

# Inglewood News

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## Parolees Graduate from Career Pathways 180 Job Prep Academy



Some of the graduates of the Pathways 180 Job Preparation Academy pose with dignitaries during graduation ceremonies June 14 at the South Bay Workforce Investment Board Inglewood One-Stop Center. Congresswoman Maxine Waters (center) presented the keynote address. To her right is West Basin Municipal Water District Board Vice President and Chairperson of the Metropolitan Water District Gloria Gray, along with SBWIB Executive Director Jan Vogel, next to the Congresswoman. In all, 37 parolees graduated from the fourth class of formerly incarcerated adults. Photo: SBWIB

## Book Tariff Is Summer Bummer for Young Kids and Librarians

By Rob McCarthy

The top-selling illustrated children's book this week in America is *Oh, the Places You'll Go* by Dr. Seuss. It's filled with wit and wisdom for graduates who may feel small as they leave the cocoon of their familiar childhood routines. The book's theme boils down to this: leave the nest, see what's out there. And, expect some hard times. That's life.

Parents and librarians who buy children's books in the hopes of turning youngsters into lifelong readers could be facing hard times of their own soon because of the tariff dispute with China. Publishers appeared this week at trade hearings in Washington, D.C., where they made their case for why books -- including children's illustrated titles -- should be excluded from the 25 percent tariff, slapped on Chinese goods in May.

With summer reading programs under way at South Bay public libraries, publishers and booksellers traveled to the nation's capital to testify before U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and his staff. Workman Publishing, Publishers Clearing House and The Association of American Publishers sent representatives, who argued that raising the import tax on books makes it harder for families, schools and local libraries to afford new books and replace old favorites.

*Oh, the Places You'll Go* would increase from its list price of \$17.99 for a graduation gift copy this month to \$22.50 for the class of 2020, if the tariff sticks. The average price of a children's illustrated book is about \$20, according to Publisher's Weekly. The U.S.-China tariff war would add five bucks to the \$20 average price of a children's illustrated book, according to an industry op-ed piece

that appeared days before Tuesday's start of the tariff exclusion hearings. They are scheduled to end from June 24 to June 25.

Books imported from China include various categories, and a large percentage were illustrated books for children up to age 14, said the opinion piece posted June 14 at Publishers Weekly. The trade journal's editorial director and a Fordham University professor with expertise in the U.S. book business (including adult fiction and non-fiction) argued that making children's books more expensive would keep them off library shelves.

"They will drive up the prices of all books and have unintended consequences adversely impacting millions of children, parents, public and school libraries, and the livelihoods of book retailers," wrote Fordham marketing professor Albert Greco and Publishers Weekly editorial chief Jim Milliot.

Passing on the cost of a 25 percent import tariff would make it difficult, if not impossible, for many libraries to purchase new books or buy replacement copies of books that are damaged or lost, the authors said. Sixty-one million American children are between the ages of one and 14, and research has demonstrated that reading fosters learning skills in young children even before they can read themselves, the industry advocates said.

For that reason, the spokesmen for the publisher urged the president and his trade representative to give children's books that come from China cover from the escalation of trade tensions and tariffs between America and its leading trade partner, Beijing. "The Trump administration should exclude all books imported from China from proposed tariffs because tariffs would have a detri-

mental impact on American readers and, in particular, would restrict children's access to books," the authors said.

Libraries already are stretched paper thin, as are booksellers that operate on small profit margins. The majority of brick-and-mortar book stores are independent and compete against Barnes & Noble and the online retailers Amazon and Wal-Mart.

"And will you succeed? Yes! You will, indeed! 98 and 3/4 percent guaranteed," Dr. Seuss promises in his 1990 classic title *Oh, the Places You'll Go*. The publishers' representatives can hope he's right about their chances with the president's point man on the Chinese trade negotiations. Lighthizer plans to take seven days of testimony from industry representatives for consumer and industrial products that made the Chinese import tariff list.

The higher 25 percent import tariff on incoming goods from China took effect on June 15. It upped the 10 percent tariff that had been imposed on Beijing last year as the Trump administration pressured the Chinese government to pursue free market-oriented policies and become a "more responsible member" of the World Trade Organization.

Information about children's summer reading programs for South Bay cities is available online. The Inglewood Public Library's program runs through August 10. A list of activities and upcoming special events is detailed at <https://www.cityofinglewood.org/1118/Childrens-Services>. Hawthorne and Lawndale residents can find children's reading services at a library branch nearest them at <https://lacountylibrary.org/hawthorne-library/>.

See Book Tariff, page 5

## Weekend Forecast

### Friday

AM Clouds/  
PM Sun  
69°/52°



### Saturday

AM Clouds/  
PM Sun  
68°/61°



### Sunday

AM Clouds/  
PM Sun  
69°/62°

