

TRANSPORTATION

210 Freeway project nears completion

By Steve Scauzillo

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The end is near. That is the happy sentiment of West Pasadena, La Cañada Flintridge and Glendale residents who have just one more month to endure off- and on-ramp closures, coned-off lanes, detours through neighborhoods, diesel truck emissions and fugitive dust from a Caltrans repaving and modernization project along a 9.7-mile stretch of the 210 Freeway. At more than 96 percent complete, Caltrans declared the project will be finished by the middle or end of April, Caltrans spokesman Eric Menjivar said. "It is important to have it finished. Finally," said Geoff Baum, a member and former president of the West Pasadena Residents Association. "It has been very frustrating for us to have gone through years of disruptions, but we are thrilled it will finally be over."

Rain delays

What began in April 2015 and was supposed to end in March 2018 turned from a three-year to a four-year project. A 13-month delay was caused by excessive rainfall in the winters of 2016-17 and 2018-19, Menjivar said. Beyond rain, cold temperatures in January and February slowed the laying of thermal striping on the newly paved lanes that require warmer temperatures to adhere. This added up to three more months of delays, he said. "We have to deal with Mother Nature," he lamented.

Batch plant, rock pile removed

During the past three summers, Caltrans and its contractors set up a 500-ton concrete batch plant in the narrow, 710 Freeway stub, basically between Old Pasadena and west Pasadena's million-dollar-



PHOTO BY TREVOR STAMP

New signs, shown Thursday, have been put up along a stretch of the 210 Freeway between La Crescenta and La Cañada Flintridge as part of Caltrans' 210 Repavement project.

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BEACHES



GESTURE SEEN AS INSPIRATION

Power volleyball couple brings 25 new nets to Huntington Beach courts

By Laylan Connelly

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It all started on the sand in Huntington Beach.

Casey Jennings pointed to the volleyball court where, in 2001, he first met and scrimmaged against his now-wife, Kerri Walsh Jennings, who at the time was nervously trying out to see if she was a fit alongside Misty May-Treanor.

Of course, three Olympic gold medals later, Walsh Jennings and May-Treanor were undoubtedly a match. As were Jennings and Walsh Jennings — three kids later — both of whom have built stellar careers advancing the sport.

The volleyball power couple, who live in Manhattan Beach, were in Huntington Beach on Tuesday, giving back to the sport they've built their lives around.



They were hosting a ribbon-cutting for 25 new nets on courts surrounding the pier through their lifestyle brand p1440, with hopes of inspiring the next genera-

tion of volleyball players to live their dreams.

The p1440 brand is many things, but its primary purpose is to remind people to live every 1,440 min-

utes — a complete day — to the fullest.

P1440 launched in 2018 with three fitness and lifestyle festivals — in San Jose, **NETS » PAGE 10**

TOP: Volleyball players practice on the beach next to the Huntington Beach Pier on Tuesday after a ceremony in which Olympic gold medalist Kerri Walsh Jennings and her p1440 program donated 25 new volleyball nets to the courts adjacent to the pier. **ABOVE:** Wilson Bradley Mays, 8, of San Juan Capistrano helps Casey Jennings, center, and Kerri Walsh Jennings as the husband and wife cut a ribbon during the ceremony Tuesday in Huntington Beach.

PHOTOS BY MARK RIGHTMIRE — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

COURTS

Father pleads not guilty to child abuse in case involving his son suffering severe head trauma

A 27-year-old father pleaded not guilty to a felony child abuse charge stemming from an alleged attack that landed his 6-year-old son in the hospital with severe head injuries, authorities said Monday.

Wendell Travon Martin, 27, was arrested March 18 after Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department deputies were called to a local hospital by medical personnel to investigate the previous day, Deputy Trina Schrader said.

Martin, the boy's biological father, was identified as the suspect and arrested, but the date, time and location of the alleged attack was not immediately known, Schrader said.

Law enforcement officials also did not immediately say what city Martin lives in or which hospital deputies were called to.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office filed one felony count of assault on a child becoming

comatose or paralyzed on March 19.

An update on the boy's condition was not immediately available and authorities were continuing their investigation.

Martin pleaded not guilty to the charges in Torrance Superior Court on Thursday and was scheduled to return April 18, according to court records.

He was being held in jail on \$1 million bail.

— Nathaniel Percy

COLLEGES

USC, UCLA grants in peril

Government funding for schools caught in admissions scandal could be severely restricted

By City News Service

LOS ANGELES » UCLA and USC were among eight universities notified they were under investigation by the Department of Education in connection with the college admissions scandal, it was reported Tuesday.

Investigators will be looking into whether the schools violated laws "governing the federal student financial aid programs" or other laws, according to a document reviewed by the political news website Politico.

If violations are found, the schools could be penalized up to having access to Pell Grants and federal student loans cut off.

The schools were each notified Monday that they faced an investigation connected to the criminal charges federal prosecutors announced this month.

The document said the allegations made against the schools by the Justice Department "raise questions about whether your institution is fully meeting its obligations," Politico reported.

In addition to UCLA and USC, presidents of Yale University, Wake Forest University, Stanford University, Georgetown University, the University of San Diego and the University of Texas at Austin received similar letters.

The letters cite a wide range of federal education regulations and laws that investigators are exploring, including that universities receiving federal student aid must have proper procedures and policies to administer federal money, Politico said.

As part of the investigation, the universities were ordered to provide a list of the names of all students whose admission was brought up in the Justice Department's investigation.

Education Department investigators also ordered the universities to turn over documents they used in marketing and promoting their schools, including any statement made to organizations that rank schools, such as U.S. News and World Report, and internal control policies and procedures related to admissions for recruited

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WILMINGTON

Police search for man who reportedly cut two people with a sharp object

Los Angeles police were searching for a man who allegedly cut two people Monday in Wilmington, authorities said.

About 11 a.m., Los Angeles police received a call of a woman who was cut in the neck by an unknown sharp object after a man on a black BMX bicycle approached her and attempted to steal her purse, Sgt. Bradley Hearn said.

About an hour later, Hearn said, the suspect rode by a man on the sidewalk while he waited to cross the street at Lomita Boulevard and Frampton Avenue and sliced him from his lip to the back of his neck.

Both victims were hospitalized and received stitches and staples, Hearn said.

Further details were not immediately available.

— Nathaniel Percy