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Lawndale High School Falls in Overtime



Lawndale High's Aaron Estrada gets past Santa Monica High School defenders in last week's Ocean League boys' soccer action. The Vikings outlasted the Cardinals 3-2 in overtime. Photo by Joe Snyder

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Valentine Selected For Hawthorne Seat, English Named Mayor Pro Tem as Council Moves Forward

By Derrick Deane

After more than a month of struggling to come to a decision on who would occupy their vacated seat, the Hawthorne City Council took bold steps to avoid a special election this summer.

Former Mayor Pro Tem Olivia Valentine was chosen by a 3-1 vote to occupy the empty seat which was vacated when Alex Vargas defeated former mayor Chris Brown in November's election.

It wasn't smooth sailing in the early going though. The council convened for a special meeting last Thursday in hopes of filling the seat. Following the same eight-round format that they had implemented since the process began, the council members breezed through five rounds of nominations before Vargas paused the process to offer an alternate solution.

"It's not working and we're not focusing in on a candidate here," Vargas said after the fifth round of nominations. "My proposal is that we seriously look at our top two candidates and we'll look to see if there is a common denominator amongst the four of us."

Councilman Nilo Michelin was the only council member who expressed reservations about the change in the nomination process.

"You were the one who wanted to do it in this order and to change it midstream would be a little unorthodox," Michelin said. "Let's play out this process. I think it's a great idea and let's entertain it for Friday."

Had the Council not come to a majority decision by the end of Thursday's meeting, they would have been forced to meet again the next day to avoid a special election. Fortunately for the city, it didn't come to that.

After completing the eight rounds of futilely nominating candidates, the council moved to

Vargas' idea of each council member naming their top two candidates. The common denominator from that process was Valentine.

While Michelin objected to the idea of introducing a new process "mid-stream," he ultimately came around and participated. Michelin was the one member who did not select Valentine for the vacant seat stating that she had voted on the previous city budgets that has since caused the city much financial strain.

Meanwhile, Valentine, who finished fourth in the general election last November behind candidate Katrina Manning, said that she was grateful for the opportunity to rejoin the council.

"I want to thank my council colleagues for having faith in me," Valentine said after she had taken her seat with the rest of the council. "I want to see us work together in a unified way. I want to see us bring the council together, bring the city together and move Hawthorne forward. No more of the in-fighting, no more of the factionalism, let's move the city forward."

Vargas took a moment to address the numerous residents who had come before the council and stated that they wished for the council to honor the election results and place the third highest vote getter, Katrina Manning, into the vacant seat.

"The City Council converged about a month ago to discuss a procedure. We are in full compliance. This is a decision that has been given to the council body to fill the seat, not the residents," Vargas said. "The residents voted for two positions. If they had voted for a third position, as a contingency, people might have viewed that election different."

With the candidate selection process behind them, the council met prior to their

regularly scheduled Tuesday meeting to name Councilwoman Angie Reyes English as the new Mayor Pro Tem.

Vargas put forth the nomination which was seconded by Valentine. Michelin was not in attendance during the vote, which was unanimous.

Vargas and English took time to tout the new futsal fields that were funded by Chevrolet, the L.A. Galaxy, and Manchester United.

"Evidence of the city of Hawthorne turning in a different direction immediately after this council was seated was the futsal field. Chevrolet invested a lot of money to the project," Vargas said.

The mayor also took a moment to tout Space X and the growth of the company as they finished construction and opened up a new parking structure on Crenshaw Blvd.

"That's a big deal," Vargas said. "That just tells us how much Space X has grown and how much they have invested in our community and decided to stay here because the city of Hawthorne has been business friendly."

Speaking of being business friendly, bringing revenue into the city is going to be a key facet in turning the financial situation around and in his closing statements, Vargas touted that businesses were coming to Hawthorne. He cited a Starbucks and a Blaze Pizza that were opening up soon in the city and teased that there were many more announcements to come.

"It's not business as usual. Today's meeting is evidence of that. We came here to do business, not to bicker or go after each other, that's the old ways," Vargas said. "Pretty soon you'll see more than the Starbucks and the Blaze Pizza coming up, and that will assure you that we're going in the right direction." •

Weekend Forecast

Friday
Sunny
80°/56°



Saturday
Sunny
78°/57°



Sunday
Partly
Cloudy
85°/60°



PETSPETS **Pets** PETSPETS

Wowser Schnauzers



Ziggy

I get along great with other dogs and would love to have a doggie pal. My first choice would be my friend Stardust but if you already have a dog, that's okay too. If you are interested in Ziggy, please email info@msfr.org for more information.

If you believe that stardust is magical, then I'm about to bring magic to your life. That's because my name is **Stardust!** I too am a 2-year old, female, Schnauzer/Poodle mix (like my best friend Ziggy). She and I met up with Major Tom when we were trying to find our way home but ended up in a LA county shelter as strays. The matted, dreadlock look just wasn't me and I was thrilled that the groomer was able to make my coat sparkle and glisten again. Ziggy and I look so much alike we could be twins. We're tiny, only 13 pounds, with the cutest "Schnoodle" faces you'll ever see. The only noticeable difference is my nose is rose colored and hers is black. I'm a bit more reserved than my friend but I'm just as affectionate and get along great with other dogs. Ziggy and I would love to stay together, however, if that won't work out, another doggie pal to keep me company would be great. If you are interested in Stardust, please email info@msfr.org for more information.

Hello. My name is **Major Tom** and I'm the last member of the trio who ended up at a LA county shelter as strays. I'm a handsome, 2-year old male who, like my gal pals, was a matted mess with long, dirty grey dreadlocks before having a truly



Stardust



Pia

transformational makeover. I'm a little larger, 16-pounds, than the ladies and with my long legs I've been called a tall drink of water. Truth be told, no one knows for certain if I'm actually a Schnauzer/Poodle mix ("Schnoodle") or a Schnauzer/Wheaten Terrier mix ("Schweaten"). One thing is certain; I'm a gentle, quiet young man who enjoys the company of other dogs as well as people. If you are interested in Major

Tom, please email info@msfr.org for more information.

Looking for a sweet little gal to be your best pal? I think I would definitely fit the bill. I'm **Pia**, a 2-year old, female Corgi/Chihuahua mix who's a lively, playful girl. I was rescued from the Baldwin Park shelter where I spent a month in residence after being confiscated from my previous owner. When I meet new people I'm pretty relaxed and friendly so everyone thinks I was neglected and not abused at my former home. I'm pretty athletic and have lots of energy so I would do really well in a home with other dogs and/or an active family. I could benefit from some basic obedience training but I'm great on a leash. I've also learned my car riding manners, am crate trained and at 14 pounds, I'm easily transportable. Please let me share my life with you. Pia can be seen anytime at Yellow Brick Road Doggie Playcare in El Segundo Call 310-606-5507 or email southbaydoggie@hotmail.com for an appointment or more information. •

*Be kind. Save a life.
Support animal rescue.*



Major Tom

Happy Tails

Congratulations to **Maddie** and her new family. Maddie, now named Ella, is our rescue from mid-November 2015 and is our very first adoption of 2016. Her new family recently lost their 11-year old Schnauzer and

were looking for a gal they could open their hearts to. Ella joins her family of 3 and she even has a girl to call her very own. We wish them many happy years together filled with great adventures and even better memories. •



Maddie/Ella was the very first adoption of 2016!

THE YELLOW DOG PROJECT.com

If you see a dog with a **YELLOW RIBBON** or something yellow on the leash, **this is a dog who needs some space.** Please do not approach this dog with your dog. Please maintain distance or give this dog and his/her person time to move out of your way.






There are many reasons why a dog may need space:

HEALTH ISSUES
IN TRAINING
BEING REHABILITATED
SCARED OR REACTIVE AROUND OTHER DOGS

THANK YOU!

Those of us who own these dogs appreciate your help and respect!

illustrated by Lili Chin www.doggiedrawings.net