

**AZUSA UNIFIED**

## School closures appear 'likely'

Mountain View Elementary parents angry with responses from administrators regarding issue

By Christopher Yee  
cyee@sng.com  
@ChrisMYee on Twitter

Facing a proposed closure of their children's campus, Mountain View Elementary School parents were upset to hear Azusa Unified Superintendent Linda Kaminski say this week that while they're not a foregone conclusion, the closures were "very likely" to be approved by the school board next week.

100 parents attended a meeting at Mountain View on Wednesday to allow parents to voice their concerns and seek answers about Azusa Unified's proposal to close and consolidate several campuses, theirs included.

As part of the consolidation plan, Sierra High and its adjoining Adult Education Center would move to the Gladstone Street Elementary campus, whose students would be disbursed to Magnolia and Murray elementary schools. Mountain View Elementary's

dual immersion Spanish students would move to Valledale, and its students taught in English would move to Paramount Elementary, according to the plan, which estimates district enrollment to be at 7,000 students by 2021-22. That's less than half of the 15,000 students AUDS had in 2000.

As part of the meeting, parents broke into small groups and voiced concerns and questions to district officials, and most groups asked the same question: Is the consolidation plan a done deal already, even though the school board isn't set to decide until its Tuesday meeting?



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER YEE

Mountain View Elementary School parents hold signs at a meeting Wednesday asking the Azusa Unified School District to reconsider its plan to close their school and Sierra High in Glendora.

CLOSURE » PAGE 11

**EL MONTE HIGH SCHOOLS**

## STUDENTS PROVIDE FOOD FOR THOUGHT



PHOTOS BY SARAH REINGEWIRTZ — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**ABOVE:** Jaselyne Ruelas marinates chicken while Vincentius Winata and Sandra Ngo, all of Arroyo High School, help prepare their meal during a cooking competition Friday with other culinary students from Rosemead and Mountain View high schools.  
**BELOW TOP:** Rosemead High School students prepare their meal during the competition.  
**BELOW BOTTOM:** Mountain View High School students plate their meal of chicken pasta with roasted vegetables.

By Chris Lindahl  
clindahl@sng.com • @cmlindahl on Twitter

Students from three El Monte high schools Friday chopped, diced and seared their way to victory during the El Monte Union High School District's initial cooking competition. The six-member student chef teams from Rosemead, Arroyo and Mountain View high schools went head-to-head in the game-show style competition where they were required to prepare a full meal using identical surprise ingredients. The students are enrolled in the food service and food science career technical education pathway, which helps train them for jobs in the culinary industry. They had 75 minutes to complete their task, which was filmed by a video production class from Mountain View. The show is set to premiere on each school's YouTube channel May 1. Winners will be announced at the school board meeting later that evening.



**MONROVIA**

## Changes coming for local Lyft passengers

By Tyler Shaun Evains  
tevains@sng.com  
@TylerShaunE on Twitter



GETTY IMAGES

GoMonrovia, the city's transportation model, is changing the way residents can use the program, according to a city manager's update to make sure riders are of adult age. Starting Monday, Monrovia who use the Lyft Conierge or dial in the dispatch phone number for Lyft service, will be required to register to continue use. Preregistration will minimize underage use — Lyft riders must be at least 18 years-old

— and simplify billing procedures, according to the update. In lieu of spending an additional \$750,000 to \$1 million yearly, Los Angeles County opted out of on-demand Lyft services for the city, Oliver Chi, city manager for Monrovia said in

the update. The current service map includes unincorporated areas of Monrovia, which makes it difficult to account for all rides; so the county will now only provide ADA dial-a-ride service in unincorporated Monrovia. The City Council is scheduled to assess Lyft pricing changes by May. The dial-a-ride program will switch to smaller scale vans to reduce costs, allow easier maneuver and adjust to the lower volume of customers, Chi said in his update. GoMonrovia also is estab-

lishing a fee it will charge Bradbury, which will cushion Monrovia's costs for administering the program in that nearby city. The city may also apply for Metro's call for projects, which oversees L.A. County's Transportation Improvement Program, distributing money for local transportation projects, Chi said. If qualified, Monrovia could receive up to \$600,000 in ongoing federal transportation funds to support its ADA dial-a-ride services. To get an application, go to [bit.ly/20IQbQE](http://bit.ly/20IQbQE).

**AZUSA**

## Public safety topic of seminar

Today's Azusa Cares program at First Assembly of God will address issue of gang violence

By Christopher Yee  
cyee@sng.com  
@ChrisMYee on Twitter

As Azusa continues to move past the gang violence that gripped the city two months ago, local leaders continue to offer resources to help purge the specter of gang violence in the city. For the past 12 years, local leaders have held seminars on various public safety issues and offered outreach to those in need through a program called Azusa Cares. Today's seminar, at 10 a.m. at the First Assembly of God Church at 534 Alameda Ave., will address public safety.



Rocha

As much as he would like to say it wasn't, the seminar's topic is directly tied to the rash of gang violence the city saw in recent months, Mayor Joe Rocha said. "We're not going to hide our heads in the sand like the proverbial ostrich," Rocha said. "We want to educate the community to the many resources we have to help them." Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis will join representatives from the Azusa Police Department and several county service providers, including the departments of Mental Health and Public Social Services.

PROGRAM » PAGE 11

**COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

**ROSEMEAD**

**Civic Pride Day volunteers needed**

Rosemead's beautification commission is seeking volunteers for annual Civic Pride Day on May 4. At Garvey Park. Volunteers will renovate and improve the park's aesthetics. Volunteers should wear appropriate clothing and closed-toe shoes, according to a city news release. Call 626-569-2100 or email [nhaworth@cityofrosemead.org](mailto:nhaworth@cityofrosemead.org) to be a part of the beautification efforts.

**ARCADIA**

**Bookmark contest begins**

Children ages 3 to 14 can enter Arcadia Public Library's annual bookmark contest until 5:30 p.m. April 13. Entry forms can be picked up from the library's Jerry Broadwell Children's Room. The winning design will be featured in the 2019 Summer at Your Library program, according to the library. Call 626-821-5566 for more information. Arcadia Public Library is at 20 W. Duarte Road, Arcadia.

**MONROVIA**

**City worker is woman of the year**

Ariel Tolefree-Williams, Neighborhood Services Program coordinator for Monrovia, is one of Dis-

BRIEFS » PAGE 11