

# El Segundo Herald

The Weekly Newspaper of El Segundo

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## Honoring Our Hometown Heroes



Fire Paramedic Matthew Goodenough and family in front of Engine 31. See story below. Photo provided by City of El Segundo.

## El Segundo Played Pivotal Role in Palisades Fire Relief Effort

By Brian Simon

“We continue to experience heavy fire from every direction. We are always planning our next move, and we ensure we can get out if needed...” These were the words of Captain Levi Larkin, who was one of eight El Segundo Fire Department (ESFD) personnel deployed to the Pacific Palisades area to help combat the devastating blazes that ravaged homes and businesses last month. Captain Larkin’s remarks came on the very first night onsite. He and his colleagues brought Engines 31 and 32 to the scene as part of two strike teams, including other South Bay agencies. The firefighters spent 14 days in the vicinity, often toiling around the clock with little sleep or sustenance. An escape plan was always close at hand in the event the fires became too overwhelming to overcome. Thankfully, they managed to return to their families safe and sound on January 23. At a special Civic Plaza “welcome home” event last Thursday morning, the City of El Segundo honored the eight men...as well as El Segundo Police Department (ESPD) personnel sent to Altadena to help restore order in the wake of the deadly Eaton Fire that swept through those neighborhoods and hills at the same time the flames raged in Pacific Palisades.

“They arrived when the fires were just getting into the communities, and the wind was kicking up,” said ESFD Battalion Chief Ryan Allee, who noted that ESFD was one of the very first units to get to Pacific Palisades as part of the state’s mutual aid program. “There were no resources or base camp set up as yet where they could replenish or rest.”

A captain, an engineer, and two firefighter paramedics operated each of the engines. In the “initial attack,” the group worked straight through for 50 hours to assist with structure protection. This after having already served a 12-hour shift that day in El Segundo.

Once the base camp was up, the men had some moments to grab a bite to eat and catch a few winks after leaving the hot zones. Each day featured an Incident Action Plan (IAP) detailed in a morning briefing that specified where the engines would go next. After that, the firefighters went out for

24 hours before returning to rest—although said rest was never guaranteed, such as when one of the engines had to suddenly head up to Mulholland Drive to ensure flames did not encroach into residences in the hills above Brentwood.

“When they first arrived on the scene, they saw walls of flame that were 20-30-feet high fueled by hurricane-force winds of up to 80 miles per hour,” Allee said about day one. “Because of that, embers from the flames traveled well over a mile.”

See Fire Relief, page 2

## Council Discusses DEI and Smoky Hollow Parking

By Liz Spear

Topics at the El Segundo City Council meeting Tuesday night ranged from honoring the passing of a 64-year resident to a proclamation in honor of Black History Month to a pilot parking program in Smoky Hollow to the city’s DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) Committee’s annual work plan to securing a new landscape maintenance vendor. DEI was the hottest topic, with residents expressing support for the committee and the need for it to meet monthly, apparently in response to hearing that City Council might want to scale back the committee’s meeting schedule. During Public Comment, one resident spoke against

DEI, calling it “wokeism” and outlining his take on its inception, further suggesting the city discontinue the DEI committee in favor of a DOI (Declaration of Independence Committee). His comments were followed by remarks from several residents who spoke in support of the committee, blasting now Mayor Chris Pimentel and council member Lance Giroux for suggesting the committee meet quarterly because it does not have enough to do. Other supporters wondered if the committee was in jeopardy of being discontinued.

Residents John Pickhaver, Anya Goldstein, Keith Puckett, Michele Toti Leach, Christina See City Council, page 11

## Weekend Forecast

Friday

AM Rain  
61°/49°



Saturday

AM Fog/  
PM Clouds  
60°/46°



Sunday

Partly  
Cloudy  
61°/47°



# Herald in Class Reunion



Freddy Fogarty and former classmates celebrate their 25th high school reunion for El Segundo class of 1999. Celebration was at G's Il Capo Dei Bar on Dec. 7th, 2024.

# Fire Relief

from front page

El Segundo Fire Chief George Avery described the recent events as “unreal and surreal” for all involved, especially those who lost their properties or—even worse—loved ones. During last Thursday’s ceremony, he pointed to the sense of “duty and commitment” exemplified by the firefighters who were “there from the get-go” and “stood their ground” with relentless resolve in the face of unfathomably dangerous conditions. “They just kept fighting,” Avery said. “They relied on their training and on each other. It became muscle memory.”

Firefighter Paramedic Matthew Goodenough of Engine 31 said he knew en route to Pacific Palisades that “this fire was very different” and on par with tragedies such as in Lahaina and Napa/Sonoma. He reported that he and his crew “worked nonstop” and did all they could to “make every drop of water count for what felt like defenseless homes.” Goodenough also spoke of the “deeply human moments” he saw when firefighters swept debris in driveways or brought food to those still hunkered down in their homes. He also

noted that small animals would take refuge behind the fire engines in their instinct to find safe haven.

Fire Captain Bryan Partlow of Engine 32 explained that the expansive deployment area spanned from Kanan Dume to Palisades proper, including Malibu and Mandeville Canyon. The task, he said, was to limit the fire spread by protecting homes not yet engulfed in flames. The fires, he confirmed, were the worst he had ever witnessed in his 20-year career.

Despite the rampant devastation, the El Segundo firefighters succeeded in preserving several homes as well as other structures. In one case, the contingent convened by Sunset and PCH was able to save LA City Fire Station 23 from certain ruin. “The flames were impinging on the fire station...so they stopped, pulled out their hoses, and they suppressed the fire and saved that station,” Allee said. “The firefighters at that station were already fighting fires on the other side of the community. It got so bad, the flames

See Fire Relief, page 6

# Business Takes a Hit in Palisades Fire

Our family at Palisades Screen & Glass are humbled to take this opportunity to extend our deepest appreciation for our first responders, customers, and community in El Segundo. The support and donations we have received after losing our business in the Palisades Fire have been incredible.

Palisades Screen & Glass was opened by Ken Stier in the Pacific Palisades in 1973 and passed down to his son Jerry Stier. Jerry, his two sons, and his lifelong friend Tony Goodreau were all born and raised here in El Segundo. Together they have carried on the legacy of the company by providing excellent service across the South Bay.

We are devastated over the loss of our business in the Palisades, and memories that came with it. Despite all of the heart-ache endured, we are working diligently to rebuild our business and return to a sense of normalcy.

We are proud to say that Palisades Screen & Glass is still open for business, serving our customers from a new location. As we navigate this troubling time, we will continue to service the South Bay with the same quality of work that’s become expected of us by our wonderful clients. You can visit us at palisadesscreenandglass.com for more of our story. •



ESFD firefighters fight the flames and hurricane winds at the Palisades fire. Photo provided by El Segundo Fire Department.



One of the owners Jerry Stier on the left and his longtime friend and shop manager Tony Goodreau on the right.



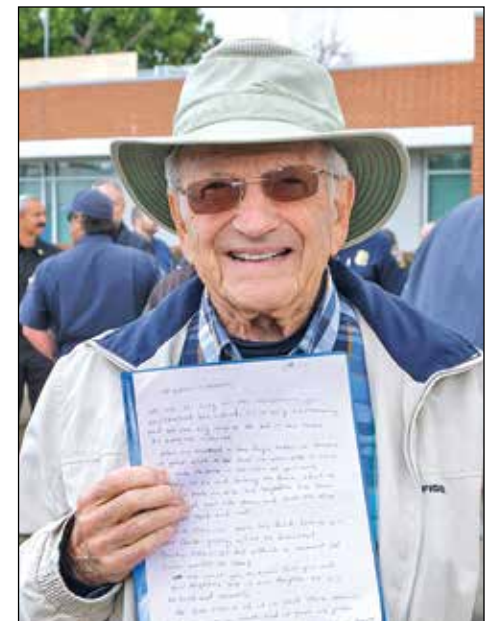
ESFD members and Palisades resident whose engagement ring was recovered from the rubble. Photo provided by El Segundo Fire Department.



The business completely destroyed. Photos provided by Ali Stier.



Palisades resident’s engagement ring recovered by ESFD. Photo provided by El Segundo Fire Department.



Tony Nesburn holds the heartwarming note left by El Segundo firefighters who saved his home from the Pacific Palisades Fire. Photo provided by City of El Segundo.

# Sports

## Eagles Push for Playoff Hopes

By Gregg McMullin

With the Winter sports schedules winding down this week, there should be some clarity on who is in and who is out of the playoff picture. The girls' water polo team is in, while the boys' soccer team should get in. The girls' basketball team has an outside opportunity, while the girls' soccer team should clinch a berth. The boys' basketball team will need a miracle to get in.

### Water Polo Team in Division 2 Playoffs

The Eagles gave the Palos Verdes Sea Kings, the eighth-ranked team nationally, a run for the Bay League title. El Segundo led 4-3 after the first period, but the Sea Kings outscored the Eagles 5-1 in the third period and went on to defeat the Eagles 12-7.

Eagle goalie Kendall Donahue had nine blocks, giving her 298 for the year. The four-year starter now has 904 career blocks. With

at least one more game (the CIF first-round playoff match), Donahue could move into sixth place on the all-time CIF block list.

The Eagles advanced to Friday's second-round CIF Southern Section Division 2 playoff game after receiving a first-round bye. They face the winner of Arlington (Riverside)/Temple City at home on Friday at 5 p.m. The winner advances to next Wednesday's quarter-finals.

### Boys Soccer Makes Their Playoff Bid

The Eagles defeated Mira Costa and South Torrance to improve their Bay League record to 4-3, good for a three-way tie for second place. They played Palos Verdes this past Monday, and a win would most likely guarantee an invite to the playoff dance.

### Girls Soccer Looking for Playoff Berth

Monday's game with the North Torrance

Saxons had plenty of storylines. It was Senior Night, honoring the program's seniors. It was also a game the Eagles needed to win to secure a second-place Pioneer League finish to punch their CIF playoff ticket.

### Girls Basketball Should Get an Invite

The Eagles have hit a rough patch, having lost six of their last seven games. They had plenty of incentive on Tuesday against the South Torrance Spartans. It was Senior Night, and a win over the Spartans would send the top of the league into chaos with a potential three-way tie. It would also give the Eagles their eighteenth win, giving them an argument for a fourth-place team getting into the playoffs.

### Boys Hoopsters Need a Miracle

The Eagles have struggled in the second half of games this season. Most of their

losses end up on the losing end because of turnovers and a lack of free-throw conversions. Their 68-66 double-overtime loss to Pioneer League-leading North Torrance Saxons was winnable in regulation but failed to convert free throws down the stretch. El Segundo went 4-12 at the free throw line and fell to the Saxons.

The Eagles had the opportunity to end their regular season on a high note on Tuesday night when the program honored their seniors. However, a miracle would be needed for the Eagles to play next week in the playoffs.

You can follow the CIF Southern Section playoffs and where and when the Eagles will start their playoff run on Saturday when the brackets are released (cifss.org). The soccer brackets for both boys and girls will be released at 10 a.m., and the brackets for both girls' and boys' basketball will be released at noon on Saturday. •

## Boys Soccer Defeats Mira Costa, Prepares for Playoffs

Story and Photos by Andre Sugden (student correspondent)

Before last week, it had been a decade since El Segundo last defeated Mira Costa. The Eagles snapped that streak on Thursday, defeating the Mustangs in a thrilling 2-1 victory.

In their first of two games against Mira Costa last week, El Segundo suffered a nail-biting defeat at home, 3-2. A brace from junior Brad Haug wasn't enough, as defending the Mustang's relentless attacks proved too daunting a task for the Eagles. However, from that game, El Segundo showed that they were more than capable of hanging with Costa.

Thursday came around, and El Segundo marched into Mira Costa High School with

a newfound moxie. The first half began, and both teams looked to gain momentum from the get-go. However, Mira Costa's steady stream of attack, coupled with the setting sun's blinding glare made it difficult for El Segundo to find their footing. Surely enough, in the 16th minute, Mira Costa took an early lead. Despite being on the back foot, El Segundo came out of the first half down just 1-0.

The Mustangs came out in the 2nd half playing passively, content to control the ball, and were waiting for the Eagles to wilt. With the score still 1-0, El Segundo earned a free kick, and junior Pierce Moore quickly crossed the free kick over a complacent Mira Costa defense. Waiting at the back post was

sophomore Bryant Waites, who headed the ball across the goal mouth to a wide-open Max Abroms for an easy finish to tie it 1-1.

For the next ten minutes, the Eagles sustained pressure on a stunned Mustang side, and in the 74th minute, El Segundo earned yet another free kick in the attacking third.

Senior captain Ricky Martocci's free-kick floated into the penalty box and was met by a leaping Erik Fallon, who nodded the ball over the keeper. Seemingly frozen in place,

the Mustang's defense watched as Fallon's header nestled into the back of the net. The Eagles, after being down early, made the improbable comeback and led 2-1 with minutes left.

Behind by a goal late and on their own turf, Mira Costa launched a rally of desperate attacks. However, the Eagle's defense held strong, as they had done all half. Mira Costa's last chance came in the dying moments when


See Boys Soccer, page 11




Ricky Martocci controls this pass against Mira Costa.




Kai Fugimoto drives against Mira Costa.




**Arms length**




**Arms all around you**




**An attempt at love**



**Love**




**You're sweet**



**You're HOT!**


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*We wish you a happy and loving Valentine's Day*


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- Classified ads must be submitted in writing by email. Send ad copy to: [class@heraldpublications.com](mailto:class@heraldpublications.com).
- Submissions & payments are due no later than NOON on Tuesdays. We take Visa and/or MC credit cards ONLY. Cash and checks are no longer accepted. Late fee is \$20 extra.
- We do not allow paragraph breaks or other formatting except bolding of the first 3 or 4 words. Ad placement is usually sorted randomly... depending on space & layout... and at our discretion. Request for special placement will be \$20 extra per week. Request for special formatting will be \$10 extra per week. This is limited to bolding, caps, and border. Images, logos, etc are not allowed in classified ads.
- Classified ads are published in ALL our papers.
- Weekly renewal is \$10/wk IF you notify us WITHIN your ad run timeframe... else renewals are full price.
- You may cancel your ad at any time by contacting us. No credit is given for unused/prepaid weeks.
- Publication confirmation will be emailed after approval. Etearsheet, if requested, will be provided the Monday after Publication Date.
- Errors: Please check your advertisements immediately. Any corrections and/or changes in an ad must be requested prior to the following Tuesday deadline in order to receive a credit. A credit will be issued for only the first time the error appears. Multiple runs will only be credited for the first time the error appears. No credit will be issued for an amount greater than the cost of the advertisement.
- Beware: Employment offers that suggest guaranteed out-of-state or overseas positions may be deceptive or unethical in nature. If you have any doubts about the nature of a company, contact the local office of the Better Business Bureau, (213) 251-9696. Herald Publications does not guarantee that the advertiser's claims are true nor does it take responsibility for those claims.
- We reserve the right to refuse publication of any ad for any reason.

### EMPLOYMENT

**Mattel HQ, Inc.** has the following positions available in El Segundo, CA: Associate Manager, Global Strategic Sourcing Logistics (CIPMMC): Support the Sr. Manager Global Procurement with special projects for Latin America countries such as Transportation, Customs Brokerage, & other Logistics categories, including category assessment, market analysis, project management (including executive updates), participants due diligence, & contract execution. Telecommuting is permitted one day per week. Annual salary range: \$143,624 - \$163,624. Send resume to: [talentacquisition@mattel.com](mailto:talentacquisition@mattel.com). Must reference job title and job code.

### GARAGE SALE

**Huge Family Garage Sale** - March 1 @ 7am. 531 Richmond St. (ALLEY). Tons of name brand clothes (men/women/kids/shoes), toys, sportswear, home goods (vintage?) and more.

### WANTED

VINYL RECORDS, cassettes, CD's,

78's, anything musical & collectible. T-shirts, programs, posters, tickets, audio equipment. Buy/Sell. Studio Antiques & Vinyl. 310.322.3895. El Segundo.

### EMPLOYMENT

**Mattel HQ, Inc.** has the following positions available in El Segundo, CA: Solution Architect (CIPMM): Work with internal customers & external consultants, support project & operational tasks as they relate to the Workday system, such as integrations, reporting, managing the production support resources, & support the HRIS resources with Workday-related activities and tasks. Telecommuting is permitted one day per week. Annual salary range: \$154,070 - \$174,070. Software Engineer - Data and Platforms (CIPAS): Design & implement the data pipeline architecture & optimize data flow & collection for cross-functional groups, considering scalability in mind. Annual salary range: \$136,123 - \$156,123. Send resume to: [talentacquisition@mattel.com](mailto:talentacquisition@mattel.com). Must reference job title and job code.

### WANTED

**ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES,** jewelry, military, pottery, garden, mid-century, retro, art, ASIAN, silver, coins, stamps, anything unusual. FREE APPRAISALS. You know us from Storage Wars. Buy/Sell. 310.322.3895. El Segundo.

### FOR RENT

**Room for rent** in Santa Monica month to month 850 that including utilities preferred a woman more information call (310) 692-7693

### EMPLOYMENT

**Slalom's El Segundo, CA** office has multiple openings for Manager, Talent Acquisition. (various types/levels): Plan, direct, or coordinate human resources activities and staff of an organization. \$150,243 - \$177,132,72 per year. TO APPLY: Go to [www.jobpostingtoday.com](http://www.jobpostingtoday.com), search for job code 54883 & submit resume.

To appear in next week's paper, submit your Classified Ad by Noon on Tuesday. Late Ads will incur a \$20.00 late fee.

## WEEKLY CROSSWORD

See Answers Next Week

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12			13		14				15				
16				17		18				19			
20					21	22			23	24			
			25			26	27			28			
29	30	31				32		33					
34					35		36		37		38	39	40
41					42			43			44		
45			46	47		48				49			
				50		51		52		53			
54	55	56				57		58					
59				60			61		62		63	64	65
66			67			68		69		70			
71						72				73			
74						75					76		

### Across

- Time delay
- Word in an Ernest Hemingway title
- Birds in barns
- Typical Jordanian
- Chair
- People movers
- Unearthly
- Sensible
- On one hand
- Country
- Cry in a mudslinging contest
- Prize
- Anon's partner
- Duds
- Was in pain
- Divide in a way
- A Swiss army knife has lots of them
- Fruitless
- Bagel order, maybe
- Fishing equipment
- Santa's people
- Adam's mate
- Get a hold of
- Coordinate
- Ship members
- Griddle
- Positions

### Down

- Bowling green
- Stretch
- Way to go
- Clod
- Not phony
- Agitated
- Embezzles
- Wide of the mark
- Scale's job
- Bank
- Blocks
- Legless undies
- Symbol of peace
- Guts

- Highway
- Kingdom
- Deuce in hold'em
- Did like Beyonce
- Cybercafe patron
- Goat's milk product
- Behaves like a loon
- Bird homes
- Abysmal test score
- Straight
- Latest information
- Mold
- Resort with mineral springs
- Approach
- Arctic or inner
- Tease relentlessly
- Instructor
- Hang out
- Uncanny
- Pintos, e.g.
- Great fear
- Blast sound
- Show disapproval
- Dark side
- Disavow
- Prepared
- Doctor's charge

*"I still believe, in spite of everything, that people are truly good at heart."*

- ANNE FRANK

## DEADLINES

- OBITUARIES:** Monday at noon.
- CALENDAR ITEMS:** Monday at noon.
- PEOPLE ITEMS:** Monday at noon.
- CLASSIFIEDS:** Tuesday at noon.
- LEGAL NOTICES:** Wednesday at 11:00 am.
- REAL ESTATE ADS:** Monday at noon.
- AD CANCELLATIONS:** Prior Thursday.

LATE CANCELLATIONS WILL BE CHARGED 50% OF AD



HERALD PUBLICATIONS

## EMPLOYMENT

### DATA WAREHOUSING SPECIALISTS

**Sidecar Health, INC** has an oppty for a Data Engr. Perform data quality checks and data cleanup for the data stored in the data warehouse. \$145,000.00/yr to \$145,000.00/yr. Position based in El Segundo, CA. May work from the company headquarters in El Segundo, CA. May reside anywhere in the US and work remotely from home.

Email resume w/Ref# REF7946248 to [Hr@sidecarhealth.com](mailto:Hr@sidecarhealth.com). Must be legally auth to work in the U.S. w/o spnsrshp. EOE

### Last Week's Answers

1	F	A	N	4	R	I	C	H	8	W	A	10	P				
12	A	R	E	13	A	14	I	D	L	E	15	A	L	O	U	16	D
17	U	S	E	R	18	D	I	A	L	19	R	A	L	L	Y		
20	N	O	D	E	S	21	O	W	L	22	S	23	R	O	P	E	
24	A	N	Y	25	C	A	T	S	26	A	I	M					
27	C	A	N	S	28	A	G	O	29	P	R	O					
30	H	O	R	T	31	S	W	A	N	32	A	I	D				
33	A	K	I	N	34	E	E	L	35	O	N	T	O				
36	P	A	R	37	A	L	T	38	G	I	N	G	E	R			
39	E	Y	E	40	A	T	M	41	C	A	S	E					
42	T	W	O	43	P	U	L	L	44	A	B	S					
45	A	U	T	46	M	E	A	T	47	A	G	L	E				
48	S	P	R	49	A	T	O	50	P	51	L	E	A	N			
52	H	O	U	53	R	I	F	E	54	E	N	D	S				
55	N	E	T	56	S	O	F	A	57	T	E						

8	4	7	5	3	2	9	6	1
6	5	3	9	8	1	7	4	2
9	1	2	6	4	7	5	3	8
7	8	6	4	2	9	1	5	3
4	3	9	8	1	5	6	2	7
1	2	5	3	7	6	8	9	4
5	7	1	2	6	4	3	8	9
2	6	8	7	9	3	4	1	5
3	9	4	1	5	8	2	7	6

### SUDOKU Medium

		7		2				8	
4			6						
			3	7				6	1
		8	1	9			4		6
					2			5	
		3							
		1	2					3	7
					1		3	8	
		6							

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9.



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# Entertainment



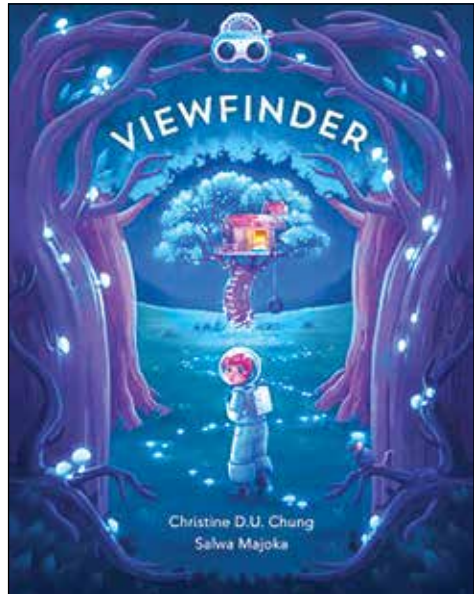
## Check It Out

### Viewfinder by Christine Chung

By Kristina Kora-Beckman, Senior Librarian, El Segundo Public Library

This week, I'm reviewing a wordless graphic novel, *Viewfinder* by Christine Chung. Filled with lush, gorgeous spreads, this story reminded me of Aaron Becker's Journey picture book series.

Sporting pink hair, a young space traveler happens upon Earth and finds many wonderful things, but no people. While exploring a school, she discovers a time capsule and a retro viewfinder complete with picture wheel, which shows clues of what earth used to look like with people. Shown in sepia tones, the before photos give hints as to what happened



*Viewfinder* by Christine Chung.

before but the details are left to the readers' imagination.

Plant and animal life abound in human-less earth, including ever present glowing mushrooms that power street lamps and attach to animals. My favorite scenes include falling into a library populated by zoo animals and finding a tree house that connects adventures near and far.

If you haven't tried a wordless book, I highly recommend it. Better yet, share it with a loved one and muse together the mysteries of what was, what is and what is to come.

Check out more wordless reads in physical copy or online through the Libby app. Don't have a library card yet? Sign up on our website, [www.elsegundolibrary.org](http://www.elsegundolibrary.org). It's easy, and free for California residents. •



Kristina Kora-Beckman

## West Basin Announces 2025 Board Positions

At the January meeting of the West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin or District) Board of Directors, the board selected officers for 2025 with a unanimous vote. Division II Director Gloria Gray will serve as President; Division V Director Donald L. Dear as Vice President; Division IV Director Scott Houston as Treasurer; and Division III Director Desi Alvarez as Secretary.

The president facilitates committee appointments and the assignments of representatives to affiliated organizations. It is her primary responsibility to interpret the policies, programs and needs of the District to the public.

"As we navigate the pressing challenges of the state's water supply, including extreme weather conditions due to climate change, I remain committed to upholding the values of innovation, sustainability, and community stewardship," said Gray. "I am honored to serve as the Board President and look forward to leading the District in advancing our vital mission of securing water for tomorrow. Together with my fellow board members, we will continue to ensure our communities have access to safe and reliable water."

Gray was first elected to the West Basin Board of Directors in 2006, and represents the Division II cities of Inglewood, portions of Gardena and Hawthorne and the unincorporated LA County areas of Ladera Heights, View Park-Windsor Hills, West Athens, and Westmont. She has served in many leadership capacities within the water industry, most

recently as the immediate past chairwoman of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) Board of Directors. She was the first African American and first person of color to lead the MWD board, from January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2022, and the second woman to do so in MWD's 90-year history. She also has served on the board of directors of the Association of California Water Agencies, among many other notable accomplishments and contributions to advancing water sustainability and resource management.

As vice president, Dear – who serves Gardena, Hawthorne, Lawndale and unincorporated Los Angeles County areas of El Camino Village – is responsible for performing all the duties of the president during the temporary or permanent absence of the president.

As treasurer, Houston – who represents Culver City, El Segundo, Malibu, West Hollywood, a portion of Hawthorne, and unincorporated Del Aire, Marina del Rey, Topanga and Wiseburn – is to review the board's financial status and oversee project, reserve and cost of issuance funds.

As secretary, Alvarez – who represents the cities of Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach, Lomita, as well as West Torrance and West Carson – ensures the maintenance of district records and that public meetings are noticed in accordance with all laws.

For more information on the West Basin board and committees, visit: [www.westbasin.org/board-of-directors](http://www.westbasin.org/board-of-directors).

– Provided by West Basin •

*"Water is life's matter and matrix, mother and medium. There is no life without water."*

– ALBERT SZENT-GYORGYI, M.D.

## Film Review

### *My Old Ass* is a Smart, Charming Comedy About Appreciating the Present

By Morgan Rojas for Cinemacy

In 2021, Megan Park made her directorial debut at SXSW with *The Fallout*. The drama, starring Jenna Ortega and Maddie Ziegler, went on to win the festival's top honor, the Grand Jury Prize for Narrative Feature. Three years later, Park returns with another festival darling in her sophomore film, *My Old Ass*. Featuring a delightfully deadpan Aubrey Plaza and rising star Maisy Stella, *My Old Ass* premiered at the 2024 Sundance Film Festival to near-universal audience admiration before it was acquired by Amazon MGM Studios for \$15 million. Now playing on Amazon Prime Video.

Elliott (Stella) is counting down the last days of summer at home before relocating to the big city for college. On the evening of her 18th birthday, Elliott and a couple of friends celebrate her impending adulthood by camping. They bring with them a plastic baggie of mushrooms that are all but guaranteed to induce a psychedelic trip. Elliott doesn't immediately feel the effects and is convinced she is immune to the drug. That is until she comes face-to-face—literally—with her future self. Sitting next to 18-year-old Elliott is 39-year-old Elliott (Plaza), whose words of wisdom and foreboding messages about what to expect in her future become all too much.

Both intrigued and horrified, Elliott eventually begins to humor her future self's warnings, whom she endearingly calls her "old ass". The most simplistic of the requests: stay away from a boy named Chad. It seems easy enough. But

when she eventually bumps into a tall, blonde-haired, blue-eyed stranger who introduces himself as Chad (Percy Hynes White), her intentions get muddy with desire. Everything becomes complicated until Elliott comes to the realization that she only has one life, and she wants to live it to the fullest.

*My Old Ass* has many classic coming-of-age tropes that audiences will find comforting, like the journey of self-discovery and the butterflies of a first love. The film strikes the right balance between these nostalgic moments and more progressive themes, like navigating a fluid sexual identity. Director Megan Park crafts an honest, heartfelt story that also encapsulates a sense of freshness. The film's comedic leanings offer a charming examination of young adulthood.

Maisy Stella commands the screen as the angsty adolescent with a heart of gold. Her naturalness onscreen against comedy veteran Aubrey Plaza is impressive, giving a wise beyond-her-years aura. For her part as the titular "old ass," Plaza is expectedly great. Her dialogue delivery hits every humorous inflection point and even offers us a curve ball during the final scene's more emotional moments. My only complaint is that I wish we had more of her! Plaza only appears in two scenes, albeit very pivotal ones, but I selfishly wanted her presence to linger throughout the film.

A feel-good comedy that will leave audiences reminiscing about the good ol' days, *My Old Ass* checks the box as another homerun from filmmaker Megan Park. The film ends on a heartwarming, slightly melancholy note, serving as a reminder that love is a gift, uncertainty is unavoidable, and the only thing you can't get back is time, so it is important to appreciate the moment. •



*My Old Ass*, courtesy Amazon Prime.



Morgan Rojas



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# Fire Relief

from page 2



ESFD at an incident briefing for the Palisades fire. Photo courtesy El Segundo Fire Department.



Police Captain Gilbert Sanchez (behind podium) Fire Battalion Chief Casey Snow (by his side). Photos provided by City of El Segundo.



Mayor Chris Pimentel.

were so high, and the heat was so intense that they were almost overtaken. They had to jump in their engines and evacuate the area or they were going to get burned.”

That the firefighters were able to stay at out of harm’s way is a testament to their own resourcefulness and awareness as well as continual monitoring by the strike team leader who served as the eyes and ears while personnel were actively engaged.

Meanwhile, back in El Segundo, Chief Avery constantly communicated with the crews. “He had his finger on the pulse of everything they were doing,” Allee reported. “We checked in with them all the time and wanted to know the general feeling of our firefighters, their morale, and if they were still healthy...and check if there were injuries where we might need to swap them out with somebody here. Also, if they could get a hold of their families. If not, we would do that for them.”

Indeed, the degree of sacrifice and understanding of the dangers inherent in this ordeal extended beyond the firefighters themselves to their families. Captain Partlow’s wife Jenna didn’t know how to respond when their young son asked, “Is Daddy coming home?” Avery admitted there is no assurance that will be the case, though so far, so good.

Avery was part of a federal incident command team—a group of 25 leaders who go from fire to fire in the Western United States to assess the areas and order resources as needed. “Of all the fires I have ever seen, this was absolutely the worst,” he said. It had burned nearly 28,000 acres plus over 6,300 homes and structures as of the time of this interview. “There were so many displaced families who lost their most valuable and memorable items—things that they’ve cherished for years,” Avery continued. “I drove through that area

the third day after the fire. I never saw a fire that consumed homes that were on the beach. These people were in front of their homes that were destroyed and were just crying with their heads in their hands and talking to each other. The feeling that came over me was just unbelievable sadness.”

With all the destruction, some uplifting stories rose to the forefront. The El Segundo firefighters saved a Palisades residence and one of the captains wrote a letter to the homeowner that eventually got the attention of Ryan Seacrest. “They read the letter on the Seacrest show, and everyone was in tears,” Avery said. “It came from the hearts of the firefighters and how honored they were to save the home. It’s another example of their bravery, commitment, and endurance—and what they’re willing to give to save lives and property.”

In another instance, a woman stood in front of her house in despair because her engagement ring had been lost in the rubble inside. She resigned herself to never seeing it again. “Our firefighters said, ‘Let us give it a try,’ and they dug for hours until they found that ring,” Avery said. The crew also saved a waterfront home in Malibu even though the neighboring house was completely destroyed.

As mentioned, firefighters were not the only local heroes who worked tirelessly to make a difference. As part of the Area G Platoon, which consists of 10 South Bay law enforcement agencies, 23 El Segundo officers and supervisors came to Altadena to deal with ongoing issues connected to the Eaton Fire. ESPD Sergeant Jeremy Glunt said the officers played a “vital role” in “ensuring the safety of evacuated areas, deterring criminal activity, and effectively responding to critical incidents.” ESPD was present for seven days alongside a total of 75 agencies and worked

16-hour shifts to “safeguard lives, homes, and businesses,” particularly due to looting activity. Glunt described the sacrifices made by the officers who were on “collateral duty” in addition to their regular shifts—with long hours away from family, enduring heavy physical demands, and risking exposure to hazardous/toxic materials. He also talked of the mental toll associated with witnessing tragic situations, but lauded the officers for continuing to answer the call. “This is more than just a job—it’s a calling,” Glunt said.

As far as answering the call, Avery praised the El Segundo Mayor, City Council, City Manager, and staff for their leadership, involvement, and support throughout the process and for being proactive in communicating with locals every step of the way. He was also astounded at the community’s response, which “came out in droves” to help the fire victims. “We were amazed at the outpouring of generosity from every citizen, every business, anyone that was in El Segundo—they kept coming through our front door with donations, monetary, clothing, food... just incredible hearts that our citizens have,” he said.

The City also jumped into action to make a positive impact. Moves included issuing temporary RV parking permits without fees to allow displaced families an extended stay in town without fear of ticketing, assessing zero fees on short-term rental permits through April 13, and imposing no hotel tax charges on extended stay guests through April 13. The City also suspended street sweeping parking enforcement through January 24 and prohibited leaf blowers to ensure cleaner air quality. For a period, smoke filled the air in El Segundo and caused great concern among residents and businesses worried that embers

could make their way here.

The plight of displaced families will continue for a long time to come as the victims look to secure new living arrangements. As a result, many El Segundo hotels report they are completely packed at the moment. It’s not an ideal circumstance to drive up the hospitality business. Yet, in one case, some local hotel guests helped save a life. On January 20, a strike team from Santa Cruz happened to be staying in town to get some much-needed rest before another deployment when they responded to an accident on Vista del Mar. A motorcyclist traveling about 80 miles per hour at 5:30 pm lost control and crashed. His arm had severed, and he was bleeding to death. The Santa Cruz paramedics stopped the bleeding, and El Segundo firefighters arrived two minutes later to start IVs to keep the gentleman alive. “We transported him to the hospital, and they were able to get his arm reattached,” Allee said.

Avery emphasized that ESFD’s speedy response occurred even though two engines and eight personnel were still in the Palisades area. “Our policy is we will never reduce the service level to the community,” he said. “We hired back firefighters that were off duty to cover the others who were on the strike team. We backfilled and had them on reserve engines so we could be fully staffed and completely in service.” The individuals “off duty” worked for about a week straight. It’s part and parcel of the career they signed up for, and they reiterated that they are proud and humbled to be of service. And when it comes to mutual aid to help those in other communities, such as in Pacific Palisades, there is only one mantra, according to Partlow: “Whenever there is a call to respond, we don’t ask,” he said. “We just go...”



El Segundo Fire Chief George Avery (behind podium), Fire Battalion Chief Casey Snow (by his side), joined by Police Captain Gilbert Sanchez, City Manager Darrell George, Mayor Chris Pimentel, and Mayor Pro Tem Ryan Baldino seated below.



Fire Captain Bryan Partlow.

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# Real Estate



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## Top Essentials for Outdoor Living Spaces

(BPT) - Whether you dream of entertaining or relaxing, you want to make memories in beautiful outdoor areas curated to reflect your tastes. Here are several essentials that will help you create the ultimate oasis in your backyard.

For those who love to entertain or simply enjoy cooking outdoors, high-quality outdoor cooking appliances are a game-changer. Stainless outdoor grills, griddles, smokers and pizza ovens provide a top-notch cooking experience and add a touch of style to your outdoor space. Make sure to invest in appliances that are designed to stand the test of time while providing

exceptional performance, like those from Belgard's Elements line.

Your outdoor space should feel like an extension of your home. One way you can recreate the privacy of your indoor spaces outside is with privacy screens and outdoor curtains. Available in a variety of designs and material options, you'll find the right one to enhance the aesthetic of your outdoor spaces.

Other worthwhile additions to consider are pergolas and umbrellas to create shaded areas for additional comfort. If you have a patio or deck, adding greenery to the space can instantly create a welcoming ambiance.

Planters can add a unique design, and when using the highest quality materials, they can offer exceptional performance and long-lasting durability.

Transform your backyard into a warm, inviting haven where memories are made with fire features. For example, outdoor firepits and firepit inserts elevate your outdoor experience by creating a cozy focal point in your backyard. Whether you need a stone fire pit or a gas fire pit insert, you'll find the right product to make your family and guests want to gather outdoors for warmth, comfort and bonding. For more ideas and design inspiration, visit ElementsHome.com.



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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**City of El Segundo  
Notice of Public Hearing**

The CITY COUNCIL will hold a public hearing on:

**Zone Text Amendment on Multiple-Family Residential Parking Requirements**

**Address:** Citywide

**Project Description:** An ordinance amending the El Segundo Municipal Code ("ESMC") Title 15 Chapter 15 (Off-Street Parking and Loading) to update the parking requirements for multiple-family residential uses. (Environmental Assessment No. EA-1367 and Zone Text Amendment No. ZTA 24-02)

**Applicant:** City of El Segundo

**Hearing:** Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 6:00pm  
City Council Chambers  
350 Main Street, El Segundo, CA 90245

**Environmental Determination:** The proposed zone text amendment is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA Section 15061), because it consists only of minor revisions to existing zoning regulations and related procedures and does not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.

**Planning Commission Action:**  
On February 13, 2025, the Planning Commission held a public hearing and adopted a resolution recommending that City Council approve the above amendment to the City's Zoning Code.

**Further Information:** The public can participate in person at the location above and may provide comments via email to [allcitycouncil@elsegundo.org](mailto:allcitycouncil@elsegundo.org) by no later than 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday March 4, 2025. In the subject line please state, "Public Hearing for EA-1367." Comments may also be submitted by mail to 350 Main Street, El Segundo, CA 90245 (Attn: Paul Samaras).

El Segundo Herald Pub. 2/06/25  
H-28861



**Order to Show Cause for Change of Name  
Case No. 25TRCP00012**

Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES  
Petition of: DIEDRE HARRINGTON for Change of Name  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:  
Petitioner DIEDRE HARRINGTON filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
DIEDRE HARRINGTON  
to  
DIERDRE HARRINGTON  
The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter 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. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is

scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.  
Notice of Hearing:  
Date: 2-28-2025, Time: 9:30 AM., Dept.: 8.  
The address of the court is:  
SOUTHWEST DISTRICT  
ONE REGENT STREET  
INGLEWOOD, CA 90301  
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:  
EL SEGUNDO HERALD  
Date: January 7, 2025  
RONALD F FRANK  
Judge of the Superior Court  
El Segundo Herald Pub: 1/16, 1/23, 1/30, 2/6/25

H-28844

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Fictitious Business Name Statement  
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This business is being conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 03/2011.  
Signed: LANCASTER RHF HOUSING, INC., SECRETARY, LAURA FOX BUCHAN. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on December 17, 2024.  
NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on December 17, 2029. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to December 17, 2029. Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code).  
El Segundo Herald: Pub. 1/9, 1/16, 1/23, 1/30/25  
H-3732

City of El Segundo

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION  
OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND  
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING**

**1521 E. GRAND AVENUE RESIDENTIAL PROJECT**

City Project No.: **EA 1353**

Project Name: 1521 E. Grand Avenue Residential Project (Grand Kansas North)

Project Applicant: Griffin Capital Catalyst Development Fund, LLC

Project Address: 1521 E. Grand Avenue, El Segundo, CA 90245

Public Comment Period: **February 6, 2025 to March 7, 2025**

Public Scoping Meeting: **February 26, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**

Pursuant to Section 21165 of the California Public Resources Code and Section 15050 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the City of El Segundo (City) is the Lead Agency for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed 1521 E. Grand Avenue Residential Project (Project). In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15082, the City has prepared this Notice of Preparation (NOP) to provide responsible and trustee agencies, the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, and the County Clerk with sufficient information describing the Project and its potential environmental effects to enable a meaningful response to this NOP.

The City is requesting the public's and relevant agencies' specific and detailed input regarding the scope and content of the environmental information related to your agency's statutory responsibility that must be included in the Draft EIR. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15083, this NOP also serves to facilitate consultation with any persons or organizations that may be concerned with the environmental effects of the Project. Additionally, this NOP serves as a notice for the public Scoping Meeting, which is held to receive input on the scope of the environmental document. The City of El Segundo has prepared an Initial Study in accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15070.

**Project Location.** The approximately 3.617-acre Project site is located at 1521 E. Grand Avenue (Assessor Parcel Numbers [APNs] 4139-008-010, -011, -012, -018, -046 and -047 in the northwestern quadrant of the City of El Segundo. The Project site is bound by Holly Avenue to the north, Kansas Street to the west, Grand Avenue to the south, and Washington Street (a private street) to the east. The project has been referred to as the Grand Kansas North project or Catalyst North project.

**Project Description Overview.** The proposed Project involves the adoption and implementation of the new Grand & Kansas Specific Plan. The Specific Plan would allow for the development of 323 multifamily residential units with supportive amenity and recreation areas, including public and private open space. The residential units would be in a single building ranging from three to six levels across seven distinct stories given the 26.88' grade change across the sloped Project Site. The building height measures 59'-6" per the El Segundo Municipal Code with an apparent height of 36'-9" to 46'-11" from Holly Street and 36'-3" to 59'-7" from Kansas Street and will total approximately 343,505 sf of gross floor area. Parking would be provided in a 6-level parking structure (approximately one level below grade and 6 levels above grade) measuring approximately 59'-7" feet in height and totaling approximately 163,797 sf of gross area located at the southeast corner of the property. The Project would include two outdoor courtyards, three roof decks, approximately 9,076 sf of indoor amenity and recreation areas, and private balconies and patios for most units. The proposed project includes the following entitlement requests:

- General Plan Amendment to change the land use designation from Smoky Hollow Mixed Use to Grand & Kansas Residential.
- Smoky Hollow Specific Plan Amendment to remove the property from the Smoky Hollow Specific Plan Area.
- Adoption of the new Grand & Kansas Specific Plan.
- Zoning Map Amendment to rezone the property Grand & Kansas Specific Plan.
- Zoning Text Amendment to codify the Grand & Kansas Specific Plan.
- Site Plan Review to review the Project for compliance with the Grand & Kansas Specific Plan.
- Development Agreement to outline the conditions and standards for developing the property, and the obligations of the developer and the City.
- Tract Map to combine the parcels into one lot for the Project, and one lot for Washington Street.
- Street vacation for Washington Street between E Grand Avenue and E Holly Street.

**Potential Environmental Effects of the Project.** The Project could have potentially significant environmental impacts to the following environmental topic areas: Aesthetics; Air Quality; Cultural Resources (archaeological); Energy; Geology/Soils; Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology/Water Quality; Land Use and Planning; Noise; Population and Housing; Public Services; Recreation; Transportation; Tribal Cultural Resources; and Utilities/Service Systems. Because of the existing condition of the Project site, which was previously developed, is located in an urbanized setting, and is not located within a High Fire Hazard Severity Zone or a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, the implementation of the Specific Plan is not expected to result in any significant impacts to: Agriculture and Forestry Resources; Biological Resources; Mineral Resources; and Wildfire.

This NOP, including the Initial Study is available for electronic download on the City's website at:  
<https://www.elsegundo.org/government/departments/community-development/planning-division/approved-projects/pending-projects>

**Public Scoping Meeting.** The Scoping Meeting will include a presentation describing the proposed Project and the environmental review process. The purpose of the meeting is to facilitate the receipt of comments about the scope and content of the environmental analysis to be addressed in the Draft EIR. The Scoping Meeting is for information-gathering, is not a public hearing, but public comments will be taken. No decisions about the Project will be made at the Scoping Meeting. A separate public hearing for entitlement requests will be scheduled after the completion of the Draft EIR. The date and time of the Project's Scoping Meeting are as follows:

Date and Time: **February 26, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**

Scoping Meeting Location: El Segundo City Council Chambers  
350 Main Street  
El Segundo, CA 90245

**Submitting Comments.** The City will consider all written comments regarding the potential environmental effects of the Project received during the NOP public comment period. All written comments received will be reviewed and considered by the City as part of the environmental analysis of the proposed Project and will become a part of the public record for the Draft EIR. Written comments on the content of the environmental analysis to be addressed in the Draft EIR will be accepted via email and/or via mail, and must be received by the City by **4:00 P.M., Friday, March 7, 2025**. Please direct your written comments to Eduardo Schonborn, AICP, City of El Segundo, Community Development Department, 350 Main Street, El Segundo, CA 90245, or via email to [eschonborn@elsegundo.org](mailto:eschonborn@elsegundo.org).

Eduardo Schonborn, AICP, City of El Segundo

El Segundo Herald Pub. 2/6/25  
H-28864

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## Boys Soccer

from page 3

the Mustangs were awarded a free kick just outside the penalty area. With the game on the line, Mira Costa's free kick sailed wide, and the final whistle came soon thereafter. The Eagles had defeated Mira Costa, their first win over the Mustangs in ten years. On January 6, 2015, Gilbert Cortez's assist to Grant Bemis gave the Eagles a 1-0 win.

The Eagles, coming off of a nail-biting loss to the Mustangs just two days prior, were

able to learn from their mistakes. As head coach Andrew Kelley stated, "We made some tactical changes to prohibit them from doing things that they normally do, especially in their midfield." With help from these smart adjustments, El Segundo withstood constant pressure and utilized their elite versatility on offense in their thrilling victory.

On Friday, El Segundo celebrated Senior Night in their game against South High. The

Eagles honored seniors Jackson Northington, Bennett Fischer, Erik Fallon, Evan Chen, Grady Lubs, Cyrus Shahabi, Jack Stewart, Felix Fuchs, Ricky Martocci, and Aden Calof.

After their triumphant win against Mira Costa, El Segundo's morale was at an all-time high. The Eagles took a 1-0 lead in the second minute, but failed to score for the remainder of the half. After conceding

early in the second, El Segundo regained their focus. Juniors Kai Fujimoto and Pierce Moore scored late to take a 3-1 lead. Despite conceding shortly after, the Eagles saw out their win, prevailing over South 3-2.

El Segundo faced Palos Verdes in their final league game on Monday and now awaits their CIF playoff seeding. Their first-round playoff game will take place on Thursday, February 13. •



Andre Sugden blocks Mira Costa's Trenton Zimmermann's attempt.



Tiki Hummel intercepts a pass during the South Torrance game.



The soccer program honored its seniors and their parents on Senior Night.

## City Council

from front page

Vasquez (former DEI committee member), Genesis Puckett (former DEI committee member), and two other residents spoke in support of the DEI Committee during Public Comment. Genesis Puckett, who has lived in El Segundo for six years and has three children, told the council her teenage son at El Segundo High School showed her a video of another student saying the "N" word to him when dared for a \$1 to do so by other students. Pickhaver, who is chairperson of the city's Arts and Cultural Committee, pointed out that the council in the past had selected residents who were openly anti-DEI to be on the DEI Committee, thereby causing committee meetings and time to be spent in unproductive conversations instead of moving the DEI Committee's ideas forward. He also noted that some 60 other applicants in support of DEI could have been chosen to serve on the committee. He and Goldstein also blamed the council for a lack of quorum at some DEI Committee meetings on the council's inability to interview and appoint new members in a timely fashion.

Toti Leach noted how, in 2020, after the death of George Floyd, some 300 students and community members marched in the city, and then many marchers spoke about how they don't feel safe in El Segundo schools and the community. Upon hearing this, then-Mayor Drew Boyles and other city leaders told the marchers that El Segundo is a welcoming place and that "We're going to make it safe for everyone." Toti Leach said she did not want to see the city return to the tensions of 2020. Other speakers also mentioned the uncertainty the current president and federal government are causing by their current actions and hoped El Segundo would not get rid of the DEI Committee.

Council member Giroux, who has served as the council's liaison to the DEI Committee since its inception in October 2020 (with members appointed), said, "It is a little frustrating to constantly have narratives being thrown at you that are not true." He asked how many DEI committees exist in Los Angeles County governments, noting the number is two: the City of Los Angeles and El Segundo, and that the city is a member of the South Bay Coalition Against Hate. He noted that the city's DEI Committee is an advisory committee designed to see what city government can do better from a policy perspective. "We are not on a federal or national DEI platform. We don't follow. We're not looking, and we're not paying attention to what goes on in Washington. I understand there's a lot going on right now. However, here, everything I mention, here, or talk about here has to do with here." He said, "There's no ulterior motive." He noted he believes the DEI Committee has had the most members appointed to it of any city committee because its members have left due to moving and not for "nefarious or bad reasons". He continued, "So we have been trying to fill this committee. We have been dedicated to filling this committee, so that is a false narrative." He also named committees that meet quarterly in response to a resident, saying no other committee meets quarterly: the Investment Advisory Committee, the Capital Improvement Committee, and now the city school board. He said, "The suggestion I made was, and if you read it, says 'to discuss and possibly approve amending' is what the language states. What I like to do is have conversations on the dais, not behind closed doors where nobody can see them. So I bring things up so that they get put on an agenda, so that

we can talk about it so that you will get the impression or the input from everyone up here, not just me. You'll hear it from everybody... A mistake I made. Yes, Christibelle (Villenabut, DEI Committee chair), I should have told you I was going to do this (agendize the discussion of the committee's meeting frequency. But in the end, I would have done it anyway. I would have brought it up so that we could have a discussion. So I apologize for that. I should not have blindsided you. I did not mean to do that. OK. It just kind of came up while it was happening. Alright. So, in the end, when we have this discussion, it's going to be about, OK, what is a new work plan? Is there enough work? If the committee feels that they want to stay on point and do these things, fantastic. But guess what? We get an opportunity to hear it, we get an opportunity to comment on it, and everybody gets a chance to see it, and then it's recorded. But some of these narratives keep getting thrown out. Just winding yourselves up over federal issues. You're conflating with local. It's assuming that these things are happening. I have the right as an elected official to bring up things that I feel should be discussed on the dais with my colleagues. I don't apologize for that. And I never will apologize for that." He also said, "But I'm honest about what I say, and I'm direct, and I don't lie about it... The idea that we are somehow trying to gut DEI is ludicrous... We've fought to keep that thing on. Believe me when I tell you, there is an overwhelming amount of people in this city who do not want this committee and never have wanted this."

Villenabut then presented the DEI Committee's new work plan, speaking of the committee's past impactful actions (securing a meeting between the then El Segundo police

chief with Aerospace Corporation employees who complained about being stopped by police), strengthening relationships with the city's police and fire departments, supporting Juneteenth and "Black in Mayberry" activities in the city, and mentioning more impactful actions the committee could work on moving forward. She noted that many businesses in El Segundo are "united around DEI" and that the committee wants to collect, share, and celebrate DEI connections in the city. She noted that the committee had accepted council feedback that its plans were "overly enthusiastic" and had now been scaled back in the work plan being presented. She asked that council and others "share any ideas." New council member Michelle Keldorf is now the liaison and stated her support of the committee.

In other meeting news, the council delayed a decision on the next steps for the Smoky Hollow parking program by six months, hoping to find money to cover the more expensive proposals rather than the least expensive ones. According to city staff, the city has applied for a grant but will not hear word on that for about one year.

In closing, Mayor Pimentel feted longtime resident Joan Kelly, 96, who passed on Dec. 18, 2024. Kelly, who immigrated from Dublin, Ireland, in 1957 and settled in El Segundo in 1960, opened the Kelly School of Traditional Irish Dance in 1970. She and her husband, Christopher (Christy) William Kelly, who passed in 2017, raised their four children, son Hugh, daughters Imelda, Claire, and Carol in El Segundo. Her daughters, Claire Kelly Maxwell and Carol Kelly Pirsztuk, a former El Segundo City Council member, operate the Kelly School. •

# PETSPETS **Pets** PETSPETS

## Featured Pets of the Week

Provided by Hannah Collett, spcaLA

Meet **Mulder**, a 5-year-old male Pit Bull Terrer mix! Mulder is a lovable gentle giant with a smooth grey and white coat. He loves everyone he meets and his favorite activity is spending time in the play yard. Mulder loves to play with the water hose and would make for a good beach buddy. [https://spcala.com/](https://spcala.com/adoptable/pet/?ss=LACA-A-17745)

[adoptable/pet/?ss=LACA-A-17745](https://spcala.com/adoptable/pet/?ss=LACA-A-17745)

Say hello to **Captain**, a handsome and friendly 3-year-old male Shepherd mix. Captain's heart is as big as his personality. He loves to run and jump and would love to find a family with a large backyard or someone who loves hiking and being outside. Come meet him today! [https://spcala.com/](https://spcala.com/adoptable/pet/?ss=LACA-A-17727)

[adoptable/pet/?ss=LACA-A-17727](https://spcala.com/adoptable/pet/?ss=LACA-A-17727)

Meet **Yuki**! Yuki is a friendly and social one year old female domestic short hair tabby cat. She loves nothing more than a sunny windowsill and her favorite treats, followed by her afternoon catnap. Could Yuki be your new Friend for Life? [https://spcala.com/](https://spcala.com/adoptable/pet/?ss=LACA-A-17793)

Meet **Cassidy**! Cassidy is a young female domestic short hair kitten at only 7 months old. She is very sweet and gentle and warms up to anyone who has a toy or treats in their hand. Cassidy has a gorgeous tabby and white coat. Come visit her today! <https://spcala.com/adoptable/pet/?ss=LACA-A-15733> •



Mulder



Yuki



Captain



Cassidy

*“There are few things in life more heartwarming than to be welcomed by a cat.”*  
– TAY HOHOFF