

El Segundo Herald

The Weekly Newspaper of El Segundo

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EL Segundo Girls' Soccer Wins Championship Tournament



The El Segundo Varsity Tournament championship game was Saturday, Dec. 14 at ESHS. El Segundo defeated Marlborough 2-0 with 18 shots on goal. The strength, speed and power of El Segundo ultimately prevailed. ES goalie Brenda Cervantes had two saves and Julia Freeman was named MVP. The girls remain undefeated with a record of 5-0-1. Head Coach Tony Hobbs feels they will go far playing at this level. (L to R, Back row) Coach Tony Hobbs, Brenda Cervantes, Jessica Toman, Dominique Saldana, Bridget Reed, Antoinette Saldana, Niko Van Eimeren. (Middle) Isabella Gutierrez, Ashely Barden, Katie Glusac, Rhianna Rich, Tabatha Lund, Carlie Erickson, (Front) Hannah Lopez, Kelsy Orseth, Sydney Trump, Deena Strunk, Sydney West, Julia Freeman. Not pictured, Katherine Burner. Photo courtesy of Tony Hobbs.

From Taxes to TopGolf: The El Segundo Year in Review

By Brian Simon

Money, or not enough of it, was the most pressing concern for the City of El Segundo once again in 2013, as projections of massive budget deficits in the coming years led to the difficult decision earlier this month to place tax increases on the April 2014 ballot in hopes of addressing the gaps. Still, the City's fiscal challenges could have been much worse if not for a tax settlement with Chevron in the spring. City leaders also held out hope for future economic development growth to generate additional revenues, with a few pieces of good news in that department in recent months. Also in 2013, the City Council underwent an unprecedented leadership change mid-year, found a solution for a long-desired aquatics facility, and made plans for upgrades at the local golf course. Meanwhile, local academic performance continued to shine, though the School Board itself underwent a revamp in November.

The Budget

During a summer strategic planning session, staff revealed the bad news that the City's finances would soon be in big trouble, with budget shortfalls most recently estimated at \$5.8 million starting in 2014/15, followed by \$5.7 million and \$5.5 million respectively the following two fiscal years. The amounts include a \$2 million annual expenditure to maintain facilities, streets and equipment at acceptable levels. Staff also identified a need for \$4.4 million annually over five years, plus another \$3.8 million in one-time monies, just to catch up with deferred infrastructure projects. As usual, the culprits for the budget gap are escalating expenditures—especially in the areas

of pension, health benefit, workers compensation and salary costs—coupled with underperforming revenues. To balance the 2013/14 budget, the City used a double payment from the Chevron tax settlement.

In October, City Manager Greg Carpenter made a series of public presentations detailing El Segundo's financial position and laid out options to resolve the problem while surveying attendees about their thoughts on the matter. Both staff and the City Council agreed that further reducing an already depleted workforce or transferring public safety and library services

to other agencies were not viable solutions—leading them to the conclusion that generating revenue via tax increases was the only hope.

Tax Increases

Two weeks ago, after months of discussion and with the blessing of the local business community, the City Council unanimously agreed to place tax increases on the ballot in April in hopes of resolving the future budget deficits. The single measure will include a 2.5% utility user tax (UUT) increase on businesses and a new 2.5% UUT on residents (both of

See Year in Review, page 11

ES High Zero Robotics Team Gets With the Program in International Competition

By Brian Simon

A "rookie" squad of El Segundo High School students is among the top teams in the United States vying in the internationally acclaimed Zero Robotics finals competition on Jan. 17 at the International Space Station (ISS). In this competition, the various teams match up against one another to program mini satellites to perform a mission in space. The El Segundo group cleared the semifinals in fifth place out of nine ranked teams to make it nationally—outlasting 99 other high schools in the process. The competition also included 57 European contestants, of which six teams made it to the finals.

In getting this far, El Segundo High successfully advanced through three prior rounds. The competition began online as team members strategically programmed

robots known as SPHERES (Synchronized Position Hold Engage and Reorient Experimental Satellites) in the ISS to solve a problem of current interest to the defense industry. Subsequent phases of virtual competition in a simulated environment that mimicked the actual robot satellites came next. In the semifinal, El Segundo worked with two other teams to create software for that round. For the final next month, an astronaut will conduct the championship competition in microgravity with live broadcasts from MIT and NASA.

"I think our team has accomplished a lot given that this is our first year to join the Zero Robotics competition and the team also has to compete in the CyberPatriot computer security defense competition in

See Robotics Team, page 2

Weekend Forecast

Friday

Partly Cloudy
77°/56°



Saturday

Partly Cloudy
71°/56°



Sunday

Partly Cloudy
71°/54°



Obituaries

Fay Anne Dye

Fay Anne Dye, 56, died December 15, 2013, at Vassar, Kansas.

She was born May 1, 1957 at Hawthorne, California, the daughter of Raymond Peter and Hazel Fay Coulter Hardner. She was a retired truck driver, a resident of Kinsley since June 2013, formerly of El Segundo, California.

She attended the Lutheran Church and was a member of the Rebekah Lodge, and Eastern Star, El Segundo, California, and also helped with the Rebekah Lodge float at the Rose Parade in Pasadena for several years.

Survivors include Rebecca Cain Family,

Burdett.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Funeral service will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday, December 27, 2013, at Morell Funeral Home, Larned, with Rev. Richard Langness presiding. Burial will be in Peace Lutheran Cemetery, North of Kinsley. Friends may call from 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are suggested to the Pawnee County Humane Society in care of Morell Funeral Home, P.O. Box 124, Larned, Kansas, 67550-0124.

Personal condolences may be left at www.morellfuneralhomekc.com.

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Calendar

There is a limited word count of 20 words and fees will apply. Email to escalendar@heraldpublications.com. Deadline for submissions is Thursday at 9 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

• Community Christmas Dinner, 12-2 p.m., Joslyn Center, 339 Sheldon St. All are welcome.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

• City Council Meeting, 7 p.m. City Council Chambers. For more information call (310) 524-2306.

ONGOING

• Farmer's Market, Thursdays 3-7 p.m., Main St. between Holly and Pine Avenues. For more information call Val at (310) 615-2649.

Robotics Team

from front page

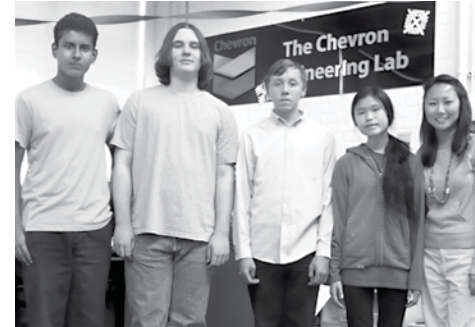
between the Zero Robotics rounds,” said El Segundo team mentor Ron Chu. “The amazing thing is that our team is also doing very well in the CyberPatriot competition rounds [top score on the first qualify round and third highest score in the second qualify round]. Our team's combined score for the Cyber Patriot qualified rounds is currently the second highest in the nation. It is very likely that our team will be one of the top 50 CyberPatriot teams advancing to the semifinal. Next January will be a busy month for our team members.”

El Segundo High's team consists of four major members, with two sophomores (Victoria Chu and Ian Hurd) and two freshmen (Adrian Osorio and Jakub Koziol). Originally known as “Space Eagles,” the team name changed to “Terminal Space Rockets” after the alliances with two other groups in the semifinals. The main members meet each Friday in the engineering lab for an hour-and-a-half as part of the Robotics Club and also spend many a Saturday there gearing up for the competition.

While the Robotics Club is open to anyone at the high school, students looking to join should have basic math, logic and computer programming skills. The most complicated tasks require a physics, calculus (or pre-calculus) background, plus basic C language programming ability. “Creative students who can think outside the box who enjoy coding and a challenge would find Zero Robotics to be very interesting,” said team member Ian Hurd. “Anyone who likes programming and solving problems will enjoy this competition.”

“By being part of the Robotics Club and competing in competitions, the students are able to experience what it actually feels like to solve real problems alongside teammates, just like engineers and scientists do in the real world,” said math and engineering instructor Jennifer Cho, who also oversees the Robotics Club. “The students at El Segundo High School are able to take science and math classes and apply them in their engineering classes and/or during

a competition. I would say that El Segundo High is absolutely at the forefront of the STEM [science/technology/engineering/math] initiative. Being surrounded by engineering companies, it is such a great thing to see that students have the opportunity to take and be exposed to up to four years of engineering before they even go to college!” As for the success of the Terminal Space Rockets, Cho added, “I



El Segundo High School students and members of the “Terminal Space Rockets” team Adrian Osorio, Ian Hurd, Jakub Koziol and Victoria Chu (pictured with teacher Jennifer Cho) hang out at the campus' engineering lab while prepping for next month's Zero Robotics finals competition that will be broadcast from MIT and NASA.

am very proud of the team's accomplishments, especially since this is our rookie year.”

As the team leader, Victoria Chu stressed the importance of ensuring all communication in the group runs smoothly. “Also, it is important to assign roles to people based on skill and strengths to keep everything going efficiently, while still equally participating and programming alongside everyone else,” she noted. “It's important to make sure everyone is getting the most out of this competition.” Though she admitted it felt strange at first being the only girl on team, Chu said she has gotten used to it and describes the guys she works with as “pretty nice, cooperative people.”

Jakub Koziol, who is also competing in Cyber Patriot and will join the FIRST Robotics Competition as well, looks forward to the

See **Robotics Team**, page 12

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Investigation Leads to Firing of Two El Segundo Cheer Team Coaches

According to an investigation report produced on Dec. 7 by El Segundo High Interim Principal Ali Rabiei, numerous complaints were filed with the District concerning the El Segundo cheer team coaches. After an extensive investigation conducted from Sept. 28 through Nov. 18, the District has sufficient evidence to support the allegations made by individuals regarding two longtime El Segundo cheer team coaches, who have since been fired.

The complaints were filed by El Segundo High students and parents of students who are/were participants on the cheer team. The allegations state that District employees were witnessed harassing, bullying and intimidating certain student members of the cheer team. It was also alleged that employees witnessed and condoned inappropriate behavior by "favored"

cheer team students. Complainants claimed that student team members foster an environment

"The allegations state that District employees were witnessed harassing, bullying and intimidating certain student members of the cheer team."

of intimidation and, at times, hostility. Student team members have expressed their fear of retaliation if they were to speak up.

The investigation took into account statements given by interviewees, the submitted "Vine" videos, the details and consistency of each interviewee, evidence of how complainants reacted to incidences, evidence of past incidences and of past complaints that were found to be untrue.

According to the District, based on the allegations and investigation, it will take the following

corrective actions to address the harassment and prevent retaliation on further harassment:

1. Employees permitting or engaging in discrimination, harassment, bullying or retaliation will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.
2. Review/modify all cheer program materials and agreements.
3. Require clearly established criteria for team selection.
4. Train coaches, administrators, advisors and cheer team members on conduct, the impact of harassment/bullying and relevant laws/school rules.

5. When practices are scheduled at the last minute, prohibit use of threats of removal from the team if the athlete cannot attend.

6. Require a process for the assigned school advisor to be provided with and to maintain tryout score sheets.

7. Provide clear guidelines for grading participation.

8. Establish clear guidelines for coaches communicating with athletes during academic class time.

9. Establish a clear process for parents to communicate with coaches regarding concerns.

10. To the extent fees were inappropriately obtained by coaches, parents will be reimbursed.

11. District will discontinue Competition Team. •

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Fictitious Business Name Statement 2013249691
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as GO2LAX4LESS TRANSPORTATION SERVICE. 1. 12035 S. BROADWAY #B, LOS ANGELES, CA 90061. 2. P.O. BOX 1884, HOLLYWOOD, CA 90078. Registered Owner(s): Jorge Alarcon, 12035 S. Broadway #B, Los Angeles, CA 90061. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed: N/A. Signed: Jorge Alarcon, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on December 05, 2013. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on December 05, 2018. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to December 05, 2018. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). Inglewood News: December 12, 19, 26, 2013 and January 02, 2014. **HI-1019.**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 20132511080
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as MEGISYS, LLC. 8429 HOLY CROSS PLACE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90045-2634. Registered Owner(s): Megisys, LLC, 8429 Holy Cross Place, Los Angeles, CA 90045-2634. This business is being conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed: December 19, 2005. Signed: Megisys, LLC, Carla Ann Cuadros Pera, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on December 06, 2013. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on December 06, 2018. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to December 06, 2018. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). Inglewood News: December 12, 19, 26, 2013 and January 02, 2014. **HI-1020.**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2013244102
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as THE CHEESE SHOPPE. 1915 VOORHEES AVE. #1, REDONDO BEACH, CA 90278. Registered Owner(s): 1. Allan Kelemen, 1915 Voorhees Ave. #1, Redondo Beach, CA 90278. 2. Susan Garza-Kelemen, 1915 Voorhees Ave. #1, Redondo Beach, CA 90278. This business is being conducted by a Married Couple. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed: N/A. Signed: Allan Kelemen, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on November 26, 2013. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on November 26, 2018. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to November 26, 2018. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). Torrance Tribune: December 05, 12, 19, 26, 2013. **HT-1011.**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2013235961
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as JOEYWATTS.COM. 813 CENTER STREET, EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245. Registered Owner(s): Joseph Conley Raymond Watts, 813 Center Street, El Segundo, CA 90245. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed: N/A. Signed: Joey Watts, Owner/Registrant. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on November 14, 2013. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on November 14, 2018. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to November 14, 2018. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). El Segundo Herald: December 12, 19, 26, 2013 and January 02, 2014. **H-1017.**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2013245336
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as JJ AND M COLLISION CENTER/TOWING. 4963 ALHAMBRA AVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90032. Registered Owner(s): Kimathi Sweeney, 2401 W. Caldwell St, Compton, CA 90220. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed: N/A. Signed: Kimathi Sweeney, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on November 27, 2013. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on November 27, 2018. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to November 27, 2018. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). Torrance Tribune: December 05, 12, 19, 26, 2013. **HT-1012.**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2013244643
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as BRONZE BAR. 2041 ROSECRANS AVE #170, EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245. Registered Owner(s): C. Ashley Davis, 707 Hermosa Ave, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed: N/A. Signed: C. Ashley Davis, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on November 26, 2013. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on November 26, 2018. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to November 26, 2018. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). El Segundo Herald: December 12, 19, 26, 2013 and January 02, 2014. **H-1022.**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2013257507
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as 1. SIMPLE THINGS. 2. SIMPLIFIED NATURALS. 11708 WILKIE AVE, HAWTHORNE, CA 90250. Registered Owner(s): Oscar Becerril, 11708 Wilkie Ave, Hawthorne, CA 90250. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed: N/A. Signed: Oscar E. Becerril, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on December 17, 2013. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on December 17, 2018. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to December 17, 2018. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). Hawthorne Press Tribune: December 26, 2013 and January 2, 9, 16, 2014. **HH-1025.**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2013243212
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as 1. DANCEWEAR U. 2. COSTUME U. 3. KIDPACK U. 640 LOMITA STREET, EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245. Registered Owner(s): Cindy A. Beckett, 640 Lomita Street, El Segundo, CA 90245. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed: September 01, 2013. Signed: Cindy A. Beckett, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on November 25, 2013. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on November 25, 2018. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to November 25, 2018. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). El Segundo Herald: December 19, 26, 2013 and January 2, 9, 2014. **H-1015.**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2013254676
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as 1. GARDEN MAVEN DESIGNS. 2. DENISE MAYNARD DESIGN & STYLING. 1720 GATES AVE, MANHATTAN BEACH, CA 90266. 222 N. SEPULVEDA BLVD. #2000, EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245. Registered Owner(s): Denise Maynard, 1720 Gates Avenue, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed: January 01, 2012. Signed: Denise Diane Maynard, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on December 12, 2013. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on December 12, 2018. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to December 12, 2018. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). El Segundo Herald: December 19, 26, 2013 and January 2, 9, 2014. **H-1024.**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2013251875
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as LA MECHA RESTAURANT. 7831 S. ALAMEDA ST, LOS ANGELES, CA 90001. 1675 E. 111TH PLACE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90059. Registered Owner(s): Maria Elizalde, 1675 E. 111TH Place, Los Angeles, CA 90059. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed: N/A. Signed: Maria Elizalde, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on December 9, 2013. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on December 9, 2018. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to December 9, 2018. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). Hawthorne Press Tribune: December 19, 26, 2013 and January 2, 9, 2014. **HH-1023.**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2013249828
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as BALLERS. 140 E. TAMARACK AVE, INGLEWOOD, CA 90301. Registered Owner(s): Nima Nicholas Shafiee, 32650 Nantasket Dr #96, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275. This business is being conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed: N/A. Signed: Nima Nicholas Shafiee. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on December 05, 2013. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on December 05, 2018. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to December 05, 2018. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). Inglewood News: December 12, 19, 26, 2013 and January 02, 2014. **HI-1018.**

Fictitious Business Name Statement 2013231393
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as THE BIBLE CHURCH OF HIS WILL. 1. 2000 E. MARIPOSA AVE, EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245. 2. P.O. BOX 91603, LOS ANGELES, CA 90009. Registered Owner(s): The Bible Church of His Will, 2000 E. Mariposa Ave, El Segundo, CA 90245. This business is being conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed: November 12, 2003. Signed: The Bible Church of His Will, e.uche nyche, president. This statement was filed with the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on November 7, 2013. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires on November 7, 2018. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to November 7, 2018. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14400 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code). El Segundo Herald: December 05, 12, 19, 26, 2013. **H-1014.**

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Politically Speaking

One Man's Opinion

By Gerry Chong

The Christmas elves were in a frenetic rush, running hither and yon, as Christmas approached. For most of the North Pole, it was a season of excitement, but for the two old curmudgeons sitting in the corner of the room it was a time to swig down some Jack Daniels. Rudolph sat red-eyed, slumped in

season can be cruel, Rudy, so give me another shot of JD.”

Pouring a shooter for Santa, Rudy asked, “What else is goin’ on?”

“Healthcare, man, healthcare,” said Santa. “Five million people have had their policies cancelled, effective this holiday season...five friggin’ million! So rather than reducing the

“Frinstance, last month, Food Stamps (SNAP) got cut 7%, and on Dec. 28, 1.3 million people will see their unemployment payments end..”

his chair, and said to Santa, “I’ve got to get bombed every year to keep my bulbous nose red. What’s your excuse?”

Lifting his head from the table top, the disheveled old fat man replied, “This year’s been worse than most, so I’ve gotta come up with some presents to make the season brighter. It’s tough, man, and it’s getting tougher.

Frinstance, last month, Food Stamps (SNAP) got cut 7%, and on Dec. 28, 1.3 million people will see their unemployment payments end. The government hooked them like cocaine addicts on a long-term “free money” binge that kept them unemployed. Now, the Feds want them to kick the habit cold turkey, so withdrawal pains kick in. What happened to the Christmas spirit of good will toward men? This is cold, man...cold.”

“Right on,” said Rudy, “so what Christmas present will ease the pain?”

“Methadone, man--mass doses of methadone...as much as my sleigh can carry,” replied Santa. “Maybe next year the government can come up with some sort of phased withdrawal to make things a little less painful, but for those on a two-year hiatus from work, this is a kick in the gut. The Christmas

number of uninsureds, Obamacare has increased it by 11%! In a few days, these people face choices: They can sign up for private insurance in which the average premium will increase by 40%; or they can sign up for Obamacare where the least expensive plan [bronze] carries a deductible of \$5,081--or they can remain uninsured until they need medical care, at which point they can’t be denied. As a sign of the way people are leaning, by mid-December, 45 states had failed to attain 10% of the goal they must meet to make Obamacare viable. In Oregon, for example, they spent \$300 million on Obamacare, and have signed up only 44 people!”

“That’s awful, Santa, so what present can you give them?” asked Rudolph.

“I’m offering everyone a taxpayer-paid 17-day vacation flying first class on Air Force One to Hawaii where the weather is always balmy and the chance of catching a serious illness is pretty minimal,” responded Santa. “Like our President, if you won’t sign up for Obamacare, head for good weather. Rudy, we’ve got a lot of work to do, so keep that nose glowing red. Merry Christmas and to all a good night”....hmmmm, *he’s makin’ a list, checkin’ it twice... hic.* •

Another Man's Opinion

Crowdsourcing Laws is a Horrible Idea

By Cristian Vasquez

Assemblyman Mike Gatto recently announced that he is going to introduce a bill next year to address the state’s probate code by using the Internet to determine the content of the bill. This is a horrible idea. The Assemblyman wants to draft this piece of legislation by using the Internet to allow public participation. The Assemblyman’s website indicates that citizens would be able to visit the “Wiki bill’s” website, and through the use of an interface similar to “Wikipedia’s,” they can “propose, draft, and edit a bill.” Assemblyman Gatto is committed to then introducing a bill once a consensus is reached.

This proposed bill would be the first crowdsourced piece of legislation in the United

States. While the Assemblyman is known for advocating the use of technology as a tool for citizen engagement, this proposal sounds better in spirit that it will be in practice. Allowing people to draft legislation via the Internet is going to slow down an already crawling legislative process. Getting a bill passed by those elected to the sole task of turning bills into laws is already a snail-paced process. Allowing the feedback and comments of potentially millions of people is going to nearly paralyze this process--if approved lawmakers will have to sort through what one can only assume to be a laundry list of horrible ideas in hopes of finding reasonable suggestions among the input.

the public to use the Wiki platform to address the state’s probate code is irresponsible and ineffective. To come to a reasonable consensus based on what millions of comments in a virtual consensus box say is impossible. A group of five people have a hard time (for the most part) figuring out where to go for lunch. Imagine having millions determining what the state’s probate law should say. Assemblyman Gatto believes that the crowdsourcing is a great way to have peoples’ voices heard in government, but maybe he forgot that for many years before the Internet politicians were able to hear peoples’ voices. Assembly members and Senators are elected to write these laws. If these elected officials want to know what the citizens think, maybe

“Asking the public to use the Wiki platform to address the state’s probate code is irresponsible and ineffective.”

Yes, public participation is great and the more we as voters engage, the better it is for our state and country. However, asking

they should host a town hall meeting. How about a door-to-door campaign? They are very willing to do this when election season comes around. Why should the process of doing the job they were elected for be any different?

We have all read online articles and the ignorant comments made by people at the bottom of these articles are alone proof as to why this crowdsourcing idea is horrible. I am sure Assemblyman Gatto is truly interested in what the people have to say. However, crowdsourcing is a horrible way to accomplish what he seeks to fulfill. There are already enough lobby groups in politics providing horrible ideas and the money to fund them. Crowdsourcing would only add to the problems plaguing an already dysfunctional Capitol Hill. •

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Creamy Marsala Spaghetti Sauce

Prep time: 45 minutes - Makes 4 to 6 servings.

Ingredients

- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 1 cup Holland House Marsala Cooking Wine
- 2 1/2 teaspoons parsley
- 2 carrots, shredded or finely chopped
- 1 cup mushrooms, diced
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 cup onion, chopped
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 tablespoon oregano
- 1 can (29 ounces) tomato sauce
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 3/4 cup half-and-half or cream



Directions

In a frying pan over low heat, gently and slowly cook hamburger with 1/4 cup of the cooking wine and 1 1/2 teaspoons of parsley.

Chop the carrots, mushrooms, garlic and onion, and add to an 8-quart pot with the olive oil. Saute the veggies until soft (about 2 minutes) and then add remaining parsley and oregano. Add the remaining 3/4 cup of cooking wine to the pot and gently simmer for 5 minutes. Add tomato sauce and sugar. Stir and gently simmer over low heat for at least 20 minutes or for up to an hour. Drain the meat and add it to the pot. Finish with half-and-half or cream, stirring until combined.

Prepare your favorite pasta according to packet instructions and stir the sauce into the drained noodles. Serve. •

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Chef Jesus Liberato



Chef Luis Rosales

Talented chef Jesus Liberato, dear friend and Deluca Executive Chef for many years, has recently moved on to a new enterprise. We extend our thanks to Jesus for his dedication and commitment to the increased success of Deluca Trattoria and for always giving his very best to us and our valued customers. Jesus has provided Deluca with excellent cuisine, exceptional service and innovative ideas. We wish him the best of luck in his new culinary venture. It will be our pleasure to visit him at his new place of business and celebrate his success. Auguri e Buona Fortuna!

We extend our hearty congratulations to chef Luis Rosales in his promotion from chef to taking over the position of Head Chef at Deluca's. Working side by side with Jesus in the Deluca cucina for four years, Luis has shown his natural abilities in providing outstanding, delicious and authentic Italian cuisine. Deluca is fortunate to have Luis and welcome him to his new position with enthusiasm, anticipation and delight. Our customers tell us our appetizers, salads, entrees and desserts continue to be outstanding with unsurpassed presentation, variety and taste. Say hello to Luis when you visit Deluca Trattoria soon.

Sports

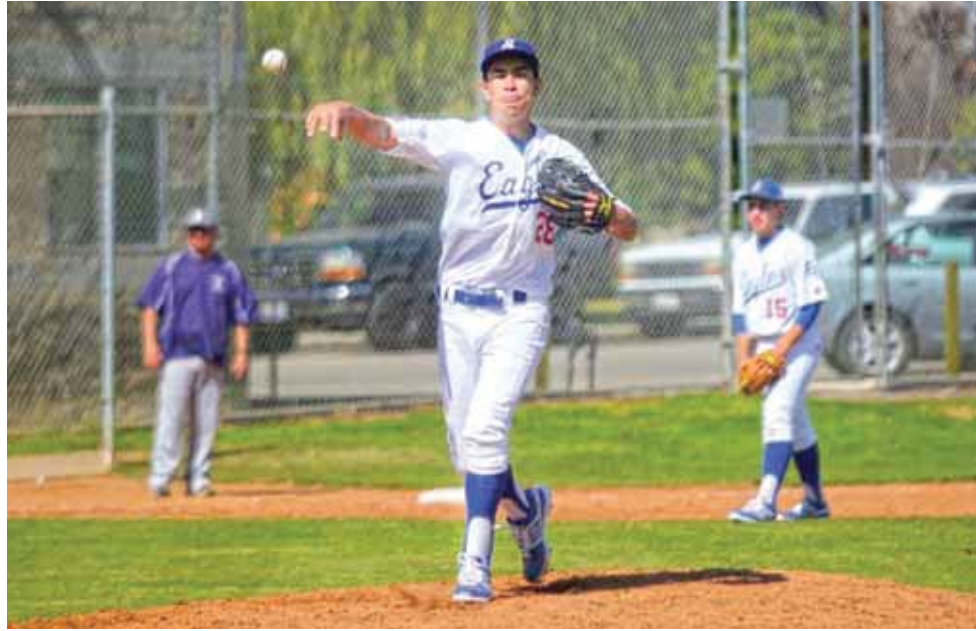
Sports

2013 Year in Sports Review, Part I

By Gregg McMullin

With the end of 2013 in sight, it's time to look back at another year in sports in El Segundo. It was another wonderful year of ups and downs, league championships, state

Jake Grundman and Mario Castro limited the opposition to just two goals per game. At this point of the season, the Eagles were 1-1-1 in Pioneer League play.



Sophomore right-hander Willem Mostert went 6-0 with a team leading 1.66 ERA. Photo by Gregg McMullin.

championships and World Series celebrations. Also another year of close calls, heartbreaks and a time to reflect and remember.

The boys' and girls' basketball teams were coming off great Decembers. The girls' team had started the season 12-3--arguably their best start in years. The boys' team lost a heartbreaker 58-54 to league favorite Lawndale.

The boys' soccer team struggled to score goals, but the defense played well. Goalkeepers

The girls' soccer team had its moments to start the year. The defensive play had been marvelous. Chelsea Johnson and Brenda Cervantes were brilliant in goal. The Lady Eagles improved to 7-4-2, 3-1 with their 1-0 win over North Torrance. Kayla Arjasby scored in overtime off an assist by Kelsey Oreth to give the Eagles the win on the road.

The girls' water polo team was in the hunt for a playoff berth. With their 7-2 win over

See Sports, page 12

2013's Most Epic Sports Moments

By Adam Serrao

If you're any kind of a sports fan, then you must have at some point and time fathomed what you would do without it. Spend more time at work? More time going out on Sundays with your significant other than time spent watching football? A horrific thought indeed, but precisely the reason why we all must be thankful for the role that sports plays in our lives today. This past year has certainly done its part to remind us all that there are many moments in sports that not only shape our lives, but provide endless amounts of entertainment that, if not experienced alone, can actually bring people together. That in itself is what the holidays are all about, so this Christmas we'll take a look back at some of the most interesting, intense and entertaining sports moments of 2013.

It might be amiss to not start with one of the greatest athletes at his position to ever play in his sport. He was the last baseball player to remind onlookers of the great Jackie Robinson with the 42 that he wore across his pinstriped chest. On Sept. 26, Mariano Rivera, baseball's greatest closer and maybe even greatest pitcher ever, pitched in his last game in front of the Yankee Stadium crowd. Rivera announced that his 19-year baseball career (all spent with the Yankees) would come to a close last March 9 and what followed was truly an amazing demonstration of sportsmanship. Twenty different teams from around the Major Leagues welcomed both Rivera and the

Yankees into their homes and expressed their own generosity and thanks to Rivera for his accomplished and illustrious career through gifts. Rivera accumulated gifts such as fishing poles, paintings, beach cruisers and more. All this while compiling 44 saves and giving up just nine walks in just 64 innings for a less-than-stellar Yankees team. For the last time ever, Mariano stood on the mound in front of 48,000 cheering Yankees fans and watched as Derek Jeter and Andy Pettitte made their way to the mound to officially relieve Rivera of his duties. Jeter whispered, "It's time to go." Rivera took his last teary-eyed look at the crowd, tipped his hat and walked off the field with light flickers blazing. 2013 was the last time that Mariano Rivera would pitch in a Major League Baseball game.

There was certainly other baseball news, like the Pirates winning their first playoff game since 1992, and of course the Red Sox winning the World Series. Who could forget "Big Papi" David Ortiz's home run that sent Torii Hunter flying over the outfield wall at Fenway Park to come from behind and win game two of the ALCS. But the lesser-talked-about sports deserve a little love too. For instance, Marion Bartoli came out of nowhere and defeated Sabine Lisicki in the Wimbledon final this year. Andy Murray took down the mighty Novak Djokovic to become the first British man to win Wimbledon in 77 years. To round out Djokovic's unlucky year,

See Epic Sports Moments, page 12

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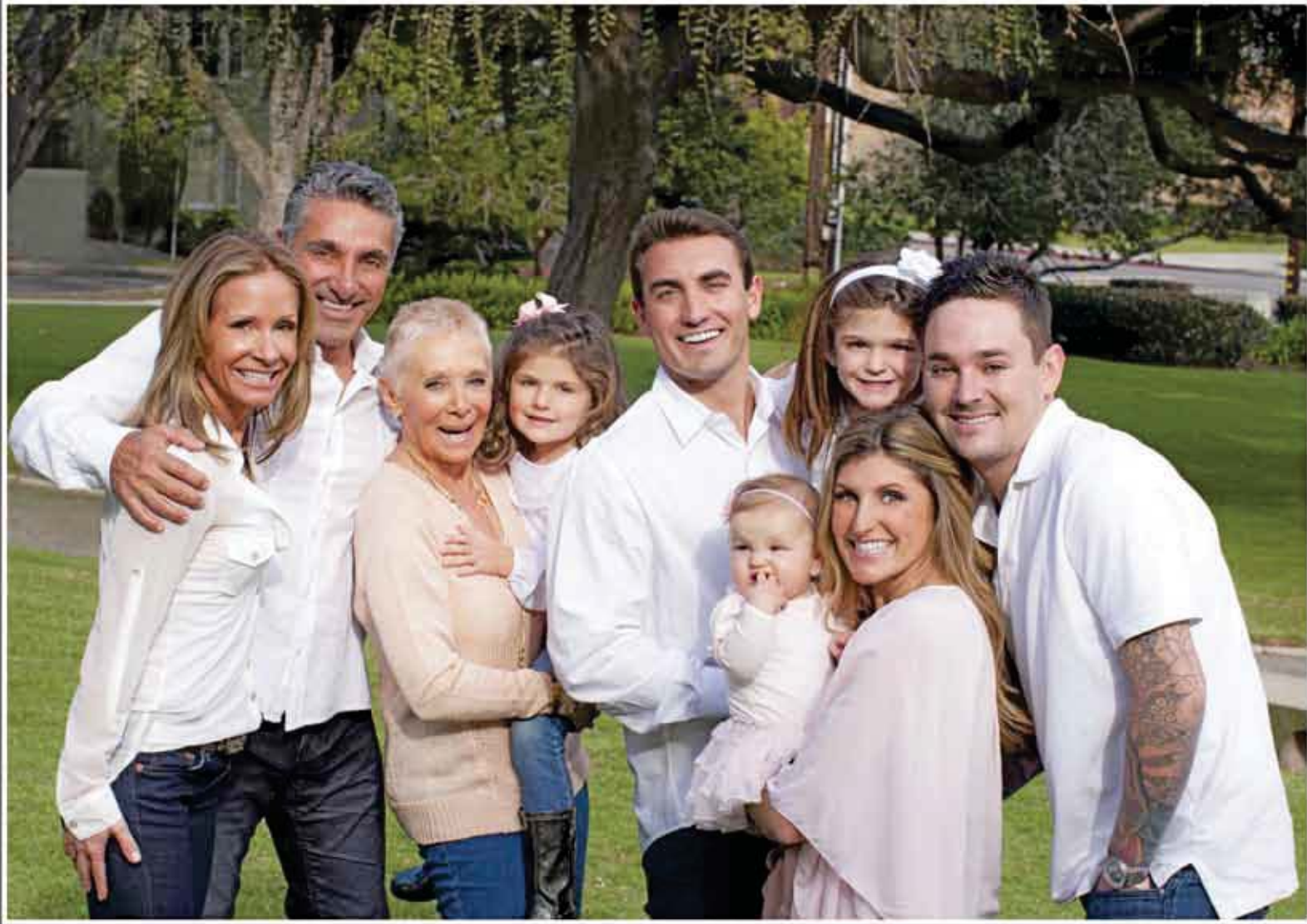
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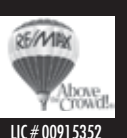
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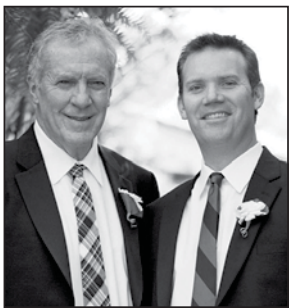
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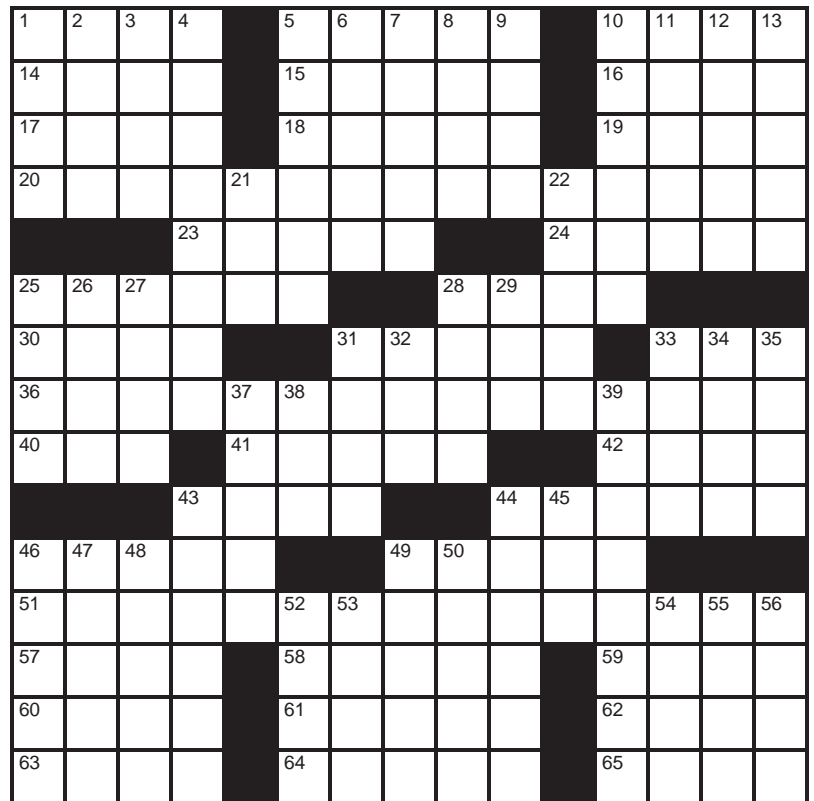
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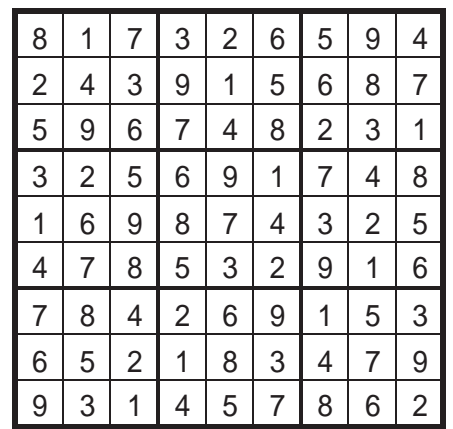
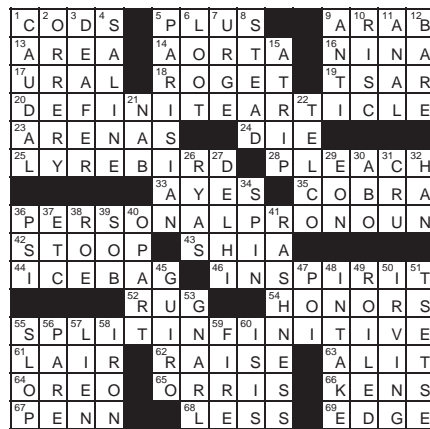
- Ballyhoo
- Cut's partner
- Crescent point
- Coin featuring Leonardo da Vinci's Vitruvian Man
- Letter opener?
- "Finnegans Wake" wife
- ___ Rose
- Moves a muscle
- First fugitive?
- Tells fortunes, in a way
- Frank kept one
- Comfortable
- Nickelodeon staples
- Sonata, e.g.
- Primatologist's study
- Player
- Finish, with "up"
- Tamarindo, for one
- Body shop fig.
- Greek physician
- Part of CNN
- ___ over
- Horried
- Round trip?
- Ancient musical instrument
- Likely loser in court

Down

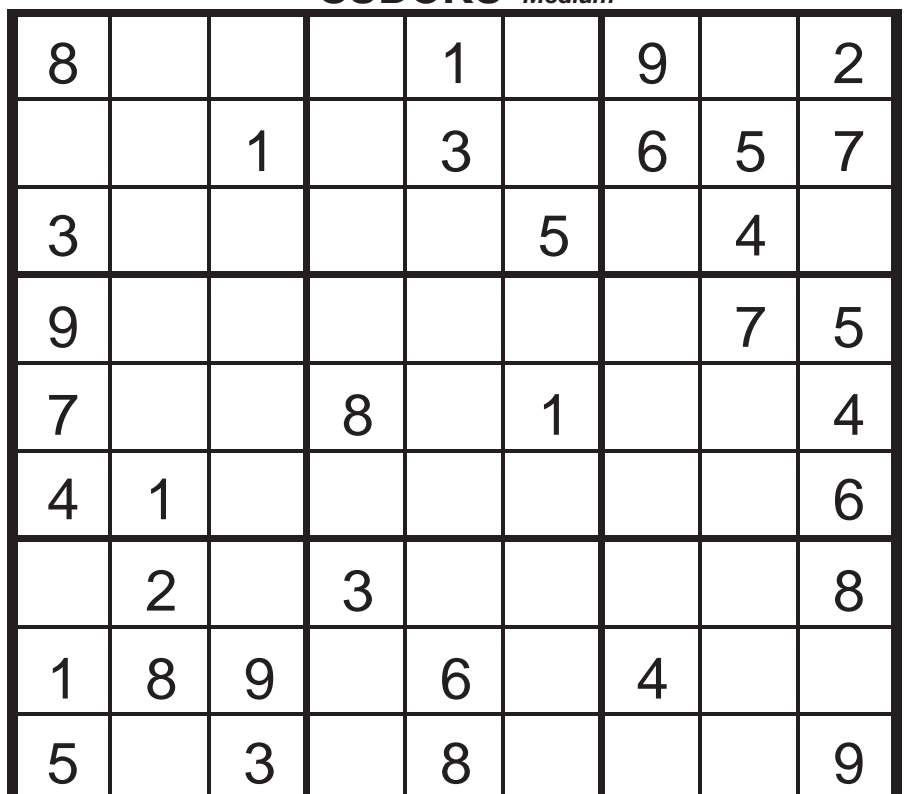
- Seckel, for one
- Elegance
- Carbamide
- "___ Woman," Fleetwood Mac tune
- Agnolotti and bucatini, e.g.
- Union station?
- Serpentine
- Over, for short
- How Phileas Fogg traveled
- Certain beans
- Deprive of heat?
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- Wuss
- Anger, e.g.
- Grasshopper sound, var.
- Newfoundland promontory

- Body of verse
- Medical advice, often
- Arab League member
- Ballpoint, e.g.
- Embellish
- Tide type
- Williams and Kennedy
- Spiraling form
- White-tailed eagle
- Young hooter
- "The Canterbury Tales" pilgrim
- Supported
- Boatload
- Court call
- "Heartbreak House" writer
- Hyperbolic tangent
- The America's Cup trophy, e.g.
- Indian bread
- Create an email

Last Week's Answers



SUDOKU Medium



Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9.

Year in Review

from front page

which will drop to 2% after three years), a 2% transient occupancy tax increase on lodging, a reduction of the sales tax credit businesses can declare to offset their business license tax from the current 40% to 10% the first three years and then down to 5% subsequently, and a 10% tax on airport parking facilities. If the measure passes by a simple majority of local voters, the City will realize an estimated \$6.58 million in each of the first three years and then \$5.91 million annually thereafter. The Council also passed a resolution declaring its intent to use 30% of the tax proceeds for infrastructure projects and also agreed to allow El Segundo Chamber of Commerce input in selection of the two business members of the Capital Improvement Program Advisory Committee (CIPAC). The Chamber announced it will campaign in support of the measures.

Chevron Tax Settlement

The City might be looking at a budget deficit north of \$10 million a year had it not finalized a tax settlement with Chevron in the spring. After a 2011 staff report concluded the local refinery pays far less in acreage (business license) tax than similar facilities elsewhere, the Council initially considered placing an acreage tax measure on refineries on the ballot in 2012—but instead chose to negotiate with Chevron, with the talks culminating this past April. The agreement will net the City an estimated \$128 million in new revenues over its 15-year period. For the first year, Chevron paid the City \$11.1 million in combined 2012 taxes plus “additional funds” to reflect higher than anticipated 2011/12 revenues. The City used those dollars to balance the 2013/14 budget that would have otherwise been several million in the red.

The deal also extended the recycled water surcharge imposed on Chevron that was set to expire in two years. Chevron will continue to pay its gas utility user tax payments according to the terms of a 1994 agreement with the City, but the amount will now be calculated on actual consumption.

Mayoral Change/City Appointments

In May, the City Council voted to move Bill Fisher into the mayoral position in place of Carl Jacobson, constituting the first such midstream leadership change in El Segundo history. The initial tally was 3-2 in favor of Fisher with Jacobson and Mayor Pro Tem Suzanne Fuentes dissenting, but Jacobson then asked for a recount in order to make the official vote 5-0. The Council then voted unanimously to install Jacobson as Mayor Pro Tem in Fuentes' stead. The group opted not to go to an annual mayoral selection, as was suggested on the agenda item brought forth by Fisher, but chose to stick with the long tradition of a two-year term.

In rationalizing the reason for new leadership, Fisher said the City is in desperate need of a voice to tell the story of El Segundo in order to entice companies to move here, fill vacant office space and replace millions in lost tax revenues. He argued that business prospects need to be courted by an economic development team led by the Mayor, but felt that Jacobson's full-time job and already hectic Council duties made it difficult for the latter to take on any more responsibilities. Jacobson countered that he was indeed active in economic development, citing recent meetings with CB Richard Ellis and Continental Development Corporation and a major role in the successful retention effort to keep the firm Nano H2O in town.

In early January, the Council appointed CIPAC Chair Crista Binder as the new City Treasurer, replacing Chris Powell who had resigned in December 2012. By appointing her at that time rather than waiting until April to hold a special election, the City saved as much as \$100,000-plus and also avoided having the position remain vacant for months.

In another key move, Carpenter restored Human Resources to departmental status during the summer and appointed Martha Dijkstra as HR Director. In addition to responsibilities involving recruitment and selection, organizational development, health and safety, employee benefits, performance management and City Hall reception, she will also provide support

for the City's chief negotiator for the next set of labor talks with six bargaining units this coming summer.

Economic Development/Business Arrivals and Future Tenants

Viewing economic development as key to maintaining fiscal solvency over the long haul, Mayor Fisher and the Council began to conduct joint public meetings with the Economic Development Advisory Committee in the fall, while the City also planned to hire a new public relations firm by the end of the year. A big target area for business growth is Smoky Hollow, the long-time industrial district seen as a future hub for creative media companies and identified by an Urban Land Institute panel as a potential next Culver City or Santa Monica. An update of Smoky Hollow's specific plan and a possible in-lieu parking program for the area are currently in the works, as is a parking study courtesy of Continental Development Corporation. Additional ideas include constructing angled parking on Richmond and Standard streets, promoting El Segundo as part of Silicon Beach, changing Sepulveda Boulevard's name to Pacific Coast Highway and adopting the moniker El Segundo By the Sea to promote the community's coastal location.

Meanwhile, the City hopes to reap the long-term benefits from new and upcoming commercial projects. On August 1, NRG Energy, Inc. finally began operations at the newly modernized power plant (El Segundo Energy Center) expected to generate additional utility user tax revenues for the City. The complex entailed construction of two new gas-fueled generating units that will produce 550 megawatts of electricity for the California grid—sufficient to power close to 450,000 homes. The units can be online within 10 minutes and at full capacity in an hour, providing critical backup support for solar power and other renewable energy sources. Environmental benefits include significantly lower natural gas omissions and the use of air-cooled condensers in the units in contrast to the prior 1960s-era steam boiler technology that relied on ocean water for cooling.

Notable major developments coming up include the 80,000-square foot, high-end retail/restaurant center called The Point (which broke ground recently and is slated to open in the spring of 2015) that will wrap up the first phase of Plaza El Segundo; and elevon at Campus El Segundo, featuring 210,000 square feet of creative office buildings for sale plus 13,500 square feet of supporting high-end retail, restaurant and service space for lease (with a late 2014 or early 2015 completion). Not quite set in stone but in environmental review are plans to develop 1.9 million square feet on Raytheon's south campus, and to build a new hotel at 888 N. Sepulveda. A revamp of the recently sold Hacienda Hotel is also expected. The Council also approved plans to revamp the driving range at The Lakes at El Segundo into a TopGolf facility (see section on this topic). Meanwhile, office projects at Grand Kansas and Grand and Oregon targeting creative media tenants will be completed in 2014.

In 2013, several new eateries opened up along Sepulveda, while Downtown El Segundo in September welcomed the 99 Cents Store at the former Cooke's Family Market site. After the closure of David Schat's Bakery Café in late 2012 at the one-time Blockbuster Video location, the next tenant—Shoop's 131—only lasted a few months before closing its doors. Petros Kafe will take its place in early 2014. Coming up, Ole Smoky Tennessee Moonshine will take over the vacant post office site on Main Street, while across the street The Tavern on Main is set to expand in 2014.

Also of note, the El Segundo Beach restroom facility and lifeguard station finally opened in the summer after lengthy delays. The 1,300-square foot, two-story structure is set along the south end of the parking lot at Grand Avenue and Vista del Mar. Functions include lifeguard activities with showers and garage storage for vehicles, a lookout tower to patrol the beach, junior lifeguard activities, storage for sundry equipment, and

handicapped-accessible public restrooms.

TopGolf

Arguably the most talked-about topic of the year was TopGolf coming to El Segundo. After about a year and a half of public discussion, the City Council by a 3-2 vote (Jacobson and Fuentes against it) last month approved the terms of a 20-year ground lease with local developer CenterCal Properties for the driving range portion of The Lakes at El Segundo. Upon completion of a one-year due diligence period at the end of 2014, CenterCal would then sublet the driving range property to real estate investment trust 30 West Pershing, which would in turn sublet it to the Dallas-based TopGolf for final operation.

CenterCal will build a new clubhouse and additional parking for the golf course, while making modifications to a few holes. The City will continue to operate the golf course. For the driving range, TopGolf will construct three levels with 102 total hitting bays (nearly double the current configuration), a full-service restaurant, corporate meeting areas and an outdoor roof terrace. TopGolf driving ranges employ a patent-protected technology gaming system where each ball contains a silicon microchip to track (and reward) distance and accuracy. Players stationed at one of the hitting bays can compete against one another by shooting for different targets ranging from 25 to 215 yards away.

Opponents of the project (with many from neighboring communities) created a petition against the proposal and a Facebook page to “Save the Lakes”, while showing up in large numbers to Council and Golf Subcommittee meetings to express their opinions. Among other concerns, critics of the project worried that The Lakes would transform from a safe, family-friendly, youth-oriented, instruction-based facility to an adult entertainment complex that promotes alcohol consumption. TopGolf officials argued to the contrary and also maintained that the facility will create 400 permanent jobs (not including construction), provide a minimum \$20 million capital investment to the City and add \$265 million to the local economy, while continuing The Lakes' traditions of youth programs and serious golf practice.

In a comparison of revenue and savings projections, City Economic Development Analyst Ted Shove said the City would net \$332,000 (and over \$500,000 if depreciation is factored in) in additional monies annually with TopGolf compared to The Lakes staying as is.

In-N-Out Burger

Though not quite as controversial as TopGolf, the decision to build an In-N-Out Burger at the now-closed Sizzler location on Sepulveda and Mariposa also prompted its share of public outcry. After initially voting against it in May, the El Segundo Planning Commission unanimously approved the chain's drive-thru in late June after the project applicant came back with a revamped proposal to resolve parking and traffic concerns. Among the modifications, the applicant agreed to add a second lane for the drive-through queue to increase vehicle capacity from 23 to 30 cars with provisions for In-N-Out personnel to help manage parking; and to redesign the entire parking lot layout so that cars will first have to traverse the shopping center for 70 feet before they can enter the line. As a project condition (one of nearly 100 specified in the plan) the applicant also agreed to pay for improvements to the Mariposa intersection, with a second left turn lane on the westbound side that will allow vehicles entering Ralphs across the street to enter the left lane during afternoon peak traffic periods. A dual left turn lane will create a controlled left turn light with green and red arrows directing flow on both the westbound and eastbound lanes—and minimizing pedestrian and vehicle conflicts that adversely impact traffic currently.

Wiseburn Pool

In May, the City Council approved a settlement agreement with Wiseburn School District (which this month officially became a unified K-12 district) in which the latter will cover the construction costs for a new aquatics facility

located at its future new high school site at 201 N. Douglas Street. Under the terms of the agreement, Wiseburn will spend \$6 million to construct a 50-meter outdoor competition pool on a two-acre portion of the parcel, with a separate entrance and parking from the rest of the campus as well as other amenities. A 25-year joint use agreement (with an option to extend for an equal period) allows Wiseburn and El Segundo Unified School District guaranteed use of the pool for a total of six hours daily during weekdays, with the remaining 18 hours available to the public. The City will be responsible for operation, maintenance and staffing, but hopes that monies from facility rentals will offset the bulk of that cost—or even make some profit. Councilmember Dave Atkinson, who with Mayor Fisher engaged in the talks with Wiseburn, called the deal a “win-win overall for the City” that will deliver a much-needed pool without impacting local neighborhoods—as was the concern with alternate sites on Richmond Street and at Hilltop Park. The next steps in the process include modifying the project environmental report, beginning design work and drafting the joint use agreement. If all goes as scheduled, construction of the pool will kick off in early 2015 with completion later that year or in early 2016. The settlement includes a clause for Wiseburn to pay the City a \$1.5 million penalty if the facility is not completed by January 2017.

School Board Election

A reconfigured El Segundo School Board convened earlier this month with just-elected newcomers Jim Garza and Emilee Layne joining re-elected incumbent Bill Watkins and mid-term members Jeanie Nishime and Laura Gabel in the group. Ann Coles, the outgoing President, opted not to run again after serving two terms. Eight-year School Board veteran Robin Funk, who had been in line to succeed Coles as President in the rotation, fell short in her bid for a third term. With four candidates vying for three open spots, Garza was the top vote-getter with 1,345 (29.01%), followed by Watkins (1,322 and 28.52%), Layne (1,066 and 22.99%) and Funk (903 and 19.48%). During the Dec. 10 meeting, the Board installed Gabel as its new President, Nishime as Vice President and Garza as Clerk.

Schools

Meanwhile, El Segundo public schools continued to flourish with high test scores as campuses geared up for the shift to the State of California's new Common Core Standards. The financial picture improved some for El Segundo Unified School District after Senator Ted Lieu lobbied for extra monies to soften the effects of Governor Brown's Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) that had given school districts more flexibility in spending, but also took monies away from other districts—including many in the South Bay—in favor of those in more disadvantaged areas. Even so, Superintendent Geoff Yantz reported that El Segundo Unified will receive \$2.2 million less in 2013-14 under the LCFF than it did in 2007-08 under the prior Revenue Limit Formula (RLF). Despite the State funding cuts, the District's short-term prospects are good, with the ability to cover costs and even add some support staff while remaining solvent over the next three years. Yantz cautioned that this level of prosperity won't be sustainable due to California's poor funding record and impacts from the LCFF. To bolster its coffers, the District will continue to look to outside benefactors such as local business (e.g. Chevron's Fuel Your School campaign and STEM program funding) and the El Segundo Education Foundation, which upped its annual pledge for the 2013/14 school year to raise and grant \$1 million towards local education.

Also in 2013, several individual campuses experienced leadership changes, with Garza leaving his long-time role as El Segundo High Principal to take an administrative position at Inglewood Unified. Ali Rabie took over as Interim Principal. Center Street School Principal Marisa Janicek was promoted to Director of Education Services and was replaced by Martha Monahan. Elizabeth Ramirez is now the new Principal at Richmond Street School after Dickie Van Breene's retirement. •

Sports

from page 6

Marlborough, the Lady Eagles upped their Ocean League record to 4-3. Kenzie Lueck, Naz Puma and team scoring leader Lizzie Ginther each scored two goals.

The girls' water polo, soccer and basketball teams season ended during postseason playoff competition. The boys' basketball and soccer teams were left out of the playoffs this past year.

The girls' water polo team fell to Mayfair 7-5. Jordan Stiggers kept her team in the

had to be very pleased with what her team did this past season. With just one senior on the roster and a number of young players loaded with potential, the Lady Eagles embarked on a solid and successful season.

The team won 15 games for the second consecutive year and won its own tournament in December—a first in school history. The Lady Eagles advanced to the CIF-SS 4AA playoffs where they fell to Marlborough in the

The Eagles hosted Burbank, the fourth place team from the Pacific League, in the first round of the CIF Southern Section Division II playoffs and easily defeated the Bulldogs. In the second round, the team traveled to San Marcos (Santa Barbara) where they fell to the second-ranked Royals.

The baseball season got underway and for just the third time in 53 years, the Eagles had a new head coach. The Eagles had won 32

The JV team needed extra innings and a heroic ending against South Torrance to win its league championship. In the bottom of the ninth and with two outs, Jackson Walz drilled a ball off the third baseman's glove. Noah Bergren hit a 375-foot walk-off home run that brought the home crowd fans to their feet and created a mob scene as a jubilant Bergren reached home plate.

The freshman team defeated the Spartans 8-5 in the season finale. Brett Medford closed out the game as the Eagles won the Pioneer League with an 8-1-1 record and an overall record of 18-5-1.

The varsity for the first time in memory was forced to play a wild card game to make into the field of 32 teams. It easily defeated Chaffey 7-2 and faced Granite Hills in the first round of the CIF Southern Section Division IV playoffs. The Eagles pounded out 14 hits on the road and won 5-1. That set up a game with second-seeded Kaiser in the second round. Senior right-hander Ryan Pordes threw the best game of his career, giving up just two runs and scattering seven hits to arguably the one of the best teams in Southern California.

The Eagles would be eliminated by El Rancho in the CIF-SS quarterfinals. This game would turn out to be an exciting seesaw battle that saw five lead changes. With the Eagles leading 4-3, the wheels fell off their season in the bottom half of the sixth inning. A bases loaded walk tied the game and a hit batter gave the Dons the lead. Their final run came on a passed ball that gave El Rancho a 6-4 lead and the eventual win.

The annual Alumni Baseball Game was held and for the fourth consecutive year, the alumni team came away victorious. Todd McAndrews, his brother Travis and Alberto Concepcion each hit home runs as the alumni pounded out 14 hits in the 9-3 win.

The softball team set aside the injury bug and fought through adversity to have a great season. A fundraiser during the 28th Annual El Segundo Tournament was held to help defray medical costs for former softball standout Liz Garland. Garland had been getting treatments in Texas due to a rare brain tumor. El Segundo was defeated by Agoura in the finals 9-4.

The softball team went on to place third in the Pioneer League and advance to the CIF postseason playoffs. The Lady Eagles defeated Troy in the first round, but fell to second-seeded Bishop Amat in the second round. •



Paige Endo was named MVP of the El Segundo Tournament. Photo by Gregg McMullin.

match with 12 saves. Lizzie Ginther, who led her team in scoring this year, had two goals while Natalija O'Brien, Naz Puma and Trish Mullen had one goal apiece.

First-year girls' soccer coach Tony Hobbs took a very young squad to the playoffs. It marked the team's 11th consecutive appearance in the postseason. In the wild card game, the Eagles faced Beverly Hills. The Normans placed third in the highly competitive Ocean League and scored the only goal of the match in the first half to end the Eagles' season.

Head girls' basketball coach Kelly Evans

first round. The Mustangs hit a key three-point shot in the last minute of play and held on for a 57-52 win over the Eagles.

The boys' volleyball team went undefeated in Pioneer League play. It was a wild ride for the volleyball team, which was moved into the CIF Southern Section's Division II this past year. The Eagles (18-4) competed in the Redondo Tournament and played in the finals of the Silver Division. They also defeated South Torrance, the defending CIF Division III champions, 25-17, 18-25, 25-19 and 25-20 to claim their second league title in four years.

league championships in the past 52 years, including two of the last three under retired coach Craig Cousins.

Steve Shevlin took the reins of the program and continued the legacy that legendary Coach John Stevenson and Coach Cousins had left behind. All three levels of baseball teams won outright or a share of the Pioneer League championship for the second consecutive year. The varsity was within six outs of winning it outright before losing and settling for a three-way tie. Both the JVs and soph/frosh teams won their last games of the year that clinched championships.



Girls Water Polo: Jordan Stiggers was solid in goal for the Lady Eagles. Photo by Gregg McMullin.

Robotics Team

from page 2

upcoming final. "The most exciting part of the competition is programming the satellite and watching it compete against other satellites in the simulation and soon in space," he said.

El Segundo High's Robotics and STEM programs continue to spur students to consider career paths that align with the needs of the 21st Century workforce. For instance, team member Adrian Osorio already knows he wants to be a chemical or electrical engineer when he grows up. "I find chemistry a fascinating and exciting subject and I would like to study

electrical engineering because designing circuits and systems is like trying to solve a puzzle and it uses a person's problem-solving skills," he said. As for Zero Robotics, Osorio reported that he enjoys the competition since it requires computer and programming skills, as well as strategy, to solve problems. "I learned that I can challenge myself well enough that I do not overwhelm myself," he added.

MIT and NASA will broadcast the live ISS matches on Jan. 17 from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. PST on NASA TV. •

Epic Sports Moment

from page 6

Rafael Nadal defeated him twice—once in the French Open semis and again to take the U.S. Open crown.

Then of course, there was LeBron James. With perhaps an entire nation rooting against him (minus Florida), the Miami Heat defeated the Indiana Pacers in the Eastern Conference Finals and moved on to face off against the San Antonio Spurs in the NBA Finals. Sure, the Heat defeated the Spurs in Game 7 to take their second straight championship, but Game 6 was the one to really be remembered. With the game tied at 100 and already in overtime, Ray Allen stepped behind the arc and made one of the most amazing three-point shots that will ever be seen in the game of basketball. If the Spurs won that game, they won the championship. All they needed was for Allen to miss the shot. As it lingered up there in the air for what seemed to be eternity, it slowly came down and not only sank the game-winning three points for the Heat, but also any hope that the Spurs had of winning a championship. Some say that basketball is overrated, but that game sure made it a lot of fun for an entire nation to watch.

Though the football season isn't over yet and surely hasn't given us the last of its memories for the year, Tom Brady has done his part as the "Golden Boy" of the NFL to make us all remember this season for good. His thrilling, come-from-behind victory over Peyton Manning and the Broncos in Week

12 to overcome a 24-point deficit showed just how good the quarterback is at his craft. If that win didn't do enough to get your juices flowing, then maybe you'll remember Brady's 17-yard touchdown at the back of the end zone to take down the New Orleans Saints in Week 6. There is never any shortage of power in Brady to get his team over the hump. There certainly was a shortage of power in New Orleans last February, though, when the San Francisco 49ers took on the Baltimore Ravens in Super Bowl XLVII. The Ravens were winning the game handily in the first half before the lights went out. Then things got interesting. San Francisco mounted a comeback and took the deficit from 28-6 to 34-31 in the final seconds. The Ravens ultimately held on for the victory, but the conspiracy theories still haven't stopped creating a buzz in the world's most televised sporting event ever.

Naturally, there were many, many more memories from 2013 that simply didn't make the cut, but the thought of those should not be diminished. Take time this holiday season to realize what sports is all about and appreciate the role that it plays in your life. As 2013 winds down to a close and 2014 gets started, an entire new year of memories will be created. Keep an open eye and never lose sight of what is taking place before you, for you never know when you just might be witnessing greatness. •