecuador, unprocessed cinnamon sticks used in recalled products were sourced from Sri Lanka. They were sampled by Ecuadoran officials and found to have no lead contamination.

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICIA PARA UNA AUDIENCIA PUBLICA

CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the City of Hawaiian Gardens will conduct a public hearing pertaining to the following item:

HEARING BODY:	PlanningCommission
DATE OF HEARING:	March 20, 2024
TIME OF HEARING:	6:00 P.M., or soon thereafter.
LOCATION OF HEARING:	City Council Chambers 21815 Pioneer Boulevard Hawaiian Gardens, CA 90716

PUBLIC HEARING: Conditional Use Permit Case No. PLNG2023-0070 is a request to approve a conditional use permit and determination of public convenience to allow the on-sale consumption of beer and wine (Type 41 – On-Sale Beer & Wine) in conjunction with an existing restaurant (Taqueria Carnitas Sahuayo), located at 12135 E. Carson Street in the C-4 (General Commercial) zone.

CEQA DETERMINATION: The proposed project is Categorically Exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per Section 15301 (Class 1 – Existing Facilities) of the CEQA guidelines. The request to permit a California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control license (Type 41 – On-Sale Beer & Wine) at the existing restaurant will not result in any changes in land use and will not have a significant effect on the environment. Thereby the request qualifies for an exemption.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the Hawaiian Gardens Community Development Department at (562) 420-2641 Ext 248. Si desea obtener mas informacion, llame al Departamento de Desarrollo de la Comunidad al (562) 420-2641 Ext 248.

Elise McCaleb, Community Development Director

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 02/23/2024

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CITY OF ARTESIA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Artesia Planning Commission will hold a Regular Planning Commission Meeting in the City Council Chambers of Artesia City Hall located at 18747 Clarkdale Avenue, Artesia, California at 7:00pm on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 to conduct a **Public Hearing** to consider the following project:

Project Description: **Case 2024-04:** The Planning Commission will consider Resolution No. 2024-02P for a request for Conditional Use Permits for 1) A drive-through for a proposed restaurant, 2) On-sale of alcoholic beverages within the outdoor dining area and Design Reviews for 1) A tenant improvement of an existing 5,761 sq. ft. building into a 940 sq. ft. beauty salon and a 4,821 sq. ft. restaurant with a 593 sq. ft. outdoor patio, and 2) A comprehensive sign program for the property located at 18616 Gridley Rd.

Applicant: Jane Hwang of Umaya Ramen, LLC

Location: 18616 Gridley Rd, Artesia, CA 90701

CEQA Determination: Pursuant to the California Environmental Equality Act (CEQA), the Planning Department has determined that this project is categorically exempt from the requirements of CEQA pursuant to Section 15301, Class 1 Existing Facilities.

Members from the public who would like to address the Planning Commission may appear at the public hearing during the consideration of this item and state their opinion. If you have written comments that you wish to submit, please deliver them to the Artesia City Clerk's Office, 18747 Clarkdale Avenue, Artesia, CA, or by email: ccamarena@cityofartesia.us prior to the start of the public hearing. If you have questions about this notice or the proposed action, please contact the Artesia Community Development Department at (562) 865-6262 or by the email above.

If you challenge any action related to this public hearing in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Carolyn Camarena,
Assistant Planner

PUBLISHED: March 08, 2024

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 3/8/24

CITY OF CERRITOS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Project Identification: CONSTRUCTION OF TREE AND CONCRETE IMPROVEMENTS IN RESIDENTIAL STREETS, PROJECT NO. 14088, BID NO. 1544-24. Project Description: The work or improvement to be performed generally consists of parkway tree removal; stump grinding; removal of all roots; replacement of trees required for the construction of concrete improvements; removal and replacement of deficient concrete curbs and gutters, sidewalk panels, driveway aprons, and other items identified in the bid schedule. **Bids will be opened: Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. Place of bid receipt:** The bid submission must be received in the Office of the City Clerk, First Floor, 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90703. It is the responsibility of the bidder to ensure that the bid is received in the appropriate location by the deadline. Bids not received in the Office of the City Clerk by the deadline provided will not be considered. **Bids must be marked: "BID – CONSTRUCTION OF TREE AND CONCRETE IMPROVEMENTS IN RESIDENTIAL STREETS, PROJECT NO. 14088, BID NO. 1544-24 - DO NOT OPEN."** All Bids shall be made on the form furnished by the City and shall be opened and publicly read aloud at the above-stated time in the Office of the City Clerk of the City of Cerritos, City Hall. **Obtaining Contract Documents:** A set of Contract Documents, including plans and specifications can be obtained by contacting Cerritos Engineering Division at (562) 916-1219. Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid security referred to in the Contract Documents and by a list of proposed subcontractors. Evidence of current City Business License (applies to contractor and all subcontractors), insurance, a Performance Bond, a Labor and Material Payment Bond, and Warranty Bond, as specified in the Contract Documents, will be required prior to execution of the contract. In accordance with Public Contract Code Section 22300, the bidder who is awarded the contract may substitute securities for retention money withheld by a public agency to ensure performance under the contract. The procedure and requirements for substituting said securities are set forth in Public Contract Code Section 22300, which is incorporated by this reference. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or portions thereof, or to waive any informality or irregularity in a bid to the extent allowed by law. No bid will be accepted from a contractor who has not been licensed in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 9, Division III of the California Business and Professions Code. The contractor must possess a license of the following classification at the time the contract is awarded (and must maintain this license classification through completion of the project): **"A" or "C-8" and "C-27."** The bidder's attention is also directed to Section 7028.15 of the Business and Professions Code for further reference, as set forth herein. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or portions thereof, or to waive any informality or irregularity in a bid to the extent allowed by law. Only a contractor or subcontractor who currently is registered with the California Department of Industrial Relations ("DIR") to bid on public works contracts in California, pursuant to Labor Code Section 1725.5, shall be permitted to submit or be listed on a bid. No bid shall be accepted, nor any contract or subcontract entered into, without proof of the contractor or subcontractor's current registration to perform public work pursuant to Labor Code Section 1725.5. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 1770, *et seq.,* of the California Labor Code, the DIR has determined the general prevailing rate of wages and employer payments for health and welfare, vacations, pensions and similar purposes applicable to the work to be done. These rates shall be the minimum rates for this project. Copies of the prevailing wage rates are on file at City Hall, located at 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, California, 90703, and shall be available to any interested party upon request. In addition, rates may be obtained by visiting http://www.dir.ca.gov/OPRL/pwd/, calling the DIR, Division of Labor Statistics and Research's Prevailing Wage Unit at (415) 703-4774, faxing the Prevailing Wage Unit at (415) 703-4771 or writing to DIR, Division of Labor Statistics and Research, Prevailing Wage Unit, P.O. Box 420603, San Francisco, CA, 94142. The contractor to whom the contract is awarded, and the subcontractors under him, must pay not less than these rates for this area to all workers employed in the execution of the contract. The bidder's attention is further directed to Section 9204 of the Public Contract Code regarding the claims resolution process for all public works projects. Any dispute or claim against the City under a public works project shall be processed in accordance with Section 9204 of the Public Contract Code and any other applicable law. Any requests for information regarding opened bids shall be directed to the Office of the City Clerk via a formal Public Records Act request. The City has determined that opened bids are confidential and therefore the negotiations process outweighs the public interest in prematurely disclosing such records. (Gov. Code § 6255). On March 4, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-6-22 (EO) regarding sanctions in response to Russian aggression in Ukraine. The EO is located at https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/3.4.22-Russia-Ukraine-Executive-Order.pdf. All contractors shall comply with economic sanctions imposed in response to Russia's action's in Ukraine, per this order and other federal executive orders identified by the U.S. Department of Treasury. Failure to comply with these orders shall result in the termination of contract. By order of the City of Cerritos.

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 3/8/24

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF LAURA F. RIVERA aka LAURA FLORES RIVERA
Case No. 22STPB04562

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of LAURA F. RIVERA aka LAURA FLORES RIVERA

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Janice Wineke in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Janice Wineke be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

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

A HEARING on the petition will be held on March 18, 2024 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 67 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 con-tingent 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 au-thority 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:
REBECCA J BIRMINGHAM ESQ
SBN 192383
LONG BEACH LAW INC
782 PACIFIC AVE
LONG BEACH CA 90813
CN102859 RIVERA Feb 23, Mar 1,8, 2024

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 2/23, 3/1, 3/8/24

CITY OF BELLFLOWER
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
REGARDING POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF A CITY CHARTER

TAKE NOTICE that public hearings will be held to discuss possible adoption of a city charter for the City of Bellflower. The public hearings are scheduled as follows at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers:

April 8, 2024
May 13, 2024

Adopting a city charter involves crucial decisions that will impact the governance and future of the City. These hearings provide an opportunity for residents to voice their opinions, ask questions, and contribute to the decision-making process.

The public hearings will follow established procedures in accordance with the California Government Code. Detailed information about the proposed city charter, including resolutions, ordinances, and other relevant documentation, will be available for review during these hearings.

We encourage all residents, community members, and stakeholders to attend these public hearings to engage in discussions about the city charter and its implications for our community. Your involvement is essential in ensuring that the city charter reflects the values and needs of Bellflower.

For further details regarding the public hearings on the adoption of the city charter, please refer to official announcements from the Bellflower City Clerk.

MAYRA OCHIQUI, CITY CLERK

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 3/8 and 3/15/24

NOTICE INVITING SEALED BIDS
FY 2023-24 PAVEMENT REHABILITATION PROJECT

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the CITY OF COMMERCE, referred to as "CITY", invites sealed bids for **FY 2023-24 PAVEMENT REHABILITATION PROJECT,** and will receive bids **on PlanetBids**, up to the hour of **2:00 PM, Tuesday, April 2, 2024,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud online. Late submittals will not be considered. It is the bidder's responsibility to upload the bid proposal file by the due date to City's portal on PlanetBids.

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

The work shall be completed within 80 working days after the City's Notice to Proceed.

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

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

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

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 3/8/24

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. 24-39012-JP
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: LIMA GUYS, INC., 11710 SOUTH ST STE 105, ARTESIA, CA 90701
Doing Business as: DIP SHABU SHABU
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: TOKYO KATSU INC, 3825 ALTON PKWAY, IRVINE, CA 92606
The assets being sold are generally described as: FURNITURES, FIXTURES, EQUIPMENTS, TOOLS, TRADENAME, GOODWILL, LEASEHOLD INTEREST, LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS, ALL TRANSFERABLE PERMITS, LICENSES AND INVENTORY OF STOCK IN TRADE and is/are located at: 11710 SOUTH ST STE 105, ARTESIA, CA 90701
The type of license(s) and license no(s) to be transferred is/are: ON-SALE BEER & WINE-EATING PLACE 41-595787. 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: TEAM ESCROW INC, 30 CORPORATE PARK, SUITE 210, IRVINE, CA 92606 and the anticipated sale/transfer is APRIL 3, 2024
The purchase price or consideration in connection with the sale of the business and transfer of the license, is the sum of $76,500.00, including inventory estimated at $2,000.00 which consists of the following: DESCRIPTION/AMOUNT CASH $76,500.00; ALLOCATION-SUB TOTAL $76,500.00; ALLOCATION TOTAL $76,500.00.
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: 2/26/24
LIMA GUYS, INC., SELLER(S)/LICENSEE(S)
TOKYO KATSU INC, BUYER(S)/APPLICANT(S)
ORD-2184130 LOS CERRITOS COMMUNITY NEWS 3/8/24

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ORDINANCE NO. 2024-616

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS, CALIFORNIA AMENDING SECTION 9.24.010 OF CHAPTER 9.24 OF TITLE 9 OF THE HAWAIIAN GARDENS MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING POSSESSION OR CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN PUBLIC PLACES

WHEREAS, Section 7, Article XI of the of the California Constitution provides that every California city may enact and enforce within its limits local ordinances not in conflict with general laws; and

WHEREAS, the City is authorized pursuant to its Constitutional police power to regulate the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages in public places such as public facilities, parks, sidewalks, and roads; and

WHEREAS, Section 25620(a), Division 9 of the Business and Professions Code to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act provides that it is an infraction for any individual to possess an open alcohol container in any public place, unless there was a license issued to possess alcohol or the possession of the alcohol container was for the purpose of recycling; and

WHEREAS, Section 9.24.010 of the Hawaiian Gardens Municipal Code currently prohibits possession and consumption of alcohol in public places, and prohibits the sale of alcohol at locations under municipal jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is seeking to update and modernize its prohibition on possession, service, and consumption of alcohol in public places to reflect the City's current needs, while continuing to address the public health, safety, and welfare issues associated with the possession, service, and consumption of alcohol.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. The above recitals are hereby adopted by the City Council and incorporated as set forth in this section.

Section 2. This Ordinance is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines, as it is not a "project" and has no potential to result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change to the environment. 14 Cal. Code Regs. § 15378(a). Further, this Ordinance is exempt from CEQA as there is no possibility that this Ordinance or its implementation would have a significant negative effect on the environment. 14 Cal. Code Regs. § 15061(b)(3).

Section 3. **Amendment.** Section 9.24.010 (Possession or Consumption in Public Places) of Chapter 9.24 (Alcoholic Beverages) of Title 9 (Public Peace, Morals and Welfare) of the Hawaiian Gardens Municipal Code is hereby repealed in its entirety and replaced with the following:

"9.24.010 Possession, Consumption, and Service in Public Places.

A. Definitions.

1. For purposes of this Section, the term "Alcoholic Beverage(s)" shall mean as it is defined by Business & Professions Code Section 23004, as amended.

2. For purposes of this Section, the term "Public Places" shall include any street, sidewalk, parkway, alley, highway, parking lot open to the public, public park, public school, public playground, public facility or building, or any other public place.

B. General Prohibition on Consumption and Service. It shall be unlawful to consume or serve (including sale or offer to sell) any Alcoholic Beverage upon, on, at or in any Public Places, which is not licensed, permitted, and authorized by law for the consumption or service of Alcoholic Beverages.

C. General Prohibition on Possession of Open Container. It shall be unlawful to possess any bottle, can, or other receptacle containing any Alcoholic Beverage, which has been opened, or a seal broken, or the contents of which have been partially removed in any Public Places, which is not licensed, permitted, and authorized by law. This subsection and shall not apply to individuals engaged in recycling or other related activity as defined in California Business and Professions Code Section 25620.

D. Regulations establishing a permit process or other approval process regulating possession, service, and consumption of Alcoholic Beverages in Public Places may be adopted by resolution of the City Council and authority for permit issuance or approvals may be delegated to a particular department of the City.

E. Violation of any provision of this Section and any regulations adopted pursuant to this Section is subject to enforcement pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 1.12 and 1.13 of this Municipal Code."

Section 4. Ordinance Severability. If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any entity, person or circumstance is held for any reason to be invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are severable. The City Council of the City of Hawaiian Gardens hereby declares that it would have adopted this Ordinance and each section, sentence, clause or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more section, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after its adoption.

Section 6. Records. The documents and materials associated with this ordinance that constitute the record of proceedings on which the City Council's findings and determinations are based are located at City Hall, 21815 Pioneer Blvd, Hawaiian Gardens, CA 90716.

Section 7. Publication. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance. Not later than fifteen (15) days following the passage of this Ordinance, the Ordinance, or a summary thereof, along with the names of the City Council members voting for and against the Ordinance, shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the City

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED, by the City Council of the City of Hawaiian Gardens, California at a regular meeting of the City Council held on the 28th day of February 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: ROA, VARGAS, DE PAULA, FARFAN
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: DEL RIO
ABSTAIN: NONE

/S/_____
Victor Farfan, Mayor

ATTEST:
/S/_____
Pablo Rubio, City Clerk

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 3/8/24

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 Online Public Auction of Tax-Defaulted Property Subject to the Tax Collector's Power to Sell in and for the County of Los Angeles, State of California, to various newspapers of general circulation published in the County. A portion of the list appears in each of such newspapers.

Notice of Online Public Auction of Tax-Defaulted Property Subject to the Tax Collector's Power to Sell (Sale No. 2024A)

Whereas, on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, State of California, directed the County of Los Angeles Treasurer and Tax Collector (TTC), to sell certain tax-defaulted properties at the online public auction.

The TTC does hereby give public notice, that unless said properties are redeemed, prior to the close of business on Friday, April 19, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time, the last business day prior to the first day of the online public auction, the TTC will offer for sale and sell said properties on Saturday, April 20, 2024, beginning at 3:00 p.m. Pacific Time, through Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. Pacific Time, to the highest bidder, for not less than the minimum bid, at online public auction at www.bid4assets.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 31, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time.

The TTC will re-offer any properties that did not sell or were not redeemed prior to Friday, May 31, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time, for sale at online public auction at www.bid4assets.com/losangeles beginning Saturday, June 1, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. Pacific Time, through Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. Pacific Time.

Prospective bidders should obtain detailed information of this sale from the County of Los Angeles Treasurer and Tax Collector at ttc.lacounty.gov. Bidders are required to pre-register at www.bid4assets.com and submit a refundable $5,000 deposit in the form of wire transfer, electronic check, cashier's check or bank-issued money order at the time of registration. Registration will begin on Friday, March 15, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. Pacific Time and end on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 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 properties, 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 or email us at auction@ttc.lacounty.gov.

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

I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed at Los Angeles, California, on February 6, 2024.

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. 2024A)
3032 AIN 8059-028-038 THO-METZ,CRAIG S AND PATRICIA L LOCATION CITY-SANTA FE SP $34,584.00
CN104682 607 Mar 1,8,15, 2024

County of Los Angeles
Department of the Treasurer and Tax Collector

Notice of Divided Publication

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

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I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed at Los Angeles, California, on February 6, 2024.

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. 2024A)
3839 AIN 7034-022-046 HURLEY, LLOYD R AND ANN M LOCATION CITY-CERRITOS $3,479.00
CN104664 538 Mar 1,8,15, 2024

AURA ACADEMY



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- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics)
- Multicultural experience
- Family-centered values
- Smaller class setting
- **College credits in HS**
- Fast track Pathway:
  - o Pharmacy
  - o Nursing
  - o Clinical Research
  - o Medicine

WHAT MAKES US AURA?

AURA
Offers students an advanced Christian-based, Global-Mission-based, and STEAM-based curriculum with university credits in an International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) CANDIDATE
IB is a global-focused, rigorous academic program

FAITH-BASED
Develops greater compassion and spiritual awareness

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE TODAY!

YEAR-ROUND ENROLLMENT
APPLY TODAY, ATTEND TOMORROW
AURA welcomes incoming 9th and 10th graders to apply!

LEARN MORE:
https://auracademy.org/p205/application-for-admission

Announcing the Edna Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund!

- **$10,000 scholarship**
- **$5,000 remaining tuition cost**

AURA High School, an International Baccalaureate (IB) MYP and DP Candidate School*. This school is pursuing authorization as an IB World School. These are schools that share a common philosophy—a commitment to high quality, challenging, international education that AURA High School believes is important for our students.

*Only schools authorized by the IB Organization can offer any of its four academic programmes: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), the Diploma Programme, or the Career-related Programme (CP). Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted. For further information about the IB and its programmes, visit www.ibo.org

562.800.0249 www.auracademy.org admission@auracademy.org