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Innovative Pallet Houses for Homeless Pop-Up In Redondo Beach



TINY BUT MIGHTY: Fourth District L.A. County Supervisor Janice Hahn with Redondo Beach Mayor Bill Brand surveying pallet houses for the homeless. The houses are 8 x 8 foot and can accommodate one or two people inside, with drop down beds, power outlets, heaters, and personal locked storage areas.

BY BRIAN HEWS & TAMMYE MCDUFF

Two weeks ago, L.A. County Supervisor Janice Hahn shared photos that showed her and Redondo Beach Mayor Bill Brand preparing pallet houses for the homeless.

Pallet houses are eight by eight foot shelters that can accommodate one or two people inside, with drop down beds, power outlets, heaters, and personal locked storage areas.

Best of all, each house costs only \$4,900.

"I joined Mayor Bill Brand in Redondo Beach, where new pallet shelters have been installed in record time. The project broke ground on November 23, and we will have people moving in before the end of the year," stated Hahn.

The site has 24/7 security and offers three meals a day for residents. Harbor Interfaith Services will interact with residents providing mental health services and substance abuse and medical treatment while working with each person to find permanent housing.

This past Monday, December 28, during Southern California's worst rain storm to date this year, people began to move into the shelters.

The pallet house idea is the brain child of Brady King, a graduate of Redondo Union High School. The tiny aluminum cabins were originally designed as temporary after Hurricane Katrina.

The shelters are designed to be stored flat, "it is meant to be palletized," King said, "so you can get as many flat packs on a pallet as possible."

The Redondo Beach project is paid for by funds from the CARES Act with another \$409,000 from Homeless and Housing Program funds, and an additional \$300,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds will cover operational costs.

The pallet shelters will remain in place for a period of six months, when the City Council will reevaluate the program.

"These Pallet shelters are a creative, affordable, and-- most importantly-- quick solution to get roofs over peoples' heads.

See **PALLET HOMES** page 14

Montebello Hit With Lawsuit for Retaliation Against Firefighter Captain

BY BRIAN HEWS

Montebello Fire Captain Vernon Creswell filed a suit this week in Los Angeles Superior Court for retaliation for his whistleblower complaints of race discrimination, and related issues. Mr. Creswell also seeks injunctive relief for violations of his rights under the Firefighter's Bill of Rights and disability discrimination law.

The suit is against the city of Montebello and 100 "DOES." DOES are placeholders for individuals and/or businesses who may be included in a lawsuit but have not yet been identified.

Mr. Creswell previously was found to have been subject to racial harassment and retaliation by a jury in 2015, and remains employed by the City.

The Complaint for Damages and Injunctive Relief alleges that the City has retaliated against him for his whistleblower complaint in September 2020.

In a statement Creswell wrote: "As people across the State of California have their lives upended by fires that are encroaching on residential areas, this is a good time to ask what it's like

See **CRESWELL** page 14

Southland Winter Wonderland



SNOW?: a La Mirada resident sent this picture in after hail hit in the city. The city was blanketed with more than an inch in some places.

BY TAMMYE MCDUFF

Southern California is accustomed to rain storms which can be considered our winter weather, but when hail started to fall in cities across Southern California, covering the ground as thick as snow, well that makes the news.

The thunderstorm that pounded the Gateway Cities arrived Sunday night bringing lighting, rolling thunder, and road hazards. As the storm rolled through on Monday it created flash floods and brought snow to the mountains and unexpected problems for those that are still commuting to work.

The National Weather Service reported 'heavy downpours, small hail and gusty winds'. As of Monday afternoon it was reported that as much as an inch to an inch-and-a half of rain had already fallen. Frigid temperatures brought widespread hail, with reports of ice coming down in the San Gabriel Valley and Inland Empire.

La Mirada, Whittier, Downey and parts of Bellflower received so much hail that it left streets and rooftops covered in white. In some place so much that children gathered in the parks to sled. La Mirada Creek Park was blanketed with hail; the riverbeds were full and flowing, tumbling over the rocks and the waterfalls.

Heavy rains in areas of Long Beach caused roof top and ceilings to partially cave in, flooding local stores. The downfall is the strongest Southern California has seen this winter.



CERRITOS RESIDENT Siegfried C. Ringwald, a resident since 1968, with daughters Anita (left) and Lydia.

SIEGFRIED C. RINGWALD, 1926 - 2020

Dean of Long Beach City College and President of Cerritos College

BY TAMMYE MCDUFF

Cerritos homeowner in 1968.

Siegfried C. Ringwald passed away in his Cerritos home on December 19, 2020 at the age of 94. His life story and legacy is an inspiration as a prominent resident in Cerritos and an early

After WWII, he attended the University of Southern California [USC] on a GI Bill and became a math instructor at Jefferson Jr. High in Long Beach.

See **RINGWALD** page 14

2020 Brought Us...



Toilet Paper Hoarding

For some reason many people thought we were going to run out.



Quarantine Haircut

We all know someone who tried to cut their own hair.



Spray and Wipes

Just like TP, you could only find these at Staples or Office Depot.



Zoom Shirt

Lots of us wearing a shirt and tie with shorts and slippers.



Quarantine Sweatpants

One of the businesses that have boomed during the pandemic.



God Bless

All frontliners - HMG publisher's daughter above- and essential servers!