

Torrance Tribune

The Weekly Newspaper of Torrance

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Learning Garden Helps North Torrance Neighbors Grow, Connect



Torrance Memorial Medical Center's gardening program, which started as a campus lecture series in 2009 by Torrance Memorial's ADVANTAGE newsletter editor and Master Gardener Judith Gerber, has expanded to encompass hands-on learning on a reserved plot of land located at the Columbia Park Community Garden. Torrance Memorial's Learning Garden provides a space for locals to learn how to grow their own food to improve their health and nutrition while getting fresh air and a little exercise. The garden is part of the hospital's Community Benefit Program, which serves the needs of South Bay residents through the donation of services and programs. For a current schedule or to register for classes, call 310-517-4711. For more information about the Torrance Memorial Learning Garden, email judithgerber@tmmc.com. Photo courtesy of Torrance Memorial Medical Center.

City of Torrance Protests Storm Water Tax

By Dylan Little

The Torrance City Council decided to protest a parcel tax proposed by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District to fund both city and regional projects to reduce pollution from storm water and urban runoff. The City is able to protest the proposed parcel tax as part of Proposition 218. If more than 50 percent of property owners protest, the measure will not be enacted. If less than 50 percent of property owners file a protest letter, then the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors can hold a mail-in election among property owners to enact the tax. In both parts of the process a property owner gets one vote per parcel, meaning the City of Torrance itself would have 210 votes. Still, even with the City's protest, it's unlikely the proposed tax will be defeated in the first stage due to the number of parcels that would be required to mail back a protest vote (in the first section of the Prop 218 process, failure to vote is a de facto yes vote). "It's highly improbable that there will be enough protests to reject the tax," said Jackson.

If the parcel tax is enacted, the City would be on the hook for a total of \$142,000 per year, but would receive \$2.2 million in revenue from the taxes to fund improvements to water runoff facilities. However, if the parcel tax is defeated, the City would still be required to meet the obligations of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Board (which regulates how much debris, bacteria and toxic materials can be allowed to enter the bodies of water surrounding the community) with monies from the general and sewer funds plus a limited pool of grants. Failure to meet these requirements would result in fines for the City that could reach up to \$10,000 per day. The extra runoff infrastructure is important, as the Water Quality Board is strict enough that City Manager LeRoy Jackson wondered if, even with the extra funding, it would be possible to meet the standards. "You'd almost have to have pure water... it's almost impossible," said Jackson. "It's hard to say when or if

it's even possible to meet all the standards of the permit."

To some on the Council, like Tom Brewer, the additional tax burden on local schools was a major factor in protesting the parcel tax. Just as the City will be taxed on its parcels, so would Torrance Unified School District for its own land, with an estimated annual cost of \$250,000. However, unlike the City, the School District wouldn't receive any revenue from the taxes. "Whereas the City might be getting money, the District won't be getting any money and this [parcel tax] is money they

just don't have," said Brewer. "It's going to be tough on the District to spend that money."

Councilmember Bill Sutherland opposed the parcel tax because he believes that there is currently enough money to handle problems like water quality—it is just poorly managed in the higher levels of government. He objected to a new tax on property owners and fears that additional taxes could drive businesses and residents out of California. "I understand the City will make a fair amount of money under this and I guess we could use

See City Council, page 7

Weekend Forecast

Friday
Sunny
54°/40°



Saturday
Sunny
55°/39°



Sunday
Few Showers
55°/41°



Nonprofit, D-League Basketball Team Partner, Help Families During Holiday Season

By Cristian Vasquez

Toys, books and professional athletes were all part of the festive holiday setting that Connection For Children's annual toy drive provided for South Bay families in need. "Every year here at Connections we collect toys from the community and invite all of the families that we provide financial assistance to, to come in and shop for their kids," Connections For Children Executive Director Patti Oblath said. "We have about 20 child care centers that host toy drives, donate the toys to us and then we distribute them. Mattel has donated toys to us as well as other toy manufacturers. The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce and the Torrance Chamber of Commerce gave us some toys as well."

Connections For Children, a non-profit child care resource and referral agency, serves child care providers, educators and parents in the West Los Angeles and South Bay areas. The toy drive has been organized for at least 15 years, and during last year's toy drive it is estimated that 700 families and 1,000 children were served. "This year because we are serving Torrance and Lomita, that number should

be significantly greater. It is kind of a well-kept secret, not intentionally, and it does make a difference for a lot of families," Oblath said. "It is heartbreaking that in our communities like in Santa Monica and Torrance where people have plenty, that there are still families who still don't have enough to give as much to their children as they would like to. We are grateful that we have the resources from the State and the County to make a difference in their lives. This is just something extra that we like to do."

During this year's effort Connections For Children was able to partner with the Lakers' D-League affiliate, the D-Fenders and their players who spent a few days before Christmas wrapping gifts, signing autographs and taking pictures with children and families. "It is unbelievable and I love it. Me personally, I have been doing things like coming out, wrapping presents and helping families provide presents for their kids who usually couldn't since I was a young kid," D-Fenders' center and former UCLA player Anthony Stover said. "When I was 10, I would go down

See Connections, page 2

People

Happy Birthday

Sophia, Happy 5th Birthday Princess! You are a bright and beautiful girl. Love, hugs and kisses to you from everyone!



Celebrate

Raymond, it's official...you're a teenager! We are all proud to help you celebrate your 13th birthday. Enjoy your special day. Hope you're not too old for lots of hugs! •



Calendar

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10

- West High Dance Performance, 7 p.m. (also 1/11), James Armstrong Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive. For more information call (310) 781-7171.

- South Bay Republican Women Federated Monthly Luncheon Meeting, 11 a.m., DoubleTree Hotel, 21333 Hawthorne Blvd. For more information call Gloria at (310) 326-9340 or Vera at (310) 320-1431.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

- Think Clean, Go Clean! Eco Art Contest and Festival, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Torrance Cultural Arts Center, 3330 Civic Center Drive.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

- Guest Artists Series: Stunt Dog Experience, 2 p.m. and 6 p.m., James Armstrong Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive. For more information call (310) 781-7171.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15

- City Council Meeting, 7-10 p.m., City Hall, Council Chamber, 3031 Torrance Blvd. For more information call (310) 618-2870.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16

- Miracle of Living Health Education Lecture Series: Preserving Your Health: Early Detection and Lifestyle Changes, 7 p.m. Torrance Memorial Medical Center, Health Conference Center, 3330 Lomita Blvd.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17

- Beach Cities Republicans Monthly Meeting, 6 p.m. no host dinner, 7 p.m. meeting, Sizzler Restaurant, 2880 Sepulveda Blvd. For more information contact Patti at (310) 753-4159 or plagrelius@aol.com.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19

- Paperback Book Sale, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Katy Geissert Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd.

- Free Financial Workshop: Taking Care of your Financial Health – ABC's of Individual Taxes in 2013, 9-11 a.m., Torrance Memorial Medical Center, 3330 Lomita Blvd. For more information call (310) 517-4728.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

- The Torrance Chinese School's 2013 Student Talent Show, 2 p.m., James Armstrong Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive. For more information call (310) 781-7171. •

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Police Reports

The crimes listed are crimes where a report was taken by law enforcement agency and submitted for investigation. The outcome of the investigation or any criminal court proceeding are not considered when reporting crimes. The crimes are listed as follows: arson, simple assault, aggravated assault-weapon, auto theft, auto burglary, commercial burglary, residential burglary, homicide, strong-arm robbery, robbery with a weapon, theft and vandalism. The City of Torrance, or its employees or agents, shall assume no liability for: 1. Any errors, omissions, or inaccuracies in the information provided regardless of how caused; or 2. Any decision made or action taken or not taken by reader in reliance upon any information or data furnished hereunder.

DECEMBER 29

Theft: MONTEREY ST & MAPLE AVE Suspect(s) uses unknown tools to remove

victim's vehicles property/ tailgate.

Theft: 1400 BLOCK MARCELINA AVE Suspect(s) takes unattended property from location/purse.

Burglary-Auto: 2400 BLOCK 239TH ST Suspect(s) enter unlocked vehicle and take property/GPS, bank card.

Auto Theft-All: 18000 BLOCK HAWTHORNE BLVD

Stolen vehicle: '10 Audi S5.

Auto Theft-All: EL DORADO ST & CRENSHAW BLVD Stolen vehicle: '91 Honda Accord.

Burglary Residential: 2800 BLOCK WINDMILL ROAD Suspect(s) removes screen and smashes window for entry/no loss.

Burglary-Auto: 2400 BLOCK 230TH ST Suspect(s) enters unlocked door, ransacks and takes property/briefcase, notebook, checks, bank card.

See Police, page 6

Connections

from front page

to the Salvation Army with my mom and do the same exact thing. Throughout my life I enjoyed doing this, so when it comes to these opportunities and people in the D-Fenders organization asking me to help out, I'll jump at the opportunity. I love helping, meeting people and helping the community."

The connection between both organizations took place at last year's Torrance Business

house full of basketball players. My kids love basketball and I wanted to help more people know about them [D-Fenders] as well. So it was a win-win for all of us."

The toy drive ended with the four-day effort to distribute all the toys to kids and families from the Connections For Children office in Santa Monica. Families were scheduled to come in between December 19-22 so that



Expo and the willingness from both sides to work together was almost instant. "I didn't know much about the D-League, so I started asking questions and connected with them. Then I started thinking about what a great thing it would be for them to learn about us and for us to learn about them with our Holidays Angels Programs," Connections For Children Director of Development Lisa Daggett said. "So I connected with Allison Tolladay, their Community Affairs Director, and she was just lovely--so we invited some of the guys to come here to wrap gifts, meet the kids and it was wonderful. They were on board right away. They [players] are all about the kids and you can just tell. I am an El Segundo resident and we have

everyone's toys were wrapped in time for Christmas.

"We used to gift-wrap everything ahead of time and the parents would come in and pick stuff, but then we realized that every parent wants something that is just right for their child--so we switched it around," Oblath said. "The parents get to shop for items ranging from infant all the way up to teenagers. The logistics of getting everyone on board have become easier and the parents who have been on our child care financial support programs for a while anticipate this and look forward to it every year. We have built a good support network. We always bite out fingers about whether we will have enough toys or not, but we always do." •



The D-Fenders players spent a few days before Christmas wrapping gifts, signing autographs and taking pictures with children and families. Photo courtesy of the Los Angeles D-Fenders.

Sports

Don't Trade Pau, Trade Dwight

By Adam Serrao

If you're a native of Los Angeles or you even pay close attention to the Lakers at all, then you know that every time something goes wrong with the Lakers, the blame is placed upon Pau Gasol's head. Whether the Lakers lose a game, Gasol sits out a game, or he plays but just doesn't produce, all of the hype around L.A. is about trading Pau Gasol. While Gasol's standing within the organization seems to be at an all-time low, the blame may not only be his. With yet another new system accompanying the dramatic team from Hollywood, head coach Mike D'Antoni simply doesn't have a place for a player with a skill set similar to that of Gasol on his roster. Though his contract is extremely expensive in what is turning out to be the worst year of his career, the Lakers should start thinking about trading Dwight Howard rather than Pau Gasol.

The main reason that Pau Gasol is failing is because of Dwight Howard. If D'Antoni thought about bringing Gasol in off of the bench to replace Howard, then his experiment with two big men in the middle might indeed work. In order to do that, however, D'Antoni and the Lakers' front office would all have to be okay with a \$19 million contract coming into the game off the bench (which is not likely). So for now, Laker fans must deal with Pau's poor proficiency as he is forced to play a position that has never been his best.

Any Laker fan who has pipe dreams of trading Gasol for a player in his prime or even two players who are above average should quickly quell their desires. Not only is Pau diminishing his own trade value with his play (or lack thereof) on the court, but he is also

32 years old and it has been discovered that he has plantar fasciitis as well as tendinitis in both of his knees. Even with all that aside, any team willing to attempt to make a deal work with the Lakers is going to have to send L.A. around \$19 million in salary for Gasol and absorb the \$40 million owed to the big man over the next two years. Most likely, no team has that much money wrapped up in expiring contracts and even if they did, the players that the Lakers would receive in place of Gasol would likely serve the team no benefit at all.

So why keep Gasol then, especially in place of Howard? First of all, Gasol is a proven winner—and not just from 2008-2010 with the Lakers, although those two championships can certainly not be ignored. The entire reason the Lakers made an effort to get Gasol from the Memphis Grizzlies in the first place was because of his extraordinary skill set as one of the best centers in the league. Key word: centers. Since Andrew Bynum emerged and Howard later replaced him as the team's number one big man, Gasol has been forced to play outside of his comfort zone in a face-to-the-basket rather than back-to-the-basket style. Gasol is much better down low than he is taking 20-foot jump shots. Anyone who thinks Gasol's skills have diminished over time need only look back at this year's past Summer Olympics where they can watch Gasol almost single-handedly steal the gold medal from the U.S. team as the center of the Spanish national team.

Howard is the bigger liability here. Bynum was a better fit for the Lakers because he did just that: fit in with the Lakers. He had a certain chemistry with Gasol, Metta World

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Up and Adam

West Keeps Winning

By Adam Serrao

The West High Warriors are doing their part to string together as many wins as possible before this year's league play gets started. There has been no greater gift to the team during the Holiday season than the Torrey Pines Holiday Prep Classic. The Warriors suffered a close loss to Bingham early on in the tournament, but since then have been on a role and are out to prove that they have the talent to win it all this season. With league play starting this week, West will take any win they can get to boost their record to the top of the Bay League standings.

The Warriors started things off in the Torrey Pines Tournament with a game against the Gahr Gladiators from Cerritos. West decided to play inside out, leaning on their 6-foot-8 center, Terrell Carter, against a much smaller Gladiators team to gain an advantage in the game. Carter wound up with 29 points and 16 rebounds as a result, assisting the Warriors to a victory on the day. "Terrell was eating them up on the inside," head coach Paul Nitake said. "It was the best game we've seen Terrell play. He's getting better and better every game and gaining confidence." The win for Carter and the Warriors didn't come without struggle, however, as the Gladiators made 13 3-point shots on the night, accounting for 39 of their 60 points. It was that same 3-point shot that ultimately sealed the Gladiators' fate, as a last second shot to win the game from behind the arc went in, but popped out, giving the Warriors the 61-60 victory.

In the second game of the tournament, the

Warriors lost to Bingham by a final score of 49-43, but they bounced back impressively the next day when they took on the Lodi Flames. Lodi jumped out to an early lead in the game, taking a two point advantage going into the second quarter, impressively holding West High to only 2 points in that same quarter of play. At halftime, Lodi clung to a 33-17 lead, but the Warriors' defense stepped up, limiting the Flames to 11 points in both the third and fourth quarters as Xavier Basso took over on the offensive end for West. Basso finished the game with 26 points and 12 rebounds for the Warriors, scoring 10 of those points in a fourth quarter that saw the Warriors put up 24 points to come from behind and take a 58-55 victory on the night.

After successfully capping off the Classic with a 51-38 win over Capital Christian, the Warriors found themselves tested on the road at Culver City. Xavier Basso was the hero for the team once again as he knocked in a couple of free throws at the end of regulation to send the game into overtime. Each team scored eight points in the first OT to send it to double OT where the Warriors, behind another pair of clutch free-throws by Basso took a 51-50 victory to notch their third win in a row and sixth win out of the last seven games. Though the Warriors are streaking, three of their last four wins have been by three points or less. If the team wishes to stay atop the Bay League, they will have to find a way to jump out on top of opponents early on in games, especially as they face the likes of Mira Costa and Palos Verdes.

See Up and Adam, page 6

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| Arco 23510 Crenshaw Blvd. | L. A. Fitness 3550 W. Carson St #404 | Starbuck's Coffee 5005 P.C.H., Torrance |
| Arico Hallmark 3856 Sepulveda Blvd. | La Cocina 4438 182 nd St., Redondo Bch. | Staybridge Suites Hotel 19901 Prairie Ave. |
| Artesian Car Wash 17500 Prairie Ave. | Lingley Chevron Extra Mile 23420 Crenshaw Blvd. | T.R.G. Real Estate Group 3480 Torrance Blvd. |
| Benihana 21327 Hawthorne Blvd. | Little Company Of Mary Hospital 4101 Torrance Blvd. | Manee Thai Massage 24020 Vista Montana #A |
| Billy's Deli & Cafe 5160 W. 190 th St. | Little Company Of Mary Medical Cntr 4201 Torrance Blvd. | The Depot 1250 Cabrillo Ave. |
| Bottle Shop 2087 Torrance Blvd. | Courtyard Torrance 1925 190 th St. | The Little Gym 21203 Hawthorne Blvd. |
| Buffalo Fire Department 1261 Cabrillo Ave. | NEW Massey's House of Flowers 25929 S. Western Blvd. | Tony Roma's 24301 Crenshaw Blvd. |
| Capricciosa Italian 24301 Crenshaw Blvd | Miyako Hybrid Hotel 21381 S. Western Ave. | Toraya Ramen Restaurant 24231 Crenshaw Blvd., #D |
| Chamber Of Commerce 3400 Torrance Blvd. | Mercedes Benz of South Bay 3311 P.C.H., Torrance | Torrance Bakery 1341 El Prado Ave. |
| Chase Bank 2549 P.C.H., Torrance | Golden Camel 21006 Hawthorne Blvd. | Torrance City Hall 3031 Torrance Blvd. |
| Chateau Liquor 4545 W. Sepulveda Blvd. | Pacific Porsche 2900 P.C.H., Torrance | Torrance Cultural Arts Center 3320 Civic Center |
| Chinese Shanghai Restaurant 2880 P.C.H., Torrance | Palos Verdes Bowl 24600 Crenshaw Blvd. | Torrance Library 3301 Torrance Blvd. |
| Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf 21300B Hawthorne Blvd. | NEW Pediatric Therapy Network 1815 W. 213th St., Suite 100 | Torrance Library 4805 Emerald St. |
| NEW Cookin' Stuff 2722 Sepulveda Blvd., Torrance | Infiniti South Bay 3233 P.C.H., Torrance | Torrance Police Dept. 3300 Civic Center |
| Cop-A-Tan 24231 Crenshaw Blvd. | Power Volvo 3010 P.C.H., Torrance | Torrance Police Dept. 3624 Artesia Blvd. |
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| El Pollo Inka 23705 Hawthorne Blvd. | Shakey's Pizza 5105 Torrance Blvd., Torrance | Walgreens 2976 W. Sepulveda Blvd. |
| Frank's Liquor 1601 Cabrillo Ave. | Shoe Dog 25359 Crenshaw Blvd. | Walgreens 2321 Hawthorne Blvd, Redondo Beach |
| Froots 21219 Hawthorne Blvd. | Shorewood Realty 1009 Torrance Blvd. | Walgreens 22930 S. Western Ave. |
| Griffith Adult Center 2291 Washington Ave. | NEW Sign-A-Rama 1820 W. Carson St., Suite 204 | Walsers Art Supplies & Recycling 23145 Kashiwa Court |
| Hamilton Adult Center 2606 W. 182nd St. | Snax Restaurant 4535 Sepulveda Blvd. | West End Raquet & Health 4343 Spencer St. |
| Hof's Hut 23635 Crenshaw Blvd. | South Bay BMW 18800 Hawthorne Blvd. | Western Museum of Flight 3315 Airport Drive |
| Home Team Realty 23900 Hawthorne Blvd. | South End Racquet & Health Club 2800 Skypark Dr. | NEW Y' Not Burgers 22940 Hawthorne Blvd |
| Jack's Pizza 5007 P.C.H., Torrance | Southeast Torrance Library 23115 Arlington Ave. | Yamabuki Restaurant 23863 Hawthorne Blvd. |
| 1-Naba Japanese Restaurant 20920 Hawthorne Blvd. | Southwood Dry Cleaners 22232 Palos Verdes Blvd. | YMCA Torrance-South Bay 2900 E. Sepulveda Blvd. |

TerriAnn in Torrance

Calling for Joy – There’s Nothing like High School Sports

TerriAnn Ferren

On a cold and very windy Tuesday evening in December, I attended the first high school basketball game since I was in high school to hear Mark Waronek call the game action as



Bishop and Peninsula Girl's Basketball game.

the public announcer. Luckily, I found a spot to park right in front of the west door of the Bishop Montgomery High School gym. Funny how memories lay dormant and then come to life prompted by sights and sounds. The



Mark Waronek in action.

smell of the gym, the sound of the bouncing basketballs on the gleaming floor and the squeaking of sneakers set the tone for two exciting matches to come as I entered the space. Hanging all around the walls of the gym were championship banners from past victories. The gym resembled, I imagine, every gym in America complete with bleachers, a clock on the wall, a banner with a list of past sports heroes of the school, a scoreboard and the American flag.

There are those who make a living broadcasting sports events to millions of enthusiasts and there are others who call the action solely for the love of the game. South Bay native Mark Waronek is a special person who “calls the game” for the love of the sport. For 23 years and counting, Mark has been a regular at Bishop Montgomery athletic events, calling the games for multiple sports. Graduating from Bishop in 1986 and then from Loyola Marymount University, his heart is at BMHS. Mark explained, “A math teacher needed a break and was out sick and they called me to announce. I got my start at a football game and when basketball season started, the girls’ basketball team said, ‘Hey, we want him to do it,’ so I started in 1989. I went to school here—Class of 1986, my alma mater. I bleed black and gold. My mom and my aunts went here, but my daughter Madeline chose to go to another all girls’ Catholic school. But my son [Markie] is in fifth grade and has assured me he is going to come here. I think for me, it

would be really awesome that my son go there and for him to play football or basketball or whatever—and have the opportunity to announce his games. That would be awesome.” Markie usually attends the games with his dad and

is a hard-working ball boy for the football team. “Kristine [Mark’s wife] is supportive and lets me do it,” said Mark. Mark is on the Executive Board of Directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce and Vice Chair of the Foundation and Leadership Torrance in addition to his daytime job working for a public affairs company in San Pedro and Los Angeles.

The gym was pulsating with the energy of teenagers as the two teams began warming up on the court for the first game of the doubleheader between the *Bishop Montgomery Lady Knights* and the *Peninsula High School Lady Panthers* followed by the men’s varsity teams. This was my first doubleheader, attending girls’ and then a boys’ basketball game in one evening. Each team was exuberant and ready to play as the noise level in the echo chamber of a gym rose with each passing moment. After the playing of a not-so-great taped version of the National Anthem, the game began.

Mark Waronek’s deep, dulcet-toned voice then boomed over the p.a. system announcing the match between the “Bishop Montgomeryyyyyyy Lady Knights” against the Peninsula Lady Panthers” in his own inimitable style holding the last syllable of Montgomeryyyyyyy. Mark was set up at the north end of the gym behind a scorers’ table and microphone while on the opposite side, the cheerleaders for Bishop Montgomery began cheering the team on to victory.



Knights cheerleaders. Photos by TerriAnn Ferren.

Enthusiasm and determination oozed from each team. And I am not speaking only about the young women running back and forth on the court. The bench of each squad was just as involved in the game as their team members were battling it out on the floor.

“This is a unique situation,” explained Mark. “They [the boys and girls teams] usually play on separate nights, but this is a preseason doubleheader where the girls play first and the boys play after. They both have been in tournaments. This is the preseason opener.”

At halftime, there was pulsating loud music and then a contest. Mark announced two winners who would become contestants (who were chosen from the entry ticket numbers) and competed against each other in making as many baskets as they could before the buzzer sounded. In the end, Mark announced with reverberation, “The winner is Alexis from Mariaaaaaa Reginaaaaaa.” I am still not sure exactly what the winner received, but it didn’t seem to matter.

Because I was sitting behind Mark and the scorers’ table, I was nestled in with the Panthers’ rooting section composed of students, families and parents. Yells of, “Let’s go Panthers,” and “Shoot now,” blurted from behind me. Although there was a spirit of competition between the teams, the tone from both coaches (Natalie Kelly for Peninsula and Alexa Johnson for Bishop) encouraged sportsmanship. At no time did I see the coaches yelling at their young athletes. The young women ran fearlessly up and down the court without breathing hard or sweating that I could see. They were remarkable! At the end of the game, the Bishop Montgomery Lady Knights won, but you couldn’t tell by



Boys basketball action.

the continued enthusiasm of all the athletes on the floor. They congratulated each other and many of the team members from both sides stayed to watch the boys’ varsity game that began immediately after a break.

As Mark visited both benches and jotted down last-minute lineups for each team with

the boys’ varsity game about to begin, I visited with the yell leaders. Some of the 11-member cheerleader squad gathered beside the bleachers and told me that they cheer for both boys’ and girls’ teams and love what they do. It was later that Mark smiled and told me, “I was actually a yell leader.” I asked him if he likes what he does and he said, “Absolutely! It keeps me young.”

Let me say right here that the young men from both teams were tall, strong and impressive. Were boys that big when I was in high school? Excitement was building in the gym as more and more spectators filled the bleachers. I asked Mark if they always have such a crowd and he nodded affirmatively and said, “Especially when it is so close [geographically]. They [the opposing team] bring in their own crowd and it is a lot more fun.” Then Mark announced the lineups for each team and the game began. He was at home behind the microphone and enthusiastically announced each player’s name as they made a basket. Pencil in hand, his head moved to the right and to the left as the running team members moved back and forth across the gleaming floor.

It turned out the Varsity Knights, coached by Douglas Mitchell, completed the sweep win that evening. Yet more importantly, I had a peek into the very alive and well high school sports life of the South Bay. Mark Waronek donates a great many evenings to assist the Bishop Montgomery High School sports department in having a steady, competent, dedicated and loyal announcer. “For me, I love doing basketball,” said Mark. “They have always had a good team—meaning they win CIF championships, they have been to State championships before-

—and to see some of these guys go on to play Division I schools, it’s pretty cool to be there and to see them come in as freshman and leave as seniors as men going into college. It is really a blessing to be a part of that.”

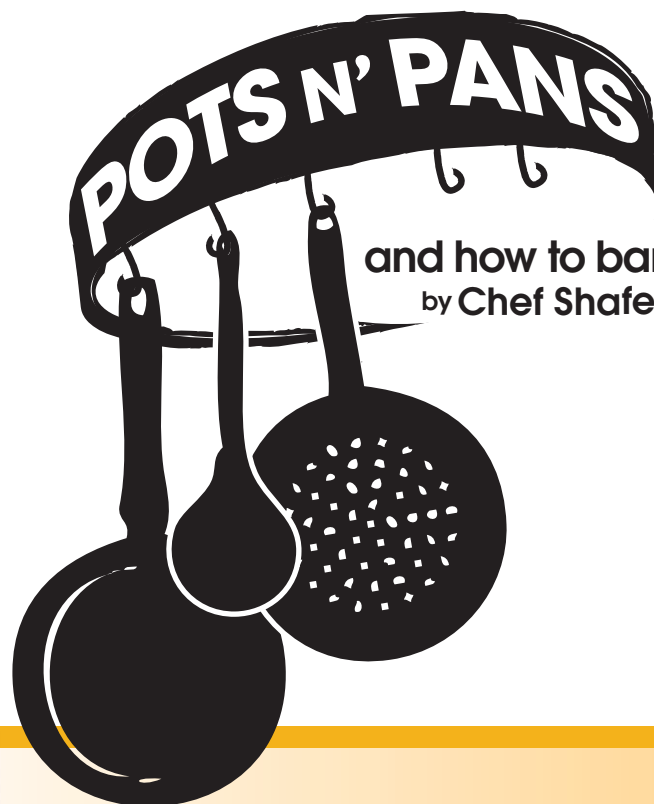
As I left the gym that night, I understood Mark’s dedication to his job announcing for his alma mater and understood why he was inducted into the *BMHS Hall of Fame in 2005/2006*. Watching the girls’ and boys’ basketball teams play was exhilarating. The enthusiasm and joy with which the young men and women played was indeed contagious, and being in a gym along with hundreds of happy friends and family members reminded me of my own high school experience. There is nothing like high school sports. That fact hit me after I attended a professional basketball game a week later. My mind rushed back to that high school gym floor and team benches filled with excited, engaged, focused and eager teenagers. One would like to think that at least some of the professionals on the bench still hold onto that spirit and energy they must have had during their amateur playing days. And it is people like Mark Waronek, “the voice of Bishop Montgomery,” who support and encourage young athletes along the way by giving them the atmosphere and aura of a real professional sports experience during their memorable high school days. •

Happy 2013! This year is going to be lucky for me. Why you ask? Because my youngest son, Noah, will be turning 13 in the year 13!

So I have 13 tips for your New Year culinary challenges. Here are the first five.

1. Salt and pepper are the most important ingredients in your kitchen. Always use a course ground salt and a course ground black pepper. They will make your food taste better.
2. You have to get the pan hot before you start to cook. Cooking in a cold pan won't caramelize the product that you are cooking.
3. When grilling corn on the cob, shuck the corn first to get more flame on the corn for a smokey flavor.
4. When entertaining, make your mashed potatoes the day before. Place them in a casserole dish and then rebake them with a thin layer of heavy cream on top. They will come out of the oven nice and crispy on top and you will free up some time and space on the stove for other things.
5. Remember, a recipe is a suggested list of ingredients. If you don't have something or don't like it, change it. You're the one who is going to eat it.

The Chef



and how to bang them
by Chef Shafer

Martini Madness

Try this one at your next party:

- 4 oz. Hangar 1 Mandarin Blossom Vodka or your orange flavored vodka of choice
- 1/2 oz. Fresh lime juice
- 3 mint leaves
- 1 wedge of orange
- 1 splash of bitters
- 1 sugar cube

Muddle the mint, orange, sugar and bitters in the martini glass.

In a shaker, chill the vodka and lime juice. Strain over the orange mint and bitters then sip slowly. •

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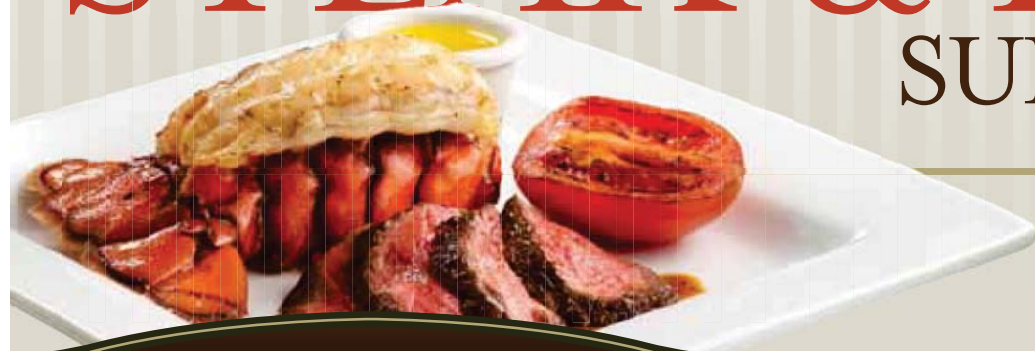
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Police

from page 2

Burglary-Commercial: 25300 BLOCK CRENSHAW BLVD Suspect(s) enters open business, pries open office door, defeats locker padlock and takes property/wallet, cash.

Burglary-Auto: 4800 BLOCK PACIFIC COAST HWY Suspect(s) smashes window for entry and takes property/purse, tablet.

Auto Theft-All: 3600 BLOCK EMERALD ST Stolen vehicle: '05 Nissan Titan.

DECEMBER 28

Burglary-Auto: 18500 BLOCK VAN NESS AVE Suspect(s) punches door lock for entry and takes property/chairs.

Burglary-Commercial: 22000 BLOCK WESTERN AVE Suspect(s) defeats padlock to storage unit for entry and takes property/clothing, tuxedo.

Burglary-Commercial: 22000 BLOCK WESTERN AVE Suspect(s) defeats padlock to storage unit for entry and takes property/clothing, shoes, yard and construction tools.

Auto Theft-All: 400 BLOCK PALOS VERDES BLVD Stolen vehicle: '95 Honda Accord.

DECEMBER 27

Burglary-Auto: 2900 BLOCK SEPULVEDA BLVD Suspect(s) smashes window for entry and takes property/purse.

Burglary-Auto: 4200 BLOCK REDONDO BEACH BLVD Suspect(s) smashes window for entry and takes property/purse.

Auto Theft-All: 500 BLOCK ALASKA AVE Stolen vehicle: '07 Chevrolet Trailblazer.

Vandalism: 21100 BLOCK HAWTHORNE

BLVD Suspect(s) scratches victim's vehicle's paint.

Theft: 3600 BLOCK PACIFIC COAST HWY Suspects enter open business and take unattended property/purse.

Burglary-Auto: 4300 BLOCK SPENCER ST Suspect(s) smashes window for entry and takes property/purse.

Theft: 1200 BLOCK SARTORI AVE Suspect(s) takes unattended property from storage cubby/wallet, purse, iPod.

Vandalism: 1200 BLOCK CABRILLO AVE Suspect(s) defaces victim's vehicle with spray paint and eggs.

Burglary-Commercial: 1600 BLOCK CRAVENS AVE Suspect(s) smashes window for entry, damages property inside and takes

property/cash registers.

DECEMBER 26

Burglary-Commercial: 2100 BLOCK 182ND ST Suspects smash window for entry and take property/computer monitor.

Theft: 3500 BLOCK CARSON ST Suspect(s) take unattended property from counter/wallet.

Burglary-Commercial: 1300 BLOCK SARTORI AVE Suspect pries open metal screen security gate for entry, pries open register and takes property/cash.

DECEMBER 25

Nothing Reported

DECEMBER 24

Auto Theft-All: 3700 BLOCK ARTESIA BLVD Stolen vehicle: '93 Nissan Sentra. •

Sports

from page 3

Peace and even Kobe. While even that team was tremendously skilled, the Lakers' team of this year seems to be doing much worse with the addition of Howard. Why? Along with Howard comes chemistry issues. After the Lakers' recent loss to the Clippers, Howard spoke himself of team chemistry. "It really starts off the court. I think you have to have that relationship and that chemistry off the court for it to really blossom on the court," he said. "You just don't come together and expect to be best friends right away." Best friends is seemingly what he and Kobe Bryant are truly not. When Kobe spoke of his days alongside Shaquille O'Neal and warned of the danger of having too many "alpha males" on one team, Howard replied in turn, "If you're an alpha male, you don't always have to show that you're an alpha male. My presence is felt every day and I don't have to come here and growl and snarl at people." His statements can clearly be construed as a shot a Kobe's way of conducting himself. Howard even continued, "I've been an alpha male my whole life, but I don't go pissing everywhere to show people that I'm an alpha male. I just need to be who I am." Clearly, Howard must have taken some offense to the comments made by Kobe and his response shows that the two are not exactly the best of friends just yet.

Those quotations alone show that there must

be some sort of ill will between Bryant and Howard at most, or chemistry issues on the team at least. Kobe has never been the easiest of players to get along with throughout his career. Gasol, however, has found a way to do so and it has led to a relationship between the duo that has not only resulted in two championships, but also a friendship where the two team members have each other's backs on a consistent basis. That type of behavior, outside of Gasol and Bryant, is seemingly nonexistent on the team right now.

Trading Howard instead of Gasol will not only allow the latter to play his traditional role as the center of the team, but will also result in the acquisition of other athletic players who are in their primes to come to the team in place of Howard. At the end of the season, Howard has the opportunity to walk away from the Lakers. With Kobe still around, he will most likely do so, leaving the Lakers high and dry. Meanwhile, Kobe, Nash and Gasol all have less than two years remaining on their contracts. Come July 2014, Kobe, Nash, Metta and Gasol will all come off of the Lakers' books. Adding talent now in exchange for Howard in addition to the bountiful amount of money that the Lakers will have free to them in less than two years will allow Los Angeles to once again have a young, athletic and title-contending team--extremely dissimilar to what they are dealing with now. •

Up and Adam

from page 3

TORRANCE HIGH

The Torrance Tartars have been struggling lately and continued to do so in the Max Preps Holiday Classic. Brett Akahiji continues to be a bright spot for the Tartars, however, as he leads the team and finished with 15 points in the second of four games for the Tartars against Crescenta Valley in the tournament. Akahiji's contribution wasn't enough to lead Torrance past the Falcons, however, as they fell victim to a 19-10 fourth quarter output to take a 52-40 loss.

The Tartars unfortunately lost all four games in the tournament, including their last against Lakeside by a close 71-69 margin. The struggles even continued for Torrance as they took on Edison in a non-league game last Saturday. Akahiji led the team again, dropping 14 points for the Tartars, but they ultimately fell by a score of 60-52 for the team's sixth loss in a row. First year head coach Andru Vaughan hopes that he can get the momentum turned around for the Tartars as they currently sit in last place in the Pioneer League standings.

SOUTH HIGH

The South High Spartans are putting together a solid season this year and continued to do so in the San Pedro Pirate tournament. The Spartans took on Rancho Dominguez to conclude pool play as Jake Ly led the team with 11 points and South took a 57-37 victory to remain unbeaten

in the tournament. Their flawless record led them into a matchup against the powerful Serra Cavaliers where the Spartans wound up losing by 11 points at 74-63. The loss is but a minor setback for a South High team that has been overall successful this season. The Spartans sit in first place in the Pioneer League standings with league play starting this week when South takes on the Torrance Tartars.

NORTH HIGH

The North High Saxons have been stringing together wins lately and finished off their play in the Whittier Holiday Tournament with a victory over the host team, the Whittier Cardinals. Zach Kimura scored 15 points to lead the Saxons in scoring as the team outscored the Cardinals 27-22 in the second half to take the 62-59 victory. North enjoyed contributions from multiple players as the team also got 13 points from Alex Thompson and 12 points from both Devante Jenkins and Austyn Yamada. The Saxons took a loss the day after the tournament ended to Hoover, but finished off non-league play with a 57-52 victory over Cathedral in which the Saxons broke the game open in the fourth quarter, outscoring the Phantoms 21-14 to take the five point victory. North remains in fourth place in the Pioneer League standings but will look to climb up that ladder when they take on Centennial in the first game of league play. •

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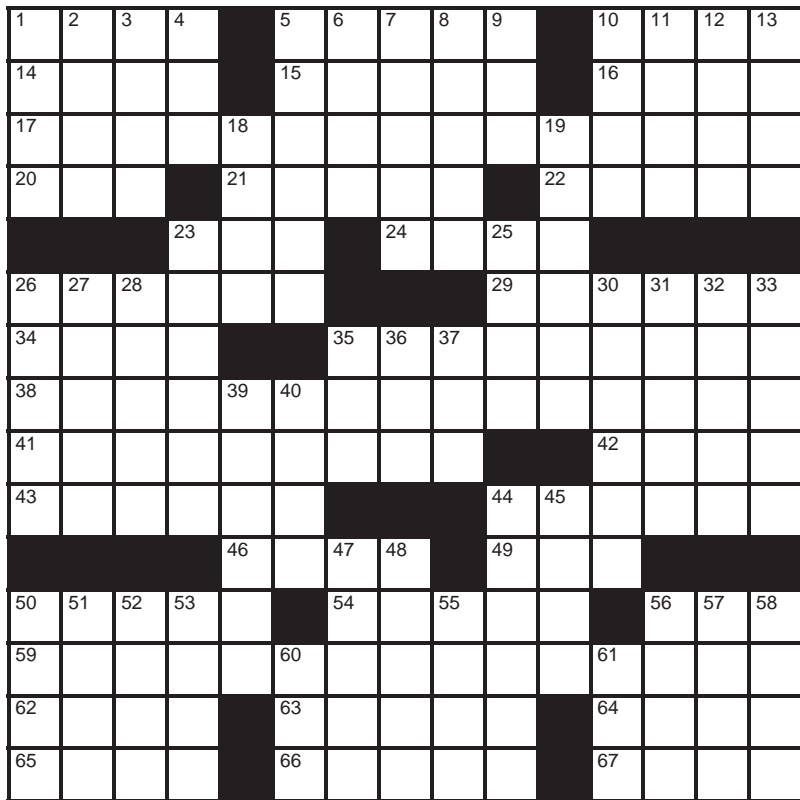
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WEEKLY CROSSWORD See Answers Next Week
Dis and Dat



- ACROSS**
- 1. Habit
 - 5. Ne plus ____
 - 10. Vitreous substance
 - 14. After-lunch sandwich
 - 15. Sweet rice wine
 - 16. Narrow street
 - 17. Let-downs
 - 20. Didn't straphang
 - 21. Come-ons
 - 22. Dostoyevsky novel, with "The"
 - 23. Fish-fowl connection
 - 24. ____ weight
 - 26. 2005 Best Picture nominee
 - 29. Blowhard
 - 34. Available
 - 35. Homegrown artifact
 - 38. Martinets
 - 41. Finnic people
 - 42. ____ frog
 - 43. Geometric figures: var.
 - 44. African grazing areas
 - 46. Many an office has one
 - 49. Grp. involved in "the Troubles"
 - 50. Adjust
 - 54. Handles
 - 56. Garden worker?
- DOWN**
- 1. Hephaestus and Demeter
 - 2. Part of a score, maybe
 - 3. Lie
 - 4. Stole
 - 5. Jocko Conlan, for one
 - 6. Rear half of a griffin
 - 7. Prosecuted
 - 8. Flush
 - 9. Antenna holder
 - 10. Split
 - 11. Punjabi royal
 - 12. Digging, so to speak
 - 13. Feeler
 - 18. Paranoiac's worry
 - 19. Above ground level
 - 23. Sarge, e.g.
 - 25. Old Mogul capital
 - 26. Computer programmer
 - 27. Unoriginal
 - 28. Marinara alternative
 - 30. Old World plant
 - 31. Bleated
 - 32. City in Scotland
 - 33. Short pants
 - 35. ____ maison: Fr.
 - 36. Time div.
 - 37. Starfleet Academy grad.
 - 39. Natural
 - 40. Home to the Palazzo Gambacorti
 - 44. Some organs
 - 45. While lead-in
 - 47. In ____ parts
 - 48. It's located on Lake George
 - 50. Annexes
 - 51. In ____ of
 - 52. Bygone despot
 - 53. De Valera's land
 - 55. Social group
 - 56. Fearless
 - 57. Children's author Blyton
 - 58. Glimpse
 - 60. Tease wool
 - 61. Bump off

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.

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Display Ad Sales Position. We need an experienced Display Ad Salesperson for Herald Publications. Territories include Torrance, El Segundo and Hawthorne. Full or part-time positions are available. 20% commission on all sales. If interested please email your resume to management@heraldpublications.com. No phone calls please.

Online game co. looking for a Sr. Web Designer to design & maintain visual elements of portal & game sites. Req: Bachelor's in Fine Arts, or Industrial Design, or rel., plus 5 yrs. exp. as a graphic/web designer. Knowledge in user-interface and Adobe Dreamweaver & UltraEdit req'd. Jobsite: El Segundo, CA. Work Auth. req'd if hired. Send resume to: Nexon America, 222 N. Sepulveda Blvd. #300, El Segundo, CA 90245. Principals only.

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Nice private room in El Segundo. Walk to beach. \$150/wk, electric included. Bob @ The Grand (310) 322-5203.

City Council

from front page

it—we could use \$2.2 million,” Sutherland said. “However, I have two pieces of property—one here and one in Gardena—and I personally have written my protest form and have mailed it back. Personally—and I don't have facts to support this—but I personally believe that the government has the money, but they spend it foolishly on other things, such as the gas tax not going to the freeways. This is one of those things that bit by bit the government is going to tax us until more people move out of California. I believe this is the first of many taxes coming up. I, for one, am going to go against the City's recommendation. I believe this is poor for business.”

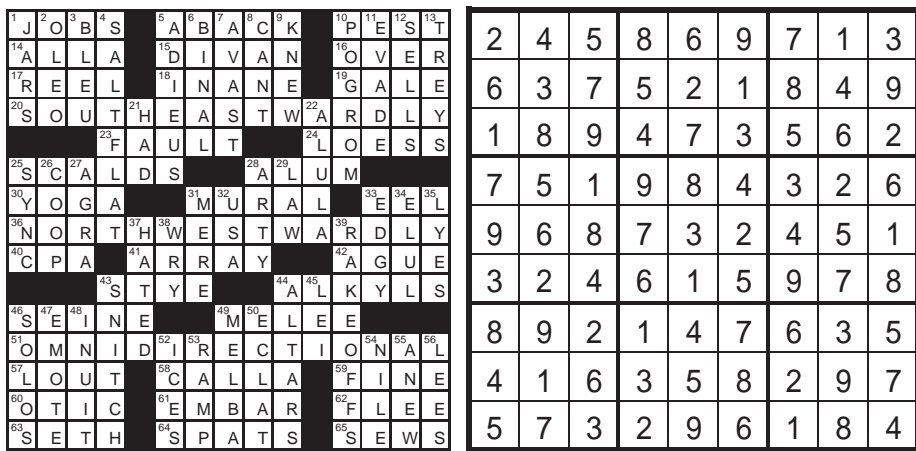
Similarly, Mayor Frank Scotto was concerned both about a cascading effect on taxes if this parcel tax is approved and the impact on the School District. While he mentioned that improving the City's storm water system is important and that the extra \$2.2 million would go a long way to implementing plans to meet the Water Quality Board's regulations, he was more concerned with the ill effects of high taxes on Torrance residents. “As a fiscal conservative person, I do believe the government has enough

money and shouldn't be asking for more money constantly,” said Scotto. “I believe this will be the year of taxes. They feel because of what happened in November that there is a very high temperature for taxes in California. I'm also very concerned, like Councilmember Brewer, that the School district will have to pay and they will not get any money back from this.”

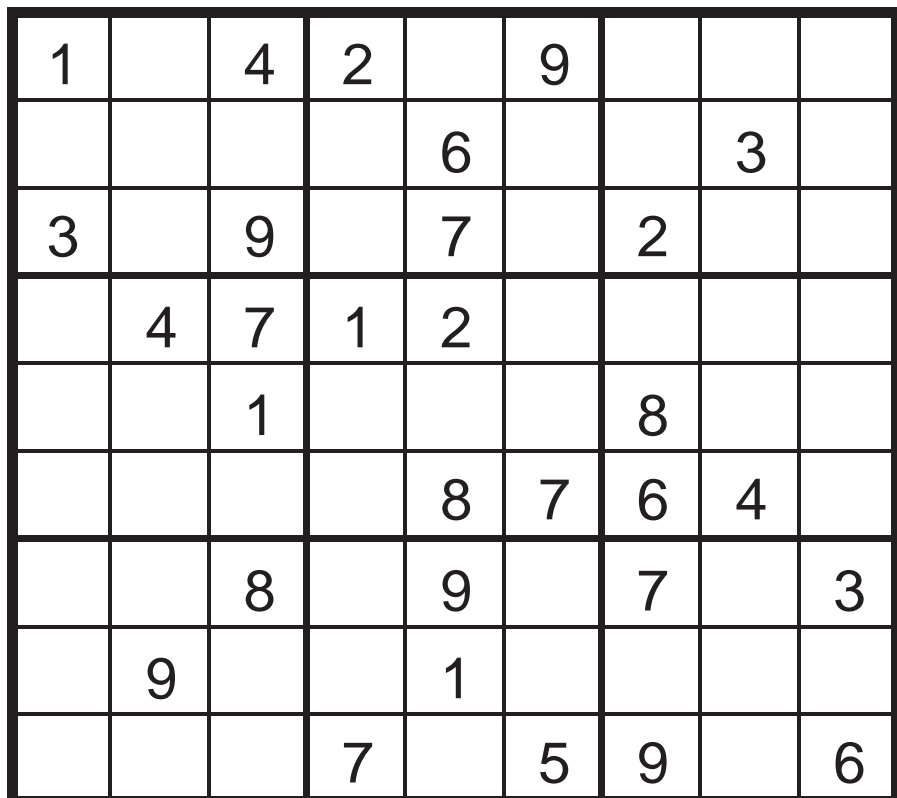
During the meeting, several Torrance residents also spoke out against the parcel tax. All three thought the new tax was an unnecessary burden to homeowners and that the existing tax revenue could cover adequate water protections. One of the speakers, Rick Marshall, said that the parcel tax was redundant with the existing flood control taxes and that if additional revenue was required, raising the flood control tax should be the way to raise those funds—not a parcel tax. “I encourage you to follow through with your convictions and protest this,” said Marshall “We already pay flood control taxes and I don't think we should be paying a parcel tax on top of that.”

The final vote to protest the parcel tax was five to two with Council members Furey and Numark dissenting. •

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.



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Real Estate

Tips for a Successful Roof Renovation

(BPT) - As the years go on and people grow older, so does your home. The changing of seasons and the weather that comes along with it can take a toll on your home, leaving

down new ones? Whichever you decide, make certain the shingle manufacturer's application instructions are followed to ensure you have a properly installed roof.

roofing shingle used today in the United States. Unlike wood shake, slate, metal and tile shingles; asphalt shingles are a practical choice for most residential uses and relatively inexpensive.

unique color blends that complement the expansive look and allow for more dramatic color distribution across the shingle. Heritage Woodgate shingles also feature an enhanced shadow line to further intensify the rustic shake-like beauty. For more information on Heritage Woodgate shingles, visit www.tamko.com.

"If your roof has taken a beating and is in need of repair, don't ignore the problem. Aside from adding beauty and curb appeal, the roof protects your home."

Heritage Woodgate asphalt shingles from TAMKO Building Products feature double layers of durable fiberglass mat for strength. Each layer is coated on both sides with weathering-grade asphalt and topped with ceramic minerals for excellent roofing protection, and a self-sealing strip of asphalt helps provide added wind resistance.

Replacing your old roof is an excellent way to improve the condition and appearance of your home. Don't be the house on the block that needs some work, improve your home with a new roof and be the center of attention at the next block party. •

its appearance less than desirable.

Your roof is one of the first things that visitors, neighbors and people passing by will see. If your roof has taken a beating and is in need of repair, don't ignore the problem. Aside from adding beauty and curb appeal, the roof protects your home. It faces both everyday weather as well as the extreme climates. Keeping it up to date and maintained can save you from dealing with other problems inside your home later on.

If your roof is beyond repair and is in need of a total makeover, then consider removing your old shingles. Make sure you have made any necessary repairs to the roof deck underneath the old shingles and underlayment before the new roofing materials are installed.

These durable shingles are made in six

As you begin your roof renovation, take the time to think about some of the decisions that come with putting new shingles on your roof, such as the method of installation and type of shingle. Your new roof should be appealing and durable for many years to come.

Maybe you are just looking for a quick roof fix to add some new color to your house or repair some minor problems. If so, overlaying may be the best option. Overlaying takes away the time of ripping off the existing shingles, the hassle of finding a place to put them after they have been removed, and will save some money along the way as well. Leaving the existing shingles also creates a double layer of protection for your roof. Just remember that proper installation, according to the shingle manufacturer's application instructions, is very important.



When making decisions on installing your new shingles, don't just think about who you would like to do the job; think about how. Will you choose to install the new shingles over the old, known as overlaying, or strip all the old shingles off the roof before laying

After deciding which method of installation is best for you, it is now time to decide the kind of shingle you will choose. Asphalt shingles are the most common form of

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Roger Hart (left) with sons: Kevin; Jeremy and his wife Stephanie; and Bradley with his wife Alannah. The Hart family has used its successful business to promote and preserve pride in the Torrance community through responsible real estate transactions and home ownership.

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