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LONG BEACH

NAACP branch’s leader fights on



Rich Archbold
COLUMNIST

Racial discrimination was everywhere in Long Beach in 1940. If you were Black, you had a hard time owning a home in certain parts of the city, you

couldn’t get on the police force or find other good jobs, you had to go to segregated schools. Into this nightmare stepped Ernest McBride, one of nine children born into a farming family in Carrollton, Mississippi, who had moved to California seeking a better life. But he discovered that Long Beach had big racial problems, too, and he decided to do something about it. In 1940, when he was 31, he and

several others founded the Long Beach branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and fought for civil rights for the rest of his life until he died at 97 in 2007. The group’s first meetings were held secretly in the McBride home, often under police surveillance. In 2013 the first new high school in

See ARCHBOLD on Page A8



Long Beach Branch NAACP President Sharifa Batts, left, presents Priince Bass, a Long Beach City College student, a scholarship during the NAACP chapter’s 85th anniversary celebration Oct. 11 aboard the Queen Mary. COURTESY OF SHARIFA BATTIS

ENVIRONMENT

Toxic algae blooms worry scientists



Marine mammal responder Jules Leon prepares to capture an ailing sea lion in Redondo Beach on March 18, to transport the animal to the Marine Mammal Care Center in San Pedro for treatment. PHOTOS BY DREW A. KELLEY — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Coastal phenomenon fatal to wildlife is happening earlier, more often

By Drew A. Kelley
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Jules Leon climbed into a Ford pickup truck fitted with a net, a wheeled crate he calls a “moon buggie” and a defective winch. It was March 18 and Leon was on his way to Redondo Beach — for his third call of the day. Leon, a responder with San Pedro’s Marine Mammal Care Center, checked in with lifeguards to confirm that a sick sea lion was last seen just north of the Avenue B Lifeguard Tower. Leon located the sea lion — which showed clear signs of domoic acid toxicosis — and, with the help of ocean lifeguard Charles Pogue, quickly captured and transported the mammal back to the Marine Mammal Care Center for



This sea lion that beached itself had been reported showing symptoms of domoic acid poisoning from toxic algae blooms in Redondo Beach on March 18. See ALGAE on Page A13

ADELANTO

ICE site keeping some in, some out

Remote processing facility restrictive for detainees but also for visitors, observers

By RYANNE MENA
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Out in the middle of the Mojave Desert and surrounded by Joshua trees, marijuana dispensaries and razor wire, the remote Adelanto ICE Processing Center is a difficult place to visit. The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility, roughly 85 miles northeast of Los Angeles, is on a road splintered with cracks and potholes. Once there, some wait for hours to see their loved ones. If a visitor happens to be wearing anything forbidden by the dress code — say a crop top or shorts that rise above the mid thigh — they won’t get to see them at all. Melanie Lesage is among those who have been

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WOODLAND HILLS

L.A. Pierce College launches AI-driven biomedical program

By JENNA JARRAH
CORRESPONDENT

Los Angeles Pierce College has launched an artificial-intelligence powered biomedical research program in partnership with National AI Campus, a training and education program in the Cedars-Sinai health system that provides students real-world research experiences. Students at the Woodland Hills college work with medical data that is sourced from everyday patient care instead of from a controlled lab experiment, and students learn how to use AI tools to conduct in-depth analyses. In the process, students enhance their resumes,

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