

# South Bay Cities

Featuring the Weekly Newspapers of Hawthorne, Inglewood and Lawndale

Hawthorne Press Tribune

The Weekly Newspaper of Hawthorne

Inglewood Daily News

The Weekly Newspaper of Inglewood

Lawndale Tribune

AND LAWDALE NEWS

The Weekly Newspaper of Lawndale

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## Thank You SBWIB for Providing Opportunities for Our Students



The South Bay Workforce Investment Board provided an amazing opportunity for our Hawthorne High School of Manufacturing & Engineering students to tour the NASA - National Aeronautics and Space Administration Jet Propulsion Lab. Photo courtesy SBWIB. For story see page 3.

## She is Racing to Save Lives

By Ron Sokol

On December 7, 2013, Lili Trujillo Puckett’s 16-year-old daughter Valentina was killed when a young man driving the car in which she was a passenger (in the back seat) suddenly chose to engage in a street race.

“There is no loss like this. The loss of a child, your child, is a grief that is always with you,” Lili shares with me, though we both know it goes without saying.

Five months after Valentina passed, a friend asked Lili to speak to an assembly of some 500 students at South High School in Torrance. Lili would be just one of the speakers that day on topics of importance, such as the perils of drugs and concerns about alcohol. Lili was the only one who spoke about street racing. She first asked for a raise of hands – how many knew her daughter – many did. She next asked how many knew how Valentina had lost her life – again, many raised their hand. But, when Lili asked who wanted to learn to drive and who expected to drive, all the kids raised their hands.

When Lili completed her remarks, one of the other speakers said to her, “You have a calling. You don’t know it, but you do”. Later that same day, Lili had an appointment with a therapist with whom she was being treated to try to cope with the devastating loss of her beloved daughter. The therapist surprised her: “You’re smiling, Lili! I have not seen that before – you’re smiling!”

Suddenly, Lili realized she had found a way to keep Valentina with her. Of equal importance, she had found a way to try to prevent another parent from losing a child due to street racing.

Lili Truillo was raised in Mexico City and San Antonio, Texas. She would come back and forth until, by the age of 20, she stayed here.

Lili then married, after which she and her husband traveled quite a bit and ended up living for many years in Italy. They would eventually settle here in the South Bay, but at the ripe old age of 38, she found herself a divorced, single mom with two young kids. Taking stock of the situation, Lili went to work. She also went to school – UCLA Extension, no less, where she graduated in three years as a medical interpreter. While in school, her work included teaching Spanish and Italian at the Berlitz Center locally and being an interpreter. She had pretty much been a housewife up to that point in time, but her two kids were five and nine.

Do you get the impression that Lili Trujillo and embracing genuine resilience are a good match? Now, years later, that resilience has helped many others as well.

You see, Lili formed a non-profit organization in the South Bay known as SRK (Street Racing Kills). One objective of SRK is to

create awareness about the dangers of illegal street racing and reckless driving, particularly by young people here and elsewhere. Among its many other activities, SRK provides speakers and presentations at high schools, colleges, and community events. These presentations are heartfelt and seek to go well beyond basic driving schools. Awards can be applied for (aptly known as “Val’s Respect the Road Scholarships”). There are teen traffic safety assemblies, reckless driving interventions, videos, police officer questions and answers, reenactments, crashed car displays, and awareness giveaways.

You can find SRK online at <https://street-racingkills.org/>. The phone number is 310) 303 0164.

One of the good people with whom Lili works most closely and with whom she often makes presentations is Lori Argumedo

**See Save Lives, page 4**



Lili and Valentina

## Weekend Forecast

Friday  
Sunny  
61°/47°



Saturday  
Sunny  
63°/48°



Sunday  
Mostly  
Cloudy  
63°/48°





## Spring Cleaning Comes to the City of Hawthorne



An incredible amount of volunteers came out to the City of Hawthorne's Community Clean Up event. One hundred and fifteen volunteers and thirty five City of Hawthorne employees came out to clean up the streets and parks of our community. Bulky items were also picked up around town. Special thanks for the extra help from Martinez Landscape, Republic Services and Caltrans. Photo courtesy City of Hawthorne.

## South Bay Workforce Investment Board Facilitates NASA/JPL Interface with Hawthorne High School Manufacturing & Engineering Students

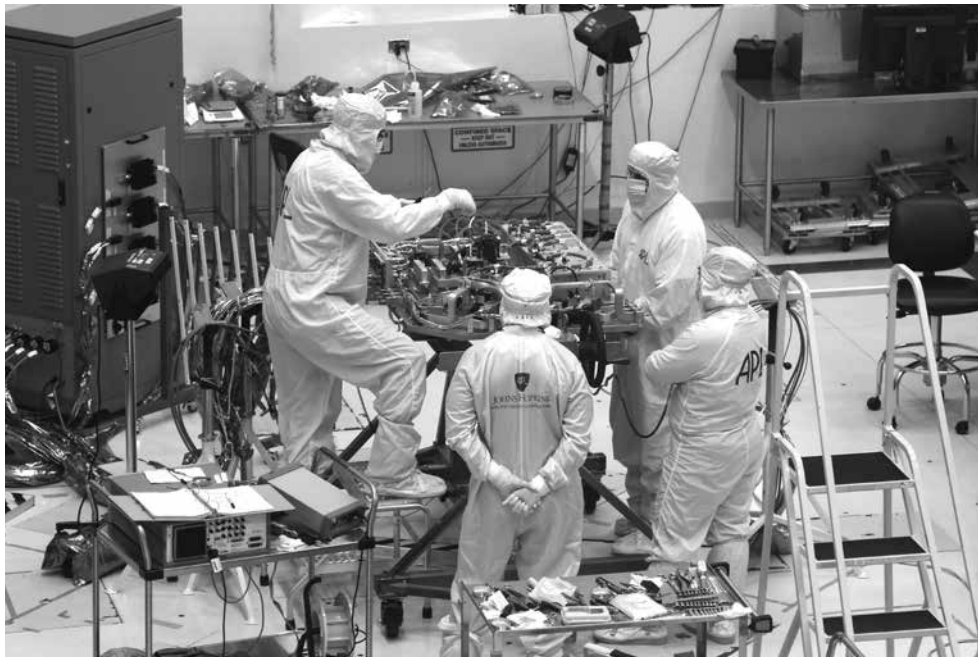
As a result of the national exposure that the South Bay Workforce Investment Board's (SBWIB) highly successful Aero-Flex pre-apprentice and apprenticeship programs for high school and college students have attained, visiting NASA representatives from Washington D.C. hosted students from Hawthorne High, along with current and former Aero-Flex and Bio-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship college students, for a tour of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena March 15th. The SBWIB coordinated

the visit and provided transportation for the students. The following day NASA visited the Hawthorne High School Academy School of Manufacturing & Engineering (SME) for a tour. The visitors to Hawthorne High included NASA participants Elaine Ho, Deputy Associate Administrator of STEM Engagement, and Reagan Hunter, Projects & Initiatives Manager, Office of the Administrator. During the visit they met with students and teachers and toured the SME lab and workshop. The

students showed various projects including a robot being built for an upcoming competition. "Hawthorne High School engineering students have been participating in the Aero-Flex apprenticeship program since 2017," noted SBWIB Executive Director Jan Vogel. "Many of them have gone on to college and later hired as apprentices with our aerospace partner employers," he noted. During their visit to JPL, the Hawthorne students were guided through areas often

not included in public tours, including the Spacecraft Assembly Facility, Space Flight Operations Facility, museum, and the Mars Yard, where they saw and learned about the original Mars Rover and helicopter prototypes. They interfaced with scientists and technicians and begin to realize how the concepts of engineering they were learning in school are applied in the real world of work and space.

– Provided by SBWIB



Seeing scientists and technicians at work.



Students experiencing areas of JPL not included in public tours.