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Herald Publications - El Segundo, Hawthorne, Lawndale, Torrance & Inglewood Community Newspapers Since 1911 - (310) 322-1830 - Vol. 7, No. 38 - September 18, 2025

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Weekend **Forecast** Friday AM Clouds/ PM Sun 76°/68° Saturday **Partly** Cloudy 76°/68° Sunday **Partly** Cloudy 78°/69°

A National Day of Remembrance



LAX Airport Police joined their partner safety and security agencies at the airport to honor and remember the lives lost on 9/11. Together, we remember the fallen, honor the heroes, and reaffirm our commitment to never forget. Photo courtesy LAX Facebook page.

Ongoing Issues, But Much to Applaud

By Ron Sokol

The Invocation at the September 9th meeting of the Hawthorne City Council was very poignant: Praying for positive change, peace, and healing, as the community deals with many challenges and adversities. Positive news was first up:

Through the good work of Hawthorne's Public Works Department and the advocacy of Council member Katrina Manning, Holly Park has obtained a \$1 million grant, which will replace not just a notably outdated restroom, but also build a new, attractive structure with a drinking fountain, storage area, office, electrical room, and snack bar. The surrounding landscape will also be upgraded, with attractive drought-tolerant plants. It is anticipated that the work will start at the beginning of 2026 and be completed in time for the summer.

Pat Donaldson stepped forward, President of the Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce. She brought two new members, Michael Diaz, who has an excellent mobile car detailing service, and Deanna Gerald, a certified artificial intelligence consultant. Both were well received.

Norm Haynie then addressed the Council. He is a well-experienced developer, who the Superior Court has recently appointed as "the neutral" to oversee the myriad orders issued to require the Hawthorne Mall to get fully up to code. Norm said: "It is my job to find a solution to that eyesore of the last 25 years. I want to work with the City to understand your goals and objectives, and make sure the future is consistent with that..." Surprisingly, however, Mayor Vargas was not fully receptive. He was concerned that Mr. Haynie's approach might be to bypass the City Attorney, who had successfully handled the litigation. Later in the meeting, the Mayor came to understand that Norm will, in fact, be directly conferring in the near term with Hawthorne's City Attorney and City Manager.

To be clear: The Los Angeles Superior Court has issued a very formidable, final Injunction against the owners of the Hawthorne Mall property, such that there is a real likelihood that the 35 acres which constitute the Hawthorne Mall are going to be transformed in due course into something truly beneficial to the community. The City of Hawthorne has now issued an informative press release about the successful conclusion of the case. Mr. Haynie could play a vital role as the neutral working at the direction of the Court.

But, as the opening Invocation indicated, not all is as good as we may hope. Council heard once more from several people about the negative fallout and hurtful impact of the ICE raids. Just one of the downsides: The food giveaway, which City Clerk Dayna Williams-Hunter has been part of, is postponed for now because of safety concerns. Council listens to the community and will continue to do what it can to improve things. My impression is that not everyone will be satisfied with what has been and will be done. There is anger and anguish in equal measure about what ICE did. And, a concern we all share - are we going to have more visits?

Council member Reyes English wants to get the word out: September is Emergency Preparedness Month. Numerous disasters could cause havoc here, not the least of which is an earthquake. Mayor Vargas will be travelling later this month to a conference on disaster preparedness to be held in El Paso, Texas, which has been subject to flooding.

Reyes English also discussed Operation Gobble, which involves turkey giveaways. Stay tuned for the date, which will be in November,

before Thanksgiving, and will take place in the parking lot adjacent to the Betty Ainsworth Sports Center. The City and the Chamber of Commerce will work together, and a toy giveaway will also be planned for December.

Cert training, which initiates with a "meet and greet", is going to be set. City Manager Von Norris will work on the date. This was another action item that Council member Reyes English wanted to ensure the community was aware of.

Discussion then ensued as to "taking a little time off" at the holidays. But, if City Hall closes, might that negatively impact those who need City services? It was decided that City Hall will close from December 22 to January 2, but several of the days in that time frame are holidays anyway. Further, City Manager Norris reminded that the City managed through the rigorous COVID-19 shutdown. It is essential to get the word out about when City Hall will temporarily close at year-end, but as Mr. Norris said, "our work doesn't stop."

Council member Faye Johnson has been away for a little while, helping her daughter get situated at college. She expressed a lot of kudos, including for how well the State of the City went, the funds raised for the Police Department's K-9 Unit, and the improvement of Crenshaw Boulevard. In addition, she lives

See City Council, page 4



Mayor Vargas Touts State of the City. Image provided by Ron Sokol.

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Some Things Are Too Toxic to Trash!

A free countywide Household hazardous and E-Waste Collection event is taking place in Hawthorne on September 20, 2025:

WHAT: County of Los Angeles residents will have the opportunity to safely dispose of household hazardous waste such as antifreeze, unused pharmaceuticals, car batteries, used motor oil, paint, pesticides, home-generated sharps waste such as hypodermic needles, pen needles, syringes, lancets, and intravenous needles, universal waste including household batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, and electronic waste (e-waste) such as TVs and monitors, computers, VCRs, stereos, and cell phones at the next free Countywide Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event.

WHO: The free Countywide Household Hazardous & E-Waste Collection Event Program is brought to residents by the County of Los Angeles and presented by Los Angeles County Public Works and Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts in cooperation with the City of Hawthorne and the neighboring cities of Carson, Compton, Culver City, El Segundo, Gardena, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Lawndale, Los Angeles, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, and Torrance.

WHERE: Betty Ainsworth Sports Center

3851 W. El Segundo Boulevard (El Segundo Boulevard and Doty Avenue) Hawthorne

WHEN: Saturday, September 20, 2025 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

WHY: Los Angeles County Public Works and Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts conduct more than 40 free Household Hazardous Waste & E-Waste Collection Events annually throughout the County to provide residents with a convenient way to rid their homes of unwanted hazardous materials. Because hazardous waste can pollute the environment, it is illegal to discard these items in trashcans, sinks and storm drains. The Collection Events are part of a campaign to promote public awareness of proper disposal practices of household hazardous and e-waste and to provide a convenient, free disposal option.

For more information, go to: https://www. lacsd.org/services/solid-waste/household-hazardous-waste-collection/hawthorne-09-20-25

Or, contact Los Angeles County Public Works at (888) CLEAN LA or www.CleanLA. com or Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts at (800) 238-0173 or www.lacsd. org/HHW. •

SBWIB Awarded \$993,000 to Expand Opportunities for People with Disabilities

The South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) has been awarded a \$993,000 grant through California's Disability Access, Equity, and Inclusion (DAEI) Initiative, a statewide effort designed to break down barriers and expand employment opportunities for people with disabilities. This initiative, launched by the California Employment Development Department (EDD) and the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR), is part of a broader strategy to ensure individuals with disabilities have equitable access to the workforce services and career opportunities they deserve.

The funding will support individuals across the South Bay region through SBWIB's network of America's Job Centers of California (AJCCs). Participants will benefit from career counseling, vocational training, paid work experience, apprenticeships, supportive services, and employer connections that can lead to long-term, sustainable careers.

"This investment ensures that individuals with disabilities in our region have equitable access to training, support, and pathways into high-demand industries," said Jan Vogel, SBWIB Executive Director. "People with disabilities bring incredible talent and resilience

to the workforce, and with the right support, they can thrive in careers that strengthen our entire community."

Meeting a Critical Community Need

The South Bay region is home to more than 680,000 residents, and nearly 13%—or 88,000 people—identify as having a disability. Many face significant barriers to employment, including stigma, lack of accessible transportation, limited awareness of available programs, and employer bias. National data shows that people with disabilities are unemployed at nearly twice the rate of those without disabilities.

By investing in targeted outreach, inclusive services, and partnerships, SBWIB aims to close this gap and create new pipelines into industries such as healthcare, manufacturing, aerospace, digital media, and education.

How the Program Works

Through the DAEI grant, SBWIB will expand inclusive services across its four AJCCs in Inglewood, Carson, Gardena, and Torrance. These centers will serve as hubs where individuals with disabilities can receive personalized support, explore career

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*Our newspapers are adjudicated of general circulation accordance with the laws of California. El Segundo Herald, Case Number 372819; Hawthorne Press Tribune, Case Number 187530; Inglewood Daily News, Case Number 601550; Lawndale Tribune, Case Number 479346



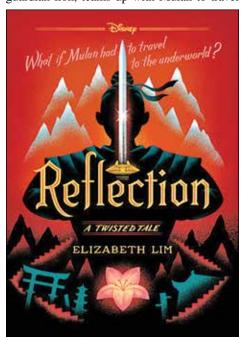
Check It Out

Reflection: A Twisted Tale by Elizabeth Lim

By Kim Harris, El Segundo Middle School Library Assistant El Segundo **Middle School**

Reflection: A Twisted Tale by Elizabeth Lim is a reimagining of Mulan's story after the snowstorm and the fight against the Huns takes place in the Disney movie Mulan. It is a middle grade/YA book with many plot twists and turns and integrates Chinese Mythology throughout the book. If you have seen the movie Mulan, you know that she disguises herself as a boy to fight in her father's place against the Huns. She learns how to fight, makes friends within her unit, and secretly falls in love with her Captain, Shang. When Captain Shang is mortally wounded protecting Ping (Mulan's alias in the Imperial Army) by Shan Yu in battle, Mulan must travel to the Underworld, Diyu, to save Shang from death. However, King Yama, the ruler of Diyu, will not willingly give Shang up. Every soldier and Chinese family have a guardian. Mu Shu the dragon is Mulan's guardian and ShiShi the stone lion is Shang's family's guardian. ShiShi and Mulan travel to Diyu to retrieve Shang's spirit and must escape by sunrise or become King Yama's prisoner forever.

Mulan blames herself for Shang's mortal death because Shan Yu meant to kill her. Shang stepped in front of her and took the blow rather than letting Mulan die. After dragging Shang across China to travel to the Royal Palace, Shang suffers while dying. ShiShi, Shang's guardian lion, teams up with Mulan to travel



Reflection: A Twisted Tale by Elizabeth Lim.

to the Underworld Diyu to save Shang's soul. She encounters many obstacles and goddesses along the way to find Shang. The demons and others who inhabit Diyu try very hard to stop Mulan from rescuing Shang. They make her go through mazes, try to trick her and lead her astray. The Goddess of Forgetfulness, Meng Po, tries many times to convince Mulan that she needs to leave and let Shang stay in Diyu. She shows Mulan illusions of home and tries to get Mulan to drink tea that makes you forget everything in the past. Mulan doesn't fall for it and escapes with Shang and ShiShi's help.

My favorite part of the book is when Mulan meets her ancestors, Ren, Mei and Liwei. They help her along her journey and remind her that her family is always nearby and supportive in her decisions. Mulan managed to fool everyone in Diyu disguised as Ping. When Meng Po and Li Shang find out about her deception, both are surprised and dismayed that they didn't see through the disguise. Mulan harbors a lot of self-doubt throughout the book. She knows she made the right decision pretending to be Ping to protect her father but is fearful of the reactions and consequences she must face when returning home. How does Mulan deal with her deception? Do others understand her decision? Read the book to find out! I really enjoyed the integration of Chinese mythology and the continuation of the story of Mulan. Because I am not familiar with Chinese mythology, it was nice to read more about it and learn about Chinese culture. If you like the movie Mulan, this is the book for you! Reflection: A Twisted Tale and other books are available for checkout utilizing your library card. Check out the library to find a great book!



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 Classified ads must be submitted in writing by email. Send ad copy to: class@heraldpublications.com.
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 depending on space & layout ... and at our discretion. Request for special placement will be \$20 extra per week. Request for special formatting will be \$10 extra per week. This is limited to bolding, caps, and border. Images, logos, etc are not allowed in classified ads.
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 You may cancel your ad at any time by contacting us. No credit is given for unused/prepaid weeks.

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1 BR-Lower, in 4-plex by Rec Park. Non-Smoking. No Pets. Utilities paid. Gardener and trash paid. \$1,850. 310.994.9904

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Kali Hotel and Rooftop Has Been Topped Off



The ceremonial steel beam was raised, signaling completion of the building's structural frame. This new landmark will come to life ahead of premier sporting events in 2027 and beyond. Hollywood Park, where people can live, work, play and soon stay. Photo courtesy Hollywood Park Facebook page.

metro.net/clineext

Next stop: more rail in the South Bay.

The Final EIR for the C Line Extension to Torrance Project is Now Available

Metro has released the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the C Line (Green) Extension to Torrance Project. The Final EIR addresses more than 2,000 public comments submitted during the Draft EIR review period.

What's Next?

Metro will collect and compile public input on the project to share with the Metro Board before the Board takes an action on the project. At a public meeting, anticipated in fall 2025, the Metro Board will vote to consider certification of the Final EIR and approval of the project.

Please sign up for updates, learn more, view the Final EIR, and stay engaged by visiting metro.net/clineext. Share your comments on the project through the following channels:

- > **Email:** greenlineextension@metro.net
- > Mail: Metro, One Gateway Plaza, MS 99-22-3, Los Angeles, CA 90012
- > Voicemail: 213.922.4004

All Metro meetings are accessible to persons with disabilities. Spanish translation provided. Other ADA accommodations and translations available by calling 323.466.3876 at least 72 hours in advance.



C LINE EXTENSION TO TORRANCE

SBWIB

pathways, and access training that leads to employment.

Participants will be offered:

- One-on-one job coaching to match interests and skills with career opportunities.
- Employer engagement opportunities that introduce participants to companies committed to inclusive hiring.
- Paid work experience, internships, and apprenticeships to build real-world skills.
- Supportive services such as stipends, technology, and accommodations to overcome barriers to participation.

A key element of the initiative is SBWIB's partnership with the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR). Together, SBWIB and DOR will co-enroll participants, streamline services, and provide benefits counseling so individuals can make informed decisions about work, training, and long-term career planning.

Building Inclusive Career Pathways

The project will also expand partnerships with local colleges, nonprofits, and employers to create inclusive career pathways. El Camino College and West Los Angeles College will provide accessible vocational training and connect students with disabilities to job opportunities. Community-based organizations

will help with outreach to underrepresented populations, while employers will play an

advisory role to ensure training aligns with industry needs.

SBWIB will also host employer inclusion training, helping companies better understand workplace accommodations. "Employer awareness is one of the biggest barriers people with disabilities face," Vogel said. "By working directly with businesses, we can create more welcoming workplaces and open doors for qualified, talented individuals."

A Lasting Impact

The \$993,000 grant will have an immediate and long-term impact. Hundreds will benefit through co- enrollment with other SBWIB and DOR programs. Beyond the grant period, SBWIB will leverage additional funding to sustain services, ensuring individuals with disabilities can continue to access opportunities for years to come.

"This is more than a grant—it's a statement of values," Vogel emphasized. "It says that California is serious about these programs, and that the SBWIB is committed to being a model for how workforce systems can meet the needs of every resident."

– Provided by SBWIB •

