

# Lawndale Tribune

AND LAWNDALE NEWS

The Weekly Newspaper of Lawndale

Herald Publications - Inglewood, Hawthorne, Lawndale, El Segundo, Torrance & Manhattan Beach Community Newspapers Since 1911 - Circulation 30,000 - Readership 60,000 (310) 322-1830 - November 21, 2013

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## Students Welcome Peace Advocate



Throngs of youth gathered at LAX on Oct. 30 to greet peace advocate Man Lee, founder of International Peace Youth Group, before a large peace rally was held the following day. Photo provided by the International Youth Peace Group.

## Harold E. Hofmann, the 'People's Mayor,' Dies Unexpectedly

By Nancy Peters

On Friday night, when Harold E. Hofmann, the Mayor of Lawndale, went to sleep and said goodnight to his wife Doris, it was unknown that he would not wake up the next morning. Hofmann, elected Mayor of Lawndale an unprecedented 12 times, died of natural causes and was pronounced dead at his home in the very early morning hours on Saturday, Nov. 16. He had not been ill or in poor health.

Harold E. Hofmann was deemed by citizens the "People's Mayor," for apparently taking the side of the citizen having an issue with Public Works, Code Enforcement, etc., listening to the full story before making decisions or recommending an action from the dais. He took phone calls from residents, sometimes going to one's home to discuss an issue face-to-face and listening to citizen remarks at City Council meetings, inspecting a situation on someone's property and measuring and verifying claims of things stated in the municipal code.

He used to tell stories of times when horses were the main mode of transportation, including his own means of getting to school, when the roads were all dirt and Lawndale was not incorporated as a city. The City officially incorporated in 1959, the last of the South Bay cities to do so, although it retained County services for the police, fire and library.

Hofmann never lived anywhere else. He was born and raised in Lawndale, living and dying in the same house for all of his 81 years, with the exception of his years serving his country.

Mayor Hofmann was noted as a gentleman's gentleman. He was seen at nearly every event planned in Lawndale, most times dressed in a suit, white shirt and Windsor-knotted tie. Hofmann worked his entire life, running Hofmann & Son, a sewer-contracting business he started at age 23 after returning home from his stint in the U.S. Army.

As the Mayor and, therefore, the chair of Council meetings, it is said that Hofmann ran the meetings with precision, starting on

time and ending without extraneous clutter or keeping citizens waiting during lengthy closed sessions. He gave his fellow dais occupants a chance to raise questions and express their opinions. His knowledge of Lawndale and its past aided the Council in situations when he could recall an issue from years ago.

Lawndale elected Harold Hofmann to the City Council in 1980. Popular with the residents,

*"Not only was Harold a highly respected member of the Lawndale City Council—he was also a passionate advocate for the residents of Lawndale. We will truly miss him."*

his desire to be a public servant and not a politician appealed to the populace. He stayed on the dais without interruption until 1990 when he first ran for Mayor—and, then, in each of the following 12 election cycles was either reelected or ran unopposed, serving for 24 years as Mayor and a total of 33 years in public office. During his tenure, the City of Lawndale continuously ran in the black, made building improvements or built new buildings, such as the County Library (partnering with L.A. County) and the Lawndale Community Center made possible by grants and sound management of the City's redevelopment funds. Hofmann's business experience, which made him a personal success, was an asset to the city he loved.

Harold Hofmann did not run for office with donations from any groups or individuals in the city. He made a point of being available for his constituents, but also made time for those at City Hall, stopping by nearly every business day to sign paperwork, meet with the City Manager or just say hello to City employees he had known since their first day on the job.

He was available for his Council members for any questions or clarifications as well. Robert Pullen-Miles, the junior member of the City Council, said, "Mayor Hofmann was not only a colleague of mine, but he was a friend. He was always a person that I could count on for professional advice."

Pullen-Miles continued, "As one of the longest serving elected officials in California, Mayor Hofmann was very instrumental in helping to shape the City of Lawndale into the heart of the South Bay. Not only was Harold a highly respected member of the Lawndale City Council—he was also a passionate advocate for the residents of Lawndale. We will truly miss him."

Hofmann had been a mentor to politicians in neighboring cities, namely former Mayor of Hawthorne Larry Guidi. "What a great man. Lawndale lost a great leader," said Guidi.

The family has requested donations be made to the Little Company of Mary Foundation, 4101 Torrance Blvd., Torrance 90503, or to the Dexter Foundation, a dog rescue organization, dexterfoundation.org. Harold and Doris Hofmann considered their pets members of their family and over the years had rescued many Boston terriers. Condolences can be sent to Mrs. Hofmann at City Hall, 14717 Burin Ave., Lawndale 90260.

Harold and Doris Hofmann had been married for 60 years. Besides being survived by his wife, Hofmann leaves three children and eight grandchildren.

A memorial service for the public will be held on Saturday, Nov. 23 at 1 p.m. at the Lawndale Community Center.

The Lawndale City Council will deal with the absence of its Mayor and leader at its next meeting, tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 3 at 6:30 p.m. Ironically, at a recent meeting, the Council voted on ways to fill a vacancy in its ranks. The members didn't know how soon they would need to invoke that decision.

Rest in Peace, Mayor Hofmann. •

## Weekend Forecast

Friday

AM  
Showers  
66°/53°



Saturday

Few  
Showers  
68°/51°



Sunday

Partly  
Cloudy  
65°/51°





# Calendar

## ALL CITIES

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23

• Native American Heritage Month: Black Seminole and the Underground Railroad by Phil Wilkes "Pompey" Fixico, 2:30 pm, AC Bilbrew Library, 150 E. ElSegundo Blvd. For more information call (310) 538-3350.

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

• Free Mean and Fellowship to South Bay seniors and in-need adults, 7:30 p.m. (also Dec. 30), First Christian Church, room 4, 2930 El Dorado St. For more information call (424) 263-4276.

### ONGOING

• Recovery International Meetings, Fridays, 10 a.m., South Bay Mental Health Center, 2311 El Segundo Blvd. For more information call (310) 512-8112.

## HAWTHORNE

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

• City Council Meeting, 6-10 p.m., City Council Chambers, 4455 W 126th St. For more information call (310) 349-2915.

### ONGOING

• Hawthorne Museum open Tuesdays 10

a.m.-2 p.m. and Saturdays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Hawthorne Museum, corner of 126th and Grevillea Ave.

## INGLEWOOD

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

• Tuesday Family Movie at the Library, 5:30 p.m. Main Library, 101 W. Manchester Blvd. For more information call (310) 412-5645.

## LAWDALE

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

• Angel Tree Lighting Ceremony, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Civic Center Plaza.

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

• City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m. City Hall, 14717 Burin Ave.

### ONGOING

• Lawndale Farmers Market, every Wednesday, 2-7 p.m., 147th St. in front of Lawndale Library. For information call (310) 679-3306.

• Commodities Free Food Program, every Wednesday at 10 a.m., Community Center, 14700 Burin Ave. For information call (310) 973-3270. •

## Hawthorne Middle School, Improvements and Setbacks

### By Dylan Little

During its Nov. 13 meeting, the Hawthorne School Board heard a presentation from Hawthorne Middle School Principal Rudy Salas on the campus' academic performance last year. While last year wasn't a complete success for the school, the Board was happy to see Salas has a plan in place to improve student achievement.

Hawthorne Middle School has seen some minor declines. In English language arts the school has fallen from 52.8 percent proficient (or advanced) to 51 percent. Similarly, in math, the school has fallen from 51.7 percent proficient to 50.6 percent.

Another factor in the school's declining scores is inconsistent subgroup growth. Salas said that year to year, the subgroups targeted for additional help due to declining scores have seen improvement, but typically another subgroup will see losses in their place. Last year, English language learners were targeted, and they improved by 4.3 percent--enough to meet the "Safe Harbor" goals laid out for the school. However, in their place, African American students saw a decline of 7.3 percent. While Salas would like to provide additional resources like increased intervention time and individualized instruction to every student, the time and resources just aren't available. "Our student achievement has seen a decline in the last few years," said Salas. "We continue to work on it. There is just a finite amount of time and resources."

Still, Hawthorne Middle School boasts a number of successes. It is home to the highest-achieving seventh grade in the Hawthorne School District with 66 percent of seventh graders scoring proficient in math and 62 percent receiving those scores in English language arts. Additionally, Salas' school earned a 783 Academic Performance Index score, which ties its 2011 score--the highest the school has earned since API started being measured. Still, Salas says it's falling short of the goal of an 800 API score. "We have room for growth," he said.

Salas' plan for better student achievement is built on improving four key areas: school environment, parent involvement, staff skills and classroom instruction. He said the environment at Hawthorne Middle School has been improved by the additional security hired this year and by the efforts of all the staff to foster attitudes of respect and responsibility in the students. Salas noted that the school cafeteria had signs urging students to have and show respect. He also wants students to feel safe to take academic risks and realize failure is part of learning.

Classroom instruction is changing at Hawthorne Middle School to include more hands-on work and collaboration between students. Some of these changes are part of the adoption of the Common Core State Standards, but the rest are part of the school's commitment to new teaching practices, as shown by embracing programs like Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship and its Two-Way Bilingual Academy. Salas is also trying to increase the rigor of the school's math program and put more students into accelerated math classes. District Superintendent Helen Morgan pointed out that while these new strategies may be impacting the school's test scores, it's what's best for the students. "We knew moving to academies would impact test scores and the impact has been minimal," said Morgan. "In math, we are also trying to do the right thing by students and that means having to put students in more challenging math classes."

Students aren't the only ones facing changes. Hawthorne Middle School's teachers are also being asked to embrace new techniques and to collaborate more with their colleagues. Salas admitted that this is pulling some of his teachers out of their routines, but, he said, they are all willing to do what it takes to improve their students' educations. "Some staff members are out of their comfort zone, but they are taking it in stride," said Salas. "I want my teachers to try things if it's going to help student achievement."

The last pillar in Salas' plan is increasing parent involvement. In addition to methods used throughout the District, like the Parent Academy or the District English Learners Advisory Committee (DELAC), he plans to engage parents through after-school clubs and sports. Salas also reported that fundraising has been a successful way to get parents involved in helping the school. The latest fundraiser brought in \$9,000 for the school to use.

Board member Cristina Chiappe said all the changes are helping to shift public opinion about Hawthorne Middle School. She said she trusts Salas and his staff to ensure that students are getting a first-class education. "We are changing the way people think of Hawthorne Middle School," said Chiappe. "We always have to be promoting what we're doing for the students. Your leadership and the commitment of your staff shows you know where you're going." •

# Hawthorne Happenings

## News for the 'City of Good Neighbors'

From City Clerk Norb Huber

### Thankful Living

Thanksgiving is next week, and we are reminded to be thankful for the many blessings we receive. Every day can be a day of thanks giving in our lives. It is amazing what happens when we say a simple "thank you" whenever we receive something. It's good when we show gratitude for something someone has done for us. Even the small gesture of holding a door open for someone can be a thankful moment. When we look around and see what God has given to us here in America we can live in gratitude even if we don't have the newest car or largest house or our favorite team didn't win the game last night.

### Hawthorne Chamber Seeks Nominations

The Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for the Hawthorne Citizen of the Year award that will be presented during the Chamber's annual Installation of Officers and Civic Awards Banquet, Dec. 6 at LAX Diner, 11433 Hawthorne Blvd, from 5:30 to 9 p.m.

The award is given to individuals who have given outstanding service to the community as a volunteer and through other humanitarian activities, and have helped to build a better community. Nominees must be residents of the City of Hawthorne, or live within the Wiseburn or Hawthorne School District boundaries.

Nominations must be in the Chamber office by noon on Nov. 27. Written nominations may be hand-carried or emailed to the Chamber at 12519 Crenshaw Blvd, Hawthorne. Nominations may also be emailed to [sfernandez@hawthorne-chamber.com](mailto:sfernandez@hawthorne-chamber.com).

### Thanksgiving and Holiday Baskets

If you would like to make a donation to help



the families of Hawthorne that are in need this holiday season, you can contact the Presidents Council or the Chamber of Commerce to make a financial contribution to their food and gift programs. You can contact the Presidents Council at (310) 686-5464 or the Chamber of Commerce at (310) 676-1163.

Mayor Pro-Tem Angie English also is in charge of "Operation Gobble," which gives out turkeys. If you would like to contribute to her assistance program, please call (310) 249-2908. There are many families that need assistance during this time of the year. Your generous donation will go to help make the holiday season a little bit better for these good neighbors.

### Hawthorne Hometown Holiday Celebration

The Hawthorne Historical Society will host a tree lighting and holiday celebration on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. This will be the time that Santa arrives in Hawthorne. Children of all ages are invited down to the Civic Center to enjoy the music, food and activities that evening. Mark your calendars.

### Holiday Home Decorating Contest

The Hawthorne Recreation and Community Services Department announces its annual holiday home decorating contest that has an entry deadline of Dec. 17. If you like to decorate your home's exterior for Christmas, then plan to enter the contest. Entry forms are available at the Memorial Center or at City Hall. There will be awards given to first, second and third-place winners. Judging will take place on Dec. 19 from 6 to 9 p.m.

### Comments or Questions

Please contact [norbhuber@gmail.com](mailto:norbhuber@gmail.com) or 310-292-6714. •

*Our life is what our thoughts make it.*

*~ Marcus Aurelius*

## Community Briefs



### STUDENTS URGED TO AIM FOR SUCCESS

Lawndale's Environmental Charter High School's 7th Annual Career Day keynote speaker and one of Los Angeles' newest upcoming comics Ron G entertained students with jokes, impersonations and funny personal anecdotes while encouraging them to pursue their passions. G, who earned a dual degree in finance and management, explained that he found professional happiness after leaving the career he thought he was "supposed" to pursue to follow his dream of being a comedian.

During last Friday's "I Am My Own Superhero"-themed event, some 50 local

professionals representing a variety of fields -- ranging from attorneys, Park Rangers, business owners and entrepreneurs to executives from the corporate, entertainment and nonprofit worlds -- met with 9th- through 12th-grade students, most of whom come from households below the poverty line and families who have never attended college, urging them to get a college education, aim high in their post-graduate pursuits and use life's hardships and challenges as character-building experiences to help springboard them into successful adult lives.

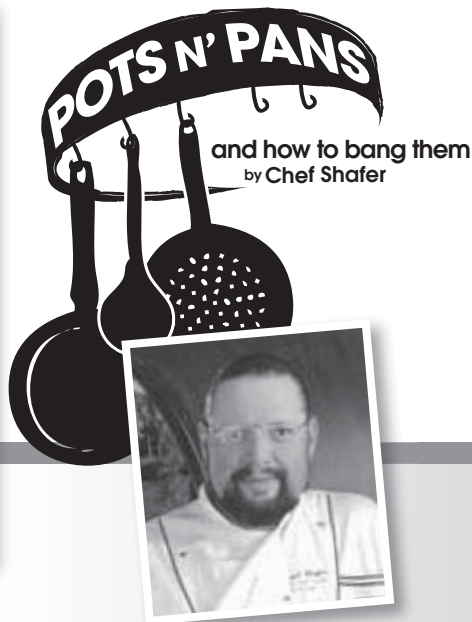
### COVERED CALIFORNIA INFORMATION SESSIONS

The El Camino Business Training Center, located at 13430 Hawthorne Blvd. in Hawthorne, will host two Covered California information sessions. For individuals, Tuesday, Dec. 17, 7-9 p.m. For businesses, Thursday, Dec. 19, 7-9 p.m.

The sessions will cover how the Affordable Care Act (ACA) will affect your family and your business, new health insurance options, the enrollment process and resources available. The Covered California Sessions are sponsored by Treasurer Elect L. David Patterson in partnership with the Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce and hosted by the El Camino College Business Training Center. For more information, contact L. David Patterson, (424) 262-6176 or [LDavidPatterson@gmail.com](mailto:LDavidPatterson@gmail.com). •

Well, we are rounding the corner and Thanksgiving is getting close. This is when you have to start planning for festivities. We all have our favorite way of roasting the royal bird, but this is my favorite next-day leftover concoction.

*The Chef*



## Leftover Turkey Hash



- 1 onion diced
- 2 ears of corn off the cob
- 1 pound of sliced mushrooms
- 1 pound of leftover turkey meat, chopped
- 1/8 cup vegetable oil
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 2 cups chicken broth
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 6 english muffins or biscuits cut in 1/2 and toasted
- 12 poached eggs

In a hot saucepan, sauté the onions, corn and mushrooms in the vegetable oil. Add the turkey, cream and chicken stock and simmer for about 10 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Place the muffins on a plate. Pour the turkey hash over them and top with a poached egg. Happy holidays from The Depot! •

## LEAP Shapes Lives One Child at a Time

By Cristian Vasquez

Through the Lawndale Early Advantage Preschool, the Lawndale School District is developing the language skills, social skills, self-help, gross and fine motor skills and pre-academic skills in all students.

LEAP provides behavioral, language, play and sensory-based programs with each class including students with disabilities and typically developing peers.

“At the core, we would hope that we are providing our students, as the title LEAP says, an advantage or at least enhance their education so that some of our students can graduate and go into a general ed [education] kindergarten without additional support,” Director of Special Education at Lawndale School District Libby Vracin said. “Some students will go to our general ed kindergarten with some support in areas such as language or speech and some of our students will continue to need a more restrictive placement. We have a kindergarten program that serves students with special needs.”

LEAP Preschool offers typically developing preschoolers an opportunity to join the district’s special day classes. Through “Peer Partners,” who help the special education preschool students, LEAP attempts to model appropriate behaviors, language, social and play skills. While the program is tailored to help kids with special developmental needs, typically developing children can interact with these kids and develop understanding for children with a wide range of disabilities. Each year, teachers will start off with 40 kids in six classrooms. As referrals come into the District, the special education department will test children as young as three years old and if they are eligible, they will be enrolled in LEAP.

“Every child is unique and an individual, but this school program is interesting in that at the beginning of the year the teachers of the classrooms start with all four-year-olds,” Vracin said. “Most of our students, about 80 percent, have

been working with regional centers [Westside Regional] and these students have been in that system so the regional center will refer them to us. The parents have a really good idea about what they need because they are parents who sought out help for their kids when they were one [year old], which is wonderful.”

LEAP gives children developmentally appropriate activities taught by specialists in their field. Peer partners participate in speech and language therapy, adapted physical education and occupational therapy with their peers as models. There will be a one-month trial period. At the end of the month, a parent-teacher conference is scheduled to discuss the success of the adjustment into the LEAP class. During said conference it is determined if enrollment should be terminated, if a parent or teacher does not feel this is an appropriate placement.

“It is our obligations as a school district to seek out children that need special education services,” Vracin said. Daily routines at LEAP includes: story time, where kids engage in reading readiness, listening, speaking and writing activities; outside time on playgrounds, which provide kids the opportunity for movement, exploration, improved locomotion balance and creative play. There are also computers available to help kids with speech and language therapy, provided by certified pathologist for eligible kids.

“It is an amazing process. I try to go to every intake with the students turning three because I want to have a relationship with the family, and I want them to know who I am and that they understand that we are a team now,” Vracin said. “All of us are concerned about the child. It is beautiful to see the process of the kids growing. If they aren’t making the kind of progress that they [parents or team] think should be made, then we meet again to see what type of changes we need to make.”

To qualify for LEAP the child must be living within the boundaries of the Lawndale School District. •

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## Classifieds

The deadline for Classified Ad submission and payment is Noon on Tuesday to appear in Thursday's paper. Advertisements must be submitted in writing by mail, fax or email. You may pay by cash, check, or credit card (Visa or M/C over the phone).

Errors: Please check your advertisements immediately. Any corrections and/or changes in an ad must be requested prior to the following Tuesday deadline in order to receive a credit. A credit will be issued for only the first time the error appears. Multiple runs will only be credited for the first time the error appears. No credit will be issued for an amount greater than the cost of the advertisement.

Beware: Employment offers that suggest guaranteed out-of-state or overseas positions may be deceptive or unethical in nature. If you have any doubts about the nature of a company, contact the local office of the Better Business Bureau, (213) 251-9696. Herald Publications does not guarantee that the advertiser's claims are true nor does it take responsibility for those claims.

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