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AND LAWNDALE NEWS

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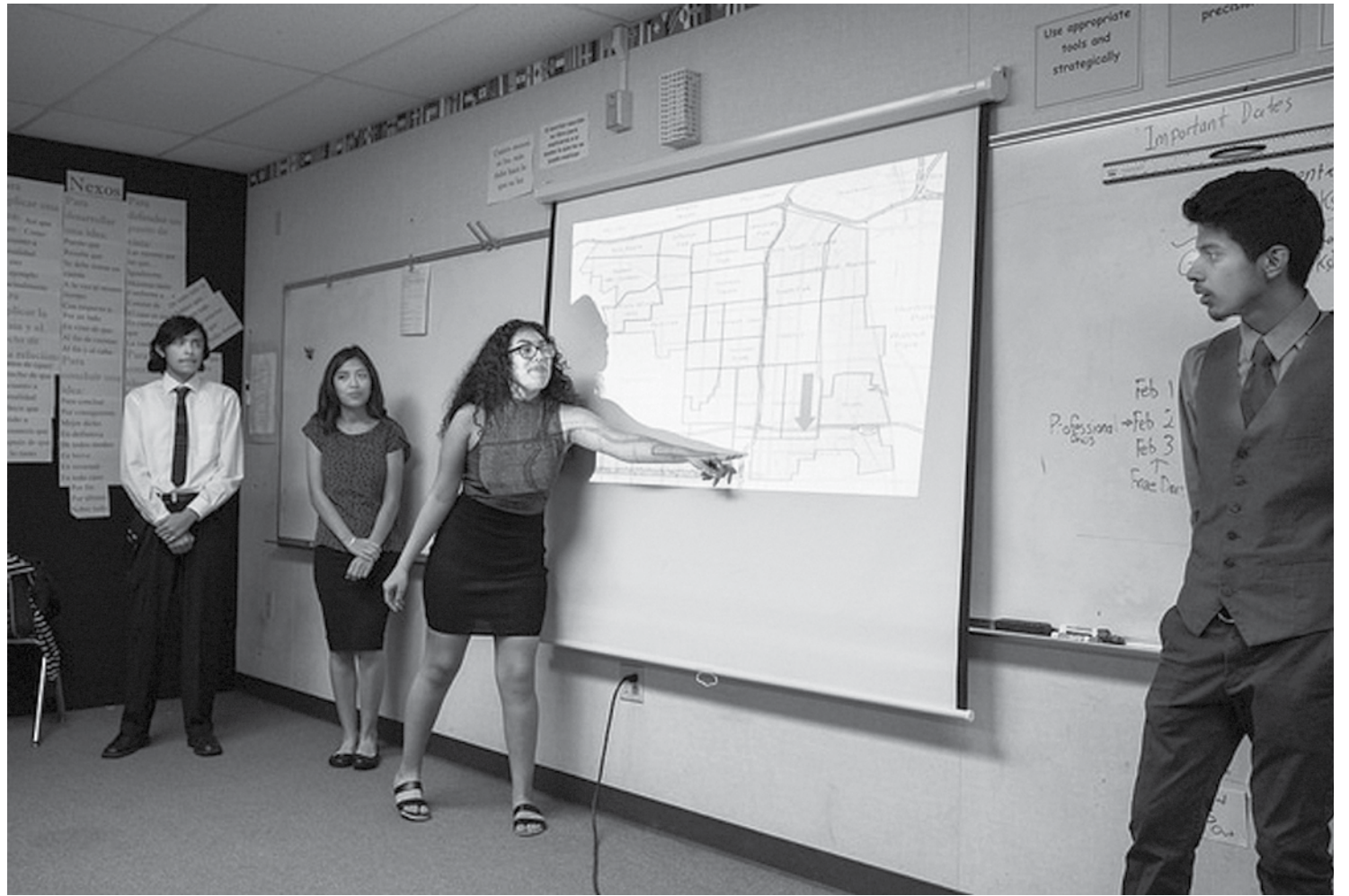
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ECHS Student Presentations on Community Forum Day



Eleventh grade students present to community members about their intersession projects on Community Forum Day at Lawndale's Environmental Charter High School (ECHS) on February 2. Pictured left to right: David Ramirez, Cristina Valadez, Franyelika Ortiz and Abel Escobar. The 11th graders explored the question, "What Role Do Changes in Demographics and Property Play in the Process of Gentrification?" In order to better understand the process of gentrification, students researched changes in property and demographics of their local community and analyze the role that they play in this process. (Photo by Ken Deemer)

What's Keeping People Away from Local Beaches?

By Rob McCarthy

The South Bay is shaped by the coastline, and so is the lifestyle in those communities. Locals choose to live here for the ocean views and the vibe that comes from living near the water. The beach belongs to every Californian. However, throngs of would-be visitors never come to visit, and now we know why.

"If you say 'California' to anybody, the coast or the beach is going to be one of the first things that pops into anyone's mind," said Jon Christensen, who just released the results of a statewide survey about what prevents Californians from enjoying the beaches. What Christensen and his co-researchers discovered is the state's beaches are beyond the budgets of many residents, especially people with lower incomes and families. Going to the beach costs money, the survey by UCLA and San Francisco State University found.

They priced a day trip to the beach (almost \$37) and an overnight stay (\$605) and found those travel costs were way beyond what Californians were willing to pay to use the beach or stay a night. On average, people are willing to pay \$8.75 for parking and \$117 for overnight accommodations. Households making less than \$50,908 wanted to pay \$78 for overnight accommodations, limiting their options to flopping on a friend's couch or camping.

It wasn't always this way, Christensen notes in his report. The Coastal Commission and the Coastal Conservancy focused on keeping beaches open to the public by providing access points. "Overcoming economic obstacles for would-be beachgoers will prove more difficult," he fears. "This generation of

challenges can't be handled by the Coastal Commission and the Coastal Conservancy alone, The Legislature and Governor can lead, but it will also take local agencies, philanthropy and nonprofit organizations." Last year marked the 40th anniversary of California's Coastal Act, which guarantees everyone access to the iconic coastal areas and beaches up and down the state.

"If you say 'California' to anybody, the coast or the beach is going to be one of the first things that pops into anyone's mind."

The poll results of voters statewide and beach surveys pinpointed the three reasons why people who live outside the beach cities say that access to the coast is a problem for them. The cost of parking is high, hotels aren't affordable, and public transportation is limited. Nearly 30 percent of people stay away because they can't swim.

South Bay cities could help by offering free or reduced parking rates on select days, and it doesn't have to be during the summer months only since the area's best weather happens after kids go back to school. Off-peak pricing to park at Dockweiler State Beach, El Segundo, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa or Redondo could lower the barriers and let visitors and first-timers to Vista del Mar experience a view of the Pacific.

To no one's surprise, Dockweiler State Beach attracts more Latinos, African-Americans and people from lower-income households than Santa Monica Beach. Santa Monica attracts a

diverse beach crowd that looks like modern-day California, the report said.

Another finding of the survey: An overwhelming majority of California voters say that coastal water quality and the beaches are important to them. That explains why 30 million residents visit a beach at least once a year. "Our coast and beaches are among our most democratic spaces. Despite our differences, we all share a love of the coast and many of the same desires and reasons for coming to the beach," the authors remind us.

A cooperative marketing campaign to visit South Bay's iconic beaches and vistas could go a long way toward making a day at the beach more inviting to inlanders. South Bay cities could help by offering the above-mentioned free or reduced parking rates on select days. Off-peak days pricing to park at Dockweiler State Beach, El Segundo, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa or Redondo could also ensure the message gets out that beaches are everyone's to enjoy. Vista del Mar is translated "view of the ocean," but people want to feel the sand under their feet too.

The report recommends a broad series of steps that public officials and private groups and foundations can take to lower the economic barriers for people living inland. There are groups at the coast and inland doing their part to interest Latino girls in surfing, for example. The Brown Girl Surf group doesn't have a local chapter yet, but given time and some funding it will introduce boys and girls who've never been to the beach to the conclusion that singer Sheryl Crow shares in a song: "I'm gonna soak up the sun while it's still free..." •

Weekend Forecast

Friday

Rain
60°/55°



Saturday

Rain
60°/55°



Sunday

Mostly Sunny
62°/54°



PETSPETS **Pets** PETSPETS

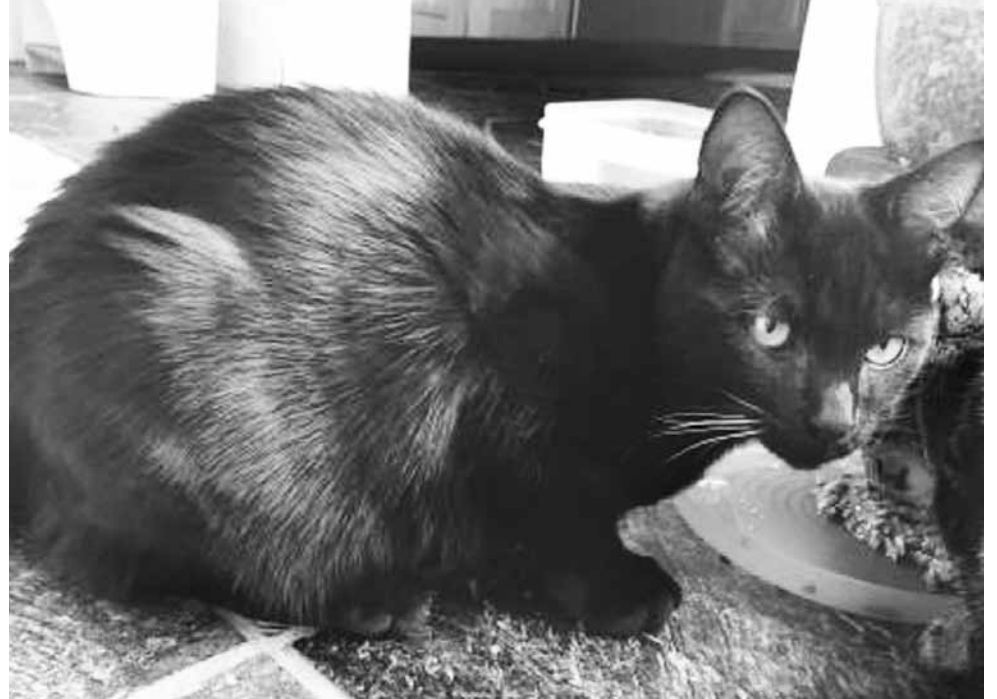
Purrrfect Companions



Madison



Gabby



Beauregard

Each of our kitties are looking for their purr-fect someone who will love them in a new forever home.

Madison is a sensitive soul who tries to understand what you are saying while looking deep into your eyes. She appears to be holding out hope to one day learn your innermost thoughts. Unlike Gabby, her extroverted sister, Madison prefers hanging back for a few moments to evaluate each situation. Once clear, she'll hop down from her cat tree and demand cuddles and pets. This five-month-old darling wants very much to find a human or two with whom to bond and cuddle. She's a real love bug. True to her Tortie coloring, she is very affectionate, silly, devoted and vocal about her likes and dislikes. She also enjoys children and playing games with them. Madison would like to be adopted with her sister Gabby or her brother Ryan.

Ryan is a happy-go-lucky guy who gets along with everyone. He has an easygoing personality and generally takes things in stride. He's a goofy fellow too--not fully comfortable with his ever-growing long legs and body. He loves cuddles and playtime, and is full of energy. Luckily, he is constantly entertained by his sisters Gabby and Madison. Ryan would do well being adopted with one or both of them or as a buddy to another playful cat who is open to having a friend. Ryan is very interested in being friends with a dog, but he has sadly not yet met any wanting to be friends with him. Ryan loves playing and cuddling with older children and doesn't mind being slightly mauled and carried around by

them. But he might not be suitable for very young children, as he does sometimes gently play "bite" hands and feet. Ryan would like to be adopted into a busy home with a cat-friendly dog, an outgoing young cat, or one of his foster sisters.

Gabby is a classic Tortie: affectionate, assertive, goofy and devoted. She is a bit of a chatterbox and will greet you with some meows when you enter a room. She immediately warms up to strangers, curling up on their laps and giving them big cat kisses with her eyes. She would like a human or two of her own, though. Torties are known to be loyal and most affectionate with their core family. She would like it to be known that she will be in charge of your house. Any cats she lives with must be comfortable knowing that she will be the alpha and they must be confident enough to endure her grumbles. Gabby is not a fan of dogs, although she has always lived with one and will tolerate them. She likes respectful children who will play with her. Gabby would like to be placed in a home ready to worship her with cuddles and kisses. She would like to be adopted with her sister Madison, also a Tortie, and who seems to understand her best...or her brother Ryan, who is comfortable playing the beta to her alpha.

Violet is a wonderful little girl. She nearly starved to death at birth, but was rescued by dedicated Kitten Rescue volunteers and placed into a warm and loving foster home with her two siblings. Violet, a once independent cat, has become very loving and cuddly. She

hangs out each night on her foster parent's bed with her brother Beauregard and can be also be found playing with her other kitten friends. Violet has been raised with teenagers and a four-year-old, and is very good with children--both tolerant and easygoing with child play. Violet will need another kitten or cat to play with in her forever home. Her ideal family would adopt her with her brother Beauregard.

Beauregard is a very playful and loving kitten. This little guy was rescued from the front steps of a home with two siblings. His foster family says it will find it hard to part with Beauregard as he's a real snuggler, particularly at night. He has been known to purr the night away--content to sleep at their feet or come under the covers for a quick soft pet. He's got amazingly soft fur and no bad habits. Beauregard would love to be adopted into a loving home. He has been raised with teens and the family's four-year-old, so he is a *great* family cat. He'd be just fine with a loving adult as well, but he'd be quite

unhappy and lonely without another kitty as a feline friend.

These cats and kittens are available for adoption through Kitten Rescue, one of the largest cat rescue groups in Southern California. All our kitties are spayed/neutered, microchipped, tested for FeLV and FIV, dewormed and current on their vaccinations. For additional information and to see these or our other kittens and cats, please check our website www.kittenrescue.org or email us at mail@kittenrescue.org. Your tax-deductible donations for the rescue and care of our cats and kittens can be made through our website or by sending a check payable to Kitten Rescue, 914 Westwood Boulevard, #583, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

On Saturdays, we have adoptions from noon to 3:30 p.m. in Westchester at 8655 Lincoln Boulevard, just south of Manchester Avenue, and also in Mar Vista at 3860 Centinela Avenue, just south of Venice Boulevard. Our website lists additional adoption sites and directions to each location. •

Be kind. Save a life. Support animal rescue.



Ryan



Violet