

El Segundo Herald

The Weekly Newspaper of El Segundo

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Inside This Issue

Classifieds4

Correction.....2

Crossword/Sudoku4

Legals7

Obituaries2

Real Estate.....5-6

Sports3,8

Waffles Brings the Love to Schools



Waffles visits the ESHS FLIGHT Program students every Wednesday after lunch, with his handler Jill Puffer (bottom right) and the school psychologist Betsy Duthoit (middle right). Photo by FLIGHT teacher Chelsea Hillbrand.

Therapy Dog Shines at District

By Brian Simon

If you asked local school kids what was on their holiday wishlist this year, it wouldn't come as a surprise if one of the answers was, "More Waffles!" No, not the popular breakfast item that also pairs quite nicely with fried chicken. In this case, Waffles is the name of a beloved canine who visits four El Segundo campuses weekly to the delight of students, teachers, parents, and staff. Last year, he assumed the role of "Therapy Dog" for El Segundo Unified and now makes regular stops at Center Street, Richmond Street, El Segundo Middle, and El Segundo High schools.

Waffles is a Poodle mixed breed known as a Doodle. His owner, El Segundo resident Jill Puffer, found him as a pup five years ago in Washington state. "I was a K-1 Special Education teacher before having my two boys," she related. "When my boys were at Richmond Street School, I met Presley, the Therapy Dog, and his handler, Ms. Reed, while volunteering in their classes. Ms. Reed took Presley into all the classrooms, and all the kids loved Presley so much.—especially my boys! So as my boys got older, I had more free time and decided to get a puppy and train him to be a therapy dog like Presley. I researched the best dog breeds, and Doodles kept popping up. They are well-tempered and hypoallergenic, and the Poodle gene makes them very smart! I decided on a Bernedoodle [a Bernese Mountain Dog/Standard Poodle mix] because they're so cute."

Puffer flew up to Washington to pick up Waffles and then enrolled him into puppy school at four months old. He spent all day at the Puppy Academy in Hermosa Beach, attending class four days a week for 12 hours with

specialized training courses from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. During this period, Waffles learned proper leash walking, commands, obedience, rules and boundaries, and socialization. His impressive performance resulted in an invitation to a dog exhibit at the California Science Center.

After graduation, Waffles worked one-on-one with Sparka Serka, the head trainer at the Puppy Academy. "We trained weekly until Waffles was one year old, preparing for the American Kennel Club's 'Canine Good Citizen Test,'" Puffer said. "Dogs must be at least a year old to test. Waffles took the test and passed. The January before Covid. We had a Children's Hospital training the Saturday after the Covid lockdown. So our plans to volunteer were put on hold for a while."

When Puffer learned Ms. Reed and Presley had moved out of state, she suggested Waffles to Middle School counselor Ms. Charney as a potential therapy dog successor. "She connected us with Lori Klein, a counselor in the Bulldog Den, and we began spending every Thursday lunchtime there," she said. "Soon after, we added time in the library with Kim Harris."

This year saw Waffles' schedule grow to fit time at four campuses. The love between the kids and the dog is mutual, Puffer noted. "They come in during lunch to pet and hug him, we visit classrooms and kids practice reading books to Waffles in the library," she said. "One of our favorite weekly visits after lunch on Wednesdays is to the FLIGHT program at El Segundo High."

Wednesdays are particularly busy. Waffles visits two classes at El Segundo High during the fourth period and then hangs out for lunch in the Wellness Center ("Our Place") with students

and school psychologist Betsy Duthoit. Tuesday features classroom stop-ins at Richmond Street School. On Thursdays, Waffles also visits Special Ed classrooms in addition to his time in the Bulldog Den and library. The week wraps up on Fridays at Center Street School with Waffles (accompanied by Assistant Principal Emily Moran) popping into classrooms to say hello. "Kids come up in small groups to pet and hug him and ask questions," Puffer said. "He also makes lunchtime visits to the playground."

According to studies, therapy dogs have a calming effect on school-aged children—leading to lower cortisol (stress hormone) levels. "I have watched the moods of kids completely change when they see Waffles and spend time with him," Puffer reported. "They always leave smiling and happy. In addition to making kids happy and less stressed, I've seen students with limited vocabularies learn to say 'Waffles' and also read a book with more confidence and excitement."

Waffles received rave reviews from students and District employees. Center Street School first grade instructor Amy Grant called Waffles "the highlight of our day in class," and she can't wait for the next visit. "The kiddos were over the moon to meet Waffles and had so many thoughtful and insightful questions about his service," she said. "Waffles is adorable, and he brought so much joy to our classroom."

Counselor Lori Klein referred to Waffles as "an essential member of the Building Den" and lauded his great behavior and gentle demeanor. "Having students greet Waffles and give him a big hug is a definite dose of stress relief," she said. In addition to being described as "fluffy" and "cute," Waffles received high marks from

See Waffles, page 2

Weekend Forecast

Friday

Mostly Cloudy
65°/50°



Saturday

Partly Cloudy
62°/48°



Sunday

Partly Cloudy
64°/49°



Obituaries

Joan Kelly

Joan Kelly, age 96, of El Segundo, CA, passed away peacefully on December 18, 2024. She was born in Dublin, Ireland. Joan met and married the love of her life, Christy, in Dublin, and they were happily married for 64 years. In 1957, Christy and Joan and their young son Hugh immigrated to the United States and, in 1960, settled in El Segundo. In 1970, Joan started one of the first Irish dance schools in the Los Angeles area, the Kelly School of Traditional Irish Dance, and taught over 1,000 students the art of Irish dancing throughout the South Bay. Fifty-four years later, the Kelly School still thrives with Joan's twin daughters, Carol Pirsztuk and Claire Maxwell, as teachers. When Joan was actively teaching, and a dancer took the stage with beautiful trebles in a hornpipe, people would say, now that is a Kelly dancer.



Imelda, Claire, and Carol and eight grandchildren: Chris, Brian, John, Mikyla, Jessica, Emily, Isabelle, and Samantha, and preceded in death by her granddaughter Cara and husband Christy. Her family was the joy and light of her life. At 96, Joan would still attend a feis or two and always would love to hear a dancer perform the hornpipe.

I saol grá i gcónaí, i bás nach bhfuil dearmad
 In life, always loved; in death, not forgotten.
 A Rosary will be held on Monday, January 6th at 7pm, and the funeral mass will be held on Tuesday, January 7th at 10am at American Martyrs Church - 624 15th St, Manhattan Beach. Burial will immediately follow the mass at Holy Cross Cemetery - 5835 West Slauson Ave., Culver City. There will be a reception at 513 Main Street, El Segundo, following the burial at 1:30 pm. All are welcome to attend and celebrate her life. •

Joan is survived by her children Hugh,

“Those we love and lose are always connected by heartstrings into infinity.”
 – TERRI GUILLEMETS

Correction

Photo Credit Omitted

In our December 26th issue there were some photos taken at the Mattel Corporation and El Segundo Chamber of Commerce's

mixer. Marsh Hansen, Director of El Segundo Chamber of Commerce, took and provided all but the top two photos in the segment. We regret not giving her the proper photo credit.



Waffles

from front page

students for brightening their day. One student encapsulated his impact by saying, “Waffles reminded me of something I can come to when I feel sad.” Several other students shared similar sentiments.

Puffer finds this unique opportunity to make

a positive impact on the students extremely rewarding. “There are so many benefits to having a therapy dog in school,” she said. “I feel so lucky to do this with him. Waffles was made for this. Like I tell the kids, his job is to make them calm and happy...” •



Waffles visits ESHS classrooms every Wednesday during Period 4. Photo by Betsy Duthoit, ESHS School Psychologist.



Waffles visits the ESHS Wellness Center every Wednesday during lunch to offer a little stress relief! Photo taken by Jill Puffer.



Waffles escorting two Richmond Street School students back to class. Photo taken by Jill Puffer.



Waffles visits Center Street School Classrooms every Friday. Photo taken by Assistant Principal Emily Moran.

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Sports

Giving the Second Half of 2024 another Look

Story and Photos by Gregg McMullin

We made it through the holiday season and, with it, another trip around the sun and into a New Year. We revisited the first half of 2024 and what our sports teams accomplished last week, so let's finish off the other half. We'll meet a new athletic director and a new football coach, applaud a runner, recognize a world-class athlete, and revisit the teams we supported.

July Welcomes a New Face to the High School and Summer Baseball Ends

With El Segundo High School's athletic director, Steve Shevlin, officially retired it meant replacing him. After an exhausting process former swim coach and an alumnus

championship game. In the championship game, the Blues outthit the Nighthawks but fell 4-3.

The El Segundo Babe Ruth 14U all-stars traveled to Murray, Utah, for the Pacific Southwest Regional Tournament. El Segundo won two and lost two. It was an exceptional all-star season for El Segundo and for the players, including Camden Quaintance, Griffin Lai, Caleb Kimm, Gio Blanco, William Ulrich, Evan Steele, Quinn Eisner, Max Adlam, Kyle Cantu, Takya Tsurui, Smith Chargin and Samuel Ashelford; will ever forget.

August Recognizes Success

El Segundo, which is typically recognized as a baseball-driven community, has its share of well-rounded athletes. Frank Glynn, a long-

time resident and ESHS volleyball coach Tim Hovland, an iconic beach volleyball figure who won over 60 professional tournaments, was inducted into the USA Volleyball Hall of Fame as an All-Time Great Male Player in 2020. His international acclaim was solidified when he was named one of the top picks in the International Volleyball Hall of Fame Fan Vote, receiving thousands of votes from fans worldwide.

September Welcomes New Football Coach

A long and extensive search for El Segundo's next football coach ended with the announcement of Rory Schoonmaker. Throughout his 13-year high school coaching career at three

other high schools, he has won seven league championships and never missed the CIF playoffs. Additionally, he has also coached in five CIF semi-final games with (Edison, Canyon, and Santa Ana), two CIF Championship games (Edison - 2009 and Canyon 2015), and won a CIF title with Canyon (2015).

The football team started their season with wins over Sierra Vista and Don Lugo, sandwiched in between by a loss to South Bay powerhouse Peninsula. The water polo team started strong. The Eagles went on to win the Long Beach Tournament with wins over Francis Parker (San Diego) 17-9, Redwood (Visalia) 7-5, Downey 13-12, and Redondo

See Sports, page 8



Fotis Davlantis was named the new Athletic Director at El Segundo High School.

of El Segundo High School, Fotis Davlantis assumed the position as El Segundo High School's next Athletic Director. As a swim and water polo coach Fotis was part of five CIF championships including one water polo and four with the swim team.

On the baseball front the El Segundo Little League All-Stars teams, which has won forty-three banners over the years, sent two of the three teams to the District 36 finals. Only the 9-10s advanced to the Section tournament after coming through the loser's bracket; they defeated Palos Verdes Little League twice.

The El Segundo American Legion Blues finished with the second-best record in league play and was seeded second behind Millikan Blue in the 4th Area Tournament. El Segundo (18-5) won the Area tournament and was making their third consecutive trip to the California State American Legion Tournament. After coming through the loser's bracket, they would need to defeat the Clovis Nighthawks (29-6), the only undefeated team, twice. The Blues won the first game 5-3, setting up a winner-take-all

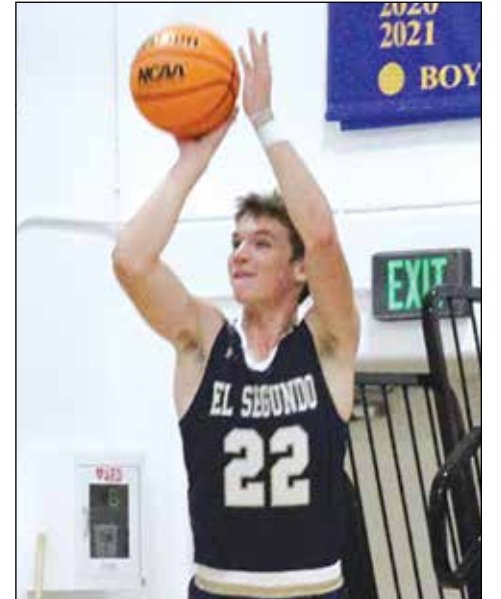


For the second straight year, the El Segundo American Legion Blues advanced to the state tournament championship game.

time resident, has completed 37 marathons, including the alphabet series, over the past thirteen years. He has competed all over the world and is in the top ten percent for his age group in each race. Completing the Abbott World Marathon Majors, which includes Tokyo, Boston, London, Berlin, Chicago, and New York City Marathons, is on his list to complete.

Former El Segundo High School's Allison Reaser (now Halverson), who was a standout track and soccer star for the Eagles, competed in the Inaugural Women's Decathlon World's Championship in Geneva, Ohio.

Allison won the Inaugural Women's World Championship Decathlon with a score of 7236 points. She won four of the ten events, including the 100 meters (11.92), the 100 hurdles (13.87), the 400 meters (55.86), and the long jump with a leap of 5.88 meters (19-3 feet). She finished sixth in the 1500 meter (5:15.08), fourth in the high jump, and second in the shot put and javelin throw. In doing so she was crowned World's Greatest Female Athlete.



Grant Ostler looks to be a scoring threat for the Eagles outside shooting.

DEADLINES

- OBITUARIES:** Monday at noon.
- CALENDAR ITEMS:** Monday at noon.
- PEOPLE ITEMS:** Monday at noon.
- CLASSIFIEDS:** Tuesday at noon.
- LEGAL NOTICES:** Wednesday at 11:00 am.
- REAL ESTATE ADS:** Monday at noon.
- AD CANCELLATIONS:** Prior Thursday.

LATE CANCELLATIONS WILL BE CHARGED 50% OF AD



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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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ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES, jewelry, military, pottery, garden, mid-century, retro, art, ASIAN, silver, coins, stamps, anything unusual. FREE APPRAISALS. You know us from Storage Wars. Buy/Sell. 310.322.3895. El Segundo.
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VINYL RECORDS, cassettes, CD's, 78's, anything musical & collectible. T-shirts, programs, posters, tickets, audio equipment. Buy/Sell. Studio Antiques & Vinyl. 310.322.3895. El Segundo.

To appear in next week's paper, submit your Classified Ad by Noon on Tuesday. Late Ads will incur a \$20.00 late fee.

Love Thy Neighbor

Dear El Segundoans,

We love the profiles we've done, and we've learned so much about El Segundo's residents. We want to do more, so please keep the suggestions coming. With over 16,000 residents, we're sure there are some gems we may have overlooked or not been aware of them. Do you have a unique and interesting friend, neighbor, co-worker, colleague or student? All you have to do is ask their permission and

send us their contact information. Of course, if you find yourself fascinating, you are welcome to send us your information too. 😊

- Best to you all. HM.

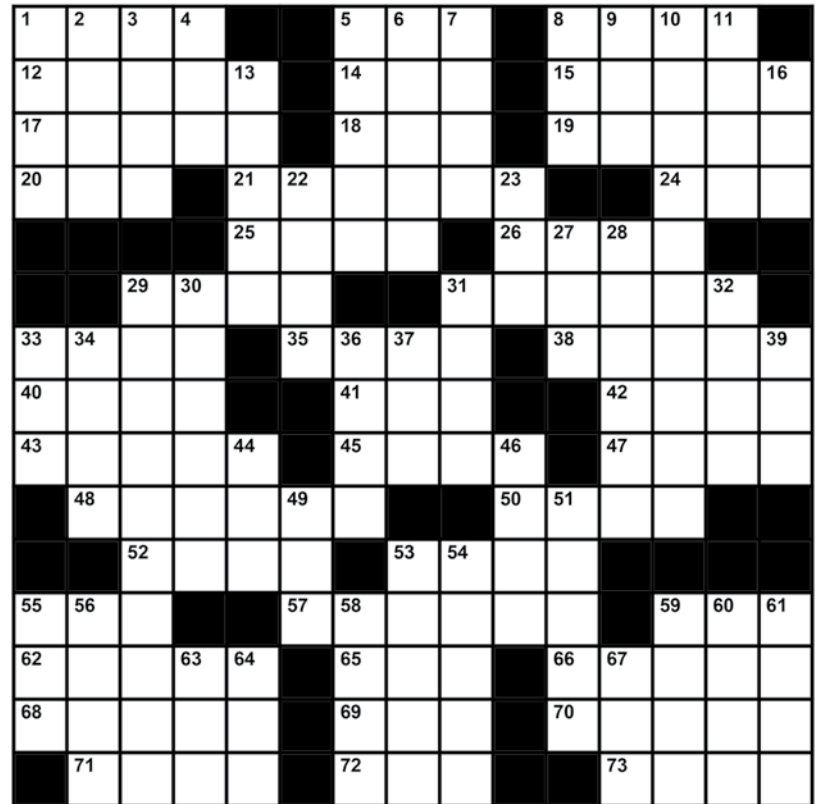
Send your suggestions in to letters@heraldpublications.com

Please have your nominee's approval before you submit them as a nominee.



WEEKLY CROSSWORD

See Answers Next Week



Across

1. Close, a contract for example
5. Medicinal amt.
8. Go postal
12. Dateless
14. Butter up
15. Two below par
17. Address a woman, politely
18. ___ for one...
19. Sweetie
20. Doofus
21. Peace branches
24. April sign
25. D-Day month
26. Bishop of Rome
29. Parade stopper
31. Go with the wind
33. Like some ports
35. Away
38. Op-ed piece
40. Hurry up
41. Doggie doc.
42. Burn out
43. Cad
45. Bit of physics
47. Kind of mitt
48. Beyond belief
50. Beach site
52. Drop from a duct

Down

1. Mongolian monk
2. This is terrible! expression
3. Dozes off
4. Genetic evidence
5. Finn's creator
6. Crack
7. North or South
8. Beach water
9. One of the Bobbsey twins
10. Pushy
11. Goes with bargain
13. Smiley face, for one
16. Nightmare street
22. Respiratory organ

23. Weekend retreat
27. Mr. Right, with "the"
28. Symbol of hotness
29. Pique
30. Hang on
31. Bill killer
32. Hopping mammal
33. ___ de Triomphe
34. Mike Myers, for love
36. Track shape
37. Butterfly catcher
39. Longing for
44. Stew ingredient
46. Wood factory
49. Tentacle
51. Was out
53. "___heart" Mel Gibson movie
54. Dined
55. "My ___ Sal"
56. Time periods
58. Piece, in a paper
59. Iridescent stone
60. G-men, e.g.
61. "All right now" singers
63. Old pro
64. Make a dress
67. Live and breathe

Last Week's Answers



2	9	7	8	5	6	3	1	4
5	8	4	2	3	1	9	7	6
6	3	1	9	7	4	8	2	5
4	6	8	5	2	3	1	9	7
7	2	9	4	1	8	5	6	3
1	5	3	6	9	7	4	8	2
9	7	6	3	8	5	2	4	1
8	4	5	1	6	2	7	3	9
3	1	2	7	4	9	6	5	8

SUDOKU Medium

			4			9		
			7			1	2	8
						8		4
			3	9		6		
						2		7 5
			2	3	5			6
			1	6	4			
7					9			1
	2					5		

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.

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Staff: Mike Gonzales, Clara Nilles
Contributors: Sarah Ainsworth, Kristiana Kora-Beckman, Mary Martes, Gregg McMullin, Kristen Morell, Alex Reilly, Morgan Rojas, Ryan Rojas, Brian Simon, Ron Sokol, Roslyn Templin and Kathleen Umbenhaur
Editor-in-Chief: Heidi Maerker

PLEASE NOTE: Our web@heraldpublications in no longer working and our website can no longer take inquires or emails

*Our newspapers are adjudicated of general circulation accordance with the laws of California. El Segundo Herald, Case Number 372819; Hawthorne Press Tribune, Case Number 187530; Inglewood Daily News, Case Number 601550; Lawndale Tribune, Case Number 479346.

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2025

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EL SEGUNDO



BACK YARD
RETREAT

826 SHELDON ST, EL SEGUNDO
3 BEDS /2 BATHS, ONE BED AND BATH DOWNSTAIRS,
BACKYARD RETREAT WITH OUTDOOR FIREPLACE AND LARGE
DECK. \$1,725,000



TURN KEY
TOWNHOME

703 MAIN ST, #1, EL SEGUNDO
3 BEDS /3 1/2 BATHS, FRONT UNIT, SPACIOUS LIVING ROOM,
2 BALCONIES, CLOSE TO SCHOOLS, RESTAURANTS, AND SHOPS.
\$1,298,000



2 SEPARATE
HOMES

955 VIRGINIA, EL SEGUNDO
FRONT HOUSE 1,850 SQ FT, 4 BEDS/2 BATHS, LARGE DECK, 3 CAR
GARAGE. BACK HOUSE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED IN 2015. 1,700 SQ FT, 3
BEDS/2.5 BATHS. EACH HOME HAS ITS OWN PRIVATE YARD. \$2,500,000



COMPLETELY
REMODELED

950 MAIN ST #203, EL SEGUNDO
2 BEDS /2 BATHS, ALL REMODELED, UPPER FLOOR CONDO, GATED,
BALCONY, OPEN FLOOR PLAN, HW FLOORS, NEW APPLIANCES,
GREAT LOCATION! \$810,000



CORNER LOT

877 CENTER ST, EL SEGUNDO
3 BEDS /2 BATHS, COMPLETELY REMODELED PRIME CORNER LOT,
PRIVATE YARD. \$1,650,000



ONE BLOCK TO BEACH

601-603 W. GRAND, EL SEGUNDO
3 BED / 2 BATH OWNERS UNIT, 4 UNIT BUILDING IN PRIME LOCATION,
ONLY 1 BLOCK TO THE BEACH AND CLOSE TO DOWNTOWN SHOPS &
DINING. 5 GARAGE SPACES, PRIVATE FRONT YARD. \$2,200,000



PRIME END UNIT

576 E IMPERIAL, EL SEGUNDO
2 BEDS /3 BATHS, END UNIT TOWNHOME OPEN CONCEPT, LIVING
SPACE, CHEF'S KITCHEN. LOTS OF NATURAL LIGHT FROM ULTRA
HIGH WINDOWS, ROOFTOP TERRACE. \$1,250,000



ENTERTAINMENT
HOME

913 DUNE ST, EL SEGUNDO
4 BEDS /3 BATHS, SCENIC VIEWS, CONVENIENT FLOORPLAN W
TWO SEPARATE LIVING AREAS, HUGE OPEN KITCHEN &
SEPARATE DINING ROOM. \$1,850,000



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4 BEDS /4 BATHS, TURNKEY TOWNHOME IN A GREAT
LOCATION, LARGE PATIO. \$1,329,000

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REMODELED

5000 W 141st ST, HAWTHORNE
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BURN SCHOOL DISTRICT. NEW HVAC SYSTEM, FINISHES & FIXTURES, NEW
ROOF, UPGRADED KITCHEN & BATHROOMS. \$1,385,000



CONTEMPORARY
TOWNHOUSE

1775 MATHEWS AVE, MANHATTAN BEACH
3 BEDS /3 BATHS, OPEN FLOOR PLAN, SLEEK KITCHEN, A/C,
EXPANSIVE PATIO. \$1,499,500



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4 BEDS /3 BATHS, 2022 SF, SPACIOUS TWO STORY HOME W 2
BDRMS DOWNSTAIRS. KITCHEN W ISLAND & PLENTY COUNTER
SPACE, PRIVATE BACK YARD OASIS. \$1,595,000



CENTRALLY LOCATED NEAR
SHOPS/RESTAURANTS

12975 AUGUSTIN PL, PLAYA VISTA
2 BEDROOM /2 BATH, LIGHT & BRIGHT UNIT WITH SPACIOUS
BALCONY. NEW HVAC, NEW REFRIGERATOR, & NEW GE
COMBO WASHER/DRYER IN UNIT. \$935,000



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OCEAN VIEWS

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HOME, CHEF'S ENTERTAINMENT KITCHEN, PRIMARY SUITE W
PRIVATE OCEAN VIEW & ROOFTOP DECK. \$6,250,000

PENDING



IN ESCROW

601 CALIFORNIA



IN ESCROW

123 E OAK #202



IN ESCROW

1321 E GRAND #E



IN ESCROW

212 E MAPLE



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730 SIERRA ST

Real Estate



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This New Year Protect Your Home & Belongings



(BPT) - The beginning of a new year is a time when many people take stock of their lives, addressing important tasks like getting wellness exams or scheduling home maintenance. To help protect your home and property, you should also consider an annual insurance check, and taking a home inventory. During your annual check, your agent can help you estimate the replacement cost of your home. Be sure to include changes to your home that may impact your coverage needs, such as additions or remodeling. Also understand the difference between the market value of your home and the replacement cost:

- * Market value: the amount a buyer would pay for your home, including the land, regardless of how much it would cost to rebuild

- the home.
- * Replacement cost: the rebuilding cost necessary to replace your entire home. Replacement cost estimates are also influenced by labor and materials costs that are subject to change. Since it's impossible to predict what the exact cost will be to replace your home in the future, assessing this amount annually means you'll be more likely to have enough coverage. Whether you live in an apartment or a house, a home inventory is an excellent way to help expedite insurance claims in the event of theft, damage or loss.
- * Written inventory: List your belongings, including item descriptions (make, model and serial number, if applicable), value and purchase date. Create your list using a spreadsheet, or fill

- out a home inventory checklist that's ready to go, like a checklist from State Farm Insurance. Gather documents like receipts or photos that support your inventory.
- * Digital inventory: If you have a smart phone, there are downloadable apps, some of them free, to help you make a digital inventory. Home inventory apps let you record a photo of each item along with its description, value and purchase date.
- * Visual record: You can use a visual record of your possessions to show proof of ownership with a video walk-through of your home, or through a series of photographs. For additional tips and to help you get started, check out the blog "How to Create a Home Inventory" at StateFarm.com/simple-insights. This content sponsored by State Farm.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025!



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Sports

from page 3

8-7 in the championship game.

The Eagles get a new cross country coach. Their new coach, Meghan Lukan, has the running and education background to lead the cross country program. She was fortunate enough in college to have the opportunity to train and work with most Division 1 sports, including cross country and track teams

A new sport was introduced: Girl's Flag Football. The team's first year has been a success. The senior-dominated team is off to a 2-2 start, but that's a bit misleading. Their opener against South Torrance was an eye-opener with a fantastic crowd turnout. The result was a convincing 34-7 win in front of nearly four hundred fans in the stands, along with the band and cheerleaders.

October Had Playoffs in Sight

The water polo team swept their way to a Bay League championship appearance this past Monday. The girl's flag football team earned a CIF playoff spot, and the football team dominated once again to solidify their playoff hopes.

Since the Eagles' only loss was a 6-5 decision to undefeated Mira Costa, the Eagles were seeded second in their first year in the

Bay League. They faced Palos Verdes in the opening round and won 10-9. Then, they faced Redondo in the semi-final round and overcame a two-goal deficit to force overtime and win 12-10. They were defeated by Mira Costa and entered the CIF-SS Division 1 playoffs as a second-place entry.

The girls' flag football team made history. The Eagles, in their inaugural season, finished second in the Pioneer League. This is the Eagles' first year playing a sport that the CIF installed as a competitive sport in 2023. Led by Allie Stevenson at quarterback, the senior standout threw 41 touchdown passes, leading the Eagles into the CIF-SS Division 3 playoffs.

The football team enjoyed its best season in terms of wins on the field in six seasons. The Eagles were unofficially 7-3 but were stripped of their opening-season game win for administrative purposes. They finished second to West Torrance in the Ocean League and entered the CIF playoffs for their first post-season appearance since 2017.

November Sees Playoffs End for Eagles

The water polo team, the defending CIF-SS Division 3 champions, was moved up to

Division 1 this season. After knocking off La Habra in the first round, they were matched up with the top-seeded Westlake Warriors in the CIF-SS Division 1 quarter-finals. After leading 10-6 at halftime, the Warriors outscored the Eagles 11-4 in the second half and claimed a 17-14 victory.

The football team learned they would face the Shadow Hills Knights, a team that finished fifth in the Desert Empire League. The head-scratcher here is why the Knights were awarded the home game. For those who didn't make the trip to the game, Shadow Hills is a suburb of Indio or 145 miles from El Segundo. Playing shorthanded due to injuries and illnesses, the Eagles dropped a heartbreaker 27-14.

The flag football team's first season ended after a two-hour drive to Palmdale to face the Highland Bulldogs. The Eagles took the long bus ride to face an experienced team, filled with track athletes, which had a 19-5 record this season. The Eagles put up a valiant effort but came up short, 38-32, in the historic playoff game.

December Has Winter Sports in Action

The boys' basketball team is finding its way

through a difficult schedule without a full roster due to injuries and illnesses. After starting the season with losses to seven highly ranked teams the Eagles are improving and look to make a run at a rugged Pioneer League.

The girls' basketball team is off to its best start in the program's history. They finished second in two tournaments and have begun the season 15-4. The Eagles have outscored their opponents 1069 to 652 are led by two high scoring freshmen Avery Pintens and Sofia Rozell who were each selected to an all-tournament team. The Eagles are loaded with talent and could make a run at a Pioneer League title

The boys' soccer team is off to a wonderful start. After defeating Redondo 4-3 in double overtime they improved to 7-0-1 heading into the prestigious South Torrance Tournament.

The girls' soccer team made some news with their 3-1 win over West Torrance. It marked the first win for second-year coach Rob Duffy over the Warriors in the last eight games. The Eagles are poised to make a run at a league title against league opponents Da Vinci, North Torrance, South Torrance, and Peninsula.

It's been a great year and 2025 looks to be just as exciting. •



Carter Williamson led the Eagles this season and was named to the First Team All-CIF Division 1 team.



Kendall Donahue, a four-year starter as the Eagle's goalie, has helped lead the Eagles to an 11-6 record.



Flag football standout quarterback Allie Stevenson played for the L. A County All-Stars played at Sofi Stadium.



Cole Castillo led the Ocean League in rushing and helped lead the Eagles to a playoff appearance.

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