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Gardena One-Stop back in business; today is gala opening

BY MICHAEL AXT

After a swift cleanup and minor makeover, the Gardena One-Stop center is set to reopen in "grand" style for business and for job seekers Aug. 23, with its upgraded and improved facility and training room at 16801 S. Western Ave., Gardena.

The two-hour gala re-opening will begin at 3 p.m.

During the ribbon-cutting event, Mayor Tasha Cerda; Jan Vogel, CEO of South Bay Workforce Investment Board; and Richard Chavez, SBWIB executive operations manager are slated to proclaim their support for this business and worker partnership center in keynote speeches.

"This is an opportunity for the community to see the property and how the interior was remodeled for expansion," said Chris Cagle, regional affairs director for SBWIB. "They will also be able to meet the staff."

The Gardena One-Stop staff includes Cheryll Cooks, Manag-

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TINY DANCER



Photo by Gary Kohatsu
Jenna Mato, 7, takes her dance serious at this year's Obon Dance in the streets adjacent to the sponsoring Gardena Buddhist Church. Additional Obon festivals can be found on page 8.

Court rules in Gardena's favor

Wrongful death lawsuit dismissed in pursuit case

BY GARY KOHATSU

California Supreme Court ruled that the city of Gardena was not liable in the death of a 19-year-old man stemming from a 2015 police pursuit, as reported last week.

The court dismissed the wrongful death lawsuit filed by the parent of Mark Gamar, who was killed in the pursuit incident.

A police department is immune from civil liability in cases where a pursuit results in injury, death or damage, when that de-

• see Court page 10

Police investigating shooting death of Compton man

BY GARY KOHATSU

Gardena police are investigating the shooting death of a Compton man who succumbed to his wounds Saturday morning in Gardena.

The victim was identified as Jose Daniel Perez Maldonado, 31.

Police responded to a call of a gunshot victim at 12:45 a.m. Saturday and arrived in the 1300 block of West 130th Street to find the man with multiple gunshot wounds.

The victim was treated at the scene by Los Angeles County Fire paramedics, who transported the man to a local hospital. Police said the man later died.

This case is being investigated by the Gardena Police Department Detective Bureau. Anyone with information is encouraged to call Detective Michael Nguyen at 310-217-9617

Jazz Fest set for Sunday; event is sold out

BY GARY LUSTER

Gardena will hold its 15th annual Jazz Festival Sunday, Aug. 26, from 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Rowley Memorial Park, 13220 Van Ness Ave., in Gardena.

This year's featured entertain-

ers include Maze with Frankie Beverly, Naturally 7, Donald Hayes, Euge Groove, Alex Bugnon, Fernando Pullum, DW3, Marcus Anderson, Jackie Jackson, and J Boykins.

There are no more tickets available as the event is completely sold out.

In addition to the entertainment, food will also be served at the event. Food items include hot dogs, fish, barbecue, popcorn and Italian ice. Vendors in attendance include local businesses such as Giuliano's, which will be preparing food for the jazz musicians. Other vendors will be sell-

ing clothes, jewelry, craftworks and various lotions.

Event founder and former Gardena councilman State Sen. Steve Bradford, will host the jazz festival. For more information, contact Kelly Fujio, director of Gardena Recreation and Human Services at (310) 217-9537.

Serra might lack experience, but still has talent

BY JOE SNYDER

Over the past several seasons, Serra High's football program has enjoyed a lot of success and saw numerous players play at Major NCAA Division I universities and even in the National Football League.

Last season, the Cavaliers have not played well as expected finishing just third in the Mission League and losing in the first round of the CIF-Southern Section Division I playoffs to Inland Empire powerhouse Corona Centennial 35-21.

On top of that, Serra has just five returning starters, but they are very good ones. One is junior quarterback Doug Brumfield. When then junior Blaze McKibbin, who transferred to Servite High in Anaheim, was injured, Brumfield, then a sophomore,

replaced him and had several outstanding games that included completing 36 of 45 passes for 335 yards and three touchdowns in the Cavaliers' 37-32 loss to host Chaminade in West Hills. He also passed for five TD's in Serra's win over Notre Dame High from Sherman Oaks. Brumfield started in nine of the Cavaliers' 11 in 2017.

Serra, though, lost its top receivers to graduation but will have a good new crop that includes Lavon Bunkley, Melquan Stovall and Ronald Gilliam. Senior Max Williams, who plays mostly defensive back, is also expected to see action as a receiver.

Lack of experience on their offensive line could plague the Cavaliers' offense.

Serra's strength could be on defense with the return of Wil-

liams as a back and a few key starters on its line, behind senior Jalen Rudolph. Williams is a highly recruited defensive back from top Division I colleges.

"We're a young team," Serra head coach Scott Altenberg said. "We have just five returning starters. We're a talented group. It depends on how fast our young guys can develop."

The Cavaliers continue to be in the always highly competitive Mission League, led by Chaminade, La Puente Bishop Amat and an improved Loyola High squad from Los Angeles. Mission Hills Alemany, under first year head coach Casey Clausen who over the past few seasons helped Calabasas turn from a Marmonite League doormat into a powerhouse program, and Notre Dame should be no pushovers either.

Serra's preseason schedule

will begin with a lot of traveling in California. The Cavaliers start their season by going to St. Francis High in Mountain View, located near San Francisco, to take on Serra High from San Mateo Friday at 7:30 p.m. It will be part of the Northern California Honor Bowl Classic. On Aug. 31, the Cavaliers will go down south to San Diego to visit CIF-San Diego Section power Cathedral Catholic, also in a game

starting at 7:30 p.m. On Sept. 7, Serra will be a closer to home as it visits Moore League power Long Beach Poly at Long Beach City College's Veterans Stadium, beginning at 7 p.m. Serra comes home to face CIF-L.A. City Section power Narbonne from Harbor City on Sept. 14, then hosts L.A. Cathedral on Sept. 21. The Cavaliers begin Mission play at Notre Dame High in Sherman Oaks on Sept. 28.

One-Stop

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er; David LaSalle, Job Developer. Nancy Reynoso, Coordinator; as well as Case Managers Dyniesha Dailey and Elizabeth Belden.

"And all this is free of cost for business and job seeker services" said Cagle. "We welcome all people, the young, the old, and the in-between."

Established under the Workforce Investment Act and re-authorized as the Workforce Innovation Opportunities Act of 2014, One Stop centers offer training referrals, career counseling, job listings, and computer workshops.

"It is a library of sorts with all the resources needed for job seekers like resume-writing, job placement, mock job interviews," said Cagle. There are also intern programs for teenagers."

One Stops, also known as American Job Centers, are coordinated by the U.S. Department of Labor, under the guidelines enacted by the United States Congress. Last week the Department of Labor reported a nearly a five-decade low of 3.9 percent in unemployment, while Gardena's unemployment rate is down to 4.3 percent. Cagle noted companies are now looking harder for employees with the right skills and that many of job seekers that use the One Stop facility are «displaced workers or low-wage earners in need of higher paying careers.»

The Gardena branch is one of four in South Bay, including Torrance, Carson, and Inglewood. For further information contact staff at (310)538-7070. Branch office hours are 8 a.m.-5p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. on Fridays.

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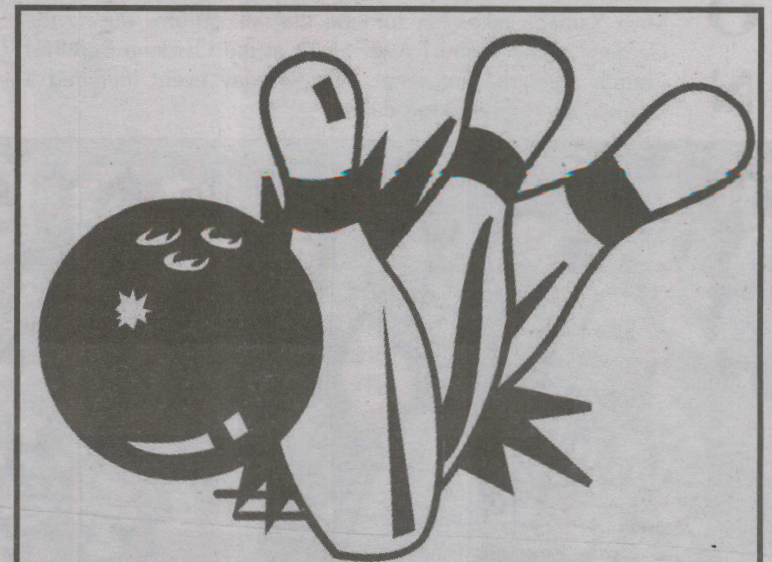
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