



I was the kind nobody
thought could make it.
I had a funny Boston accent.
I couldn't pronounce my R's.
I wasn't a beauty.
~Barbara Walters

Cerritos Using 'Cooperative Agreements' With Private Companies to Award No-Bid Contracts

By Brian Hews

HMG-CN has recently learned that the city of Cerritos is using a little-known City Municipal Code coupled with cooperative agreements to bypass the public bidding process and avoid scrutiny of public contracts awarded by the city.

Cooperative agreements are, in essence, contracts negotiated by a third party using its purchasing power to get a lower price. The bargaining of the price by the third party, typically a private company, is hidden from public scrutiny.

In one case, Cerritos used Franklin, Tennessee-based

Omnia Partners, to negotiate prices - out of public scrutiny - with local vendors that Omnia prefers, and then awarded contracts to complete projects in the city under Omnia's cooperative agreement.

To bypass public scrutiny and competitive local bidding, Cerritos cites Section 3.20.060(e) of the Cerritos Municipal Code, which states, "bidding may be dispensed with when services can be purchased through cooperative agreements."

In addition, once again bypassing bidding scrutiny, the

[See CERRITOS page 9]



BELLFLOWER SALVATION ARMY HELPS FAMILIES IN NEED

THE BELLFLOWER SALVATION ARMY assisted hundreds of families and children with food, clothing, toys and much more through their events. The BSA wanted to thank city officials, services clubs business owners and volunteers for supporting their holiday fundraisers. To help, visit Bellflower.SalvationArmy.org.

Veteran's Resource Center Opens in Pico Rivera

By Brian Hews

In November 2021, after much prodding from the Pico Rivera City Council, the Los Angeles County Library and the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) finally began the process of establishing a Veterans Resource Center inside the Pico Rivera library.

Veterans Resource Centers (VRC) provide critical services to Veterans and supply information about state and federal education, employment, housing, health, disability and other benefits.

Pico Rivera is home to a sizeable Veteran population, and the city was already working with local Veteran service groups to disseminate information about Veterans' benefits, education assistance, employment resources, vocational training, rehabilitation and homeless services.

City Council and city staff were excited at the prospects of having a VRC at the library, but at the time of the collaboration, Los Angeles County had indicated no funding was available for Pico Rivera's

VRC. Well, they found the funding and the city announced its new Veterans Resource Center, now located at the Pico Rivera Senior Center, is open and taking Veterans Service Officer (VSO) appointments for 2023.

The VSO is a key component of the city's new Resource Center and is ready to provide expert assistance to Veterans and their families.

The VSO serving inside the Pico Rivera VRC area is Kenneth Gonzales, Jr., who is an Accredited California Department of Veterans Affairs Service Officer.

Kenneth is no stranger to Pico Rivera; his family has been in the city since his grandfather bought his home in 1963. He was born and raised in the city, participated in city programs at the local parks, and graduated from El Rancho High.

Kenneth then joined the United States Navy where he proudly served for four years, and is a Gulf War Veteran. After his service, he worked in private industry before working for the County of Los Angeles as a Veterans Service Officer. Kenneth had a busy Decem-

[See PICO RIVERA page 9]

25 Year-Old Artesia Resident Shot and Killed at Pioneer and Artesia



MARISSA PEREZ photo from GoFundMe page. Marissa was pregnant and due in June.

The girl was a passenger driving with her father when a gunman pulled up to the truck and opened fire.

By Laurie Hanson

A 25-year-old pregnant woman was shot to death in Artesia as she was headed to a birthday party with her dad, and her distraught family believes this was not a random act.

The shooting happened at

around 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 29, at the intersection of Pioneer and Artesia boulevards.

Marissa Perez, who was expecting a child in June, was in the front passenger seat of the vehicle as her father was driving to pick up a birthday cake.

According to Perez's mother, Sandra Tolentino, a driver pulled up next to the father and daughter and began shooting. Perez was shot several times, including once in the head, her mother said.

"She was 25. She was about to be a mother in five more months. She was so happy,"

said Tolentino, who said the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said investigators do not believe this was a random act.

"She always cared for so many people. Her heart was literally on her sleeve every day."

As the search for the shooter continues, a growing memorial filled with flowers and heartfelt messages now sits at the intersection of the shooting.

Tolentino and her family, who described Perez as "the most loyal, loving, outgoing, and strongest person," are left grieving, trying to make sense of such tragedy that occurred just days before the New Year.

"She should have never been taken from us that way," said Tolentino. "She still had such a life ahead of her and it kills me that we won't be able to have that next chapter. Don't hold grudges and just love, love so hard because you just never know when will be the last time to say goodbye."

The sheriff's department has not released a description of the suspect or suspects.

[See SHOOTING page 4]

Justman
PACKAGING & DISPLAY

justmanpackaging.com



Providing packaging, display, and fulfillment solutions necessary for our clients' products to thrive within the competitive retail landscape.

THE LAW OFFICE
of
LEWIS & LEWIS

LA MIRADA'S
FULL SERVICE
LAW FIRM

(562) 293-4073
LewisLaw.info

JOHN LEWIS, ESQ.

- REAL ESTATE LAW
- PERSONAL INJURY
- BUSINESS LAW
- WILLS & TRUSTS

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

Pico Rivera Crossing Guard Retires



NINETEEN PLUS YEARS: As Rivera Elementary closed for the Winter break, "Ms. Lucille," the crossing guard at the corner of Rex and Passons, decided to hang up her stop sign after over nineteen years. She has crossed many students, watching them grow before her very eyes. "I will miss them, but it was time to retire," said Ms. Lucille.

Lakewood Farmers Market Opens This Saturday

A new Lakewood Farmers Market will open on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the city property at Del Amo Blvd. and Clark Ave., starting Jan. 7, rain or shine.

The Farmers Market will feature California-certified fresh produce, crafts and pre-packaged goods, with 20-30 vendors joining throughout the month as the market grows in size. The number of vendors may be smaller in number the first few weeks of operation.

Shoppers will find a variety of fresh, delicious items including seasonal fruits, fresh vegetables, fresh fish and certified organic chicken, plus hot prepared foods,

such as tacos, burritos, quesadillas, tamales, smoked BBQ meats, vegan dishes, coffee and iced coffee drinks. There will be a shaded dining area too.

And, shoppers can pick up fresh flowers, as well as prepacked goodies like French bakery items (croissants, pastries), everything sourdough, cookies, cupcakes and more!

A variety of crafters and artisans will also offer their specialty items.

The market will be run by the operators of a longstanding successful Farmers Market in Long Beach at Clark Ave. and Spring St.

La Mirada Farmers Market Resumes January 7

La Mirada's Farmers Market is back to the delight of are residents.

Celebrate the new year with a visit to the Farmers Markets and experience the best regional produce, packaged artisan and ready-to-eat specialty foods, and locally made crafts and gifts.

The La Mirada Farmers Market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The first Saturday of each month will feature live music, crafts for kids, and giveaways.

The Market will feature 20 to 25 vendors and beginning this Saturday, has a new location in the City Hall Parking lot, across from the Fire Station on Civic Center Drive.

Local La Mirada businesses interested in becoming a vendor should contact VenaVer Events at venaverevents@gmail.com. For more information, call (562) 943-7277.

Volunteer for the 2023 L. A. County Homeless Count

La Mirada is taking part in the 2023 Los Angeles County Homeless Count.

Every year, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) conducts a census of the homeless population through the Homeless Count.

The data collected is an essential component in understanding the scope and nature of homelessness in Los Angeles County and helps LAHSA and its partners deliver services where they are needed most.

For more information, or to sign-up to volunteer visit theycountwillyou.org

NORWALK/LA MIRADA
Plumbing
Heating & Air Conditioning

SINCE 1958
COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL

- Drains and Sewers Cleaned •
- Copper Repiping • Furnaces • Water Heaters
- Air Conditioning • Water Piping • Hydrojetting
- Leak Detecting • Water Softeners • Disposals
- Bath Remodeling • Backflow Testing & Repair

11661 Firestone Blvd. Norwalk
State Contractor License: #271767

24 HOUR SERVICE

(562) 868-7777

\$20 off with this ad!

THE PICO RIVERA VETERAN'S RESOURCE CENTER IS NOW OPEN

9200 Mines Ave.
Call (562) 948-4844 to book appointment

OTHER VET RESOURCE CENTER LOCATIONS:

<p>JANICE HAHN'S OFFICE: 11911 ARTESIA BLVD., CERRITOS</p>	<p>LIBERTY PLAZA 14181 TELEGRAPH ROAD, SOUTH WHITTIER</p>
---	--

BOOK AN APPOINTMENT: MVA.LACOUNTY.GOV

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES SUPERVISOR • FOURTH DISTRICT

JANICE **HAHN**

Supervisor Hahn Announces New Pickleball Courts in La Mirada



PICKLEBALL COURTS at La Mirada's Community Regional Park. Hahn's office directed the Parks Department to survey parkgoers about their support for the proposal, and with the community's support, Supervisor Hahn allocated \$46,000 from her office's discretionary funds to fund the project.

Staff Report

La Mirada-- Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn and the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation are proud to formally announce the opening of eight dedicated pickleball courts in La Mirada Community Regional Park.

"These new pickleball courts are something La Mirada residents came to me to ask for," said Supervisor Hahn. "I was more than happy to provide the funding to make it happen and I appreciate the Department of Parks and Recreation for delivering them so quickly. Have a great time everyone!"

Last year, multiple residents in La Mirada came to Supervisor Hahn's office requesting pickleball courts be installed in La Mirada Community Regional Park.

Hahn's office directed the Parks De-

partment to survey parkgoers about their support for the proposal, and with the community's support, Supervisor Hahn allocated \$46,000 from her office's discretionary funds to fund the project and directed the Parks Department to transform two of the park's twelve tennis ball courts into pickleball courts.

The new courts, completed in late December, join other pickleball courts offered at LA County Parks, including Farnsworth Park in Altadena.

Pickleball is similar to tennis or badminton, played on a smaller version of a tennis court with a small paddle and a ball similar to a whiffle ball.

In recent years, pickleball has exploded in popularity and become one of the fastest-growing sports in the United States due in part to its accessibility to persons of all ages interested in pickleball.

'Horrendous' Consequences After Musk-Twitter Cuts Child Abuse Screening Team

Staff Reports

Reports emerged a few weeks ago that Elon Musk has cut the size of the child sexual exploitation Twitter team in half, leaving behind an overwhelmed skeleton crew.

Reports indicated the team had fewer than 10 specialists down from 20.

The team was responsible for stopping the distribution of child sexual abuse material, instances of online grooming, and media that promoted attraction to minors as an identity or sexual orientation.

Now the platform is seeing an increase in that kind of despicable behavior.

Human review is important for recognizing grooming and other exploitative behaviors, and identifying previously unknown abusive images and videos.

The specialists worked closely with dedicated product managers and engineers to build tools and automation to stop the spread of the material, as well as third-party contractors who helped triage posts that users reported.

Unlike other types of egregious content that violates Twitter's rules, child sexual abuse material is illegal to host on the platform, and, depending on the country, there are requirements to take down and report material within specific time limits.

In the U.K., the Online Safety Bill gives regulators the power to fine platforms hosting user-generated content as much as 10% of their revenue.

HELLO!

I'M NOT JUST A
REAL ESTATE AGENT
I'M ALSO YOUR
NEIGHBOR

Call me for a free home valuation or if you're just needing a cup of sugar.

As a professional real estate agent and fellow neighbor, I know the real value of what our neighborhood offers.

I'd love to offer my services and resources to you, whether you're looking to buy or sell a home.



MODHA
Realty, Inc.

POOJA GOEL
Realtor / DRE#02150143



Cell: 562.274.5528
Office: 562.295.6796
poojatherealtor@gmail.com
ig:poojatherealtor
www.modharealty.com
17315 Studebaker Rd.
Ste. 300E, Cerritos, Ca. 90703



• NOT SATISFIED WITH YOUR CURRENT HOUSE PAYMENT?

• BIG BANK TURNED YOU DOWN?

I can help you with that.



DeAnna Allensworth
Broker - Advisor

Phone: 562-533-5600
www.CenturionMF.com
CA DRE 01443787
NMLS 206457



Soroptimist International of Artesia-Cerritos's 28th Annual Monte Carlo Fundraiser Gala

Saturday, February 25, 2023

Buffet Dinner 6-7:30 PM and Casino-Style Games, Silent Auction, and Prizes until 9:30 PM.

The Centre at Sycamore Plaza
5000 Clark Ave, Lakewood, CA

Theme: "Return to Paradise"

A return to good times for a good cause!

Dressy or Themed Tropical Attire

Early Bird tickets \$95 or \$125 per person after Jan. 20th and available through all members of Soroptimist International of Artesia-Cerritos.

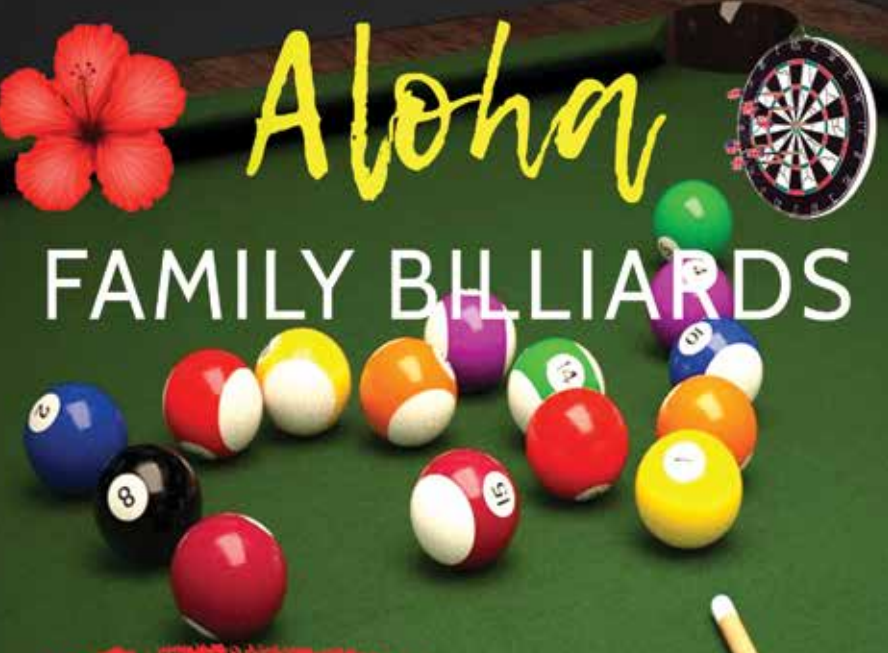

Proceeds go to local charities and awards for women and girls in our own communities through Soroptimist educational and mentoring programs.

Questions or to Purchase Tickets:

call Monte Carlo Co-Chairs,
Sandy Fikse (562) 618-8731 or
Susan Green (562) 716-6995

Aloha


FAMILY BILLIARDS





- Non-smoking
- Family friendly
- 50 selections of beer
- Available for parties
- Large screen TV's
- Touch-tunes digital juke box
- 11 - 9 foot Brunswick tables
- 2 - 7 foot Diamond tables
- 2 dart boards
- Weekly 8 Ball & 9 Ball Tournaments!

Mon-Thurs, 1:00pm to 2:00am
Fri-Sun, 12:00pm to 2:00am
Happy Hour Pool:
Mon-Thurs from 1:00pm to 4:00pm

7311 Orangethorpe Ave,
Buena Park, CA 90621


alohafamilybilliards.com

[AlohaBilliards](https://www.facebook.com/AlohaBilliards)

[alohafamilybilliards](https://www.instagram.com/alohafamilybilliards)

Cerritos:
19th Annual Children's Art Contest: 'Your Dream Park'

Kindergarten

First Place, Everett Choi, Wittman

1st Grade

First Place, Benjamin Leo Kim, Leal

Second Place, Aryanna Vigil, Elliot

Third Place, Lauren Wu, Leal

2nd Grade

First Place, Keanu Bui, Leal

Second Place, Dhyana Dave, Bragg

Third Place, Tasfia Rahman, Leal

3rd and 4th Grade

First Place, Theodore Chang, Vly Chrstn

Second Place, Jacqueline Wang, VC

Third Place, Sofia Juliette Galdamez, VC

5th Grade

First Place, Leslie Lam, Leal

Second Place, Jayden Tung, Cerritos



CERRITOS Councilman Frank Yokoyama with 2nd grader Keanu Bui from Leal ES who placed first in the Art Contest and won \$20.

Lakewood Leadership Academy Starts Jan. 30

Recent college graduates and working professionals can sharpen their communications, team-building and management skills to advance their careers and become leaders in the Lakewood community through the Lakewood Leadership Academy sponsored by the City of Lakewood and the Greater Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, with funding from Supervisor Janice Hahn.

Applications for the 2023 cohort are due by Jan. 18, 2023.

The program will educate attendees about the depth and breadth of the public agencies and community-based organizations that serve the Lakewood community; teach attendees how to bal-

ance work and personal life demands, develop effective communication skills, build great teams and value the importance of diversity, inclusion and tolerance in their workplaces; encourage attendees to serve the community in leadership roles and expand and enhance networking and relationships.

Participants meet monthly for nine sessions from 5 to 9 p.m.; dinner will be provided. Each session will cover a different topic and include a combination of lectures, panel discussions and hands-on activities relevant to that session's topic; during each session, experts are invited to share their insights and views. The first meeting will be held Monday, Jan. 30, 2023. Dates are subject to change with advance notice. For more information, visit lakewood-city.org/Business/Lakewood-Leadership-Academy.

Catherine Grant Wieder
Attorney & Mediator
 Probate, Wills & Trusts
 Conservatorship, Guardianship, Dispute Mediation
562-404-4039



Store Combats Use of Plastic, BYO Jars



ZERO-WASTE: Jessica Walden and Chris McGuire, doctoral students in UC Irvine's Department of Earth System Science, at their store Amis de la Terre Zero-Waste Market. The shop sells pantry staples and health foods in bulk, customers take home their wares in jars or paper bags without creating additional plastic waste. The store is located in Costa Mesa. *Courtesy photo Daily Pilot.*

Construction to Start at Cerritos Civic Center

Construction at the Cerritos Civic Center parking garage is set to take place in early January. Certain areas and levels of the parking structure will be cordoned-off for the safety of pedestrians and motorists. Road closures, intermittent noise and traffic delays are also anticipated. The multi-phase project is expected to extend through the spring. The work includes upgrades and rehabilitation to the parking garage and groundwater remediation. Signs will be posted as needed to announce closures.

Pre-printed Flyers Inserted in Our Paper & Delivered Around Your Store Only 6 cents Per Insert!
562.407.3873
sales@cerritosnews.net

RENEW ANNUAL CERRITOS PARKING PERMIT ONLINE

Cerritos residents can renew their 2023 annual parking permit or request an overnight parking permit 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, online at safercerritos.com.

City parking permits are free of charge and must be clearly displayed on the driver's side dashboard of the vehicle (left corner) from 3 a.m. until 5 a.m.

A vehicle displaying a valid California DMV Disabled Person Placard does not require an overnight parking permit. A parking permit does not exempt a vehicle from the City's street sweeping ordinance (10.12.065 CMC).

The parking permit criteria allow two-car garage households with five vehicles and four licensed drivers to qualify for a second annual parking permit.

Three-car garage households would require seven vehicles and six licensed drivers to qualify for a second parking permit.

For more information, contact the Community Safety Division at (562) 916-1266.

SHOOTING from page 1

Anyone with information is urged to contact the LASD homicide bureau at 323-890-5500.

Meanwhile, the family of Perez has created a GoFundMe to collect donations during their time of need. The family wrote on the GoFundMe page, "Marissa was the most loving daughter, sister, cousin and friend. Marissa was expecting the biggest blessing, a baby in June. Thank you to everyone who has reached out during this difficult time for our family, know that we appreciate your love and support. Nothing has prepared us for this immense feeling of loss and sorrow."

To donate go to the Go FundMe page at <https://bit.ly/HMGMarissa>

Keeping It Flowing For You!
PETE'S PLUMBING

- Plumbing clogs
- Water heater replacement
- Repair and install gas lines
- Remodel your plumbing
- Flood repair
- Disposals repair and install
- Toilets install or replace
- New piping and repairs
- New homes, old homes, commercial plumbing and a ton more

We offer a wide range of plumbing services from emergency plumbing to commercial plumbing services, our master plumbers are ready to handle all jobs large or small at any time during the day or night.

Over 30 years in business!
800-21-4PETES or 562-599-0106

3099 E. Pacific Coast Highway • Long Beach
petes-plumbing.com • info@petes-plumbing.com



SEWER & DRAIN CLEAN-OUTS • FAUCETS • VIDEO SEWER INSPECTION • GAS LINES

BENEFITS OF COPPER REPIPING:

- Increased water pressure
- No more rusty or discolored water
- Being able to use more than one faucet at a time
- No more leaky pipes
- No scalding in the shower when someone turns on a faucet
- Greater peace of mind
- Positive selling point for your property

\$5 OFF WITH THIS AD!
 This offer is only good on service calls over \$79.00 to first time customers.

EMERGENCY 24/7 SERVICE

CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE
(562) 924-2565 • (714) 527-5300
 20014 State Road, CERRITOS

Bonded & Insured • California Contractors Lic. #458625

SEWER LOCATION • WALL & FLOOR HEATERS • CIRCULATING PUMPS



Man Who Drove Family Off Cliff Did It On Purpose



THE DRIVER of a Tesla that went off a cliff at Devil's Slide in San Mateo County has been arrested for attempted murder and child abuse. Dharmesh A. Patel of Pasadena will be booked into San Mateo County Jail after he's released from the hospital. Patel, another adult and two juveniles suffered serious injuries Monday morning after the Tesla they were in plunged 250 to 300 feet down the side of a cliff along Highway 1, according to the CHP.

La Mirada Crime Summary

December 26, 2022 - January 01, 2023

Notable Arrests

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

Residential Burglary

• A residential burglary was reported on the 15000 block of Costa Mesa Dr. Entry was made through the rear door.

Vehicle Burglary

• An early morning vehicle burglary was reported on the 15000 block of Tacuba Dr.

• A late-night vehicle burglary occurred on the 12800 block of Valley View Ave.

Grand Theft

• A purse was stolen during the morning hours on the 15200 block of Rosecrans Ave.

• A catalytic theft was reported stolen on the 15100 block of La Mirada Blvd.

• A theft was reported on the 15700 block of Imperial Hwy.

• A catalytic converter was stolen on the 14900 block of Northam St.

• A theft of a catalytic converter was reported on the 16000 block of Grayville Dr.

Grand Theft Auto

• A sedan was stolen on the 15400 block of Placid Dr.

• An attempted vehicle theft was reported on the 15000 block of Firestone Blvd.

La Mirada Neighborhood Watch Meetings

The City will host City-Wide Neighborhood Watch meetings via Zoom on the following dates and times:

- Wednesday, March 15 at 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 14 at 10 a.m.
- Thursday, September 7 at 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 13 at 10 a.m.

The meeting presentations provide information on the benefits of Neighborhood Watch, current crime trends, and prevention tips. Zoom may be viewed on any computer, laptop, or mobile device. Users of tablets or smart phones will need to download the free Zoom app to participate. The use of cameras or microphones is not needed, and participants will be able to ask questions via the text chat box.

If you are interested in the Neighborhood Watch program or have additional questions, please contact Safety Education Officer Mary Cipres at mcipres@cityoflamirada.org or at (562) 902-2986.

Parking Enforcement Resumes on January 10 in Cerritos

Cerritos' overnight parking restrictions and enforcement will resume on Tuesday, January 10.

Permits are required to park on City streets between 3 and 5 a.m. to help keep streets clear and allow residents and deputies to quickly spot suspicious vehicles.

The parking permit criteria allow two-car garage households with five vehicles and four licensed drivers to qualify for a second annual parking permit.

Three-car garage households would require seven vehicles and six licensed drivers to qualify for a second parking permit.

For more information, call the Community Safety Division at (562) 916-1266.

Lakewood Mall the Safest in South L.A. County



AN AVERAGE of 2.1 crimes per 100,000 visitors occurred at neighboring major shopping malls compared to only 1.2 crimes at Lakewood Center, based on newly compiled statistics.

A survey of south Los Angeles County shopping malls showed that fewer crimes were committed at Lakewood Center per 100,000 visitors each year than at other shopping malls.

An average of 2.1 crimes per 100,000 visitors occurred at neighboring major shopping malls compared to only 1.2 crimes at Lakewood Center, based on newly compiled statistics.

"Creating a safe environment at Lakewood Center is a priority for the City of Lakewood, and we're glad the statistics bear out that our efforts in partnership with the mall and the Sheriff's Department work," said Lakewood Mayor Steve Croft.

According to the city, the Lakewood Center partners with the city to provide Deputy Sheriffs to patrol the center year-round.

The Deputy Sheriffs have stepped up proactive policing at the mall, focusing on spotting suspicious behavior.

The mall's own security team and

Lakewood Deputy Sheriffs jointly staff a Safety Center at the mall.

While specifics of the Lakewood Center security program are confidential, it is known to be a highly team including undercover personnel who provide an extra level of protection for shoppers.

Lakewood Center Security Officers also provide customer service.

Mall Security Officers were honored at Lakewood's Award of Valor event for life-saving measures performed on a guest having a medical emergency at the mall.

"Lakewood Center has been extremely important to the economic health of our community since it opened as America's largest shopping mall in the 1950s," said Croft. "As statistics show, Lakewood Center remains a very safe place to shop, and I hope Lakewood residents will continue to make it a place they visit and patronize for their convenience, personal benefit and the economic betterment of our community."

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.

Services include:

24/7 Crisis Hotline

Domestic Violence Counseling

Safe and Secure Emergency Shelter

Case Management Services

SEEK HELP NOW!

Hotline: (562) 402-4888

Sucasadv.org



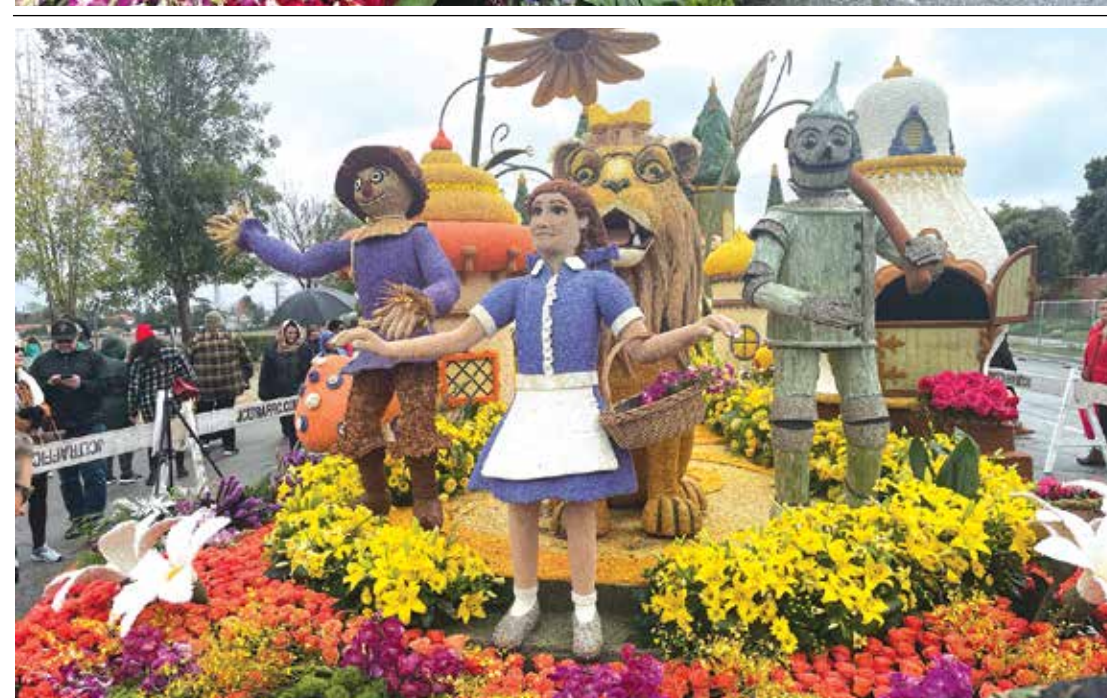
Brought to you by the City of Cerritos

2023 'Floatfest' Allows Up Close Viewing of Rose Parade Floats



The hard rain managed to hold back this past Wednesday at the Rose Parade's Floatfest, a 2-mile stretch of floats located at Sierra Madre and Washington Boulevard in Pasadena. Float viewers were treated to an up close and personal viewing of every float in the iconic parade.

Clockwise from top left is the Traders Joes float, birds on the TJ's float (Most outstanding display of floral presentation, float design and entertainment); San Diego's Safari Park (Most outstanding use of animation); Downey' Float (Most outstanding floral presentation from a non-commercial participant); Cal Poly Universities (Most outstanding floral presentation from a non-commercial participant); AIDS Healthcare Foundation (Grand Marshal Award for most outstanding creative concept and float design); City of South Pasadena (Bob Hope Humor, most whimsical and amusing float). Photos by Cora & Brian Hews



Are You Moving, Need Packing or Delivery?

MGB WE CAN HELP YOU!

CALL NOW AND SAVE!!!
\$50.00 OFF*
 OUR REGULAR PRICING
 *MUST PRESENT THIS COUPON

Email: mgbtransport@yahoo.com

WE ALSO PROVIDE AFFORDABLE ASSEMBLY & INSTALLATION SERVICE

562.805.7313 No Hidden Charges!!

Find our paper at these convenient locations:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>AAA
18642 S. Gridley</p> <p>ABC Adult School
12254 Cuesta Dr.</p> <p>ABC District Office
16700 Norwalk Blvd.</p> <p>ABCFT
19444 Norwalk Blvd.</p> <p>Aikan Sushi
12155 South St</p> <p>All Cerritos Parks</p> <p>Amor Y Tacos
13333 South St</p> <p>Arte Café
12741 Towne Ctr. Dr.</p> <p>Artesia City Hall
18747 Clarkdale Ave.</p> <p>Artesia Library
18722 Clarkdale</p> <p>Artesia Cemetery
11142 Artesia Blvd.</p> <p>Artesia Christian Home
11614 183rd St, Artesia</p> <p>Artesia Senior Apts
10427 Artesia, Bellflower Ave. 3</p> <p>12612 South Street</p> <p>Bellflower City Hall</p> <p>Bellflower Terrace Apts.
9920 Flora Vista</p> <p>Belmont Place Apts.
9830 Belmont St., Bellflower</p> <p>Ramona Senior Ctr.
9843 Ramona St. Bellflower</p> <p>Bellflower Friendship Manor
9550 Oak St.</p> <p>Cassidy's Cafe
15010 La Mirada Blvd</p> <p>Cerritos Autosquare
All Dealerships</p> <p>Cerritos Chamber
13259 South St.</p> <p>Cerritos College</p> <p>Cerritos City Hall</p> <p>Sheriff's/Community Center</p> <p>Cerritos Library</p> <p>Cerritos Park East
18125 Bloomfield Ave</p> | <p>Cerritos Medical Center
Hahn's, office/ Dr. De Kriek
11911 Artesia Blvd.</p> <p>Cerritos Senior Center
12340 South St.</p> <p>Cevitas Coffee
14218 Rosecrans Ave</p> <p>CTA Travel
12750 Center Ct Dr S.</p> <p>ContunEM
6430 South St</p> <p>Don Knabe Park
At the Tennis Center</p> <p>El Tepeyac
13926 Imperial Hwy</p> <p>Foggia Deli
5522 Del Amo Blvd.</p> <p>Grocery Outlet
15745 Imperial Hwy.</p> <p>Grove at Cerritos
11000 New Falcon Way</p> <p>Goodyear Auto
19404 Norwalk Blvd.</p> <p>Gardens Casino
11871 E Carson St.</p> <p>Hawaiian Gardens City Hall, Rec. Center, Library
21815 Pioneer</p> <p>Holy Family Church, Artesia IHop
15140 La Mirada Blvd</p> <p>Imperial Healthcare Center
11926 La Mirada Blvd</p> <p>It's A Grind
13295 South St.</p> <p>Kindred Hospital
14900 Imperial Hwy.</p> <p>Knabe Park
Kristens Beauty Salon
13952 Valley View Ave</p> <p>La Casa de Concinera
15711 Imperial Hwy.</p> <p>Lakewood Regional
3700 South St.</p> <p>La Mirada City Hall, Library, Resource Center, Sheriff's LA Nails
13239 South St</p> | <p>La Palma City Hall
La Palma Community Center
La Palma Intercomm. Hospital
Liberty Park</p> <p>9211 Studebaker Rd,
Long Beach Memorial
2801 Atlantic Ave.</p> <p>Manila Sunset
13347 South St</p> <p>Massage and Stone
13247 South St.</p> <p>Medipost
13299 E South Street</p> <p>Norwalk Arts and Sports
13000 Clarkdale</p> <p>Norwalk Senior Center
14040 San Antonio Dr.</p> <p>Norwalk City Hall
Offstreet Café</p> <p>11020 Artesia Blvd.</p> <p>Olive Lawn
13926 La Mirada Blvd</p> <p>11832 E Carson St</p> <p>Pico Rivera Chamber
5016 Passons Blvd</p> <p>Pico River City Hall and Sheriffs
6615 Passons Blvd</p> <p>Rosewoods
10769 South St.</p> <p>State Farm
12616 South St</p> <p>LAFD Station 30
Silverlake Ramen
11103 183rd St</p> <p>Sophia Hair Salon
13243 South St.</p> <p>Splash! La Mirada
Sukos Sushi
14156 Rosecrans Ave</p> <p>Tacos San Pedro
11832 E Carson St</p> <p>Tour Le Jour
13359 South St</p> <p>VI Pharmacy
12610 South Street</p> <p>WRD
4040 Paramount</p> |
|---|--|--|

Athens Services
SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICES
 Proudly serving the city of Cerritos
GOT TRASH? RENT ME!

- Up to 7-day rental
- Next day delivery
- Approximately 350lb. weight capacity
- Ideal for general cleanup projects
- Extra empties may be ordered for an additional fee.

Call (888) 336-6100
athensservices.com • Email: cs@athensservices.com

I ♥ BOB
Business Over Breakfast

FREE FOR CHAMBER MEMBERS REGISTER TODAY!

This month join us at:

Polly's Pies
 Wednesday, January 11th
 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM
 17198 Norwalk Blvd. In Cerritos

JACKPOT EXPLOSION
 FOR A LIMITED TIME

\$8-16, \$20-40 & \$40-80 LIMIT HOLD'EM
\$500-2000 NO LIMIT HOLD'EM

\$75,000

ACES FULL OF 10'S OR BETTER, BEATEN BY FOUR OF A KIND OR BETTER
 BOTH HOLE CARDS MUST PLAY

#THEGARDENSCASINO
 WWW.THEGARDENSCASINO.COM • (562) 860-5887
 11871 E. CARSON ST. HAWAIIAN GARDENS, CA 90716

All participants must be 21 years of age or older and have valid ID. Hawaiian Gardens Casino reserves the right to cancel or modify promotions at any time and any game rules as approved in advance by the Bureau of Gambling Control. For more information, see a CSR.

PROBLEM GAMBLING? CALL 1-800-GAMBLER (426-2537) GEBA 001477

ANAHEIM COLONY CLASSIC

Loara's Toscano torches Norwalk as Lancers falter in final seconds of final tournament

By Loren Kopff
@LorenKopff on Twitter

ANAHEIM-It was just three seasons ago that the Norwalk High boys basketball team was enjoying part of its 10-game winning streak during the Anaheim Colony Classic, held in late December. But the pandemic and a lack of interest has forced tournament officials to mark the 2022 version the final year of the tournament, at least for now.

With that said, the Lancers wanted to avoid going winless in the event and snap a three-game losing skid. But Loara High's Markus Toscano, who stands at 6'6", scored a pair of baskets in the final 14 seconds and the Saxons rallied for a 55-53 win last Friday afternoon. Norwalk, which did not trail until the beginning of the fourth quarter, dropped to 7-11 as it wrapped up its non-league part of its schedule.

The Lancers had taken a 53-51 with 43.7 seconds left after senior Vincent Hernandez scored off his only offensive rebound. After Toscano tied the game, Norwalk took a timeout with 7:5 seconds remaining. A missed three-pointer from senior Jesus Gomez prompted Loara to call a timeout with one second left. When play resumed, Remy Ybarra inbounded a long

pass to Toscano who launched a shot at the buzzer for the game-winner. Toscano entered the game averaging 20.4 points a game and led everyone with 20 points in the seventh-place game of the tournament.

"I thought we came out with a good attitude and a good approach and guys were playing very, very hard and focused early," said Norwalk head coach Brent Campanelli. "We struggled to guard [Toscano]; he's pretty good. We did a good job but when he got his touches, he made us pay for it. I have no doubt that he kind of paced them. But I think that third quarter really got to us. We went a little bit cold, and they just kept chipping away and chipping away."

"This has probably been the worst week of our season by far," he later said. "I thought we started off Monday very well. We played Newport Harbor very tough with a chance to win the game in the fourth quarter. We didn't show up on Wednesday to play a scrappy Anaheim team and it's really, really hard to win games at the varsity level no matter who you're playing."

Hernandez opened the second half with a basket to give the Lancers a seven-point lead. But they would manage just two more baskets the rest of the third quarter and with 54.8 seconds left in the stanza, Toscano tied the game at 40-40. Then 35 seconds

into the fourth quarter, Kedir Abdi gave the Saxons their first lead of the game.

After Gomez sank a pair of free throws to give Norwalk a two-point lead 59 seconds into the final quarter, the Lancers wouldn't lead again until Gomez scored with 1:22 left in regulation. But it would be a tale of two halves as Norwalk was eight of 24 from the field in the second half after shooting 13 of 29 in the first half.

"We were managing foul trouble, so I don't know if there was a rhythm there for some guys in that third quarter," said Campanelli. "They were trying to figure out how to play with that."

The Lancers had three starters and their top bench player all pick up two fouls in the first half. But senior Aytin Reyes picked up his third foul before the midway part of the third quarter and his fourth at the same point in the fourth quarter. Senior James McGarrah would pick up his third and fourth fouls before the third quarter was over, and while no one fouled out, it disrupted Norwalk's game in the second half.

"It's difficult; it puts guys in a position where they have to play a little bit differently," said Campanelli. "We've really been trying to get a little bit more aggressive, and I think they came out to be more aggressive; our guys did defensively. But defending aggressively and with the intelligence sometimes is a fine line. I thought a few of [the fouls] were maybe questionable and something for a little bit more of a physical game if we could play that way. But we just did the best we could."

Norwalk seemed to be in control from the opening tip, outscoring the Saxons 20-13 in the first quarter while building a nine-point lead with 3:34 left in the stanza. The Lancers shot 50 percent from the field and had three steals as Loara was limited to nine shot attempts while turning the ball

over five times. It wasn't until the three-minute mark of the second quarter that Loara was able to tie the game. But Norwalk closed out the half on a 9-4 run.

Hernandez led Norwalk with 14 points and missed just two shots from the field while junior Jakhari Ramey scored a dozen points, had four rebounds and two assists. Gomez chipped in with 11 points, five steals, three rebounds and three assists as the Lancers put themselves in a position where they need to have a strong Mid-Cities League slate just to make the playoffs. With 10 games left in the regular season, the Lancers need to go at least 7-3 just to reach the .500 mark, which would be enough to apply for an at-large berth in the CIF-Southern Section playoffs. But a 7-3 league record would also be good enough for no worse than third place in the circuit. After opening league action at Firebaugh High, Norwalk will host Lynwood High on Friday before going to Warren High on Wednesday.

"That would be a tremendous 7-3 record, but that would be to get us to .500," said Campanelli. "If we finish in the top three in our league, we going to get that automatic bid. So, we're not going to set an unrealistic goal, but we do feel we have an opportunity in this new league. We feel like we can compete with just about any of the teams on any night. We're just going to prepare the best we can and see what happens."

SHOWCASE ON SHOEMAKER TOURNAMENT

Surging short-handed Whitney boys advance to finals of co-hosted event in defensive battle

By Loren Kopff

When you're down two starters because of injuries, it's that 'next man up' mentality and was what was facing the Whitney High boys basketball team throughout the inaugural Showcase on Shoemaker Tournament, hosted by John Glenn High and Whitney. Still, the Wildcats battled through the adversity to advance to the finals, made possible with a tough 35-32 win over Katella High last Thursday night in one semifinal game.

Whitney, which had won four straight games, would fall to (Bluffdale, UT) Summit Academy 49-25 the next night in the finals but still sported an impressive 13-3 record entering 605 League action, which began at Glenn this past Wednesday. The 35 points scored were the fewest in the first 15 games while the 32 points allowed marked the eighth time the Wildcats have yielded 35 or fewer points, including the first three games of the tournament.

"Yeah, they were good," said Whitney head coach Joseph Webber of Katella. "We actually thought they had a big advantage in this game. I have two starters out, so I wanted to grind it out a little bit. We went through the walk-through today and my assistant coach, Nasir Akmal, designed a fantastic defensive plan. And the boys stuck to it most of the time."

Whitney was leading 31-24 with 3:50

left in the game before the Knights went on an 8-0 run, taking their second and last lead of the contest with 1:21 remaining on a basket from Emari Hart. But with 33.5 seconds left, junior Joseph Whitaker had an offensive rebound and found senior David Song open for the game-winning basket. Then with 3.8 seconds left, Song grabbed a defensive board and fed a pass to senior Ethan Wong for the nail in the coffin.

After Katella's William Leapt scored the game's first points just over two minutes into the game, Whitney scored the next seven points over the next 2:15 and held the lead until late in the game. The lead would grow to nine points on three separate occasions, the first coming with 3:46 left in the first half when Song scored on an offensive rebound as the shot clock expired to put the improving 'Cats up 18-9.

Although Whitney would have a lead of six to nine points for most of the game, it would go through several scoring droughts. In the first quarter, the Wildcats went through stretches of 2:58 and 3:15 without scoring, 2:11 in the second quarter, 3:00 and 4:08 in the third quarter and 2:55 and 3:16 in the final stanza.

"You know that defense is what you're going to hang your hat on at the end of the game," said Webber. "If we're not scoring, we have to stop them from scoring,

too. I just thought it was amazing that as much firepower as Katella has, nobody really got off.

"We knew they would get a few putbacks; we knew they would go down on transition," he continued. "But when we kept the ball in front of us, that was the plan we came up with. That was the part we told the boys to stick to. Without my two leading scorers, it's hard to create scoring. It puts a heavy load back on Ethan, and I don't want that. David has been fantastic, but our team was based off being a team. Based off [junior] Sakeef [Sekender] being in the corner for three's. Based off [sophomore] Morgan [Marks] breaking down the offense, and instead, I don't have them right now and it's been a tough stretch without them."

Whitney was up 22-16 at the half, partly because of the 10 turnovers it forced, some of them being offensive charges and the others coming in the way of steals, in which Wong had three and sophomore Kailan Hizon another two.

The Wildcats went up 25-16 three minutes into the second half on a three-pointer from Wong, his third of the game. After that, the hosts wouldn't score until 51.8 remained in the stanza. Then the Wildcats went on a brief 4-0 run to lead 29-22 with 5:05 left in the game.

With Marks and Sekender not in the lineup, other players who have not gotten a lot of playing time this season stepped up in the tournament. Sophomore Christian Carreon had four second half points against Katella and had 17 points through the first three games of the tournament while sophomore Alex Cheng, who had scored 12 points through the first three games of the tournament, hit a three-pointer at the buzzer to end the first quarter to put Whitney up 12-6. And sophomore Rafael Mercado scored five points, grabbed a pair of rebounds and had an assist against the Knights.

"Christian is one of our dynamic sophomores that we brought up," said Webber. "He's the backbone of our team. Kailan had a giant defensive game for us, Alex had a giant defensive game for us and Christian...the whole team is based on trust, and they trust him. We know he loves to play and he will do anything he can for this team. So, I'm very happy for him when he made those plays because it breaks down the other team."

Wong led everyone with 14 points, had three rebounds and two assists while junior Justin Wahyodi and Whittaker each grabbed half a dozen rebounds and Song added another five boards. This was the second straight tournament in which the Wildcats won the first three games to advance to the championship game and with the loss to Summit Academy, Whitney has now gone 3-1 in all three tournaments. The 13 victories are the most since the 2012-2013 when the Wildcats went 13-14 and with at least one more victory, Whitney will have its first non-losing season since the 2011-2012 campaign when that team went 15-9.

"It's been a special team from the very get go," said Webber. "Like I've said, our seniors last year spurred us into the spring and from there, this team has just gotten together and went on a little mission. Through spring we saw it, through summer we saw it, through fall ball we saw it and the team being able to trust off guys stepping up with all these games all this time together...I'm just very, very proud of them. And as I've always said, I have the best coaching staff in the state, and my coaches have these guys ultra-prepared for any challenge that comes up. The Wildcats opened league action this past Wednesday at Glenn, easing past the Eagles 57-26 and will go to Artesia High on Friday before hosting Oxford Academy on Tuesday.

NEWS AND NOTES - Valley Christian basketball blown out by Heritage Christian in Olympic League opener



@LorenKopff on Twitter

The Valley Christian High boys basketball team hasn't had much luck with Heritage Christian High over the past seven seasons, losing nine straight to the Warriors and going 2-12 against them since 2016. Before that, V.C. had gone 14-4 since 2005.

So, who knew what to expect as the Olympic League began this past Tuesday with the Defenders, ranked 14th in the CIF-Southern Section Division 2A poll hosting Heritage Christian. After a very close first quarter in which the lead changed hands three times and no lead being greater than four points, the Warriors exploded for a solid second quarter and blew the game open in the second half, running away with a 79-58 win.

"We played well for a quarter and a half, probably," said V.C. first-year head coach Jason Flowers. "I thought the big difference when they made their run was that we turned the basketball over and gave them easy baskets. Anytime you do that against a team that's good, you have no chance of winning."

The Defenders led 18-17 after the first quarter before seeing the Warriors put on a second quarter display that included a flurry of dunks and lay-ups compliments of Seven Bahati and Tae Simmons. Those two would combine to go 10 of 12 from the field in the quarter and score 20 points over that time. Still, V.C. was down by four points with 1:48 left in the half. That's when the wheels came off and the Warriors closed out the half on an 8-0 run to lead 43-31 at the break. Then back to back three pointers from Dillan Shaw in a span of 40 seconds early in the third quarter increased the

lead to 51-35.

"They're hard to defend when you have those types of players," said Flowers. "But even bigger, you're giving those players lay-ups and dunks. Against a team like that, you try to make it as tough as possible and giving up lay-ups off turnovers or straight line penetration...that's the exact opposite of making it tough."

V.C. wouldn't get closer than 14 points after those perimeter shots, that coming on a steal and basket from junior Myles Harvey with 3:20 left in the third. He would score a dozen points while junior Jacob Bayla led the Defenders with 16 points and junior Gavin Stahl coming off the bench to add 11 points. V.C. shot 19 of 51 from the field and had 12 rebounds while the Warriors were as hot as any team could be.

Heritage Christian shot 34 of 49 from the field with Simmons, who led everyone with 23 points, missing just one of his 12 shots. Giovanni Goree scored 15 points and was six of nine from the field while Bahati (13 points) and Shaw (12 points) combined to go 10 of 15 from the field.

V.C., which had gone 3-1 in the Orange Tournament to end December, dropped to 11-7 overall as it will visit Maranatha High on Friday, host Loyola High on Saturday in non-league action, then go to Whittier Christian High on Tuesday.

"I am pleased with the growth of the young men that are in the program, and I think that's always the goal; for them to continue to get better," said Flowers. "It shows up on the basketball court because that's obviously when everyone is in the gym and they see what's going on. I think the process really happens every single day, and kind of seeing them mature and seeing them learn what it takes to be successful, that's what this while deal is all about."

Preceding the game, the girls never got into any rhythm and were blasted by the Warriors 56-21 for their seventh straight loss. The Defenders shot 15 percent from the field and tied for their sec-

ond lowest point total of the season.

"I think my girls came out flat," said V.C. head coach Ariel Sanchez. "I tried to tell them it's all about the energy. I have a young team and I think they were just a little nervous. Not having a starter was very tough. Finding out minutes before the game is a very big decision. You come up with a gameplan this whole week and then you go to execute it and one of your main starters is not there. That was a tough adjustment we had to make a couple of minutes before the game started."

Sanchez is referring to freshman sensation Jocelyn Tani who injured her ankle in the Dec. 29 West Ranch High game. Before that, Tani had scored in double figures in right of the 15 games she had played in. The Defenders never led in the game and scored five points in the opening quarter, the first coming from junior Jada Thompson with 5:25 left and a three-pointer from senior Meghan Patterson with 1:08 left in the stanza.

Heritage Christian began the second quarter on a 10-0 run to put the game way as it built a quick 20-5 lead. And even though the hosts would score the last six points of the first half, they had turned the ball over 12 times in the first 16 minutes. That number would nearly double in the third quarter alone as the Defenders were outscored 16-2 with the only points not coming until nearly the midway point of the stanza, the only two-pointer from senior Carissa Kamstra.

"We don't have that many strong ball handlers," said Sanchez. "So, it was kind of up to people who weren't really ball handlers. They were probably discouraged coming out of halftime and just played flat."

Kamstra led V.C. with 12 points with seven of them coming from the free throw line. She also grabbed seven rebounds while Patterson had five points, five rebounds and two assists. V.C., which shot six of 41 in the game, fell to 5-12 overall and have lost seven straight games. It will travel to Maranatha on Friday, entertain St. Joseph High on Saturday and go to Whittier Christian on Tuesday.

"I think we just need to work on scoring more and getting the ball in the basket," said Sanchez. "That's what I told them at the beginning of the fourth quarter. I said, 'hey, we're obviously not going to win this game, but let's just try to get the ball in the basket as much as we can and have fun.'"

In other basketball action Artesia High hosted Cerritos High this past Wednesday to open play in the 605 League. The Cerritos girls (7-8, 1-0), which snapped a six-game losing streak, blasted Artesia 62-13 as junior Mailee Dizon had a career-high 22 points while seniors Doris Chen and Kaitlyn Sugita each added 10 points. Artesia (2-14, 0-1) was led by sophomore Ashlee Chung (eight points).

Following the game, the Artesia boys posted a 51-20 win to improve to 8-7, 1-0 while Cerritos fell to 5-14, 0-1. Both Artesia teams will host Whitney High on Friday and Pioneer High on Tuesday while both Cerritos squads entertain Pioneer on Friday and John Glenn High on Tuesday. In addition, the Artesia boys travel to Kennedy High on Thursday.

In other 605 League action, both Glenn teams visit Oxford Academy on Friday while both Whitney teams host Oxford Academy on Tuesday. The Glenn boys will also visit Firebaugh High on Saturday.

In Gateway League action, the La Mirada High boys are off on Friday but will host Dominguez High on Wednesday while in Mid-Cities League action, the Gahr High boys visit Firebaugh on Friday while the girls travel to Dominguez. Also on Friday, the Norwalk girls visit La Mirada while on Wednesday, the Gahr boys host Bellflower High on Wednesday and the Norwalk boys travel to Warren High while the La Mirada girls host Gahr and the Norwalk girls are home to Firebaugh.

CERRITOS from page 1

Code gives Cerritos staff the power to decide if a bid is competitive. Many staff reports related to projects state, "staff has deemed the proposed price (from the cooperative agreement) to be very cost efficient for the scope of work."

At its December 8 meeting, the Cerritos City Council considered two contracts for the Cerritos Senior Center, one to upgrade the hearing loop and the other to replace the flooring, costing \$47,000 and \$123,000, respectively.

In the normal course of city business, the city sends out bids and eventually awards the contract to "the lowest responsible bidder, that is, the lowest bid that makes sense. For example, if a number of submitted bids are around \$100,000 and one is submitted for \$25,000, the \$25,000 bid is not a "responsible" bid.

The city obtained a price, through Omnia Partners, from Irvine-based Commercial Interior Resources (CIR) at a little over \$123,000 to replace the floors inside the Majestic Room, the Arts and Crafts Room, and the River Rock Room.

According to their website, CIR has over 35 installers they contract with for services; at the bottom of the website

are two union logos, Partners and Allied Trades International and the Carpet Linoleum and Tile Workers Union.

Cerritos used its cooperative agreement contract to award CIR the no-bid contract stating that CIR had installed the Cerritos library flooring. Using the agreement, the city's municipal code and City staff's apparent expertise in flooring installation, the city completely bypassed the public bidding process.

"How can CIR be cheaper when they use union labor," said one resident who did not want to be identified, "there's no way it can be cheaper, we should be able to look at bids, the city should obtain other bids. There are two big flooring companies here in Cerritos, and they pick one out of Irvine? Its just flooring, not a specialized project."

In regards to the second contract for the hearing loop at the Cerritos Senior Center, City staff once again recommended using a previous vendor, which allowed the city to bypass the public bidding process using the City's Municipal Code as justification.

Otejoy will upgrade the hearing loop at the Senior Center, which is a system that amplifies sound in a room using technology that communicates with attendees' hearing aids.

The price of that contract was \$47,000.

Cerritos Councilman Frank Yokoyama told HMG-CN, "In order to assure our residents that the City of Cerritos is being fiscally responsible, the City should normally require public bidding for City contracts. Whenever public bidding is not used, City staff should be transparent and clear as to why public bidding was bypassed by the City."

Cerritos Councilman Naresh Solanki was not pleased with the cooperative agreement process, "all projects should go out to bid so we get the best price and the process is transparent to the public."

Emails into the mayor and other councilmembers went unanswered.

PICO RIVERA from page 1

ber at the Pico Rivera Resource Center with all of the available December dates booked as soon as the Center opened. "All of December was quickly booked, we are glad to see that our city's Veterans and Veterans from nearby communities are receiving the help that they need regarding Veterans services," said city Manager Steve Carmona.

Helping Pico Rivera Veterans is something that Kenneth is committed to doing. He can provide Veterans with valuable assistance in applying for federal and state benefits and claims, as

well as information on burial services, survivor benefits, transportation, and a slew of other Veterans services. "What we hope to accomplish with the Veterans Resource Center is to provide Veterans with resources they may not know are available," said Carmona. "When they make an appointment and speak to our VSO, I believe the information and assistance they receive will alleviate any stress or doubts a Veteran had regarding applying for or receiving any entitled benefits and services." The Veterans Resource Center is just one of the services available for Veterans. The city's Virtual city Hall also includes a Virtual Veterans Resource Center which will provide Veterans with even more access to resources at the convenience of their home computers or mobile devices.

The Pico Rivera Veterans Resource Center will be available inside the Pico Rivera Senior Center Monday through Thursday.

The VSO will be available on Mondays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and staff and volunteers will be available Tuesday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For additional information, or to make an appointment with the VSO, call the Senior Center at 562.948-4844.

LOCAL SERVICE DIRECTORY-SHOP LOCAL!

ADVERTISE HERE TO 100,000 READERS FOR ONLY \$20 PER WEEK
 PRICE INCLUDES FREE LISTING ON OUR WEBSITE, OVER 60,000 VISITORS EVERY MONTH
 CALL 562.407.3873 or email SALES@CERRITOSNEWS.NET

A/C HEATING

Family Owned & Operated - VigilAirAndHeat.com

VIGILAIR Cerritos business since 2005!

SPECIALIZING IN
Central Heating & Air Conditioning
Ductless Mini Split Systems Install

Quality work at fair rates, call us for your free estimate.

562-818-5001 Check us out on Yelp! Lic #864284

ATTORNEY

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

562-404-4039

ATTORNEY

THE LAW OFFICE of **LEWIS & LEWIS**

LA MIRADA'S FULL SERVICE LAW FIRM

JOHN LEWIS, ESQ.

(562) 393-4073 LewisLaw.Info

REAL ESTATE LAW - PERSONAL INJURY - BUSINESS LAW - WILLS & TRUSTS

10241 E. FIRESTONE BL., #400, LA MIRADA

CEMETERY

Artesia Cemetery

Burial Plots for Sale starting at \$3,700

Cremation Niches starting at \$1,500

Artesia Cemetery is your local community cemetery conveniently located in Cerritos. Our prices and services are unmatched.

For more information, please call: **562-865-6300**

MORTGAGE

CENTURION Mortgage Finance

NOT SATISFIED WITH YOUR CURRENT HOUSE PAYMENT?

I can help you with that.

DeAnna Allensworth
 Broker - Advisor

562-533-5600
www.CenturionMF.com
 CA DRE 01443787, NMLS 206457

PLUMBING

NORWALK/LA MIRADA Plumbing Heating & Air Conditioning

Copper Re-piping • Furnaces • Water Heaters
 Air Conditioning • Water Piping • Hydrojetting
 Leak Detecting • Water Softeners • Disposals
 Bath Remodeling • Backflow Testing & Repair

11661 Firestone Blvd. Norwalk
 State Contractor License: #271767

24 HOUR SERVICE
(562) 868-7777
\$20 off with this ad!

PLUMBING

Keeping It Flowing For You!
PETE'S PLUMBING

We offer a wide range of plumbing services from emergency plumbing to commercial plumbing services. Our master plumbers are ready to handle all jobs large or small at any time during the day or night.

Over 30 years in business!
800-21-4PETES or 562-599-0106

3099 E. Pacific Coast Highway • Long Beach
petes-plumbing.com • info@petes-plumbing.com [petesplumbingca](https://www.facebook.com/petesplumbingca)

PLUMBING

BENEFITS OF COPPER REPIPING:

- Increased water pressure
- No more rusty or discolored water
- Being able to use more than one faucet at a time
- No more leaky pipes
- No scalding in the shower when someone turns on a faucet
- Greater peace of mind
- Positive selling point for your property

\$5 OFF WITH THIS AD!
 This offer is only good on service calls over \$75.00 to first time customers.

CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE
(562) 924-2565 • (714) 527-5300
 20014 State Road, CERRITOS

Classified listings

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW AUTHORS WANTED! Page Publishing will help you self-publish your own book. FREE author submission kit! Limited offer! Why wait? Call now: 1-855-667-0380 (Cal-SCAN)

Become a Published Author. We want to Read Your Book! Dorrance Publishing-Trusted by Authors Since 1920. Book manuscript submissions currently being reviewed. Comprehensive Services: Consultation, Production, Promotion and Distribution. Call for Your Free Author's Guide 1-877-538-9554 or visit <http://dorranceinfo.com/> Cali (Cal-SCAN)

Prepare for power outages today with a **GENERAC** home standby generator. \$0 Money Down + Low Monthly Payment Options. Request a FREE Quote -Call now before the next power outage: 1-844-439-5645 (SCAN)

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-424-7581 (Cal-SCAN)

AUTOS WANTED

DONATE YOUR CAR TO KIDS Fast Free Pickup - Running or Not - 24 Hour Response - Maximum Tax Donation - Help Find Missing Kids! Call 1-888-491-1453. (Cal-SCAN)

DONATE YOUR CAR OR TRUCK TO HERITAGE FOR THE BLIND. Free 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care Of. CALL 1-844-491-2884 (Cal-SCAN)

CABLE/SATELLITE TV

Get **DIRECTV** for \$64.99/mo for 12 months with CHOICE Package. Save an additional \$120 over 1st year. First 3 months of HBO Max, Cinemax, Showtime, Starz and Epix included! Directv is #1 in Customer Satisfaction (JD Power & Assoc.) Some restrictions apply. Call 1-888-641-5762 (Cal-SCAN)

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Over \$10K in Debt? Be debt free in 24 to 48 months. No upfront fees to enroll. A+ BBB rated.

Call National Debt Relief 1-888-231-4274. (Cal-SCAN)

INSURANCE

SAVE BIG on HOME INSURANCE! Compare 20 A-rated insurance companies. Get a quote within minutes. Average savings of \$444/year! Call 1-844-410-9609! (M-F 8am-8pm Central) (Cal-SCAN)

INTERNET

FREE HIGH SPEED INTERNET for those that qualify. Government program for recipients of select programs incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet service. Bonus offer: Android tablet FREE with one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping & handling. Call Maxsip Telecom today! 1-855-480-0769 (Cal-SCAN)

MISCELLANEOUS

Switch and save up to \$250/year on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. Limited time offer get \$50 off on any new account. Use code GIFT50. For more information, call 1-844-908-0605 (SCAN)

DID YOU KNOW Newspaper-generated content is so valuable it's taken and repeated, condensed, broadcast, tweeted, discussed, posted, copied, edited, and emailed countless times throughout the day by others? Discover the Power of Newspaper Advertising. For a free brochure call 916-288-6011 or email cecilia@cnpa.com (Cal-SCAN)

REAL ESTATE LOANS

RETIRED COUPLE \$\$\$\$ for business purpose Real Estate loans. Credit unimportant. V.I.P. Trust Deed Company www.viploan.com Call 1-818-248-0000. Broker-principal DRE 01041073. No consumer loans. (Cal-SCAN)

SCHOOLS/TRAINING

COMPUTER & IT TRAINING PROGRAM! Train ONLINE to get the skills to become a Computer & Help Desk Professional now! Grants and Scholarships available for certain programs for qualified applicants. Call CTI for details! 1-877-806-0935 (M-F 8am-6pm ET). Computer with internet is required. (Cal-SCAN)

TRAVEL/VACATIONS

COSTA RICA TOUR 9 DAYS \$995. Fully guided tour. Includes all hotels, all meals, all activities. Tax, fees extra. Call 1-800-CARAVAN. Book online at Caravan.com. (Cal-SCAN)

WANTED TO BUY

TOP CASH PAID FOR OLD GUITARS! 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins / Banjos. 1-844-910-1960. (Cal-SCAN)



Rebuilding TRUST in an Age of Disinformation

The California News Publishers Association hosts **the can't-miss media event of the year.** How **disinformation** threatens democracy and what journalists can do about it. Scan to learn more, register.



Jan. 31 - Feb. 2
 Sacramento



3-DAY TIMED ONLINE AUCTION

Tues., Wed. & Thurs., December 6, 7 & 8
 Inspection Location: Northern California

APPLIANCE MANUFACTURERS LIQUIDATING EXCESS INVENTORY

Special Event! \$5M Valuation!

Luxury Appliances: Dishwashers, Laundry, Outdoor Grills, Refrigeration, Ranges, Ovens, Cooktops, Ventilation & More...
Luxury Kitchen & Bath: Sinks, Faucets, Bathtubs, Vanities, Filtration, Linear Drains and More...

All Products Factory Sealed Brand New in Boxes and Covered by Full Manufacturer Warranty

Appliance Brands Include: Bosch, Thermador, Bertazzoni, U-Line, Azure, Artisan, Alfresco, Hestan, Aspire, Liebherr, Dacor, Samsung, LG, ASKO, Coyote, Best, Broan, Gaggenau, Electrolux, Frigidaire, Elica and Inrx

Sale Conducted by:
TA TAUBER-ARONS, INC.
 Industrial Auctioneers & Liquidators since 1892
888.648.2249 tauberaronsinc.com

RETIRED COUPLE

Has \$1Mil to lend on California Real Estate*

V.I.P. TRUST DEED COMPANY

OVER 40 YEARS OF FAST FUNDING

Principal **(818) 248-0000** Broker

WWW.VIPLoan.COM *Sufficient equity required - no consumer loans

Real Estate License #01041073
 CA Department of Real Estate, NMLS #339217
 Private Party loans generally have higher interest rates, points & fees than conventional discount loans

Bob's **BASEBALL** Tours

DC Cherry Blossom Tour Mar. 31 - Apr. 4, 2023
 Home games for Washington Nationals, Yankees and Red Sox. Includes 4-hour tour of DC and 3-hour tour of Boston. Tour begins in DC and ends in Boston.

East Coast Tour Aug. 18 - Aug. 27, 2023
 Home games for Washington Nationals, Orioles, Phillies, New York (Yankees/Mets) and Red Sox. Guided tour of Manhattan, DC/Philadelphia, and Baltimore. Also includes Little League World Series in PA. Tour begins in DC and ends in Boston.

Tours include deluxe motor coach transportation, additional sightseeing opportunities and quality game tickets/hotels.

For More Information: 507.217.1326 or BobsBaseballTours.com

Costa Rica Choose a Guided Tour + tax, fees

Costa Rica	9 days	\$995
Panama	8 days	\$995
Guatemala	8 days	\$995
Mexico		
- Ancient Civ.	9 days	\$995
- Copper Canyon	8 days	\$1295

9 Day Tour. \$995
 Includes All Meals, All Hotels, and All Activities.

Hike in jungle rainforests, view volcanoes, soak in hot springs, cruise biological reserves and relax on tropical ocean beaches. Join the smart shoppers and experienced travelers.

"Brilliant, Affordable Pricing"
 Arthur Frommer, Travel Editor

Caravan
 Fully Guided Tours Since 1952

1-800-CARAVAN
Caravan.com

BREAKING NEWS @cerritosnews

**CITY OF PICO RIVERA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE PICO RIVERA HOUSING ASSISTANCE AGENCY FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY (FSS) ACTION PLAN AND SIGNIFICANT AMENDMENT TO THE 5-YEAR PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY (PHA) PLAN FOR THE HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER (SECTION 8) RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the Pico Rivera Housing Assistance Agency City Council/Board of Commissioners to consider the adoption of the Pico Rivera Housing Assistance Agency Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Action Plan administered under the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) rental assistance program, consider the significant amendment to the 5-Year Public Housing Agency (PHA) Plan (2020-2025), and to consider recommendations from the Section 8 participants.

The Pico Rivera Housing Assistance Agency FSS Action Plan was revised to incorporate the new regulations published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and set policy on matters for which the Public Housing Agency (PHA) has discretion based on HUD regulations. The FSS Action Plan is a supporting document to the Agency's 5-Year PHA Plan. The significant amendment requires a public hearing to allow the Section 8 participants the opportunity to comment.

PERSONS INTERESTED IN THIS MATTER are invited to express their opinion on the above matter. The public hearing will be held as follows:

WHEN: Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.
WHERE: City Hall Council Chambers
6615 Passons Boulevard, Pico Rivera, CA 90660
MAIL: P.O. Box 1016, Pico Rivera, CA 90660-1016
TELEPHONE: (562) 801-4347

City Council meetings can be viewed live on CTV3 and the City's website at <https://bit.ly/picorivera-ctv3live>. If you wish to submit a comment on this matter, you may do so in advance by email to the City Clerk's Office at publiccomments@pico-rivera.org prior to 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Please provide your full name and reference the following subject matter "Pico Rivera Housing Assistance Agency FSS Action Plan/5-Year PHA Plan."

For more information, call Imelda Delgado, Housing Supervisor, Community & Economic Development Department at (562) 801-4347.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the revised FSS Action Plan that identifies goals, objectives, and policies for the FSS program; and the significantly amended 5-Year PHA Plan that provides information about the Pico Rivera Housing Assistance Agency's operations, services, and strategy for addressing the needs of the community for years 2020-2025 will be available for public examination until the public hearing at the Pico Rivera Housing Assistance Agency office and the City of Pico Rivera's webpage listed below.

<https://www.pico-rivera.org/index.php/housing-services-division/>

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the City of Pico Rivera is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for a person with a disability. Please contact Anna M. Jerome at (562) 801-4389 if special program accommodations are necessary and/or if program information is needed in an alternative format. Special requests must be made in a reasonable amount of time in order that accommodations can be arranged.

Publish: January 6, 2023

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 1/6/23

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

REBECCA TAYLES
CASE NO. 22STPB11742
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of REBECCA TAYLES.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by MICHAEL D. GRUGAL in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that MICHAEL D. GRUGAL be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.)
The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 01/10/23 at 8:30AM in Dept. 2D located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for Petitioner
EUGENE A. GLEASON III - SBN 096415,
GLEASON LAW OFFICES
15651 E. IMPERIAL HWY., SUITE 202A
LA MIRADA CA 90638
12/23, 12/30/22, 1/6/23
CNS-3653084#
LA MIRADA LAMPLIGHTER

**CITY OF ARTESIA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the City Council of the City of Artesia will hold an Adjourned Regular City Council Meeting at the City Council Chambers located at 18747 Clarkdale Avenue, Artesia, CA at **7:00 p.m.** on **Tuesday, January 17, 2023**, to conduct a Public Hearing concerning:

- **RESOLUTION NO. 23-2916**, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARTESIA, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING A FREEWAY AGREEMENT WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR STATE ROUTE 91, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF ARTESIA
- The Council will also consider a finding that this agreement is not subject to CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section § 15061(b)(3).

Members from the public who would like to address the City Council 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 at 18747 Clarkdale Avenue, Artesia, CA, or by email: publiccomments@cityofartesia.us before 12:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting. If you have questions about this notice or the proposed action, please contact the Artesia City Clerk's Office at (562) 865-6262 or by the email above.

If you challenge any of these proposals in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in the notice, or in written correspondence delivered at, or prior to, the public hearing.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in the meeting, please contact Jennifer Alderete, Acting City Clerk. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. (28 CFR 35. 102-35.104 ADA Title II)

Jennifer Alderete
Acting City Clerk

PUBLISHED: January 6, 2023

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 1/6/23

**ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOTICE CALLING FOR BID**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ABC Unified School District will receive up to but not later than **11:00 AM** on the **21st day of February 2023** Bids for:

ABC Bid # 1606 Ross Middle School Modernization

All bids shall be made and presented on a form furnished by the District. Bids submitted shall conform to the terms and conditions stated on said form. Bids shall be received in the office of the **Purchasing Department at 16700 Norwalk Blvd., Cerritos, CA 90703** and shall be opened and publicly read aloud at the above-stated time and place. Bidders may obtain the website link to bid documents at the mandatory jobwalk on January 12, 2023 at 10:30 AM sharp at the Ross MS front of Administration Building, 17707 S. Elaine Ave., Artesia. All public works are subject to prevailing wage payments, Valid License valid Class B Contractor's License and DIR Registration will be required.

Los Cerritos News

December 30, 2022
January 6, 2023

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 12/30 and 1/6/23

**ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOTICE CALLING FOR BID**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ABC Unified School District will receive up to but not later than **10:30 AM** on the **21st day of February 2023** Bids for:

ABC Bid # 1605 Carmenita Middle School Modernization

All bids shall be made and presented on a form furnished by the District. Bids submitted shall conform to the terms and conditions stated on said form. Bids shall be received in the office of the **Purchasing Department at 16700 Norwalk Blvd., Cerritos, CA 90703** and shall be opened and publicly read aloud at the above-stated time and place. Bidders may obtain the website link to bid documents at the mandatory jobwalk on January 13, 2023 at 9:00 AM sharp at the Carmenita MS front of Administration Building, 13435 E. 166th St., Cerritos. All public works are subject to prevailing wage payments, Valid License valid Class B Contractor's License and DIR Registration will be required.

Los Cerritos News

December 30, 2022
January 6, 2023

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 12/30 and 1/6/23

**ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOTICE CALLING FOR BID**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ABC Unified School District will receive up to but not later than **11:30 AM** on the **21st day of February 2023** Bids for:

ABC Bid # 1607 Tetzlaff Middle School Modernization

All bids shall be made and presented on a form furnished by the District. Bids submitted shall conform to the terms and conditions stated on said form. Bids shall be received in the office of the **Purchasing Department at 16700 Norwalk Blvd., Cerritos, CA 90703** and shall be opened and publicly read aloud at the above-stated time and place. Bidders may obtain the website link to bid documents at the mandatory jobwalk on January 12, 2023 at 9:00 AM sharp at the Tetzlaff MS front of Administration Building, 12351 Del Amo Blvd., Cerritos. All public works are subject to prevailing wage payments, Valid License valid Class B Contractor's License and DIR Registration will be required.

Los Cerritos News

December 30, 2022
January 6, 2023

Published at Los Cerritos Community News 12/30 and 1/6/23

Your Pre-print Flyer
Inserted in Our Paper & Delivered
Around Your Store
Only 6 cents
Per Insert! 562.407.3873
sales@cerritosnews.net

It's Up



to Us

#MaskUpAmerica

Help keep America open for business.

idsociety.org/masks

