

ART

Yolanda González share her life's work in new exhibit at MOLAA

Kristen Farrah Naeem
Staff Writer

After walking through the Museum of Latin American Art and viewing her life's work, 59-year-old Yolanda González said she could still smell the oil paint from the first artwork she created at 8 years old.

The "Metamorphosis: The Evolution Of Visions And Dreams" exhibit spans four decades of González's artwork, including woodblock prints, paintings and sculptures. Walking through it, viewers can notice the gradual yet dramatic changes in González's artistry.

"I'm a bit taken aback to see the 40 years that I've worked and to see them represented in front of me, because I have created and created and created because it is my love. It's my soul," González said. "These are my children. I never had children, but these are the creations that I gave birth to. And so it is with great honor, and great respect, that I walk among these rooms and see the works of art that I've created."

González's love of art has taken her across the globe. She has traveled to create art in Russia, Japan, Scotland, Spain and Italy—drawing inspiration from the cultures and people she met along the way.

"I allowed myself to absorb anything I could through those relationships with other artists, with the particular country I was visiting, with their traditions, with their energy," González said. "And you could see the changes that the artwork went through from when I



Curator Gabriela Urriaga and artist Yolanda González stand in front of a metal and ceramic installation that represents a uterus.

Kristen Farrah Naeem | Signal Tribune

was rather young to now; and the metamorphosis, so to speak, of who I am now."

Upon entering the exhibit, immediately to the left viewers can see González's "Monster" series, an

experimentation of the grotesque. The black and white woodblock prints were created in 1993, during González's time as a young resident artist in Ginza, Japan. The monochromatic prints in the series depict

unsettling faces meant to represent González's inner demons.

"I wanted to address the topic of the grotesque, because we as a society always have a definition of what beauty is. And what is beauty?

Beauty is different things to different people," González said. "So I wanted to put a face on the monsters in my psyche, whatever those were, those thoughts, and to then see MOLAA EXHIBIT page 6

LOCAL AUTHOR

No turning back: Erika Turner releases debut novel 'And Other Mistakes'

Samantha Diaz
Managing Editor

Erika Turner had just gotten off work. After a full day at her new job at a publishing company, she hopped on a train to her Brooklyn apartment, opened up an empty note on her phone and started her first novel.

As the city lights zoomed by, Turner wrote down ideas that

would shape her debut young adult novel: a Black, queer teenage girl finding her place in the world, a mother struggling to accept her daughter, a teenager at the intersection of queerness and religion.

The details were muddy, but the themes were loud and clear, like the chugging of the G train Turner sat on that brisk fall night. So was the title: "And Other Mistakes."

Six years and two cities later,

Turner, 27, released her labor of love into the world at The Hangout in Long Beach on Valentine's night.

"It feels amazingly scary and scarily amazing. It's great," Turner pauses. "...Yeah, it's great, but also weird. You know, with it being my first book, I especially think there's so much of myself in it as well and it's interesting to kind of present yourself to the world that way."

It's a full circle moment to debut

her first novel at the first bookstore she walked into in Long Beach, but a moment that has been decades in the making.

The Hangout was one of the first places Turner and her spouse experienced when first considering a move to Long Beach almost two years ago. A short walk down Fourth Street brought them into The Hangout and the two authors see 'AND OTHER MISTAKES' page 11



Image Courtesy of Erika Turner
Erika Turner signs a copy of her debut novel "And Other Mistakes" at a book launch at The Hangout in Long Beach on Feb. 14, 2023.

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CITY COUNCIL



Image Courtesy of Long Beach city staff reports

A rendering of Star Express Car Wash, the 11th car wash facility near Pacific Coast Highway, which was granted a Conditional Use Permit on Feb. 21, 2023.

Council approves plans for another car wash on PCH, overturns Planning Commission's decision

Samantha Diaz

Managing Editor

Despite recommendations from the city's Planning Commission, Long Beach City Council approved a permit for yet another car wash along Pacific Coast Highway on Tuesday, Feb. 21.

The Star Express Car Wash, which was unanimously granted a Conditional Use Permit by the council, will be the 11th car wash facility along PCH and adjacent streets, all within eight miles of each other. The nearest automated car wash site is less than half a mile away from the approved Star Express Car Wash.

The Planning Commission denied the developer's request for a permit on Nov. 3, 2022, stating that a car wash in the West Long Beach area did not align with the city's most recent General Plan Land Use due to the "overconcentration of car washes" and possible increases to traffic.

Over 30 community members as well as city developers called for the site to be rezoned for affordable housing or community commercial use. The legal term means that developers would only be considered if they are suggesting restaurants, cafes, retail shops, fitness centers or other community-based, pedestrian-friendly resources.

The site is currently privately owned and occupied by a nightclub and restaurant, Los Potros.

"The AOC7 organization oppos-

es the addition of yet another car wash along the intersection of PCH and Cherry [Avenue]," said Rocio Torres, a member of the Anaheim, Orange, Cherry and Seventh Street neighborhood group. "We are a highly impacted urban district which is in need of affordable housing, greater walkability and more green spaces. Our neighborhood needs commercial storefronts like grocery stores with healthier food choices. Our neighborhood doesn't need another car wash."

The area along PCH is currently undergoing a rezoning process deemed Zone In: City Core, which began last year. The neighborhoods are still undergoing the review process, following months of meetings with the community, and have not yet been rezoned to "support the development of new housing and a greater mix of uses."

The Planning Commission recommended that council update the zoning regulations for the site to allow for community commercial developments in the area, which would fall in line with the Zone in: City Core goals. It is likely that once the area is rezoned, a car wash facility would not be approved under the new regulations.

In fact, the site is already not zoned for a car wash, which is why the developers had to request a Conditional Use Permit. City council approved the rezoning recommendation, but overturned the Planning Commission's decision to

see CAR WASH page 11

CONSTRUCTION



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

People are dropped off in front of the Long Beach Airport terminal on March 22, 2022.

Long Beach airport terminal getting year-long renovation

City News Service

Southern California Local News

Long Beach Airport's historic terminal will temporarily close beginning this week for a year-long renovation that includes a seismic retrofit and restoration of many of its classic 1941 design elements.

Preliminary renovation efforts began while the terminal was partially open to the public, but a full closure is necessary to complete the renovation, city officials said. The project will also include improvements to the restrooms and building infrastructure, and restoration of covered mosaic tiles and other Art Deco design elements, including the iconic west entrance, which has been closed for decades.

"The historic terminal is one of the most beloved architectural icons of our city," Mayor Rex Richardson said in a statement Tuesday. "These improvements represent our commitment to preserve

its history for generations to come."

Passenger check-in moved to the new ticketing lobby in May 2022, and the airport administration, badging and dispatch offices are relocating to the Nospace Building at 4401 East Donald Douglas Drive. After the renovation, the first floor will transition into space dedicated to rental car customer service functions, currently located in temporary mobile units, and airport administration will return to the second floor.

The \$17.8 million renovation is expected to be complete in time for the terminal to re-open in early 2024. It's the fourth project in the \$110 million Phase II—Terminal Area Improvement Program. Two major components were completed in spring 2022, including the new ticketing lobby and checked baggage inspection system facility. A new baggage claim is currently under construction and scheduled to open in the coming months.

"The historic terminal is the

crown jewel of the airport campus, and we look forward to restoring it to its former glory," Airport Director Cynthia Guidry said. "We are committed to preserving the building's timeless look and feel for travelers to enjoy well into the future."

Designed by William Horace Austin and Kenneth Smith Wing, the groundbreaking for the historic terminal took place on Jan. 11, 1941, with the building scheduled to open on Dec. 8 of that year. The Pearl Harbor attack on Dec. 7 delayed the opening, led to the cancellation of all commercial flights and resulted in the building being painted in camouflage and used as lodging for soldiers and military equipment.

The formal opening occurred on April 25, 1942. It was declared a historic landmark in 1990 by Long Beach's Cultural Heritage Commission.

Long Beach Airport will celebrate its 100th anniversary on Nov. 26 of this year.

COMMUNITY

Orchid auction returns to Long Beach after three-year hiatus

Kristen Farrah Naeem

Staff Writer

After a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Long Beach Amateur Orchid Club is bringing back its annual orchid auction on March 13.

The Long Beach Amateur Orchid Club has attracted orchid lovers since its inception in 1953.

"They see the beauty in the flowers," said Norm Nakanishi, president of the Long Beach Amateur Orchid Club. "They've gone somewhere, whether it'd be a Trader Joe's or Home Depot, that might have some phalaenopsis or butterfly orchids. And orchids are getting more popular and they're more commonplace, I guess they get attracted that way."

During the pandemic, the club kept going using Zoom, but still lost many members that haven't yet returned.

The funds raised from the auction will be used to pay for the club's meeting space, to pay speak-



Image courtesy of John McCoy

A cattleya orchid grown outdoors by John McCoy, vice president of the South Coast Orchid Society—an orchid club founded in Long Beach in 1950.

ers to give talks to the club and to fund scholarships for local horticulture students.

According to Nakanishi, those who attend the fundraiser will be able to bid on a wide range of orchids, cultivated by either club hob-

byists or commercial growers.

The Long Beach Amateur Orchid Club's auction will take place on March 13 at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church (6201 E Willow St.). Doors will open at 6 p.m., and the auction will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m.

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NONPROFITS



Signal Tribune File Photo

Nellie de la Cruz and Arlene Ramirez donated 80 care packages to nurses at Dignity Health – St. Mary Medical Center in Long Beach.

St. Mary Medical Center awards grants to two Long Beach nonprofits

Staff Report
Signal Tribune

St. Mary Medical Center recently bestowed \$193,000 in community grants to two Long Beach-based nonprofit organizations. Century Villages at Cabrillo (CVC) received \$97,000 and United Cambodian Community (UCC) received \$96,000 from the grants.

The grants were awarded through the hospital's parent network Dignity Health, and funded through Dignity Health's Community Health Improvement Grants program.

The Community Health Improvement Grants program has given out a total of \$91 million in donations spanning approximately 3,800 community health improvement projects since it was established in 1991.

"Partnering with local nonprofits who share our vision and mission of improving the health of the people we serve, especially those who are vulnerable, is essential to the well-being of our community. Not to mention, it's one of our favorite things to do," said Carolyn Caldwell, St. Mary Hospital President, in a statement from Dignity Health

– St. Mary Medical Center.

CVC's focus is building affordable housing to assist individuals experiencing homelessness and offering opportunities to attain physical and economic independence. CVC's grant money will go towards programs providing mental health resources, community engagement opportunities, peer-to-peer support groups and more.

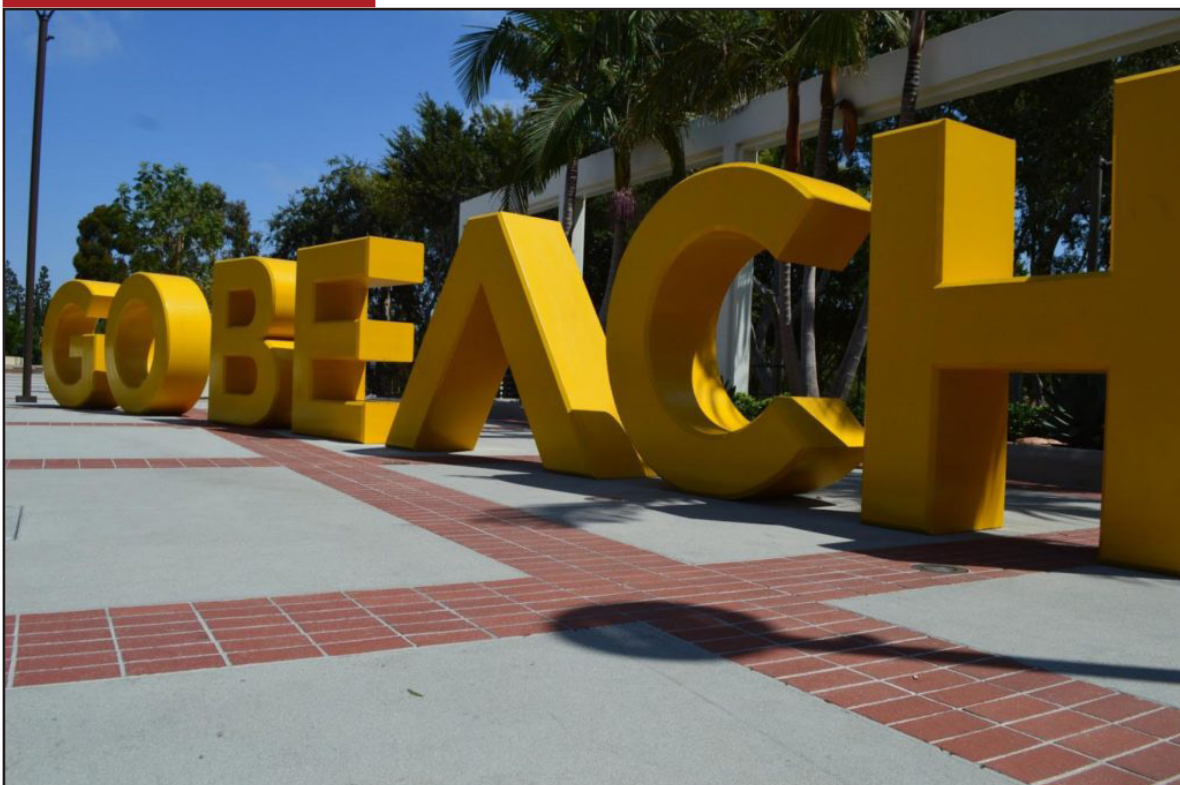
The UCC offers social services to Long Beach's Cambodian community, the largest population of Cambodian residents in the United States, through cultural engagement that addresses the collective needs of the community.

The grant received from St. Mary Medical Center will allow the expansion of the nonprofit's reach in Cambodia Town which includes providing health equity and community integration.

"Collectively, our efforts will have a significant impact in the lives of the most underserved populations in Long Beach," Caldwell said.

For more information regarding the Community Health Improvement Grants program, visit dignityhealth.org/about-us/community-health/grant-programs.

EDUCATION



Signal Tribune File Photo

CSULB's Go Beach motto appears in the university's West Campus Circle area.

Long Beach Community Foundation creates CSULB's first full-ride scholarship geared toward Black students

Ryan Hardison
Design Editor

The Long Beach Community Foundation (LBCF) announced Friday the creation of a new scholarship fund to assist Black students attending Cal State Long Beach (CSULB).

The fund was made possible by a donation from Long Beach resident and community leader Roberta Jenkins.

The Roberta and Matthew Jenkins Scholarship Fund will cover school-related expenses including full tuition, books, room and board. The scholarship is for a four-year term with the ability to renew for a fifth year.

"This scholarship is a natural extension of our continued commitment to give back and is consequential in that it acknowledges that investing in our young people through time, energy and resources will have a positive and significant impact on their lives and the lives of others," said Jenkins, in a statement from the LBCF.

Through this scholarship fund, the LBCF acknowledges that the intersection of race, poverty and systemic and structural inequality has had a consequential effect on Black students, who have a lower college graduation rate compared to other student groups.

In July 2022, CalMatters re-

ported that among all Cal State graduates, the graduation rate for students not considered a minority (which includes white and Asian students) is 20% higher than the graduation rate for Black students.

Combined, the system's 23 campuses graduate just half of Black students who enter as freshmen over a six-year period—well below the overall six-year average of 63%, according to the latest system data from 2021.

High school seniors will receive preference for the scholarship, but current college students and community college graduates will also be considered.

The LBCF will administer the scholarship and eligible students have until March 31 to apply. Eligibility requirements for students applying to the scholarship include:

- Must have applied to, have been accepted into or are currently attending CSULB
- Must reside in the Greater Long Beach area

• Must be a graduating high school senior or equivalent, a previous graduate from a public or private high school, or possess a General Educational Development (GED) certification

Jenkins and CSULB President Jane Close Conoley first approached the LBCF to administer the scholarship fund with the intention to address the inequity and economic

challenges Black students face in the pursuit of a college education.

"It has been especially rewarding and an extreme pleasure to witness and be personally involved with advancing educational and cultural opportunities for Black youth in Long Beach," said Jenkins, in a statement from the LBCF.

The goal of the fund will be to provide scholarships, support and resources to empower Black students pursuing their college degree in the Long Beach area.

The deadline for scholarship applications is 5 p.m. on March 31 and qualified students can apply at <https://longbeachcf.org/scholarships>. Those interested in learning more about the application can contact the LBCF's Administration & Grants Manager Iссis Vargas at issis@longbeachcf.org or 562-435-9033.

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EYE ON CRIME

CRIMES REPORTED BY THE SIGNAL HILL POLICE

Wednesday, February 15

8:37 a.m., Burglary, 3300 block Lime Ave.

Thursday, February 16

1:34 a.m., Injury traffic collision, E. 28th St./Walnut Ave. (suspect arrested)

8:33 a.m., Auto burglary, 1100 block E. 23rd St.

1:57 p.m., Grand theft, 2000 block Molino Ave.

5:38 p.m., Auto burglary, 1600 block E. Willow St.

9:03 p.m., Battery on spouse, 1800 block St. Louis Ave. (suspect arrested)

9:15 p.m., Felony spousal abuse, 2600 block E. 20th St. (suspect arrested)

Friday, February 17

6:16 a.m., Grand theft, 3200 block Walnut Ave.

2:46 p.m., Grand theft, 2100 block E. 21st St.

6:18 p.m., Burglary, 2200 block Junipero Ave.

Saturday, February 18

7:46 a.m., Grand theft – motor vehicle, 1000 block E. Willow St.

7:54 a.m., Battery, 2500 block Cherry Ave.

Sunday, February 19

2:29 p.m., Petty theft, 2200 block E. Willow St. (suspect arrested)

5:00 p.m., Grand theft – motor vehicle, Wall St./Temple Ave.

10:21 p.m., Burglary, 2500 block E. Hill St.

Monday, February 20

7:46 a.m., Auto burglary, 2600 block E. Willow St.

4:13 p.m., Felony spousal abuse, 900 block E. 33rd St.

6:34 p.m., Trespass; possessing paraphernalia, 900 block E. 33rd St.

11:07 p.m., Grand theft – motor vehicle, Walton Ave./Lime Ave.

Tuesday, February 21

5:04 a.m., Grand theft – motor vehicle, 800 block E. 33rd St.

9:50 p.m., Petty theft; possessing controlled substance; resisting Peace Officer (2 suspects arrested)

LSPD reporting area is too extensive to report here, but you can go to their website: longbeach.gov/police. Once there, click on Crime Info, then Crime Incident Mapping Application. Click on Launch Crime Incident Mapping Application & type in an address.

You can use filters to select dates and types of crime.

CRIME

LA bishop killed in his home was former Long Beach pastor



Image courtesy of St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church

Interior photo of the chapel of St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church in Long Beach.

City News Service

Southern California Local News

Police are looking for a motive into the killing of a Los Angeles bishop known as a peacemaker in the community who was shot to death in his home over the weekend.

The husband of a housekeeper who worked for Archdiocese of Los Angeles Catholic Auxiliary Bishop David O'Connell was behind bars in connection with the bishop's shooting death in Hacienda Heights.

O'Connell had previously served as associate priest at St. Raymond Catholic Church in Downey, St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church in Long Beach, and St. Hilary Church of Perpetual Adoration in Pico Rivera and then as pastor of St. Frances X. Cabrini, Ascension, St. Eugene and St. Michael's parishes, all in Los Angeles.

Carlos Medina, 65, was arrested Monday morning following an hours-long standoff at Medina's home in the 2400 block of Kenwood Avenue in Torrance, Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna said. Two firearms were recovered at Medina's home, and they will be tested to determine if either weapon was involved in the Saturday shooting, Luna added.

Medina has not been charged

with a crime as of Monday, and police have not released what charges he is possibly facing. It is also unclear if Medina has an attorney, according to media reports.

Although the motive for the crime remained uncertain, Luna said a tipster reported that "Medina was acting strange, irrational and made comments about the bishop owing him money." But the sheriff stopped short of saying such a dispute led to the killing, saying it was "something that came up from one of the witnesses," but investigators were still conducting interviews.

Tipsters told the sheriff's department that Medina had left his residence and gone to central California. Then tipsters alerted the LASD that Medina was back at his residence, sparking the overnight standoff that ended with his arrest at around 8:15 a.m.

Luna said Medina's wife was being questioned and has been "fully cooperative" with detectives.

Luna said that while Medina was the husband of the bishop's housekeeper, Medina himself had also "previously done work at the bishop's residence," although it was unclear when. Luna said Medina drove a dark-colored compact SUV similar to one seen on surveillance video pulling into O'Connell's driveway and leaving, although it

was unsure when that occurred.

Luis Lopez was a neighbor of Medina's and told ABC7 that Medina seemed like a good man and "looked like he wouldn't hurt a fly."

O'Connell, 69, was a native of Ireland and had been a priest and later a bishop in Los Angeles for 45 years, Archbishop Jose Gomez said in a statement released following his death.

O'Connell was found shot just before 1 p.m. Saturday at a home in the 1500 block of Janlu Avenue, near Turnbull Canyon Road. Sheriff's officials confirmed Sunday that his death was being investigated as a homicide. Luna said it was still being determined exactly when O'Connell was shot.

Luna said there were no signs of forced entry into O'Connell's home, and that the auxiliary bishop had at least one gunshot wound to the upper body. He was shot in the bedroom of his home, the sheriff said.

The bishop's body was discovered after a deacon went to the home to check on him, because O'Connell was apparently late for a meeting, Luna said.

Meanwhile, many people continued to mourn O'Connell on Monday.

"An unimaginable and tragic loss of a peacemaker," Los Angeles

see LA BISHOP page 5

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LA BISHOP
continued from page 4

Police Chief Michel Moore tweeted. “May God welcome Bishop O’Connell home, a good and faithful servant. We all mourn this man’s loss and am grateful to the sheriff’s department for their relentless pursuit and the community’s assistance to identify the individual responsible.”

State Sen. Bob Archuleta, D-Norwalk, said O’Connell was a friend of his, and offered condolences from Gov. Gavin Newsom and other state officials at a Monday afternoon news briefing with reporters.

“He served the community and went to Salesian High School in East Los Angeles to bring people together and move forward,” Archuleta said.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn told reporters that O’Connell’s death has “left me and other people from here to Ireland heartbroken. He was known to walk among gang members, the homeless and transients to bring peace to them.”

Gomez was overcome with emotion at Monday’s news conference as he discussed the death of his friend and colleague, calling him “a good friend to all of Los Angeles.”

“He worked to show compassion to the poor, to the homeless, to the immigrant, to all those living on society’s margins,” Gomez said. “He was a good priest and good bishop, and a man of peace.”

At the time of his death, O’Connell—widely known as “Bishop Dave”—was vicar for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles’ San Gabriel Pastoral Region, a post he had since 2015 when Pope Francis appointed him as an auxiliary bishop for the Los Angeles Archdiocese. He was particularly known for his work on behalf of the poor and to combat violence.

O’Connell was born in County Cork, Ireland. He studied for the priesthood at All Hallows College in Dublin and was ordained to serve in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in 1979, according to Doris Benavides, associate director of media relations for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

As chairman of the interdiocesan Southern California Immigration Task Force, O’Connell helped coordinate the church’s response to immigrant children and families from Central America in recent years. He also sponsored the enrollment of several young immigrants in Catholic schools, a number of whom

“
He was a peacemaker with a heart for the poor and the immigrant, and he had a passion for building a community where the sanctity and dignity of every human life was honored and protected.”

—Archbishop Jose Gomez

have advanced to college.

He served as a member of the Priest Pension Board and on the Together in Mission Board as well as the Archdiocesan Finance Council, the archdiocese said. He was a member of the Council of Priests and a Knight of Peter Claver.

At the national level, he was chairman of the Subcommittee on the Catholic Campaign for Human Development of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

In September, O’Connell was honored with the Evangelii Gaudium Award from St. John’s Seminary in Camarillo, “for his selfless service to the community and the Church in L.A.,” Benavides said.

A gathering of mourners held candles and stood near the intersection of Janlu and Los Robles avenues Saturday night and prayed the rosary in his memory. A memorial was continuing to grow outside his home Monday.

The sheriff’s Homicide Bureau urged anyone with information regarding the shooting to call them at 323-890-5500 or Crime Stoppers at 800-222-8477. Tipsters can also use a smartphone by downloading the “P3 Tips” Mobile app on Google Play or the Apple App Store.

CRIME

Man suspected of anti-semitic shootings in LA was out on bail for bringing gun on CSULB campus

Kristen Farrah Naeem
Staff Writer

Warning: The following story contains information relating to hate acts and hate crimes against Jewish people

Two Jewish men were shot while leaving synagogues in the Pico-Robertson neighborhood of Los Angeles on Feb. 15 and Feb. 16. The suspect, Jaime Tran, was out on bail at the time for allegedly bringing a firearm onto the Cal State Long Beach (CSULB) campus last summer.

According to campus police chief John Brockie, on July 3, 2022, at around 6:05 p.m., campus police received a 911 call informing them that there was a man seen on campus with a handgun.

According to Brockie, officers responded to the scene and found Tran sitting down on some stairs, holding a firearm in his hands. Officers began to give commands to Tran, which he obeyed.

Police were able to disarm Tran and take him into custody. According to Brockie, police confirmed Tran had been holding a loaded Glock.

An email from school officials that was shared online by students on Feb. 17 stated that a warning was not sent out to students because the arrest took place during the summer and that there was not an active threat to those on campus.

According to LA County’s Inmate Information Center, Tran was charged with a felony for bringing a gun to campus, but was released on bond on July 16, 2022 after 13 days in jail. His case was still ongoing at the time police believe he committed the recent shootings.

According to Brockie, Tran is an alumnus of CSULB who graduated in 2016.

He went on to attend dental school, where he was expelled in 2018 after making anti-semitic remarks, according to court documents filed in the U.S. District Court.

According to the same court documents, in Nov. and Dec. 2022 Tran sent mass emails to dozens



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune
An aerial view of the Walter Pyramid at California State University, Long Beach on April 30, 2021.

of his former dental school classmates, falsely accusing Jewish people of fabricating the COVID-19 pandemic.

Court documents allege that in Dec. 2022, Tran began a particularly vicious hate campaign against one of his former classmates, who is Jewish.

A few of the messages Tran allegedly sent his former classmate include:

“Cut your [expletive] off and bleed to death you [expletive] Jew.”

“[Expletive] you piece of literal [expletive] [expletive] Jew. You [expletive] [expletive]. I hate you like [expletive] crazy you [expletive] stupid pathetic loser subhuman trash ugly disgusting worthless senseless Jew.”

“Someone is going to kill you, Jew.”

“Burn in an oven chamber you [expletive] Jew.”

According to court documents, Tran also made harassing phone calls to his former classmate and sent him a photo of a gas chamber.

On Feb. 15, 2023 police believe Tran shot a Jewish man who was walking out of a synagogue. The victim sustained a close-range gunshot wound to his lower back.

The next day, Tran allegedly went to a different synagogue and shot a man at close range in the

bicep as the man was leaving religious services.

Both victims survived. Later in the day on Feb. 16, Tran was arrested after discharging an assault rifle next to his vehicle, according to court documents.

According to court documents, Tran confessed to purposefully shooting the two victims. He told investigators he looked up the locations of kosher markets on Yelp before the shootings.

The Anti-Defamation League conducted a survey of 4,000 U.S. residents between September and October 2022 to measure the prevalence of anti-semitic sentiments in the nation. The survey found that 85% of respondents believed at least one harmful trope about Jewish people, compared to 61% in 2019.

Tran has been charged with federal hate crimes. According to a statement by Los Angeles District Attorney George Gascon, because the alleged crimes occurred in multiple jurisdictions, as well as the hateful nature of the crimes and Tran’s history of anti-semitism, the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) and the United States Attorney’s Office will prosecute Tran.

Tran’s trial for bringing a gun to CSULB will continue later this month.



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MOLAA EXHIBIT
 continued from page 1


Kristen Farrah Naeem | Signal Tribune

A series of paintings by Yolanda González series "Sueños" (which roughly translates to "Dreams" in English), which are included in the "Metamorphosis: The Evolution Of Visions And Dreams" exhibit at MOLAA.



Kristen Farrah Naeem | Signal Tribune

A series of paintings by Yolanda González titled "Sueños" (which roughly translates to "Dreams" in English).

have a relationship with the visual of the monster and to see their beauty."

When González came home from Japan, she was mourning the loss of her friend and fellow artist, Cella Coffin. Inspired both by her grief and the black and white prints she observed in Japan, González began removing the color from her work.

Some of these black and white paintings from decades ago are now hung on the walls of MOLAA as part of "Metamorphosis: The Evolution Of Visions And Dreams."

"I wanted to see what would happen with Chicano art if you took the color away, because Chicano art is so colorful. It's such a huge base of

who we are and what we express," González said.

In comparison to her early monochromatic prints and paintings, her more recent paintings are bursting with hues. Walking into the second gallery of the exhibit, viewers' eyes are drawn to a red-patterned wall covered in vibrant paintings which depict women who have supported González throughout her career.

In her aptly-named 2013 series "Suenos" (which roughly translates to "Dreams" in English), González created vivid and otherworldly portraits, with faces hidden in the background, distorted or floating.

One of these dream-like pieces has been purchased by MOLAA for

its permanent collection. "Sueño de la Pintora" (translated to "The Dream of the Painter") depicts two women sitting across from each other, while a third disembodied female face seemingly melds into the foreground. In the background a ladder is set against a window, both of which fade into intentional drips of paints, giving the work an illusory effect.

"Metamorphosis: The Evolution Of Visions And Dreams" will be on display at MOLAA until July 30. MOLAA is located at 628 Alamitos Ave. and open Wednesdays through Sundays, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. General admission is \$15, but admission is free on Sundays.


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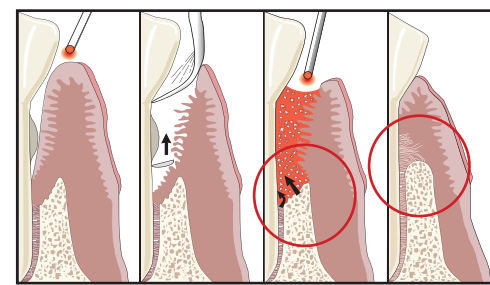
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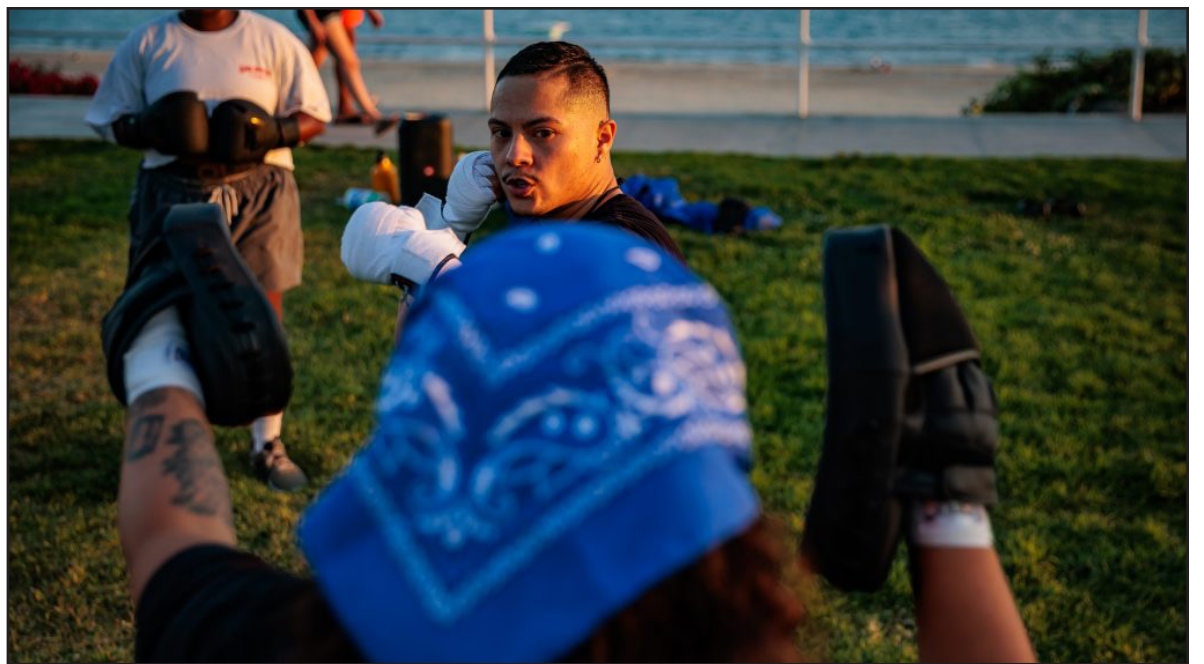
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AROUND TOWN

A WEEKLY LIST OF THINGS TO DO IN LONG BEACH AND SIGNAL HILL



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Iñigo Ibrae, the founder of Devotion Fitness, a non-profit that teaches boxing-based fitness classes, shows a student proper punching form during a class at Bluff Park on Aug. 19, 2022.

Though it may be tempting to stay bundled up indoors all weekend, don't let the gusting winds and rainfall keep you from the many community events happening in Long Beach and Signal Hill.

The heavy rains provide a perfect backdrop to learn new gardening skills. Residents can receive a lesson in native landscaping at the Michelle Obama Neighborhood Library Friday afternoon or learn how to reuse food scraps to grow nutritious foods in an outdoor workshop on Willow Street Saturday morning. The Community Peace Garden is in need of volunteers to maintain the month's harvest, with opportunities to swap crops Sunday morning.

For those who want to venture outside their homes for indoor activities, there is a free comedy show at Ficklewood Ciderworks Friday night, a Maker's Market and movie screening at Long Beach Exchange Saturday afternoon and an Afro-Latinx Festival at the Museum of Latin American Art on Sunday afternoon.

Residents can celebrate the last few days of Black History Month by celebrating Black joy at the African American Cultural Center's "Making Black America" event Saturday evening, learning African dance styles at the Signal Hill Public Library Monday night or an ancestral-focused virtual workshop Wednesday evening.

24 FRIDAY

INTRODUCTION TO NATIVE LANDSCAPING

2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Long Beach Office of Sustainability will be holding a workshop at the Michelle Obama Neighborhood Library (5870 Atlantic Ave.) to introduce the public to the benefits of native plants. Participants will learn about ways to include native plants in their gardens and landscaping. Free.

WORLD CINEMA SERIES

3 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. The public is invited to a screening of the 2002 Argentinian dramedy "Valentín" at the Billie Jean King Main Library (200 W. Broadway). The film takes place in 1960s Buenos Aires, and portrays the coming-of-age story of an 8-year-old from a dysfunctional family who is sent to live with

his grandmother. The film will be in Spanish with English subtitles. Free.

FRIENDZONE COMEDY SHOW

7 p.m. Those 21 years old and older are invited to a comedy show at Ficklewood Ciderworks (720 E Broadway) hosted by The Friendzone. There is no cover charge, though there is a two-drink minimum. Seats are decided on a first-come, first served basis and dogs and outside food are welcome. Free.

25 SATURDAY

LEARN TO COMPOST

10 a.m. to noon. The Environmental Services Bureau will hold a workshop in its demonstration garden (2929 E Willow St.) to teach the public how to turn food scraps and yard waste into nutrient-rich compost that can be used in yards and gardens. This workshop will be held outdoors. Participants are urged to bring sun protection and water. Free.

STEP UP COLLEGE READINESS

10 a.m. to noon. The African American History and Culture Foundation will host a series of workshops about college readiness at the Burnett Neighborhood Library (560 E Hill St.). These workshops will inform youth and their caregivers on how to effectively pursue a college education. Free.

BLACK HEALTH EXPO

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Southern California Black Chamber of Commerce invites members of the local Black community to connect with health resources at 729 W Anaheim St. This health expo will include presentations, workshops, a panel discussion, physical and mental health services and more. Free.

JOB FAIR

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Community Recreation Services Bureau is looking to hire new employees to help facilitate programs at local parks. Job seekers are invited to learn more about open positions and pick up an application during this job fair at McBride Park (1550 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave.). There will be positions available for those 16 and older. Free.

MAKERS MARKET

11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Over 25 local vendors will be selling their products at the Long Beach Exchange (4150 McGowen St.). Attendees will be able to get their face painted. A screening of "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" will take place from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Free.

PEACE, LOVE, HEALTH & UNITY

Noon to 4 p.m. The Long Beach COVID-19 Task Force invites the public to this multi-cultural fair at Scherer Park (4600 Long Beach Blvd.), where they can enjoy food, health screenings, music, activities and more. COVID-19 vaccines will be available for those 5 and older. Free.

POP-UP MARKET

Noon to 4 p.m. Long Beach Vintage Etc. will be hosting 18 different vendors at its storefront (737 Pine Ave.). Products for sale will include clothing, accessories, home decor, desserts, jewelry, pet products, candles and more. Tarot card readings will also be available from Galena The Mystic. Free to attend.

MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION

1 p.m. to 5 p.m. In honor of Mardi Gras, a celebration will be held at Shoreline Village (401-435 Shoreline Drive), featuring music, dancing, beads and a parade. Balloon animals and face-painting will be available for children until 4 p.m. Free.

26 SUNDAY

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER DAY

8 a.m. to noon. Volunteers are needed to help maintain the Healthy Active Long Beach Community Peace Garden (1133 Rhea St.). Those who attend will be able to take home some of the harvest. Attendees are also invited to bring produce they've grown at home to trade with each other in a "crop swap." Free.

BADDIES BOX

10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Residents are invited to this beginner-friendly, LGBTQ-friendly boxing class held at 400 W Anaheim St. every Sunday. Classes are taught on a donation-based sliding scale from \$5-

35. Handwraps are required to box, and available for purchase for \$15.

AFRO-LATINX FESTIVAL

11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Museum of Latin American Art (628 Alamitos Ave.) is holding a festival in honor of Afro-Latinx cultures. The celebration will include performances, music, food, workshops and more. Backpacks and large bags are not allowed in the museum. Free.

27 MONDAY

SEASIDE WORKOUT

8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. This early morning workout class by Energy Rich Fitness at Bluff Park (2500 E Ocean Ave.) is meant to invigorate participants while helping them get in shape. Tickets cost \$25, and can be purchased on Eventbrite.

AFRICAN DRUMS & DANCE

5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Teresa Smith and Chazz Ross will guide participants in practicing African dance styles accompanied by Djembe drums at the Signal Hill Public Library (1800 E Hill St.). This event is appropriate for all ages. The drums will be provided. Free.

28 TUESDAY

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

10 a.m. to noon. Individuals and families in need are invited to receive groceries at Community Medical Wellness Centers USA (1360 E Anaheim St.). Attendees should bring a cart or bag to carry their food home. For more information call 562-826-1608 or 562-624-5477. Free.

MANGA CLUB

4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Teens who love manga and anime are invited to the Burnett Neighborhood Library (560 E Hill St.) for discussions, activities and screenings every fourth Tuesday of the month. Free.

01 WEDNESDAY

SENSORY STORY TIME

11 a.m. to noon. Parents and caregivers are invited to bring children to this inclusive storytime at the Bach Neighborhood Library (4055

N. Bellflower Blvd.). Children of all abilities will use their senses to read, create and learn through stories, songs and play. Free.

THE BLACK STORY/FUTURE

7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Earthlodge Center for Transformation will be holding a virtual event in honor of Black history month specifically for Black people. It is recommended that those who attend the online event come prepared with pens, paper, comfortable clothing, hot tea, a bowl of water with essential oil and a picture of an ancestor. It is recommended that before participating in the online gathering, attendees take a cleansing salt bath or shower the night before, meditate for 10 minutes and get a good night's sleep. To register, visit bit.ly/blackstoryfuture. Free.

02 THURSDAY

SENIOR DANCING FOR HEALTH

10 a.m. to noon. The United Cambodian Community of Long Beach is holding a line-dancing class for seniors at the Signal Hill Public Library (1800 E Hill St.). Seniors are encouraged to socialize with each other as they learn various country line dances. To register, call (562) 989-7323 or visit the library. Free.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLUB

5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. English language learners are invited to practice English conversations together at the Billie Jean King Main Library (200 W. Broadway). This is an informal gathering and a safe space for anyone trying to learn English. Free.

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COMMUNITY

‘Celebrate Black joy’ at the African American Cultural Center’s ‘Making Black America’

Samantha Diaz
Managing Editor

The African American Cultural Center of Long Beach (AACCLB) will spend the last weekend of Black History Month focusing on the accomplishments and joy surrounding Black existence in a festive celebration this Saturday.

“Making Black America” will be hosted in collaboration with *PBS SoCal*, *KCET* and *KJAZZ*, and will “celebrate Black joy,” said Jacqueline Quarles, program manager for the AACCLB.

The cultural center does not shy away from the struggles Black people had to overcome—its monthly gallery during Black history month is titled “The Roots of Slavery” and they held an event in the beginning of the month dealing with the Middle Passage.

“Being of African American descent, it’s wonderful to hear about our cultural history, it is an absolute must,” Quarles said. “We need to make sure that our youth understand where we came from. But for me, it’s also equally as important for our young people to know that we have a lot of things to celebrate and lots of positive things to discuss.”

The theme for “Making Black America” is drawn from the *PBS SoCal* documentary series under the same name. It’s a four-episode series that takes viewers through the many accomplishments, connections and organizations that Black Americans created.

Episodes focus on the safe spaces that Black people created for themselves to flourish, such as Harlem, New York and Springtown, New Jersey. They also delve into ways the Black community supported itself, through rent parties in the 1920s, the creation of historically Black colleges and universities and with it, the Divine Nine fraternities and sororities and other social networks.

Music will have its own space of celebration at the event, just like in the documentary series. The influence that Black jazz artists had on today’s music will be explained to attendees, as *KJAZZ* plays tunes from the creation of jazz up to modern day melodies.

“*[PBS SoCal]* wanted to display the film at our cultural center which I was extremely excited about,” Quarles said. “After that discussion, then this sort of burst into where we are now.”

Residents will get the chance to view clips of the *PBS* documenta-



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

An exterior view of the African American Cultural Center of Long Beach building on Atlantic Avenue on June 28, 2022.



Image courtesy of AACCLB

Residents view a handmade quilt, dolls and other creations at the African American Cultural Center of Long Beach.

ry, which will be playing on a loop during the event. The screening is one of many things for attendees to do, as there will be exhibits to explore, music to listen to, crafts to create and a family reunion-style feast to enjoy.

The AACCLB is also asking residents to attend in their favorite 1920s-’70s attire, though it’s optional. The entire evening is about “celebrating Black culture in terms of connecting with the community and building and uplifting the community,” Quarles said.

The “Roots of Slavery” exhibit will still be on display for those who haven’t been able to view it, as well as art chosen specifically for the event that has a more celebratory note. For three hours, residents will be able to walk through the cultural center and enjoy art, music, dancing, history lessons and community.

“It’s powerful to let people know and understand that through networking, through communication, through family building, just through commitment, that we do

positive things to uplift our people,” Quarles said. “And even in those settings, you can discuss things in the past, but again, they can still be manifested in a positive note where people can understand where we came from, and understand where we’re going.”

“*Making Black America*” will take place at the African American Cultural Center of Long Beach at 4321 Atlantic Ave. on Saturday, Feb. 25 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Entry is Free.

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**TST6905 Case No. 23CMCP00009
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR
CHANGE OF NAME**

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, COMPTON COURTHOUSE, 200 W. Compton Blvd, Compton, CA 90220 PETITION OF: Claudia Livier Perez Alvarado for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioners: Claudia Livier Perez Alvarado has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing her name as follows: Present Name: Claudia Livier Perez Alvarado Proposed Name: Claudia Farias 2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: March 30, 2023; Time: 8:30a.m., Dept. A, Room 904. The address of the court is the same as above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county, THE SIGNAL TRIBUNE, 1860 Obispo Ave., Ste. F, Signal Hill, CA 90755, February 3, 10, 17, 24, 2023 ___/ss//___ Michael Shultz, Judge of the Superior Court Dated: January 20, 2023

**TST6908 Case No. 23LBCP00044
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR
CHANGE OF NAME**

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, 275 Magnolia, Long Beach, CA 90806 PETITION OF: Graviela Sambrano for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioners: Graviela Sambrano has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing her name as follows: Present Name: Graviela Sambrano Proposed Name: Gabriela Zambrano 2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: March 17, 2023; Time: 8:30a.m., Dept. 27. The address of the court is the same as above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county, THE SIGNAL TRIBUNE, 1860 Obispo Ave., Ste. F, Signal Hill, CA 90755, February 10, 17, 24, & March 3, 2023 ___/ss//___ Mark C. Kim, Judge of the Superior Court Dated: February 3, 2023

**TST6910 / 2023 033016
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

The following person is doing business as: 1. BERACOT ENTERPRISES, 2. WHEELS SERVICES, 8234 3RD STREET, PARAMOUNT, CA 90723. Registrant: CARLOS ROBERTO SANTOS, 8234 3RD STREET, PARAMOUNT, CA 90723. This business is conducted by: an Individual. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: CARLOS ROBERTO SANTOS, OWNER. The registrant has not begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in N/A. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on February 13, 2023. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: February 17, 24 & March 3, 10, 2023

**TST6913 / 2023 033018
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

The following person is doing business as: JALPA, ZAC. LANDSCAPING, 14037 ARTHUR AVE, PARAMOUNT, CA 90723. Registrant: URIEL ANTONIO ARROYO SILVA, 14037 ARTHUR AVE, PARAMOUNT, CA 90723. This business is conducted by: an Individual. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: URIEL ANTONIO ARROYO SILVA, OWNER. The registrant has not begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in N/A. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on February 13, 2023. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a

fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: February 17, 24 & March 3, 10, 2023

**TST6911 / 2023 033020
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

The following person is doing business as: TORTAS Y HAMBURGUESAS GRESS, 3209 NAOMI AVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90011. Registrant: RUBEN GRESS MAQUEDA, 3209 NAOMI AVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90011. This business is conducted by: an Individual. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: RUBEN GRESS MAQUEDA, OWNER. The registrant has not begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in N/A. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on February 13, 2023. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: February 17, 24 & March 3, 10, 2023

**TST6912 / 2023 033014
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

The following person is doing business as: TACOS Y QUESADILLAS LUPITA'S, 733 S CENTRAL AVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90021. Registrant: MA GUADALUPE RIVERA DELGADO, 6600 GAGE AVE SPC2, BELL GARDENS, CA 90201. This business is conducted by: an Individual. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: MA GUADALUPE RIVERA DELGADO, OWNER. The registrant has not begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in N/A. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on February 13, 2023. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: February 17, 24 & March 3, 10, 2023

TST6914

Notice of Public Lien Sale

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the provisions of the California Self-Storage Facility Act Code, Section #21700, the undersigned will be sold by public auction at: Storco Self Storage, 3050 Orange Ave, Long Beach, CA 90807, County of Los Angeles, and State of California. Auction date of: March 14th, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. Terms of sale: Cash sale, all sales are final and purchased at buyers own risk. No guarantees or warranty of any sale are promised by seller. Storco Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any bid or cancel auction. Facility owner or its representatives has the right to bid on any and all units or stop sale at any time. Name of auctioneer: Climers Auction Services. The following units are scheduled for sale: Unit # & Customer Name: Unit # C004/Alvaro Martinez - Unit # A044/Alvaro Martinez - Unit# E072/LaSunda McCrary. Unit contents may include but are not limited to: Electronics, furniture, appliances, garage items, toys, clothing, sporting goods, tools, automotive and miscellaneous household goods, unless otherwise stated. Publish Dates: 02/24/2023 & 03/03/2023.

**TST6886 / 2022 280169
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

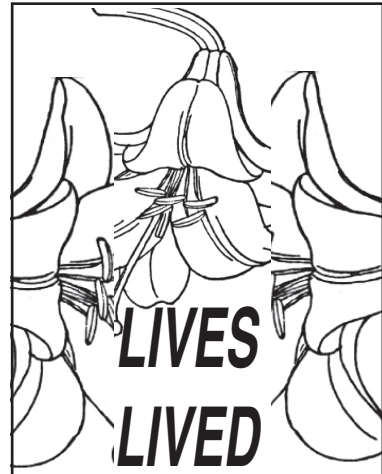
The following person is doing business as: VOLLMER-GRAY ENGINEERING LABORATORIES, 2421 N PALM DRIVE, SIGNAL HILL, CA 90755. LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Registrant: BRIGNOLA ENGINEERING INC., 2421 N PALM DRIVE, SIGNAL HILL, CA 90756. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: CHRISTOPHER BRIGNOLA, CEO. The registrant has begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in December, 2022. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on December 30, 2022. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from

the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: January 13, 20, 27 & February 3, 2023

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Esequiel Sisneros 64
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Barbara O'Donnell 56
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Anthony Nocera 53
Alden Waitt 70
- The families were assisted by McKenzie Mortuary. For more details on service dates and times, contact (562) 961-9301*

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CITY OF SIGNAL HILL

**TST6915
NOTICE OF VACANCY
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a vacancy exists in the Office of the City Clerk due to the resignation of the City Clerk. The City of Signal Hill will be conducting a recruitment to fill this vacancy. All interested residents are encouraged to apply.

To serve as City Clerk, you must be a U.S. citizen, 18 years of age or older; and a registered voter and resident of the City of Signal Hill. The appointee shall continue to reside in the City of Signal Hill for the duration of the term of office and shall serve as the incumbent City Clerk. The term of office expires December 10, 2024.

If you are interested in this appointment, you may view a complete job description and apply for this position at <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/signalhill>. Email cityclerk@cityofsignalhill.org or call (562) 989-7305 if you have any questions. Applications will be accepted until Friday, March 31, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

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**Pet of the week:
Spencer**

We give you Spencer, a gentle, sweet pittie, about 4 years old. He was found in September in a makeshift kennel at an abandoned homeless encampment. Spencer may not have had much in the way of creature comforts, but somehow, he has wonderful manners. He hasn't met a human he doesn't like and is good with other well-mannered dogs at the shelter. He can catch treats, knows how to sit on command, and has the cutest, calmest tail wag. He has been in our shelter way too long and, despite the care and love given him by volunteers and staff, he is starting to show anxiety and "kennel stress." All he needs is good kibble, plenty of R&R, the occasional oatmeal bath and lots of love, and he'll be the best pet ever. You can speed the process to adopt or foster Spencer and any of our other pets by emailing Pet-Adopt@longbeach.gov or petfoster@longbeach.gov. You can also call (562) 570-4925. Even better, stop by during our new open walk-in hours every Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Our shelter is located at 7700 E. Spring St. Ask for ID#A684516 to meet Spencer. We're at capacity, and everyone needs homes!

DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR UPDATES STRAIGHT TO YOUR PHONE

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'AND OTHER MISTAKES'

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immediately fell in love with the book-loving community.

Both of her parents were storytellers, Turner explained, which almost certainly had an influence in her career path and aspirations. Turner's early childhood memories are filled with her curiously flipping through her father's book of song lyrics—he's a musician—or getting into trouble and Turner's mother telling her to write down what she had done wrong—she's a mother.

"I just feel like I've always loved writing," Turner said. "In elementary school, I was writing stories and trying to submit things. And then I was in journalism when I was in junior high and high school. I just always have written my whole life."

Her love for the craft only grew as she got older, though the prospect of becoming a published writer was often tossed aside, thought of as "a pipe dream."

Turner's mother, however, knew better. Her consistent "How is the novel going?" and "Where's the book?" questions were proven correct one night, when Turner, garbed in her doggy-themed robe, a cup of hot tea warming her hands, received a phone call that would quickly change her life.

Turner uses phrases like "off-chance" and "out-of-the-blue" to describe the life-changing moment. But after the countless submissions to editors and never-ending rewrites, her mother knew it was only

a matter of time.

"When I told her that I wrote [a book] and that I sold it she was like, 'yeah, I know, I told you,'" Turner recalls laughing.

Coexisting with her love for writing was her journey in faith. Turner attended the same nondenominational Christian church for 16 years and grew up "very religious" with a mother who was even more so, but who always told her to decide who she was for herself.

Turner expects that her mom didn't anticipate her being queer, but by the time she came out in college she said "I felt like I had to become really comfortable with my own personal relationship with God, outside of anyone else's kind of idea of what that should look like."

The main character in "And Other Mistakes," Aaliyah Marshall, grapples with similar issues. She's outed as being queer by a member of her church's clergy during her junior year of high school. While Turner had support from her mother, her character finds herself at odds with her home life where "every wrong step can become an explosion."

Turner had left her church by the time she came out as queer, but her character Aaliyah must rediscover her relationship with God and religion while simultaneously discovering herself.

"I felt like I had to develop that relationship one-on-one in order



Image Courtesy of Erika Turner

Long Beach author Erika Turner released her debut novel "And Other Things," a story about a queer, Black teenage girl navigating issues of family, identity and religion on Feb. 14, 2023.



Image Courtesy of Erika Turner

Erika Turner releases her debut novel "And Other Mistakes" at The Hangout in Long Beach on Feb. 14, 2023.

for me to be okay and take care of myself," Turner said "That's something that this character explores as well ... you still have to separate between what is your family's expectations and what is your community's expectation and come up with like, 'What is my own relationship to this thing that I've been a part of my whole life?'"

Turner felt drawn to young adult novels, as someone who found a respite in books growing up. She describes "And Other Mistakes" as a sort of love letter to her teenage self, who had little guidance in how

to navigate her teenage years.

"I feel like there's something really artful to speak to your 17-year-old self and think about like, 'Okay, I survived. I've gotten to a place that the world said I would never get to because of who I am,'" Turner said. "So I'm going to write this story for her and other kids like her."

Throughout the novel, Aaliyah is struggling while feeling like a stranger with the people who raised her, navigating through her senior year of high school and dealing with unexplained feelings for a girl on her cross-country team. She slips and makes mistakes many

times, but that's sort of the point of growing up, Turner explains.

"We all make mistakes, especially when we're kids and we are not necessarily defined by what people expect of us or what people think we're supposed to be," Turner said. "This book is sort of meant to be like, 'Hey, it's okay to figure it out. You're not by yourself. And also there's nothing wrong with you. It's okay if you feel alone. You're not and there's nothing wrong with you.'"

"And Other Mistakes" can be purchased at The Hangout in Long Beach, or in many locations online.

CAR WASH

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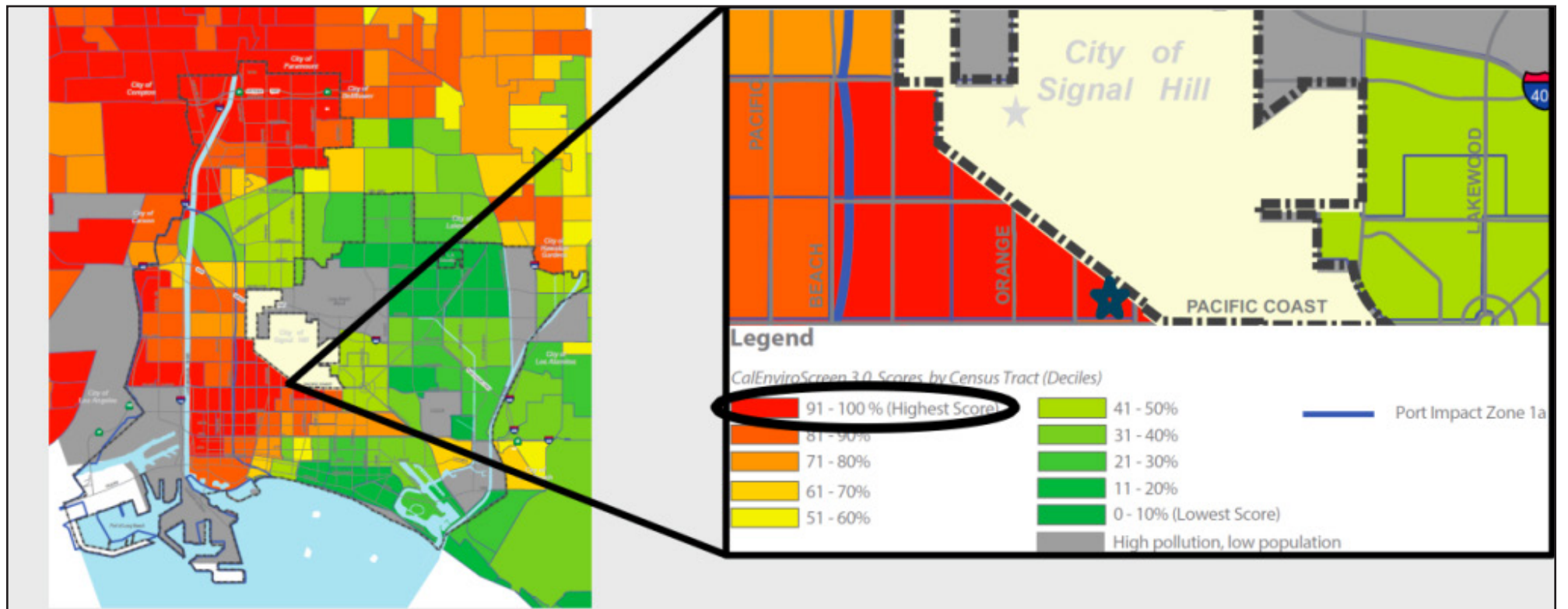


Image courtesy of Long Beach city staff reports

Staff reports show that the area along Pacific Coast Highway have some of the highest pollution levels in the city.

deny a permit.

SM Wash, the company in charge of the proposed car wash facility, gave a verbal commitment of "benefits" it will provide the city with if the permit was granted. The benefits included: ensuring employees at the existing nightclub have the opportunity to apply for "project jobs"; giving preference to residents for "project jobs"; a financial commitment to Transformational Living Homes; security and safety enhancements to [the] Chittick field area "and other community sites"; support for youth football programs at Chittick field; parking accommodations for the adjacent Buddhist temple "outside of project operating hours."

"I believe approving the car wash project would create a foundation for future projects and keep the area clean and presentable," said resident Joshua Lopez. "It will also

open jobs for other citizens and students of Long Beach. This project will provide a spark for new economic investment in the surrounding area and businesses, which it hasn't had for many years."

Representatives from Star Express Car Wash argued that the existing nightclub Los Potros is a "blight" on the neighborhood, as it has received 43 calls to the police department in the last six years. Former city manager Pat West advocated for the car wash, calling it a "catalyst for future investment" that will create jobs for residents.

West's presentation stated that the car wash could create up to "145 indirect jobs," though the report from SM Wash listed a little over 50 jobs, including the 10 positions required to run the car wash daily.

The car wash will require a new driveway to be built along Gardena Avenue, 18 stalls for vacuuming

and a 100-foot car wash tunnel. Vehicles would exit through an alley during the hours of operation from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

"No disrespect to you mister city manager, but you had 12 years of maintained blight [at the location] and then you go into the private sector and say, 'Hey I have a solution.' Where was your solution for the 12 years that you were city manager," resident Senay Kenfe asked.

Planning Bureau Manager Alison Spindler-Ruiz said that city staff "found the car wash to not be consistent with our General Plan and Land Use Element," but admitted that it "would be an improvement over the existing aging building."

Since the building is privately owned, the City cannot decide what gets built on the site, but can rezone it to only allow certain types of projects. Spindler said that "at the time, there's no other proposals for

the property. It's likely we're going to see the site utilized as is if this is denied."

One goal of the updated Land Use Policy is to avoid projects that "result in an inequitable environmental burden on low-income or minority neighborhoods," according to section 14.3 of the policy. CalEnviroScreen found that the areas along PCH already suffer from some of the highest levels of pollution in the city, while neighborhoods directly to the east have some of the lowest levels of pollution in the city.

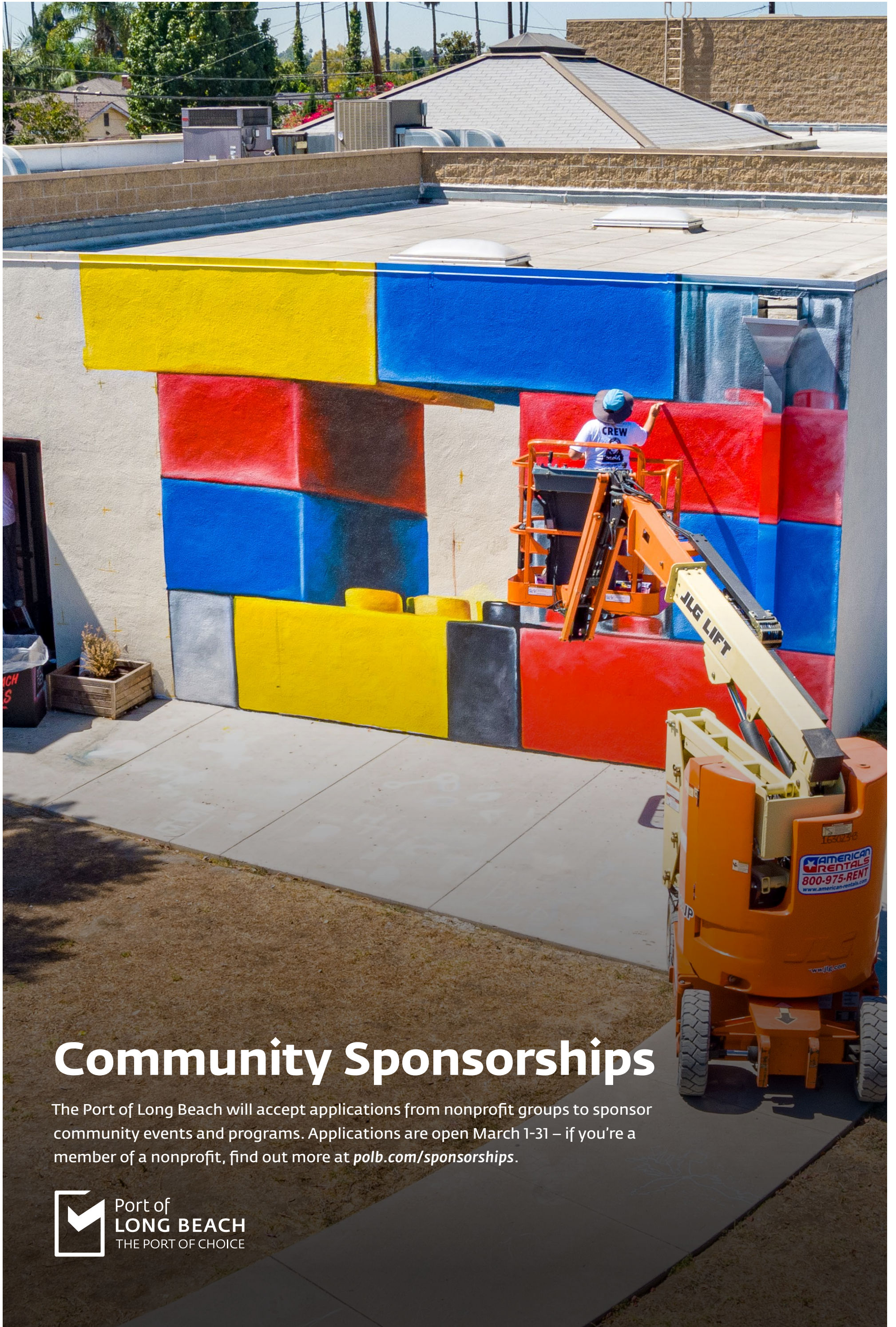
"Don't listen to the argument that this will provide jobs and don't listen to the argument that some development is better than no development," said Elsa Tung, program manager with Long Beach Forward. "You don't hear the former city manager and now lobbyist Pat West making this patronizing,

fear-mongering argument in the wealthier, whiter East Long Beach or Bixby Knolls do you? You hear it in the systematically disadvantaged communities of color in Central, West and North Long Beach."

West said that the site could not be used for affordable housing, though the Planning Commission stated in its report that rezoning the site would allow for a maximum of 24 residential units, either as apartments or condominium buildings.

Councilwoman Suely Saro made the motion to approve the permit, "given the information shared by staff and the opportunity presented between what [the site] is now and what it will continue to be if we don't take the opportunity to do something with the space at the moment."

Council unanimously approved the Conditional Use Permit for the Star Express Car Wash.



Community Sponsorships

The Port of Long Beach will accept applications from nonprofit groups to sponsor community events and programs. Applications are open March 1-31 – if you're a member of a nonprofit, find out more at polb.com/sponsorships.

