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Weekend Forecast

Friday
Mostly Sunny
66°/65°



Saturday
Sunny
70°/57°



Sunday
Mostly Sunny
68°/55°



Speech and Debate Team Amass 56 Recognitions



The Leuzinger High School Speech and Debate Team received a certificate of recognition at the Centinela Valley Union High School Board of Education meeting on March 8. This year, the Leuzinger High School Speech & Debate Team has amassed the most recognitions ever. Photo by Cammie Vogel

Google’s Test Car Makes a Rookie Mistake

By Rob McCarthy

California’s self-driving car project went six years and nearly 1.5 million miles without causing a crash until last month when a Google test car sideswiped a Bay area bus. The Google engineers took responsibility for the low-speed impact, and claimed the software-controlled car made a rookie mistake. It assumed the bus driver would wait.

The Google car and the city bus were sharing a generously wide lane when the software-controlled vehicle encountered “a tricky set of circumstances on El Camino,” according to the Google team report. El Camino Real is a three-lane boulevard, much like Sepulveda Boulevard, with right-hand lanes wide enough for two drivers. The Google team decided to teach its self-driving car how this is done.

“We began giving the self-driving car the capabilities it needs to do what human drivers do: hug the rightmost side of the lane,” engineers said in their report of the Valentine’s Day crash. “It’s vital for us to develop advanced skills that respect not just the letter of the traffic code but the spirit of the road.”

A Google engineer was in the car at the time, however, the software was doing the driving. The vehicle pulled toward the right-hand curb to prepare for a right turn when it detected sandbags near a storm drain blocking its path. The Google car stopped, allowed some other drivers to pass, then angled back toward the center of the wide right lane at 2 mph when it sideswiped the city bus going 15 mph, the report describes.

None of the bus passengers was injured, and a videotape released last week by the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Agency backs up Google’s claim it was a minor incident. Passengers appear surprised when the driver asks them to step off the bus right after the incident.

The Google engineer in the car at the time said that he also expected the bus driver to slow down and let the Google car back to the center of the lane. The videotape showed extensive damage done to the driver’s side of

the autonomous vehicle, a Lexus sport utility vehicle. Google has 14 of the self-driving Lexus SUVs in Mountain View. Eight are in Austin, Texas, and one car is testing in Kirkland, Wash.

“Our car had detected the approaching bus, but predicted that it would yield to us because we were ahead of it,” according to the February Google Self-Driving Car Project report. The engineers called it an everyday type of misunderstanding between human drivers.

“This is a classic example of the negotiation that’s a normal part of driving -- we’re all trying to predict each other’s movements. In this case, we clearly bear some responsibility, because if our car hadn’t moved there wouldn’t have been a collision. That said,

our test driver believed the bus was going to slow or stop to allow us to merge into the traffic, and that there would be sufficient space to do that.”

So far, the self-driving car project is a Northern California experiment. Critics of the self-driving car project think the state government and Bay area police should investigate each crash rather than take Google’s explanation at face value.

Google says its cars have been hit nearly a dozen times since street testing began up north almost two years ago, and that other drivers were at fault each time. The February bus incident is the first time that Google took

See Google Car page 8



A self-driving SUV with a Google employee aboard collided with a metro bus in Mountain View last month. Credit: Google Self-Driving Car Project.

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Tue 3/1/16 to Fri 3/4/16
ROBBERY 12700 S HAWTHORNE BL UNKNOWN
Tue 3/1/16 12:39
Property Taken: rose gold color
BURGLARY – RESIDENTIAL 11300 S TRURO AV APARTMENT COMMON AREAS (LNDY,CLB HSE,ETC)
Tue 3/1/16 03:26
Property Taken: BICYCLE
Property Taken: blk Searay beachcruiser with black rubber handles
Method of Entry: UNLOCKED POE: SINGLE SWING DOOR Entry Loc: FRONT
BURGLARY – COMMERCIAL 4700 W EL SEGUNDO BL MISCELLANEOUS OFFICES
Wed 3/2/16 02:40 Method of Entry: PRIED
BURGLARY – COMMERCIAL 4800 W ROSECRANS AV STORAGE SHED, PUBLIC
Wed 3/2/16 10:04
Property Taken: COMPUTER EQUIP TOOLS
Property Taken: “SNAPON” CAR COMPUTER READER RED/BLK IN COLOR,
MILWAKEE DRILL RED/GRAY IN COLOR, BOSCH
DRILL BLUE/GRAY IN COLOR, APPLE MAC COMPUTER LAP TOP/SILVER IN COLOR, 2-LARGE/2-SMALL “ALPINE” SPEAKERS NEW IN BOX, MISC.
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Method of Entry: REMOVED POE: UNKNOWN GROUND LE
ROBBERY 14900 S PRAIRIE AV RESTAURANT, FAST FOODS, CAFE
Thu 3/3/16 11:40
Property Taken: (3)TWO DOLLAR BILLS & THE REST IN SINGLE DOLLARBILLS
BURGLARY – RESIDENTIAL 4100 W BROADWAY APARTMENT/CONDO
Thu 3/3/16 12:41
Property Taken: TOOLS
Property Taken: (3) BAGS AND (1) BUCKET OF APPROX 80 TOOLS
Method of Entry: UNLOCKED POE: SLIDING WINDOW Weapon: UNKNOWN TYPE WEAPON
BURGLARY – COMMERCIAL 13300 S HAWTHORNE BL FOOD PROCESSING COMPANY
Thu 3/3/16 16:24
Method of Entry: UNKNOWN
ROBBERY 12100 S INGLEWOOD AV PARK-PLAYGROUNDS
Fri 3/4/16 12:25
Property Taken: \$30.00-U.S. Currency, Red Sox Pendant
ATTEMPT ROBBERY 13500 S PRAIRIE AV STREET, HIGHWAY, ALLEY
Fri 3/4/16 16:07
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Hawthorne Happenings

News for the ‘City of Good Neighbors’

STATE OF THE CITY LUNCHEON
Mayor Vargas will give his first State of the City address on Thursday, March 24th at the Memorial Center. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. with the program beginning at 12 noon. Tickets are \$50 per person and can be reserved by calling the Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce. There are many neat things happening in our city and we will certainly be there to celebrate them with other business and civic leaders.



MARCH MADNESS
If you like to watch basketball, the next three weeks is the best time of the year. 68 D-1 NCAA universities or colleges play in the Big Dance. All of them start with the same goal, win the national championship. Only one team finishes their season with a win. 67 teams fall short. The term, “one and done” refers to the fact that if a team loses, they are done. There are no tomorrows. That is what makes this tournament so special. It’s “do or die”. The closest D-1 university geographically speaking to Hawthorne is Loyola Marymount. LMU is located in Westchester. I enjoy watching basketball and have been attending their basketball games for the past eleven years. Basketball was my sport while growing up and I played two years of college ball. After graduating, all I wanted to do is coach basketball. I ended up coaching at Leuzinger and Lutheran High School. It was great seeing kids learn lifetime lessons on and off the court. Being the rather emotional type, I received a few technical fouls from refs that needed to have their eyesight checked out. I still get a little vocal when the guys in the striped shirts miss calls that go against my teams.

BLAZE PIZZA
My granddaughter, Jordan turned five this past weekend, so the rest of the family took her out to Disneyland to celebrate her day. Since I have no interest in standing in long lines waiting to get on rides that I really do not enjoy, I was left to tend for myself. I wondered over to the newly opened Blaze Pizza on Rosecrans. The line of people placing their orders was

ten or so, but it did move fast. You get to choose what toppings you want on your pizza. For a medium pizza, the \$7.95 price seemed like a bargain. I knew that I was going to have to write a little blurb after taking a few bites of the great tasting pizza pie. Monday was Pi Day and Blaze sold the pizzas for \$3.14. Someone told me the line was wrapped around the building most of the day. Welcome to Hawthorne, Blaze!

GOLF TOURNAMENT
The 27th Annual Hawthorne Parks and Recreation Foundation Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, April 11th at Coyote Hills Golf Club in Fullerton. Annually, this tournament raises a lot of money to provide programs and services to the residents of Hawthorne. We are always looking for additional golfers and sponsors. If you wish to have your company sponsor a foursome, or if you simply wish to join up with another foursome you are welcome to participate and support a great cause. For more information please contact, Dick Huhn at 310-643-9157. Lunch and dinner are both included with your entry fees.

PALM SUNDAY – HOLY WEEK
This Sunday is Palm Sunday in the Christian church. On that day, Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey and people waved palm branches to hail his triumphal entry. They were thinking that he would finally ascend to be their earthly king. But, he didn’t come to win a battle by force, he came in humbleness and in submission to God’s will. By the end of the week he was arrested, put on trial, whipped and spat upon. He was crucified with two other common criminals. If the story would end there at the grave, I would not be writing this. You know what happened that following Sunday. Of all of the world religions, Christianity is only one that does not place the onus on us. Jesus has done all the work necessary. We just enjoy all the benefits. I’m just a poor beggar that is given everything. Easter is everyday for me. Time to celebrate, and you know how I celebrate! Email me at: norbhuber@gmail.com •

Film Review

‘Barney Thomson’ is a Devilish Good Time

By Ryan Rojas for Cinemacy.com

The title character in the new black comedy *Barney Thomson* is a barber without a quirk, admitting as much in thick Scottish accent in the film’s opening scenes that he “doesn’t see the point” – which might be why his



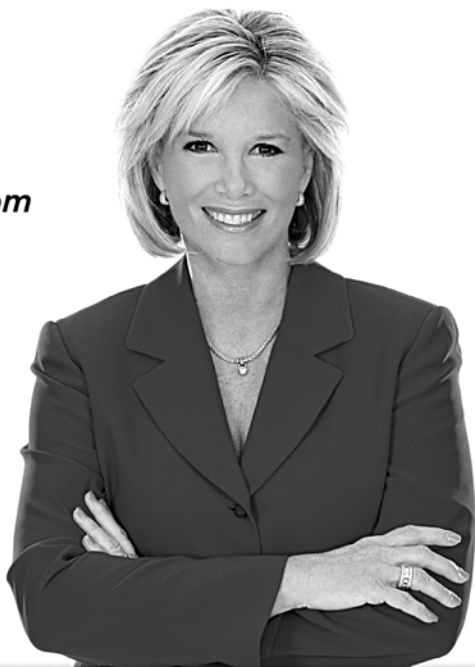
Robert Carlyle in ‘*Barney Thomson*’. Courtesy of Gravitas Ventures.
barber’s chair is the only one empty in a crowded barber shop. The hapless hair-cutter’s self-deprecating voice-over of being no-one special, mixed with shots of crime-scene photographs of dismembered body parts, sets the stage for what’s to come – the story of an unlucky man finding himself at the center of a serial killer’s spree, much like a clumsy cousin of Sweeney Todd.
The directorial debut of comic actor Robert Carlyle, *Barney Thomson* is a mostly fully amusing effort that goes for laughs by consistently pitting the hapless lad’s bad fortune of having dead bodies befall before his feet

with the misfortune of having a crime unit that just so happens to also be looking for a wanted murderer. The thick and impassioned Scottish accents complement the deft and lighthearted handling of the gruesome murders, but the way Carlyle sets the thing up makes Barney’s sad sack nature and array of bewildered faces makes for a funny outing.
Breathing life into this Glasgow-set world are a host of wonderful performances, including a rock-solid Ray Winstone as Investigator Holdall who’s got it out for Barney, a surprisingly funny character in Detective Inspector June Robertson (Ashley Jensen), and a hilarious Emma Thompson, who, from the moment we see her hooping and hollering at a Grey Hound race, in marooned bee-hive hair and leopard coat, gives a gem of a hilarious performance, and winks at being somebody with a mysterious secret.
From beginning to end in all 96 minutes, Barney almost begs the audience to see him as a normal Joe of non-importance, and it’s a box that almost confines *Barney Thomson* a bit too much. Like its main character, the movie is a mostly familiar bit of fun that could’ve pushed the boundaries a little more, though it speaks to the movie’s tonal strengths that it gets genuine laughs and genuine gross-outs without any sort of real blood splattering, and instead, smartly written scripting. It has a good burst of first-act fun as we learn the set-up, but as it goes on – and with the exception of a fun second act twist – the movie slogs and pulls its dead weight much like Barney is resigned to do for the rest of the movie, and without much of a final hoorah for our sad sack hero.
Not Rated. ‘Barney Thomson’ is now playing in select cities. •

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Corned Beef and Potatoes Special



Ingredients

- 3 pounds corned beef brisket with spice packet
- 2 carrots, cut into 2-inch pieces
- 2 medium onions, chopped
- 1 small head green cabbage, cored, roughly chopped
- 2 cups apple juice
- 1 cup water
- 1 1/2 pounds baby red potatoes, sliced in 1/2
- 1/2 stick butter, softened
- 1 tablespoon chopped garlic
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley leaves
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Preparation

FOR CORNED BEEF:

Put the carrots and onions on the bottom of slow cooker, and put the corned beef on top. Arrange the chopped cabbage around the beef. Add the apple juice and 1 cup of water along with the contents of the spice packet. Cook on low 6 to 8 hours until the beef is tender. Remove the beef and vegetables to a platter and keep warm.

FOR POTATOES:

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil and add the potatoes. Cook until the potatoes are tender, about 12 to 15 minutes. Drain and return them to the pot.

Add the butter, garlic, parsley, and salt, and pepper, to taste. Gently combine so that all the potatoes are evenly coated. Transfer to a serving bowl and serve with corn beef and vegetables from the slow cooker. •

Looking Up

A Perfectly Still Laboratory in Space

By Bob Eklund

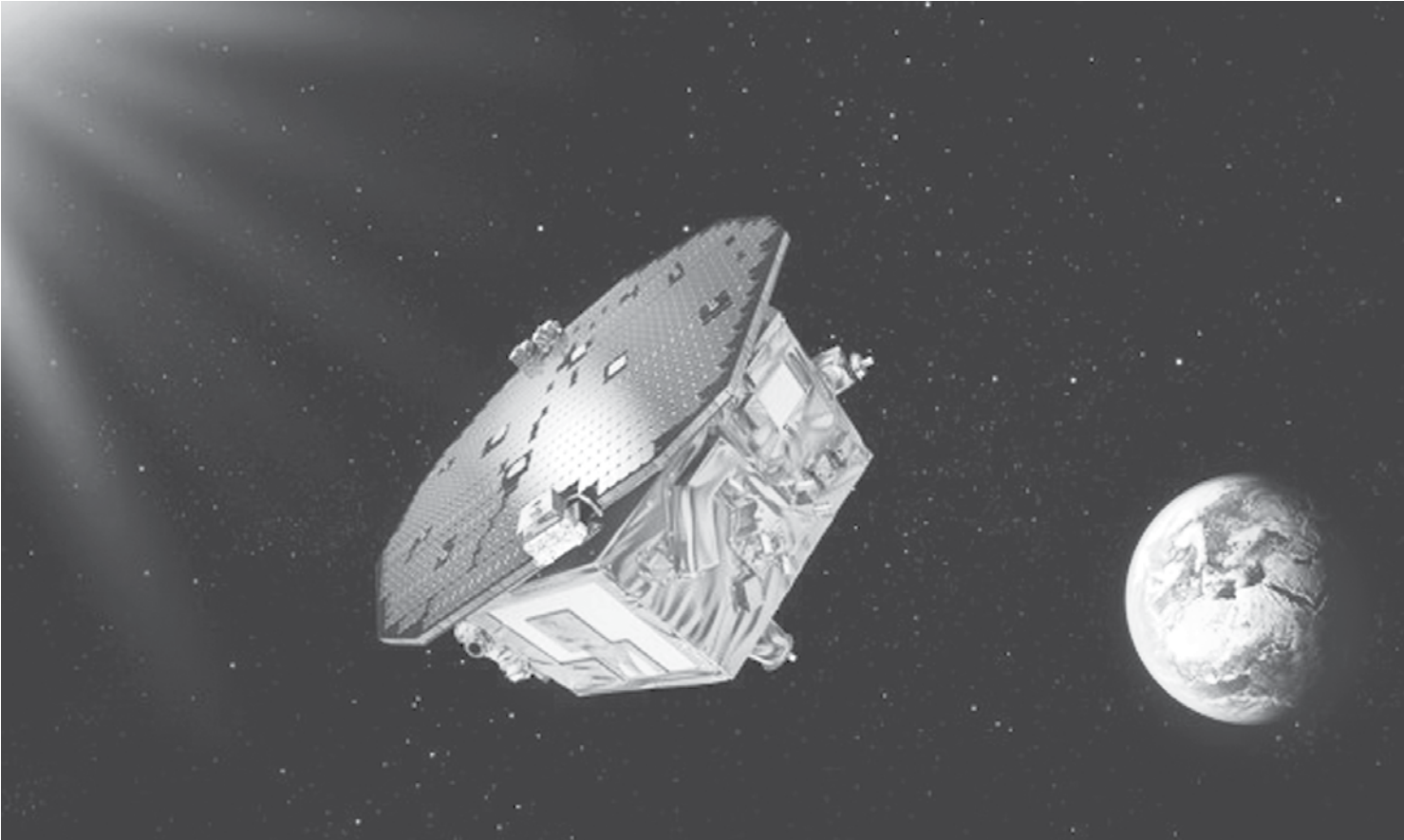
Following a long series of tests, ESA’s LISA Pathfinder has started its science mission to prove key technologies and techniques needed to observe gravitational waves from space.

Predicted by Albert Einstein a century ago, gravitational waves are fluctuations in spacetime produced by exotic astronomical events such as supernova explosions or the merging of two black holes. Recently, the first direct detection of these waves inaugurated the era of gravitational astronomy.

A future observatory in space, sensitive to gravitational waves with longer wavelengths than those detected on the ground, would be an essential tool to exploit this new field of study by probing some of the most massive and powerful objects in the Universe.

The LISA Pathfinder mission was launched in December, 2015, from Europe’s spaceport in French Guiana. This space-borne observatory, now operating at a “Lagrange Point” millions of miles from earth, is designed to achieve the purest-known “freefall,” the extremely challenging condition necessary to build such an observatory. To do so, the team released two test masses—a pair of identical 2 kg gold-platinum cubes measuring 46 mm—inside the spacecraft, and is now verifying that they are truly moving under the effect of gravity alone.

This is by no means trivial: Even in space, there are forces capable of disturbing the cubes—including the radiation and “Solar wind” from the Sun—and the cubes need be isolated from all of these non-gravitational influences. To do so, LISA Pathfinder continually measures their positions and maneuvers around them with micro-thrusters



to avoid ever touching them.

“As they fall freely through space, the two test masses should be extraordinarily still, since no other force is perturbing their gravitational motion—only a gravitational wave could jiggle them around,” explains Stefano Vitale of University of Trento and INFN, Italy, Principal Investigator of the LISA Technology Package, the mission’s core payload.

LISA Pathfinder, however, is not capable of detecting gravitational waves itself. For

this crucial technology demonstration, the two freefalling cubes are only 38 cm apart—too close to record the minute wobbles in the fabric of spacetime.

The variation in distance caused by a passing gravitational wave is so small that a full-scale space observatory will need test masses separated by roughly a million kilometers, and be able to detect changes in that separation of about one millionth of a millionth of a meter.

“The precision we need to attain for future

observations of gravitational waves from space is so high that it demands an unprecedented understanding of the physical forces at play on the test masses,” says Paul McNamara, ESA’s Project Scientist.

After having released the cubes from their locking mechanisms and having made sure they are in the most precise freefall ever obtained, the scientists will now spend the next six months running experiments, “poking” the masses to verify how still they really are. •

Sports

Bad Quarter Ends Inglewood's Season



Jordan Bell (Inglewood) attempts a three-point basket.. The Sentinels defeated the Falcons 66-50, before bowing out to host Crespi 69-62 on Saturday.

Article and photos by Joe Snyder

Inglewood High's boys' basketball team was seeking to upset host and top seed Crespi in the Southern California Regional Division I quarterfinals last Saturday in Encino. The Sentinels started well with a 14-9 first quarter lead and still held on to a 29-26 halftime lead. Then, came the dubious third period. The Celtics turned things on by outscoring Inglewood 20-9 to take an eight-point lead and went on to eliminate the Sents 69-62.

It was Crespi's second win over Inglewood in the playoffs. In the CIF-Southern Section Open Division consolation quarterfinals on Feb. 26, the Celtics edged out the host Sentinels 69-68.

Last Saturday, it appeared that Inglewood would seek revenge and make it to the Division I semifinals. The Sentinels were faced against a Crespi squad that has had a hot offense. The Celtics had 16 three-point baskets in their 89-71 Southern Section Open Division consolation final against Inglewood's Bay League rival Redondo on March 4 at Crespi. The Sents, who ended their season at 22-10, were able to contain the Celtics in the first half but Crespi converted on five three-pointers in the third quarter as it grabbed the lead for good. Inglewood outscored the Celtics (30-4) 24-23 in the final period but it was not enough to pull the game out. The Sentinels were led by Jordan Bell with 17 points. Terrell Gomez, a fourth year starting senior point guard, added 14 points.

In the first round on March 9 at Inglewood, the Sentinels pulled away from CIF-San Diego Section Division I runner-up Torrey Pines 66-50. The two teams were tied at 11 after the first quarter and Inglewood took a 27-21 halftime lead. The Falcons came back to tie the game at 29 on a basket from Chad Olive but the Sents came back to grab the lead for good. Inglewood would lead by as many as 20 points early in the fourth quarter.

The Sentinels were led by Gomez with a game-high 23 points and six assists. D'Angelo Smith chipped in 13 points and Jordan Bell contributed 12. Torrey Pines was led by Jackson Strong with 20 points.

Inglewood was the second place finisher, behind champion Redondo, in the Bay League

with an 8-2 record. The Sentinels split their two games against the Sea Hawks losing their first game at home 58-53 before topping host Redondo 59-55 on January 29. The Sea Hawks (27-6 overall, 9-1 in league) are still in the regional Division I playoffs after ousting Lake Balboa Birmingham 84-72 on Saturday at Redondo. The Sea Hawks hosted Narbonne in the regional semifinals last Tuesday.

HAWTHORNE EDGES UNIVERSITY

Hawthorne High's baseball team scored all four of its runs in the bottom of the fifth inning and it was enough to hold off University High from West Los Angeles 4-3 in a non-league game last Saturday at Hawthorne. The Cougars improved to 2-0 with the win.

The Cougars were sparked by junior Peter Girgis who had two hits in three at-bats with three runs batted in and a run scored. Senior Andres Cordova was one-for-three and drove in a run. Senior Manny Huerta, sophomore Danny Villareal and senior Brandon Brown each went one-for-three and scored one run.

Sophomore Johnny Pacheco was the winning pitcher. He pitched just one inning, allowing one earned run on one hit. Junior reliever Bernardo Robles hurled four and two-thirds innings, allowing two earned runs, two hits. He struck out one batter and walked two.

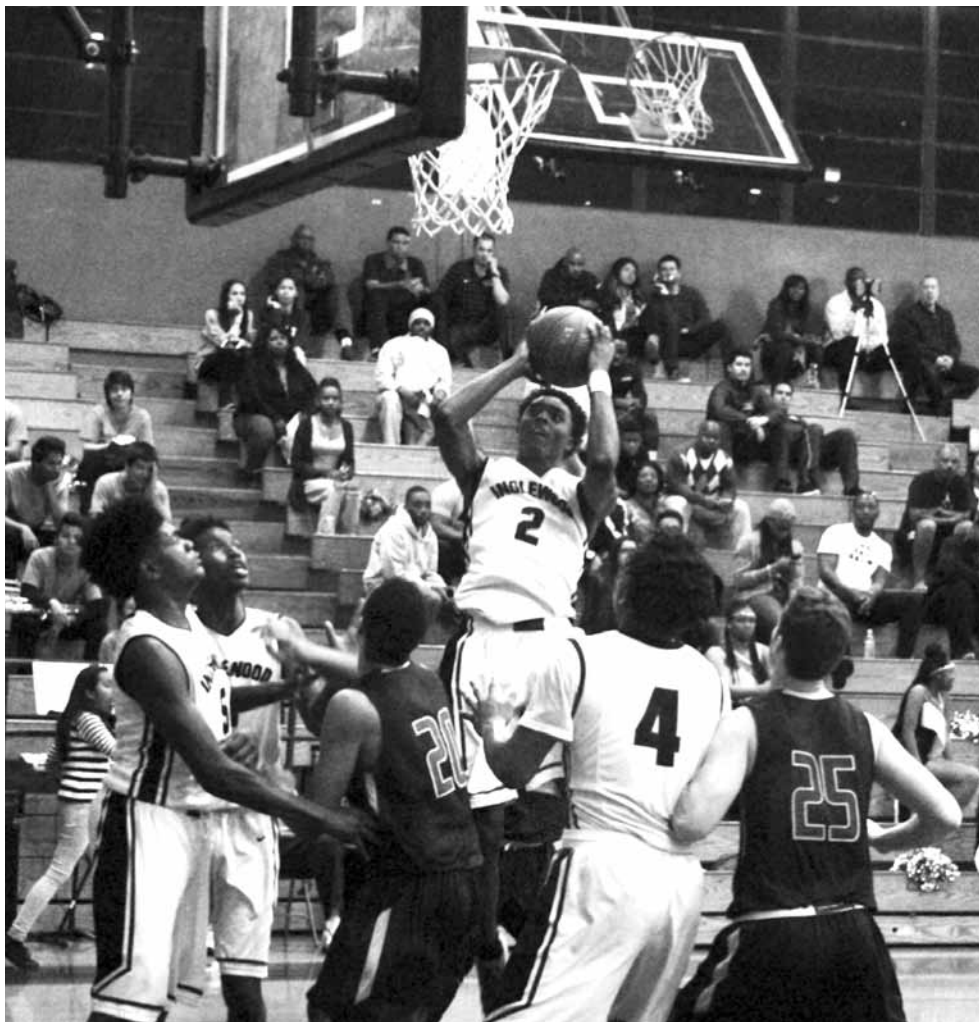
Hawthorne hosted Long Beach Jordan last Tuesday. The Cougars host Dominguez High from Compton today at 3:15 p.m. Hawthorne, then, is at home against Morningside from Inglewood next Tuesday at the same time.

ANIMO WINS EL SEGUNDO TOURNAMENT FINALE

The Animo Leadership High baseball team from Inglewood went nine innings to outlast Cabrillo High 9-7 in a consolation finale of the El Segundo Tournament last Saturday in Long Beach. The win improved the Aztec-Eagles' record to 2-5.

Both teams were tied at two through the regulation seven innings. In the eighth, Animo scored three runs in the top of the inning but the Jaguars (0-5) came back with three runs to tie the game at five. The Aztec-Eagles scored four times in the top of the ninth then had to hold off Cabrillo, who had two in the bottom of the inning.

Animo began the classic with a 6-2 loss to



Inglewood High's Mahleek Gordon tries for a basket.

host San Pedro on March 4. The Aztec-Eagles, who were ranked fourth in the CIF-Southern Section Division VII last week, also suffered losses to San Pedro Mary Star (9-0), North Torrance (6-0) and Carson (14-3).

Animo visits Hawthorne Math and Science Academy at Holly Park today at 3:15 p.m. The

Aztec-Eagles, then, are at Navy Field in San Pedro to take on Rolling Hills Prep Friday at the same time. Animo hosts Hawthorne Math and Science at Darby Park in Inglewood on Monday and visit Sage Hill Prep in Newport Beach on Tuesday. Both of these San Joaquin League games also begin at 3:15 p.m. •



Inglewood High's D'Angelo Smith attempts a basket in last week's Southern California Regional Division I boys' basketball game against Torrey Pines.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: MARY ANN DEFEO CASE NO. BP171273

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of MARY ANN DEFEO. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by FREDDIE JONES in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that FREDDIE JONES be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 03/25/16 at 8:30AM in Dept. 11 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition,

you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner E. GRANT HARDACRE BLUM, PROPPER & HARDACRE, INC. 12100 WILSHIRE BLVD #905 LOS ANGELES CA 90025 3/10, 3/17, 3/24/16 CNS-2853445#

Inglewood News Pub. 3/10, 3/17, 3/24/16
HI-25013

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: PAUL HAROLD AASNESS CASE NO. BP171578

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of PAUL HAROLD AASNESS. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by ERIK R. AASNESS in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that ERIK R. AASNESS be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 04/01/16 at 8:30AM in Dept. 67 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal

representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner JOHN M. WOODBURN, ESQ. - SBN 86754 LAW OFFICE OF JOHN M. WOODBURN 272 S LOS ROBLES AVENUE PASADENA CA 91101-2872 3/10, 3/17, 3/24/16 CNS-2853258# LAWNDAL NEWS Lawndale Tribune Pub. 3/10, 3/17, 3/24/16
HL-25015

Luck is believing you're lucky.
-Tennessee Williams

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: TOUNCEL SMITH, JR. CASE NO. BP171666

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of TOUNCEL SMITH, JR. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by COURTNEE M. SMITH in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that COURTNEE M. SMITH be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 04/14/16 at 8:30AM in Dept. 67 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state

your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner PAUL HORN, ESQ. - SBN 243227 LAW OFFICES OF PAUL HORN 328 S. ATLANTIC BLVD. #101 MONTEREY PARK CA 91754 3/17, 3/24, 3/31/16 CNS-2855829#

Inglewood News Pub 3/17, 3/24, 3/31/16
HI-25016

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT 2016CU01 PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the City of Hawthorne will hold a public hearing on Conditional Use Permit 2016CU01 as follows:

Date: Monday
April 4, 2016
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: City Council Chambers
4455 West 126th Street
Hawthorne, CA 90250

Project Title: Conditional Use Permit No. 2016CU01

Project Location: City of Hawthorne, Los Angeles County, State of California

Total of 6 Parcels:
4041-014-907, 909, 910, 914, 915, 916

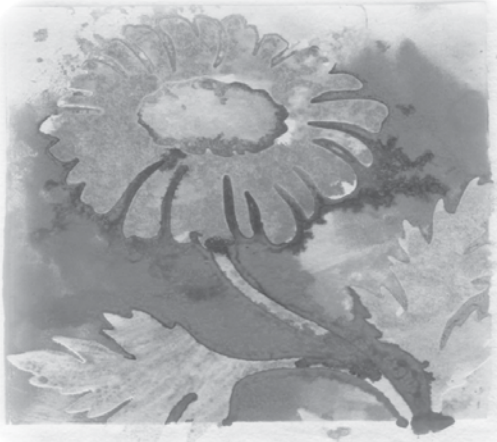
Project Description: Conditional Use Permit Application No. 2016CU01 is a request by the City of Hawthorne, property owner, to permit the development of a hotel and to permit that hotel to be over 5 stories in height. The project encompasses several parcels (6 parcels: 4041-014-907, 909, 910, 914, 915, and 916) and are bounded by 126th Street to the north, Hawthorne Blvd. to the east, El Segundo Blvd.

to the south, and Grevillea Ave. to the west. The parcels are located within the C-3 (General Commercial) Zone. PURSUANT TO the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act, the application is categorically exempt from the requirements for preparation of a Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report. FURTHER NOTICE is hereby given that any interested person may appear at the meeting and submit oral or written comments or submit oral or written information relevant thereto to the Planning Department, 4455 West 126th Street, Hawthorne, California 90250 prior to the date of this hearing. PLEASE NOTE that pursuant to Government Code Section 65009: In an action or proceeding to attack, review, set aside, void, or annul a finding, determination or decision of the Planning Commission or City Council, the issues raised shall be limited to those raised at the public hearing in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission or City Council at or prior to the public hearing. Maria Majcherek Associate Planning Hawthorne Press Tribune Pub. 3/17/16
HH-25019

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Fictitious Business Name Statement 2016018582

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as CAMBRIDGE AUTOMOTIVE GROUP, 21801 S WESTERN AVE, TORRANCE, CA 90501, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): Garnett Station Capital Partners, LLC, 208 North Garnett Street, Henderson, NC 27536, Delaware. This business is being conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A. Signed: GARNETT STATION CAPITAL PARTNERS, LLC This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on JANUARY 26, 2016. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on JANUARY 26, 2021. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to JANUARY 26, 2021. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). Torrance Tribune Pub. 2/25, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17/2016 **HT-1395**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2016040253

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as HOLLY PARK FISH MARKET, 1041 S. PRARIE AVE SUITE #13, INGLEWOOD, CA 90301, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): A & R FAMILY, INC, 1041 S. Prairie Ave Suite #13, Inglewood, Ca 90301. This business is being conducted by a corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 07/01/2009. Signed: A & R FAMILY, INC, PRESIDENT. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on February 19, 2016. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on February 19, 2021. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to February 19, 2021. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). Inglewood News: Pub. 3/3, 3/10/ 3/17, 3/24 **HT-1396**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2016036035

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as BEACHES & BEYOND, 2801 SEPULVEDA BLVD UNIT 114, TORRANCE, CA, 90506, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): ANGELITA K CHUMAN, 2801 SEPULVEDA BLVD UNIT 114, TORRANCE, CA, 90506. This business is being conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 02/10/2016. Signed: ANGELITA K CHUMAN, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on February 16, 2016. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on February 16, 2021. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to February 16, 2021. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). Torrance Tribune: Pub. 3/3, 3/10/ 3/17, 3/24 **HT-1397**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2016044274

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as GUNDO DISTRO, 100 W. IMPERIAL AVE SUITE E, EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): DAVE CUSI, 20405 S VERMONT AVE UNIT 4, TORRANCE, CA 90502. This business is being conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A. Signed: DAVE CUSI, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on February 24, 2016. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on February 24, 2021. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to February 24, 2021. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). El Segundo Herald: Pub. 3/3, 3/10/ 3/17, 3/24 **HT-1398**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2016042622

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as SOLESTITCHES, 906 SARTORI AVE. APT 3, TORRANCE, CA 90501 2) PO BOX 172, TORRANCE, CA 90507, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): CHRIS TEGUH, 1) 906 SARTORI AVE. APT 3, TORRANCE, CA 90501. This business is being conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 01/01/2016. Signed: CHRIS TEGUH, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on February 23, 2016. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on February 23, 2021. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to February 23, 2021. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). Torrance Tribune: Pub. 3/3, 3/10/ 3/17, 3/24 **HT-1399**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2016044193

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as REMEDY GARAGE DOORS, 16685 CRENSHAW BLVD # 6, TORRANCE, CA 90504, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): ANTHONY JOSE DIAZ, 16685 Crenshaw Blvd #6, Torrance, CA 90504. This business is being conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A. Signed: ANTHONY DIAZ, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on February 24, 2016. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on February 24, 2021. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to February 24, 2021. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). Torrance Tribune: Pub. 3/3, 3/10/ 3/17, 3/24 **HT-1400**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2016051506

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as MONTGOMERY PROPERTIES, 19226 SHERYL AVE, CERRITOS, CA 90703, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): MICHAEL EVERRETTE MONTGOMERY, 19226 SHERYL AVE, CERRITOS, CA 90703. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 3/01/2016. Signed: MICHAEL EVERRETTE MONTGOMERY, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on March 3, 2016. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on March 3, 2021. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to March 3, 2021. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). El Segundo Herald: Pub. 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31/2016 **H- 1401**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2016040229

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as ANTONIO GARCIA GENERAL CONTRACTOR, 628 W IMPERIAL AVE #201, EL SEGUNDO CA, 90245, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): JOSE ANTONIO GARCIA MARTINEZ, 628 W IMPERIAL AVE #201, EL SEGUNDO CA, 90245. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A. Signed: JOSE ANTONIO GARCIA MARTINEZ, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on February 19, 2016. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on February 19, 2021. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to February 19, 2021. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). El Segundo Herald: Pub. 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31/2016 **H- 1402**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2016034810

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as PASSION & PLEASURE BOOKS, 2713 W. 109TH STREET, INGLEWOOD, CA 90303, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): JACKI RENEE MILLER, 2713 W. 109TH STREET, INGLEWOOD, CA 90303. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A. Signed: JACKI RENEE MILLER, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on February 12, 2016. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on February 12, 2021. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to February 12, 2021. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). Inglewood News: Pub. 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31/2016 **H- 1403**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2016035156

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as 1) NATURAL ASPIRATIONS 2) PROJECT DEFIANT, 1623 SEPULVEDA BLVD #2, TORRANCE CA, 90501, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): CHRISTOPHER SHARMA, 1623 SEPULVEDA BLVD #2, TORRANCE CA, 90501. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A. Signed: CHRISTOPHER SHARMA, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on February 12, 2016. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on February 12, 2021. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to February 12, 2021. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). Torrance Tribune: Pub. 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31/2016 **H- 1404**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2016051698

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as CHROME DATA, 909 N SEPULVEDA BLVD. 11TH FLOOR, EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): AUTODATA, INC., 909 N SEPULVEDA BLVD. 11TH FLOOR, EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245, DE. This business is being conducted by a corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 11/15/2015. Signed: AUTODATA, INC., B LYNN WALSH, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on March 3, 2016. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on March 3, 2021. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to March 3, 2021. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). El Segundo Herald: Pub. 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31/2016 **H- 1405**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2016057457

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as LAKEWOOD LOCK & KEY, 5462 E DEL AMO BLVD, LONG BEACH, CA 90808, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): SCOTT L MC CARTY, 4826 BELLFLOWER BLVD, LAKEWOOD, CA, 90713. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 01/01/1992. Signed: SCOTT L MC CARTY, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on March 9, 2016. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on March 9, 2021. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to March 9, 2021. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). El Segundo Herald: Pub. 3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7/2016 **H-1406**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2016058735

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as BIKE ABODE, 309 CALLE MIRAMAR APT F, REDONDO BEACH, CA 90277, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): REBECCA HAWKINSON GONZALEZ, 309 CALLE MIRAMAR APT F, REDONDO BEACH, CA 90277. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A. Signed: REBECCA HAWKINSON GONZALEZ, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on March 10, 2016. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on March 10, 2021. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to March 10, 2021. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). El Segundo Herald: Pub. 3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7/2016 **H-1407**

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Fictitious Business Name Statement 2016061982

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as 1) ROBIN RISING DESIGNS 2) ROBIN RISING, 579 E. BRETT ST., INGLEWOOD, CA 90302, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): ELIZABETH ROBIN HAGERTY, 579 E. BRETT ST., INGLEWOOD, CA 90302. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A. Signed: Elizabeth Robin Hagerty, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on March 15, 2016. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on March 15, 2021. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to March 15, 2021. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). Inglewood News: Pub. 3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7/2016 **HI-1408**

Google Car

from front page

responsibility for the traffic collision.

The federal Highway Traffic Safety Administration told the Herald that the need to track collisions isn't there because of the limited testing of robot-controlled cars. Spokesperson Derrell Lyles told the Herald the NHTSA is taking a watch-and-see approach to regulating Google's project in the early phase.

"They are not being driven by the general public. NHTSA remains in close communication with the leading developers of self-driving vehicles regarding the testing of these vehicles. Given this very limited exposure and the controlled nature of the testing, there is no need for a formal system for tracking crashes involving self-driving vehicles at this time," Lyles wrote in an email.

Santa Monica-based Consumer Watchdog isn't so trusting of Mountain View-based Google, which is best known for its web search engine and online tools for analyzing web traffic.

The group issued a demand on March 9 that Google release its videotape of its robotic car crashing into the transit bus, now that the bus authority released its video of the incident.

"Google undoubtedly has its own — and probably better — video showing how its self-driving robot car crashed into a bus," said Director John M. Simpson with Consumer Watchdog's Privacy Project Director. "Google needs to come clean and release their video, as well as all recorded technical details related to the crash."

The transit company's video can be viewed at <http://www.usatoday.com/videos/news/nation/2016/03/09/81526496/>

Consumer Watchdog also renewed its call to the California DMV to amend its regulations and require that police investigate all self-driving robot car crashes and that video and technical details of the incidents be made public.

The DMV earlier this year released the nation's first proposed rules for the public use of self-driving vehicles. California's rules are expected to provide a framework for other states and for the federal government to follow as they consider their own policies for self-driving cars.

The proposed rules insist that a licensed driver be present who can take over the

controls in an emergency. Self-driving cars must have a steering wheel, brake and gas pedal. The department also says that in the event of a collision, the autonomous vehicle's driver would be considered at fault.

The DMV requirement that autonomous cars have manual controls guards against a software hack, and would allow the passive driver to switch the vehicle into a manual mode so the controls aren't hijacked.

The Google car that sideswiped the metro bus had manual override controls, but it wouldn't have mattered.

"Our test driver, who had been watching the bus in the mirror, also expected the bus to slow or stop," the Google project report said. "And we can imagine the bus driver assumed we were going to stay put."

Google engineers ran simulation tests after the bus crash along El Camino Real in Mountain View and said they refined the street-navigation software. Their cars will "more deeply understand" that buses and large vehicles are less likely to yield to them than other vehicles on the road, the report promised.

Beware of human error, says a blog for

drivers-training web site DriversEd.com. Assuming that someday autonomous cars are legal on public streets, it won't be ideal conditions for the robot. There will be a mix of human- and robot-controlled vehicles - the same driving conditions that exist in Mountain View where the Google car and the bus got tangled.

"And when driver-controlled and driverless cars have to share the road, it's not necessarily going to be safer for everyone" warned a blog posted Jan. 20 to announce the DMV rules for self-driving vehicles.

"In fact, it may be more dangerous, as drivers will have one more kind of road user to accommodate, and autonomous vehicles will have to respond to the one factor that can never be fully predicted: human behavior."

Distracted driving isn't going to disappear either because of self-driving vehicles either, the blog adds. "Even with the option for the driver to take over in an emergency, a licensed driver who wants to be chauffeured probably isn't going to pay close attention to the road ... what would be the point of giving up control in the first place?" •

Finance

These 3 Steps Will Help You Get Out Of Debt This Year

(BPT) - Providing for a family. Getting an education. Striving for the American dream. Sarah Thomas of Bono, AR, was like so many others, trying to better her life. She got a master's in nursing in order to give herself and her son a bright future, but soon after found herself overwhelmed by loans.

"I pursued an education and ended up with a ton of credit card debt," says Thomas. "The American dream gone wrong."

She's not alone. The average U.S. household with debt carries \$15,355 in credit card debt and \$129,579 in total debt, according to nerdwallet.com. And the Federal Reserve's interest rate hike this month means that you will be paying even more interest on your debt; that 0.25 percent rate increase equates to \$2 billion in extra fees for Americans next year. For people like Thomas, the weight of paying off high-interest loans can be overwhelming.

Thomas was able to consolidate her high-interest debt and take control of her finances. If you want to take control of your financial future and eliminate debt, these simple yet highly-effective strategies can make a big difference.

Step 1: Build A Solid Budget

Use an online budgeting tool like Mint.com to organize your spending. Even if you aren't able to stick to the budget you set every month, it's important to know where your dollars are going so you can take action accordingly.

Step 2: Consider Cost-cutting Measures

Can you switch to a cheaper phone plan? Could you cut cable? What about buying generic brands? These are important questions you

can ask as you audit your expenses and take appropriate measures to trim unnecessary spending.

Step 3: Research Debt Consolidation Options

Marketplace lending, also called peer-to-peer lending, is an alternative to traditional loans through which borrowers get access to low, fixed rates (insulated from further rate increases by the Fed) with no hidden fees or prepayment penalties. The industry is growing rapidly, with one of the leading platforms, Prosper, surpassing \$5 billion in loans this year.

For many, a debt consolidation loan helps simplify things. Instead of having multiple bills with varying high interest rates, you can take out a loan to pay off all your debt, and then simply repay the one loan at a lower fixed interest rate. For many people, having one payment versus many makes it much easier to feel like they are in control of their finances.

An added benefit is that rates are often lower than with a credit card. According to a WiseBread.com article, it's important to begin the peer-to-peer lending process by getting a rate quote. Then you can do the math to determine how much money you can save consolidating your debt and paying it off at an accelerated pace.

Thomas decided to consolidate her debt through Prosper. She went to www.prosper.com and selected the loan's amount and purpose. "It's been the easiest, most streamlined process that I have ever had," says Thomas. "I am so thankful that we now have an attainable way to pay off debt. That way we can be proud of our hard work rather than forever burdened by it." •



Seniors

Transform Your Home Today, Stay Safe Tomorrow



(BPT) - While many can only dream of the day they'll retire, for baby boomers, that dream is quickly becoming a reality. By the year 2030, approximately 20 percent of Americans are expected to be age 65 or older, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. But retirement doesn't necessarily mean relocating to a senior community. More and more, adults choose to "age in place," remaining in their current home, even after retirement. Here are a few ways to add extra convenience today - and ensure a safe home in the future.

Change Up Common Areas

When thinking about the long-term, start with the layout. In a perfect world, it's ideal to have all the key living spaces - bathroom, kitchen and bedroom on the first floor. If your home wasn't built with a first-floor bedroom or bath, and stairs have to be a part of your plan, install no-slip strips on the edge of each stair to help limit trips and falls.

Next, make sure there's plenty of room to move. Aim for doorways that are at least 32 inches wide, though 36 inches is ideal. Tight corners and doorways are a challenge for those with walkers or canes. For stress-free opening and closing, change out door handles from traditional knobs to lever handles for an easier grip.

Then, focus on the flooring. Installing carpeting can provide warmth and cushioning for you to enjoy now, and offers an added element of safety when it might be harder for you to maneuver around in the future. Choose a low pile carpet to minimize tripping - too much shag is a safety hazard. Area rugs are a major no-no, as unsecured rugs and loose carpet are one of the main causes for slips and falls. If you can't bear the thought of

losing your area rug, use carpet tape to secure it firmly to the floor.

Boost the bath

If you can only update one place in your home, make it the bathroom. The bathroom typically offers the most opportunities for injury. In fact, roughly 234,000 injuries occur annually in the bathroom alone, as stated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. An easy way to incorporate safety is to install grab bars. Today's grab bars are stylish, fitting in seamlessly with your space, rather than seeming obtrusive and sterile. Install them near the toilet, (make sure you have a comfort-height commode for easy sitting and standing) as well as in the shower. Some models, like the corner shelf with grab bar from Moen, pull double duty adding an element of additional storage you can take advantage of immediately, providing room to store your shampoo, and will help keep you safe while entering and exiting the bath. Check out retailers like Lowe's for a wide array of options that are fashionable as well as functional. In the shower, a handheld showerhead, like the Magnetix Engage showerhead from Moen, is an ideal option for those who may want to be seated while they bathe. Engage with Magnetix is also handy for cleaning the shower, by eliminating bending and squatting which can be hard on your joints as you age. Finally, at the vanity, choose a faucet with lever handles - they're easiest to grip and turn - and install sconces near the mirror for additional lighting.

In general, the most important advice for any room in your home is to think efficiently. Locate items that work together near each other to make tasks easier today, tomorrow and in the years to come. •