

South Bay Cities

Featuring the Weekly Newspapers of Hawthorne, Inglewood and Lawndale

Hawthorne Press Tribune
The Weekly Newspaper of Hawthorne

Inglewood News
The Weekly Newspaper of Inglewood

Lawndale Tribune
AND LAWNDALE NEWS
The Weekly Newspaper of Lawndale

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Providing a Beacon of Hope to Unhoused Community Members



Hawthorne city staff celebrate move in day at Bridge of Hope. For story, see Biz Briefs on page 2. Photo provided by the City of Hawthorne.

Lights, Action, and Photo Booth!

By Ron Sokol

You may have read in a recent column here about the excellent academies that supplement the courses available at Hawthorne, Leuzinger and Lawndale High Schools. These academies provide hands-on, real-life work experience for the students. Hence the learning is not just academic, but can indeed help prepare them for tasks outside school, including a career. One goal of the academies is to teach students excellent, practical and hands-on skills. At Leuzinger High School the best-known academy is the Culinary Careers Academy, which not only has its own café, but in fact, is profitable. There also is a terrific Multimedia Careers Academy (MCA), which focuses on art, media and entertainment-based projects. One part of the MCA – many may not yet know about -- is the photo booth. This unique option is available at a very reasonable price for all kinds of events, including weddings, Bar Mitzvahs, Quinceanera, graduation parties, and, well, wherever folks want to have some good fun.

In the past, a photo booth was more of a vending machine, or a kind of kiosk, that contained an automated, often coin-operated camera and film processor. Today the majority of photo booths are digital. You can get variations, such as with respect to the background and lighting. The booth is staffed by one or more people who take the photos, which you get right there (and later can get them all digitally).

Case in point: One of our sons was recently married. We had a nice venue, but not a huge budget. Between the music, cost of the officiant, chairs, food, drinks, parking, all that, the cake even, well, it does add up. The bride-to-be at one point suggested a photo booth might add quality to the festivities, but then decided it would just be too

much expense along with everything else. “Not a big deal. That’s one thing we can do without,” she sighed.

I felt differently. And, as you know, sometimes things are just meant to be. So it is that I found Anthony Bibian through Camille Vogel and Kamala Dexter Hall, both of whom work with the Centinela Valley Union School District. This was while writing the recent column on the district’s schools and their academies.

Anthony describes himself as the “college tutor” with the MCA. He also is the go-to about the photo booth, if you might be interested, and can be reached through email at bibiana@cvuhsd.org. Given all we asked of him and his assistant, it surprised me to learn he is only a part-time employee of the district, at 20 hours a week; that is the funding

the school district has for the position.

Bottom line: A nicer young person would be difficult to find. And, as it turns out, the photo booth is a fundraiser for the school.

Anthony’s supervisor is the Head of the MCA, Sean Hiller, a full-time photography and video teacher at Leuzinger. Sean is an accomplished freelance photographer who worked many years as a staff photographer for the Los Angeles News Group (including the Daily Breeze and Long Beach Press Telegram).

Our son’s wedding was a truly fun event. Thank goodness that all went well, from the wedding to the cocktails to the appetizers to the dinner to the music and back. But, if you asked me to identify my favorite, most fun part – not focus on the tear-in-the-eye

See Photo Booth, page 4

Walk with Sally: The Power and Strength of Community

By Allison Armijo

Founded on the understanding that children of those diagnosed with cancer need support too, Walk with Sally has been a staple of the South Bay community for almost twenty years. “Sometimes when a child’s parent or sibling is going through cancer, understandably so, we focus on supporting the person that is fighting for their life. And sometimes we don’t realize the subsequent impacts that are being had on the children of those loved ones that are diagnosed,” said Tash Brooks, the new CEO of Walk with Sally.

Walk with Sally was founded in 2005 by Nick Arquette, whose mom, Sally was diagnosed with cancer. Arquette’s focus

in founding the nonprofit organization was on mentorship, pairing up children ages seven to seventeen with mentors to establish a support system for those impacted by a loved one’s diagnosis.

Brooks joined the company in October, but has always been involved in philanthropy. Born and raised in Australia, she used to be a dancer, where she designed a dance program for children with autism and Down syndrome. Reflecting on that time, Brooks said, “It was extremely empowering for me to be able to use my talents in service of another.” Referring to this as the “helper’s high,” Brooks aims to put community at the forefront

See Walk with Sally, page 7

Weekend Forecast

Friday
Mostly
Sunny
69°/60°



Saturday
Mostly
Sunny
72°/59°



Sunday
Mostly
Sunny
72°/60°



Biz Briefs

West Basin Announces Funding for Grass Replacement+ Program Now Available

West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) announced that a new round of funding for the *Grass Replacement+ Program (Grass+)* is now available to eligible applicants on a first-come, first-served basis.

The water-saving rebate program offers valuable incentives to be water-wise outdoors: a significant rebate of \$5 for every square foot of grass removed, up to \$25,000 in value; a free custom landscape design, valued at approximately \$2,000; and a free, low water use tree to expand urban canopy cover. West Basin will help fund 35 *Grass+* packages beginning June 21, 2023. West Basin service area residents can find more information, confirm eligibility, and get started by visiting www.westbasin.org/grass-plus.

"The West Basin Board of Directors continues to encourage water use efficiency in our communities, regardless of current water supply or drought conditions, by replacing water-intensive lawns with beautiful, climate appropriate landscapes," said West Basin Board President and Division IV Director Scott Houston. "We especially want to support our neighbors who are disproportionately affected by environmental and socioeconomic factors. The *Grass+* program is specifically

designed to make increased water-efficiency at home a goal that is accessible for all," said Houston.

The *Grass+* program is open to residents in historically underserved neighborhoods within the West Basin service area that have been disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other socioeconomic considerations as defined by the California Environmental Protection Agency's (CalEPA) California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen 4.0).

Last year, West Basin piloted this grass replacement program and successfully distributed 20 free design packages and a number of drought-tolerant trees. This year, the program builds on West Basin's efforts to reduce potable water demand with the potential to achieve an annual water savings of approximately 3.4 million gallons.

All of West Basin's grass replacement programs encourage climate appropriate landscape transformations to make water conservation a way of life. To learn how to adopt a Super-Cali-Frugalist lifestyle, visit www.westbasin.org/conservation.

— Provided by West Basin Municipal Water District •

Adults Graduate Through SBWIB Second Chance YouthBuild Program

Eleven young adults were honored for earning their high school diplomas during a graduation ceremony conducted by the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) YouthBuild Program at the Hawthorne Memorial Center June 22nd. The YouthBuild Program enables youth ages 16-24 who didn't finish high school to have a second chance and earn their high school diploma or G.E.D.

and gain occupational skills training in construction as well as leadership development.

SBWIB Executive Director Jan Vogel provided the opening remarks at the graduation and praised the students for their perseverance in achieving their goals. He also thanked their family members and friends who were in attendance that supported them along the way and acknowledged the YouthBuild Charter

School faculty members and SBWIB staff who make the program possible. Also attending was SBWIB Board Chairman Glenn Mitchell and SBWIB Youth Development Committee member Brian Markarian, Superintendent of the Hawthorne School District.

YouthBuild Alumni Alex Keaton urged the graduates to remember and put to good use the advice and lessons the school's faculty and counselors gave them. "Seven years ago, I never imagined I could be where I am today as a fully employed and responsible person," he further noted. Alex has since successfully graduated from college and is

a business employee.

The graduates also received congratulatory certificates with a number of California State Assembly and State Senate members, as well as Congresswoman Maxine Waters.

The SBWIB had been a partner with the program's founding organization for more than 30 years before merging it into the Youth Services offerings of the SBWIB in the Fall of 2018. The YouthBuild Program is made possible through a grant provided by the U.S. Department of Labor.

— Provided by South Bay Workforce Investment Board.

Hawthorne's Bridge of Hope Eases Burden for Unhoused

As of May 22, all 12 pallet homes in the City of Hawthorne's Bridge of Hope Community Housing are occupied. This community provides interim shelter for unhoused individuals in Hawthorne, with a targeted stay of 90 to 180 days.

The official Bridge of Hope groundbreaking was held on November 30, 2022, and the community's ribbon-cutting ceremony took place on Monday, April 11, just over a month before occupants filled all units. A 3800-square-foot City-owned lot at 131st St. and Simms Ave. hosts all twelve 64-square-foot homes. The city has outfitted all units with lockable doors and windows, secure ventilation, a folding bed with a custom-fit mattress, a folding desk, electricity, a wall-mounted heater, an air conditioner, a fire extinguisher, a smoke detector, a carbon monoxide detector, slip-resistant floors and storage. The community also offers a kitchen, ingredient pantry and laundry room.

"We've created a five-year plan to resolve homelessness in Hawthorne, and this was one of our key items: to create housing for those unhoused," said City Manager Vontray

Norris. "I am proud of the resources offered by Bridge of Hope and am intent on expanding our assistance to Hawthorne's unhoused community members."

When individuals move into the community housing units, they are partnered with service providers who will help prepare them for life after Bridge of Hope. These City employees will work with residents to access job training, three daily meals, housing navigation, medical care and connection to additional services offered by Hawthorne's housing and homelessness staff.

CDBG CARES Act dollars, the American Rescue Plan Act awards, Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA) grants and a HOME American Rescue Plan (ARP) allocation fund the Bridge of Hope Community Housing project. This initial iteration of the project will continue for three years or until all available funds have been exhausted. Learn more about the City of Hawthorne's housing resources at <https://www.cityofhawthorne.org/departments/community-services/housing-and-homelessness-resources>.

— Provided by the City of Hawthorne •



A new resident is welcomed in to Bridge of Hope housing.



EL SEGUNDO HERALD* • HAWTHORNE PRESS TRIBUNE*
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Classifieds

The deadline for Classified Ad submission and payment is Noon on Tuesday to appear in Thursday's paper. Advertisements must be submitted in writing by mail, fax or email. You may pay by cash, check, or credit card (Visa or M/C over the phone).

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.

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WRITER WANTED for covering local events, issues, school board, etc for local newspaper. Experience necessary. Please send resume to: Letters@heraldpublications.com.

EMPLOYMENT

Sr. Business Analyst (CRM) (Torrance, CA; LA and client sites) Analyze, capture and document Dynamics CRM business requirements. UAT Test of CRM solutions. Bachelor's Degree or equiv. in BA, or MIS or reld. field and 5 yrs of wrk exp OR Master's Degree or equivalent in BA, or MIS or reld. field & 3 yrs of exp.

Above exp. must be in CRM. Req'd Skills: Microsoft Dynamics CRM, SQL, Business Analysis, UAT Testing. Salary \$137,000-\$145,000. Mail resume to Numentica LLC, 3868 W Carson St Suite 300, Torrance, CA, 90503.

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.

FOR SALE

Purebred Great Dane Puppies available for rehoming. If interested

call or text 310.486.3182 or follow @greatdanefoslosangeles on Instagram.

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.

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