

# Hawthorne Press Tribune

The Weekly Newspaper of Hawthorne

Herald Publications - El Segundo, Hawthorne, Lawndale & Inglewood Community Newspapers Since 1911 - (310) 322-1830 - Vol. 61, No. 51 - December 19, 2019

## Holiday's Are Happy in Hawthorne



South Bay Workforce Investment Board and partners host the Hawthorne Teen Center's 11th Anniversary on Thursday, December 5th, 2019 at the Hawthorne Memorial Center. Photo provided by SBWIB

## Hawthorne Hotspot

By Juan Portillo

### WINTER WONDERLAND SPECTACULAR

December 21, 2019, 4pm-9pm

Memorial Park, 3901 W. El Segundo Blvd.

Get excited! It's that time of year again and once more, the City of Hawthorne is hosting the annual Winter Wonderland Spectacular at the Memorial Park. True to name, the Department of Recreation and Community services will be making it rein, with real snow setting the scene for a wholesome family affair. The event will be filled with inflatables, carnival games, and slides that will have you holding on for dear life! The event will also offer the opportunity to treat yourself to photo ops with Santa and delicious food. Hope to see you there or yule be sorry! Tickets are \$7 for 1-11 year olds and \$9 for 12 and older. For more information please call (310) 349-1640.

### SMARTPHONE USE FOR SENIORS

January 15, 2019, 5pm-7pm

Hawthorne Public Library

With technology evolving exponentially, it is essential to understand how to best utilize life's newest devices; but most importantly, how to best utilize our smartphones. This program offers older adults the opportunity to learn how smartphones can be operated to maximize their lifestyles. The program will be presented by Gigi Johnson, Found of Maramel Media. Since 2001, Maramel Media has sought to teach digital empowerment and socio-technology awareness. In the past, Maramel Media has presented similar programs of digital empowerment and literacy with organizations such as UCLA, University of Navarra, USC CTM, among others. For more information, please call (310) 679-8193.

### HAWTHORNE BUSINESS EXPO

January 29, 2019, 12:30pm - 6:30pm

Hawthorne Memorial Center

Calling all small business owners, entrepreneurs, and business oriented residents—this event is for you. Educational seminars will be presented for improving social media presence, how to build a successful website, financing your business, how to take advantage of no-cost resources, among others. There will also be a panel discussion with finance directors sharing how to open a successful business. And if this is not enough, there will also be networking opportunities for you with the numerous businesses that will be present during the Expo. Last year, there 62 exhibitors and this year the number will be more plentiful. Best of all, it is free to the public! For more information, please visit [hawthornebusinessexpo.com](http://hawthornebusinessexpo.com).

### JUAN'S THOUGHTS

*The Holiday Season - The true meaning of the Present*

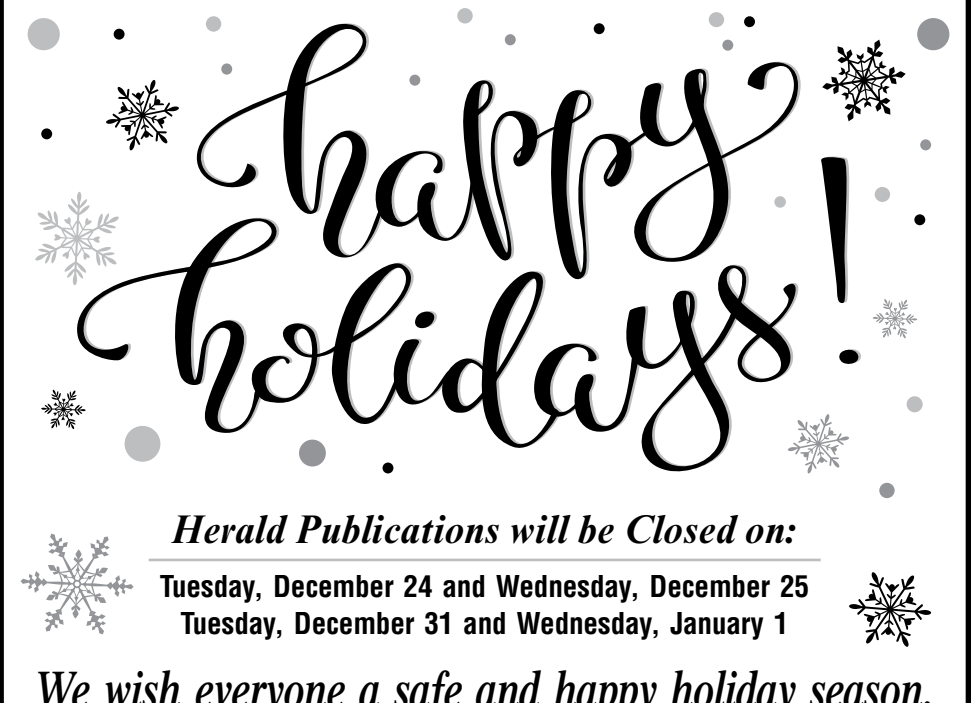
I had a supervisor two years ago that would count down the number of days to Christmas every morning. As the days dwindled, each morning, my anxiety increased in turn. You see, in 2017, I was not financially stable. The thought of purchasing gifts for all my loved ones, friends, and coworkers, on top of planning for the future became daunting. I find a lot of joy in giving and in seeing the faces of my loved ones glow when they open the gift I have carefully chosen. However, the stress of financially handicapping myself is mentally draining. And so, with 14 days left until C-Day, I want to share what I have learned from my 2017 holiday season.

2017 was a busy year. I welcomed a daughter into my life, moved back to Los Angeles, and started a new job. As a new

parent, I experienced more costs than I was prepared for and as soon as I felt a pulse in my savings account again, the holiday season was upon me. My supervisor began his daily crusade down the hallway prodding my anxiety with how many days I had left to hold onto my savings. I felt overwhelmed. But that holiday season, I felt compelled to give exorbitantly. I gave numerous gifts that year to my loved ones. While it hamstrung me financially, I felt accomplished to cross everyone off my Christmas list—except...I forgot my dad. My father, a stoic, hardened, throwback male figure was not bothered by a last-second holiday card with a picture of my daughter while those around him opened gifts. After Christmas, he confided in me that the only

thing he wishes for every year is for the success and good health of his family, and to see the newest member of our family. And so, with savings exhausted, I learned that it will not make my loved ones happy to see me struggle financially. It will make them happy to see me and my family succeed. Exhausting my savings was not a prudent decision and I now understand the value of conscious gift giving.

With T-minus 14 days, I recommend giving. Giving to your heart's content—not exorbitantly as I did, but meaningfully and consciously. The weight of a gift should not be its dollar price but rather its worth to the person it's meant for. After all, these are moments to enjoy, not dread. I wish you all Happy Holidays! •



# Happy Holidays!

*Herald Publications will be Closed on:*  
**Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25**  
**Tuesday, December 31 and Wednesday, January 1**

*We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.*