

# Torrance Tribune

The Weekly Newspaper of Torrance

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## Inside This Issue

A Student's Perspective...	4
Ask the DMV .....	8
Business & Professional.....	8
Business Briefs .....	3
Calendar.....	2
Classifieds .....	10
Crossword/Sudoku .....	10
Food .....	7
Looking Up .....	4
People .....	2
Pets.....	11
Police Reports.....	2
Real Estate.....	12
Seniors .....	8
Sports .....	5
TerriAnn in Torrance.....	6

## Torrance Friends of the Library Hosts Book Sales for Community Programs



The Torrance Friends of the Library hosted its first of four books sales last weekend at the Katy Geissert Library. The sale attracted many book lovers from throughout the South Bay. All the money made from the sale is used to help the Torrance Library fund a wide range of children and adult programming that would not be afforded through the library's regular budget. The Friends of the Library accepts book donations throughout the year. For more information, interested persons may call 310-781-7595. Photo by Cristian Vasquez.

## School District, Police Department Work Together to Keep Students Safe

By Dylan Little

The Torrance School Board heard a presentation on Tuesday from Police Chief John Neu about how his department is working closely with school administrators, staff, parents and students to keep local schools safe from tragedies like the Sandy Hook shootings. Perhaps the most vital collaboration between the Torrance Unified School District (TUSD) and the Torrance Police Department is the development of action plans tailor-made for each school with input from both the police and school staff. The plans focus on long-term protective measures, such as identifying the best escape routes, methods for teachers to hide and protect students, and possible routes that an intruder might take through a campus. As Torrance's campuses are changed and modernized, the action plans are also reviewed and updated.

"This isn't something we do just one time and put on a shelf," said Neu. "They are continuously updated. As schools grow--meaning buildings--we evaluate what we have and what needs to be updated."

Another joint District and Police Department program that safeguards students is the School-site Terrorism Observation Program (STOP). STOP seeks to arm teachers and administrators with information on pre-incident indicators of active shooters on school campuses and informs teachers on how police will handle the situation and how to best protect students. Just like with the action plans, STOP is custom-tailored to each campus and contains a site-specific plan along with information on the best practices for handling a lockdown situation. At the start of 2011, all principals and administrators in TUSD have gone through STOP training and the police have already begun to impart the training to teachers and classified staff at all the schools in Torrance. Neu said that while this kind of training is emotionally difficult, knowing what to look for in an emergency can save lives.

"This kind of training, while uncomfortable it is for some to even talk about, is necessary," said Neu. "It's extremely important is to make sure locations are secured and the police are called. As soon as we arrive--and I have

examples where suspects have heard us coming and that has stopped the threat."

Superintendent George Mannon said that Neu has been an outstanding partner to the District. Mannon complemented Neu on his prompt response to questions and concerns and his guidance in proposing changes to improve safety. One such change was the suggestion that school security wear distinctive uniforms so police could instantly identify them. "We have extraordinary communication with our police department, more than any other district I've worked in," said Mannon. "I'm very appreciative of Chief Neu."

Neu said that his department is always looking for new information to help them provide safer, quicker endings to mass-shooting incidents. What the department learns is passed on to school staff through programs like STOP and

the development of school-site action plans. While there is no amount of knowledge that can stop these incidents completely, Neu's department is learning everything it can from every incident in the country.

"We learn from each incident, we change our tactics, we change our training, we change our approach and we pass on more information to school officials," said Neu. "Unfortunately these incidents continue to happen, but we will continue to learn from them not only as a parent, but as a public safety officer."

One example of how police use the information from past shooting incidents to improve their work is the implementation of Rapid Deployment. The Rapid Deployment model has officers immediately confront and seek to apprehend or neutralize active shooters.

See School Board, page 8

## Weekend Forecast

**Friday**  
Rain  
67°/52°



**Saturday**  
Partly Cloudy  
65°/52°



**Sunday**  
Scattered Showers  
60°/45°



## Conductor Shares Passion for Music with Young Students

By Cristian Vasquez

In September 2012, Associate Conductor Maza Zimmerman joined the South Bay Children's Choir (SBCC) with the task of working with the boys' choir. Upon his arrival, there were only 13 boys to work with in creating the Troubadours and they were all in their first term. Still, Zimmerman has been able to mold the young talent into the types of singers that the SBCC is known to foster.

"Frankly, I don't know how he does it because there are 13 boys, with some of them having their voices starting to change, but they still sound amazing--he is doing a great job," SBCC Artistic Director Diane Simons said. "We don't have a lot of kids in our choir, so when they sound good it is really a testimonial that our teachers really know what they are doing because it is hard to make a small number of kids sound blended and sweet."

Zimmerman's arrival at the SBCC took more than a year and was a combination

of perseverance by the young conductor and being at the right place at the right time. "I am a part of Musical Athlon, which is an honors fraternity at Cal State Fullerton and we were doing our yearly planning meeting. One of our members mentioned that the SBCC was seeking assistance," Zimmerman said. "I set up an appointment to sit in and listen to the choir and inquire about the assistant position. Diane [Simons] made mention to me that she was not really looking for someone at the moment, but maybe in the next year. At the time it was fine, but I still wanted to come back--so I kept it in the back of my mind."

During a performance in Reno at that American Choral Director Association regional conference, Simons' and Zimmerman's conductor at the time were speaking and she mentioned she was looking for someone to assist in establishing a boys' choir. "I was

See Maza, page 3

# People

## CONGRATULATIONS

**Laura Miller**, of Torrance, has been placed on the Dean's List of the College of Arts and

Sciences for Excellence in Scholarship for the Fall 2012 semester at Cornell University. •

# Calendar

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 24

• South Bay Ostomy Group Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Torrance Memorial Medical Center, West Tower 2nd floor in # "B", off 3300 Lomita Blvd.

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

• The Torrettes Winter Show, 7:30 p.m., Ken Miller Auditorium, 3341 Torrance Blvd. For more information call (310) 781-7171.

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 29

• Southbay Wordpress Meetup, 6:30 p.m., Coco's, 2620 N. Sepulveda Blvd. For information call Adam Silver at (310) 283-3539. RSVP: <http://meetu.ps/ttcJ4>

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 31

• Downtown Torrance Marketplace, 3 p.m.-8 p.m., on El Prado Street, from Sartori to the Buffalo Fire Department.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1

• Guest Artist series: Atlantic Steps, 8 p.m., James Armstrong Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive. For more information call (310) 781-7171.

## SUNDAY FEBRUARY 3

• San Francisco Opera Cinema Series: Il Trittico. 2 p.m. & 6 p.m., James Armstrong Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive. For more information call (310) 781-7171.

• Game Day Men's Breakfast featuring Louis Zamperini, 6-8 a.m., Torrance Cultural Arts Center, 3330 Civic Center Drive. For more information access [www.kingsharbor.org](http://www.kingsharbor.org).

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8

• Studio Cabaret Series: Seth Greenberg Quartet with Gina Saputo, also Feb. 9, 7:30

p.m., George Nakano Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive. For more information call (310) 781-7171.

• Glen Kamida & Friends Fundraising Concert, 7 p.m., James Armstrong Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive. For more information call (310) 781-7171.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10

• "Tea at Two" - a Valentine's Day Tea and Program, 2 p.m., Torrance Historical Society, 1345 Post Ave. hats and gloves, optional. For more information or to RSVP (by Feb. 3) call (310) 328-5392.

• Peter Walkowiak on Euphorbias, 1:30 pm, South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society, South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw. For more information call (310) 618-9886.

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

• South High Band Boosters 7<sup>th</sup> Annual "Sweet Jazz Night", 6:30 p.m., South High Cafeteria, 4801 Pacific Coast Hwy. Performances: Richardson M.S Jazz Band, Calle Mayor M.S. Jazz Band and all three South High Jazz Bands. (Tickets:\$7/person)

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17

• Erth's Dinosaur Petting Zoo, 2 p.m., James Armstrong Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive. For more information call (310) 781-7171.

## ONGOING

• Paradox Maintenance Technicians-A comprehensive manual to contemporary painting from Los Angeles and beyond, Jan. 22-Mar 9, The Torrance Art Museum, 3320 Civic Center Drive. For more information call (310) 618-3846. •

# 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.

## JANUARY 12

**Burglary-Auto:** 100 BLOCK PALOS VERDES BLVD Suspect(s) enters possibly unlocked vehicle and takes property/cell phone.

**Burglary-Auto:** 17800 BLOCK CRENSHAW BLVD Suspect(s) smashes window for entry and attempts to remove the vehicle's computer component.

**Vandalism:** 2700 BLOCK GRAMERCY AVE Suspect(s) graffiti's victim's residential fence.

**Burglary Residential:** 100 BLOCK PASEO DE LAS DELICIAS Suspect(s) smashes glass door for entry, ransacks and takes property/tablet, laptops, cash, shoes.

**Auto Theft-All:** 22000 BLOCK HAWTHORNE BLVD Stolen vehicle: '12 Mazda3.

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

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

**Burglary-Auto:** 3500 BLOCK CARSON ST Suspect(s) smashes window for entry and takes property/purse.

**Burglary-Auto:** 3000 BLOCK SEPULVEDA BLVD Suspect(s) smashes window for entry/unknown if property loss at time of report.

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

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

## JANUARY 11

**Burglary-Auto:** 3600 BLOCK 182ND ST Suspect(s) smashes window for entry and takes property/tote, clothing.

**Vandalism:** 20900 BLOCK HIGGINS CT Suspect(s) graffiti's multiple business doors and dumpster.

**Theft:** 2300 BLOCK JEFFERSON ST Suspect(s) takes property from victim's doorstep/delivered parcel.

**Auto Theft-All:** 2400 BLOCK SEPULVEDA BLVD Stolen vehicle: '12 Chevrolet.

**Burglary-Commercial:** 3300 BLOCK LOMITA BLVD Suspect(s) cuts chain securing gate for entry and takes property/tools, copper wire.

**Burglary-Auto:** 3400 BLOCK SPENCER ST Suspect(s) smashes window for entry and takes property/wallet.

## JANUARY 10

**Burglary-Auto:** 21000 BLOCK WESTERN AVE Suspect(s) enters vehicle by unknown means, ransacks and takes property/wallet, sunglasses, jewelry.

**Burglary-Auto:** 23600 BLOCK EVALYN AVE Suspect(s) enters unlocked vehicle and takes property/laptop.

**Theft:** 20100 BLOCK HAWTHORNE BLVD Suspect(s) takes property off of victim's vehicle/wheels, tires.

**Auto Theft-All:** 2900 BLOCK PACIFIC COAST HWY Stolen vehicle: '05 Toyota Prius.

**Vandalism:** 20400 BLOCK ANZA AVE Suspect(s) scratches victim's vehicle's paint.

**Battery-Simple:** 2200 BLOCK AMAPOLA CT Suspects punch, kick victims repeatedly.

**Theft:** 3400 BLOCK 186TH ST Suspect(s) takes property from victim's porch/delivered parcel.

**Battery-Simple:** 4800 BLOCK CALLE MAYOR Suspect grabs victim by his shirt collar, scratching his chest.

**Theft:** 23100 BLOCK SAMUEL ST Suspect(s) takes secured property from parking garage/bicycle.

**Burglary-Auto:** 3600 BLOCK TORRANCE BLVD Suspect(s) punches door lock for entry and pries out property/stereo/navigation unit.

## JANUARY 9

**Burglary-Auto:** 23400 BLOCK MADISON ST Suspect(s) punches door lock for entry and takes property/purse, backpack, headphones.

**Theft:** 20400 BLOCK VICTOR ST Suspect(s) takes victims' vehicles' catalytic converters.

**Battery-Weapon/Agg:** 2800 BLOCK PACIFIC COAST HWY Suspect punches victim in the face and takes her property/car keys, '07 Dodge Durango.

## JANUARY 8

**Burglary-Auto:** 4700 BLOCK 191ST ST Suspect(s) enters vehicle by unknown means, ransacks and takes property/wallet, camera, camera lens, tablet, iPod, purse.

**Theft:** 3300 BLOCK REDONDO BEACH BLVD Suspect(s) takes property from front of location/wheelchair.

**Theft:** 2300 BLOCK MAPLE AVE Suspect(s) takes property from porch/delivered parcel.

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

**Theft:** 2500 BLOCK 190TH ST Suspect(s) takes property from employee work area/laptop.

**Burglary-Auto:** VIA RIVIERA & PASEO DE LA PLAYA Suspect(s) uses victim's hidden key for entry and takes property/wallet, cell phone.

## JANUARY 7

**Vandalism:** 4000 BLOCK 226TH ST Suspect sets off interior fire sprinkler system, causing extensive water damage.

**Theft:** 18600 BLOCK HAWTHORNE BLVD Suspect(s) takes property off of several vehicles parked at location/hubcaps.

**Vandalism:** 23400 BLOCK WESTERN AVE Suspect(s) etches racially hostile names and symbols in exterior plaster.

**Auto Theft-All:** 18400 BLOCK REGINA AVE Stolen vehicle: '92 Toyota Paseo.

## JANUARY 6

**Burglary-Auto:** 182ND ST & PRAIRIE AVE Suspect(s) enters victim's vehicle by unknown means and takes property/laptop.

**Theft:** 2700 BLOCK 233RD ST Suspect(s) takes property off of victim's vehicle/taillight assemblies.

**Battery-Simple:** 1700 BLOCK SEPULVEDA BLVD Suspect spits in police officer's face while in police custody. •

## Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving



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# Business Briefs

## CASH FOR KITCHENS PROGRAM CONTINUES IN 2012-2013

The South Bay Environmental Services Center (SBESC) is working with West Basin Municipal Water District to bring you CASH FOR KITCHENS, a program for commercial kitchens in the South Bay (public agency and non-profit sites also qualify). When you sign up for CASH FOR KITCHENS, your business will receive a free water-use survey of your kitchen and free water conservation training materials to help employees maintain water efficient practices. The Gas Company Customer Service Technician's (CSTs) will join us at our Cash for Kitchens visits, and will do cleaning and calibration of gas equipment during the visit. All the CSTs are trained in best practices and available rebates. Businesses may also qualify for free water saving devices such as pre-rinse kitchen sprayers, faucet aerators, flow restrictors and waterbrooms. The SBESC is scheduling appointments now. If you have a commercial kitchen or restaurant, or if you know of anyone with a commercial kitchen or restaurant, contact Martha Segovia at 310.371.7222 x209, or martha@sbesc.com for scheduling and to find out about additional rebates. For more information about local events, programs and workshops please go to: [www.sbesc.com](http://www.sbesc.com).

## BIG DRUM/SMALL WORLD: FREE JAZZ PROGRAM FOR KIDS

Big Drum/Small World, in conjunction with JazzReach, is offering a unique educational program on Saturday, Jan. 26 at 2 p.m. at the James Armstrong Theater designed to immerse today's youth in the beautiful melodies of Jazz and teach them about the Jazz tradition. This opportunity is being presented free of charge to elementary and middle school children. The program also features fun, short video interludes that offer biographical background on each of the project's composers and commentary on the various ways that both the American jazz tradition and their individual cultural heritages have informed and inspired their respective visions and artistic sensibilities. For more information about Big Drums/Small World for Kids please contact TCAF Executive Director, Chris Wolf at [cwolf@torrancearts.org](mailto:cwolf@torrancearts.org). The James Armstrong Theater is located at 3330 Civic Center Drive, in Torrance. The Armstrong doors will open at 1 pm, please proceed to the doors when you arrive to receive your ticket, seating is on a first come first serve basis.

## WEDNESDAY, JAN. 30 BUDGET WORKSHOP OPEN TO PUBLIC

On Wednesday, Jan. 30, the Torrance Unified School District (TUSD) Board of Education and Cabinet will host a special Budget Workshop to discuss Governor Brown's 2013-2014 budget proposal and its effects on TUSD funding. During the workshop the Board will receive information on the current budget proposal as well as review the budget reductions we have made since the 2007-2008 school year. Additionally the Board will listen to the audience about potential items which may be included in future budgets. The purpose of this Budget Workshop is to provide the TUSD community with information and allow for comments. No action will be taken at this meeting. The Budget Workshop is open to the public and will take place at J.H. Hull Middle School at 7 p.m. Hull Middle School is located at 2080 W. 231st Street in Torrance. For additional information please call or email Tammy Khan at 310-972-6152 or [tkhan@tusd.org](mailto:tkhan@tusd.org).

## IRS PLANS JAN. 30 TAX SEASON OPENING FOR 1040 FILERS

Following the January tax law changes made by Congress under the American Taxpayer Relief Act (ATRA), the Internal Revenue Service announced today it plans to open the 2013 filing season and begin processing individual income tax returns on Jan. 30. The IRS will begin accepting tax returns on that date after updating forms and completing programming and testing of its processing systems. This will reflect the bulk of the late tax law changes enacted Jan. 2. The announcement means that the vast majority of tax filers -- more than 120 million households -- should be able to start filing tax returns starting Jan 30. The IRS estimates that remaining households will be able to start filing in late February or into March because of the need for more extensive form and processing systems changes. This group includes people claiming residential energy credits, depreciation of property or general business credits. Most of those in this group file more complex tax returns and typically file closer to the April 15 deadline or obtain an extension. The IRS will not process paper tax returns before the anticipated Jan. 30 opening date. There is no advantage to filing on paper before the opening date, and taxpayers will receive their tax refunds much faster by using e-file with direct deposit. Updated information will be posted on [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov).

## Maaza

from front page

recommended and after our performance, we were all sitting at the dinner table, eating and celebrating, when all of a sudden they both walked up to me," Zimmerman said. "I spoke to her and she told me her ideas, so I went in and I worked with her. Then I spoke to the other people at SBCC. We went out for lunch to discuss the business details. It kind of developed from there."

Zimmerman's passion for music has driven him from a very young age. For the past eight years, he has worked with a young adults' gospel choir in addition to an outreach choir whose members ranged in ages from 11 to 12 all the way to grown-ups in their 20s and 30s. Even though the transition to working with a children's choir is somewhat of a new experience for him, working with children is a task he knows very well.

"My mom is a licensed daycare provider, so I have been around kids my entire life," Zimmerman said. "With kids you do a lot of discipline because you have to keep their attention span. It's different than working with adults because with kids, you're constantly counseling at the same time while you're teaching. There is a fine line between making music and being a disciplinarian and it takes a lot of patience to work with kids, but the great thing about these kids is that they all want to sing--they all want to make music."

Zimmerman's choir career began at an early age and was heavily influenced by his grandmother, who was a piano teacher. By fifth grade, he knew how to play the piano and had entered his school's concert band. Zimmerman's grandmother's efforts to introduce him to the world of music had a profound impact and he credits it as the source of his passion.

"My grandmother was the one that really started me down this road and introduced me to music at a young age," Zimmerman said. "From that point up until college, I have been involved in music. I have always

been in church choirs, but I didn't actually get into these choirs until college. I have always been in the situation where I can be involved with music. I started directing a choir when I was 16 and I didn't really know anything about directing other than watching my grandmother. At that point for me it was always more about making music more than the art of conducting, which I didn't learn until I got to Cal State Fullerton."

For the Los Angeles native, his new role as an educator is an opportunity to share not just the music knowledge that he possesses but is also the ideal scenario to continue to learn as a conductor and student of the art. "Two words come to mind--educating and expanding. As a teacher what you want to do is to expand their [students] minds, you want to expand the music, you want to expand the program and opportunities that you are giving these kids through your education," Zimmerman said. "As teachers, it is our main goal to never sacrifice education. Our main goal is to teach our kids not just about music, but about life--because in general, the things that they learn from us are things that are going to carry on throughout their lives."

SBCC is now part of Zimmerman's future and he looks forward to having a long-lasting impact. "Just coming in and being a part of this team is great--I just want to help build, help recruit for the program, help in the selection of music and overall just help in expanding in order to be the largest children's choir in the West Coast in order to create great musicians that can be coming out of the high schools and going into college," Zimmerman said. "This is a lifelong journey that we, as musicians, are on and we get the privilege to do this every day. Every time I step in front of a choir, I think this is my career. This is what I absolutely love doing and it is truly a blessing and a privilege to be able to do this as my work." •

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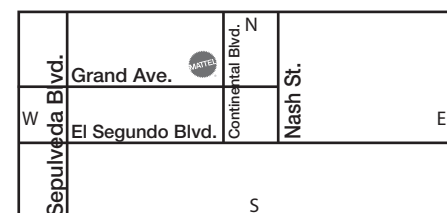
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## Looking Up

# Mars Rover Prepares to Drill

By Bob Eklund

NASA's Mars rover Curiosity is driving toward a flat rock with pale veins that may hold clues to a wet history on the Red Planet. If the rock meets rover engineers' approval when Curiosity rolls up to it in coming days, it will become the first to be drilled for a sample during the Mars Science Laboratory mission.

The size of a car, Curiosity is inside Mars' Gale Crater investigating whether the planet ever offered an environment favorable for microbial life. Curiosity landed in the crater five months ago to begin its two-year prime mission.

"Drilling into a rock to collect a sample will be this mission's most challenging activity since the landing. It has never been done on Mars," said Mars Science Laboratory project manager Richard Cook of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena. "The drill hardware interacts energetically with Martian material we don't control. We won't be surprised if some steps in the process don't go exactly as planned the first time through."

Curiosity first will gather powdered samples from inside the rock and use those to scrub the drill. Then the rover will drill and ingest more samples from this rock, which it will analyze for information about its mineral and chemical composition.

The chosen rock is in an area where Curiosity's Mast Camera (Mastcam) and other cameras have revealed diverse unexpected features, including veins, nodules, cross-bedded layering, a lustrous pebble embedded in sandstone and possibly some holes in the ground.

The rock chosen for drilling is called "John Klein" in tribute to former Mars Science Laboratory deputy project manager John W. Klein, who died in 2011.

The target is on flat-lying bedrock within a shallow depression called "Yellowknife Bay."

The terrain in this area differs from that of the landing site—a dry streambed about a third of a mile to the west. Curiosity's science team decided to look there for a first drilling target because orbital observations showed fractured ground that cools more slowly each night than nearby terrain types do.

"The orbital signal drew us here, but what we found when we arrived has been a great surprise," said Mars Science Laboratory project scientist John Grotzinger, of Caltech in Pasadena. "This area had a different type of wet environment than the streambed where we landed—maybe a few different types of wet environments."

One line of evidence comes from inspection of light-toned veins with Curiosity's laser-pulsing Chemistry and Camera (ChemCam) instrument, which found elevated levels of calcium, sulfur and hydrogen.

"These veins are likely composed of hydrated calcium sulfate, such as bassinite or gypsum," said ChemCam team member Nicolas Mangold of the Laboratoire de Planétologie et Géodynamique de Nantes in France. "On Earth, forming veins like these requires water circulating in fractures."

Researchers have used the rover's Mars Hand Lens Imager (MAHLI) to examine sedimentary rocks in the area. Some are sandstone, with grains up to about peppercorn size. One grain has an interesting gleam and bud-like shape that have brought it Internet buzz as a "Martian flower." Other rocks nearby are siltstone, with grains finer than powdered sugar. These differ significantly from pebbly conglomerate rocks in the landing area.

"All of these are sedimentary rocks, telling us Mars had environments actively depositing material here," said MAHLI deputy principal investigator Aileen Yingst of the Planetary Science Institute in Tucson, Arizona. "The different grain sizes tell us about different transport conditions."•

## A Student's Perspective

# Social Networking Replacing Face-to-Face Communication

By Glen Abalayan, Torrance High School Student

Computers have become integrated into daily life. In most countries, this innovation surrounds every aspect of a man's life and makes everyday tasks simpler than ever before. Although this innovation revolutionizes all aspects of life, it also unfortunately replaces certain tasks with a screen. With the rise of social networking, more people are relying on websites to communicate with others. Although communication has made great leaps through this service, it has also made people rely too much on it as their way to connect. As more people regularly check in on their respected networking sites, it can be agreed that the rise of social networking is bringing forth the decline of face-to-face communication.

With so many new mediums of communication the practice of meeting someone has become obsolete. Today, it is easier to communicate with a friend through a webcam than it is to organize a simple date at a park. The practice of talking to someone has also been substituted by the much faster method of texting. Efficiency is everything and today's high-speed society seems to not have time for lengthy dates when one can convey the same message in mere seconds through text.

It is disheartening to hear how many people measure their social success by how many "friends" or followers they have on social networking sites. It has now become common practice to accept someone in order to just garnish their growing friends list. Some people even add complete strangers and treat their friends list as a trophy to the world on how sociable they are. This hoarding of hypothetical friends only exposes the user's narcissism and fear of loneliness. The amount of followers a person has on the Internet surely does not resemble the number of friends in reality. Ironically, the

person with the most friends on Facebook is usually the least sociable in real life.

Social networking sites' main purposes are to attract as many people who will use their service. The amount of views a site has determines how much money the site's staff receives. Social networking sites are not exempted from this and try to create a service so attractive that it creates regular visitors. In a sense, such sites rely on these regulars. This is why these sites are so audacious in their way of recruiting, and keeping, their user base. Facebook and Twitter are masters of this, shown by the simplicity of creating a new account and the complexity of deleting an existing one.

This should not disregard the idea of social networking as a viable means of communication. This innovation has made the world much smaller by making what used to be a lengthy process and compressing it to milliseconds. It has also made the spread of information faster than ever and increased the importance of the individual by making them impromptu reporters. Social media has revolutionized the way people view each other, but should still be used moderately and not treated as the only form of communication.

Humans are social animals and have an innate desire to be in a group. The idea of power in numbers is common knowledge in most animals, including humans. Communication goes hand-in-hand with groups and has been in the form of face-to-face speaking for generations. New methods of communication such as texting and social networking have become prevalent due to their speed and ease. But reliance on a text to convey important messages is prone to miscommunication, as it misses important signs such as body language and tone. Although social networking has become a new and popular form of communication, it should not fully substitute the time-tested practice of speaking with someone face-to-face. •

## Five Things to Think About When Considering Payroll Service

By Linda Russell, Wells Fargo South Coast Community Bank President

Are you comfortable keeping up with approximately 400 legal and regulatory changes every year? Are you confident about making up to 268 tax calculations annually? Do you prefer to do routine administrative tasks instead of serving your customers?

If you answered "yes" to these questions, you can stop reading. But if you're like most business owners, these issues are among the very last things you want to deal with. And yet, they're exactly what you need to be doing if you process your own payroll.

Sooner or later nearly every business owner realizes it's time to let someone else handle the time-consuming, risky and unproductive task of processing payroll to a specialist provider. But how do you choose the right one? When you make that decision, here are five key things to consider – and to ask potential providers about as well.

### TAX LIABILITY

Tax issues are probably the number-one pitfall of handling payroll yourself. Every year federal and state penalty notices, levies, and legal action not only reduce productivity, but put many small companies out of business

entirely. Often the business owner was trying to do everything correctly, but was simply unaware of all the rules for calculating paychecks, timing tax payments and filing.

If you hire a CPA or accountant to do your books, that person can handle your payroll as well. But that individual isn't going to pay your penalties and interest if something goes wrong. A professional payroll service company will. And a good one will even work with the tax authorities on your behalf if you ever face a payroll tax problem.

### PAYROLL EXPERTISE

Any reputable payroll service you choose will be able to cover the basic needs, such as calculating hours and vacation time, cutting checks and mailing them to your employees. The trouble is, those might not be your needs. An experienced, trained payroll professional will get to know your business, understand what it requires, and work with you to make sure your payroll solution is a good fit. For example, you may want to combine your online banking with online payroll processing or offer your employees a 401(k) plan.

### A TRUSTED PROVIDER

Of course, the provider you select needs to be someone you can trust. For something as

critical as handling your payroll and taxes, look for an established brand with a solid history, extensive resources and experience, and a reputation for great service. The last item is particularly important since at some point you'll probably face an urgent situation:

*"There's a lot of tears and a lot of disappointment, but I think they should be proud of what we accomplished."*

if your administrator unexpectedly went into labor tomorrow, could your provider step in and make your filings on time?

### THE RIGHT FEATURES

All businesses have different needs, but those of small companies are especially diverse – and are becoming more so. These days, even with just a handful of employees you might need payroll deductions for 401(k), a flexible spending account, and perhaps an HSA for your health plan, plus direct deposit. And because every minute you spend on administration keeps you away from your core business responsibilities, you want it all to work as smoothly as possible.

To simplify your finances, consider working

with your bank. Full-service banks can offer payroll services that have some unique advantages, such as tying payroll directly to online banking for maximum convenience. If you find yourself in a situation where you need to move money very rapidly, you will

appreciate having payroll services as part of your overall banking relationship.

### COST EFFECTIVE

If you're still wondering whether hiring a payroll provider is worth the cost, consider that one in three business owners will face a tax penalty each year. After several years the question will no longer be if you're one of them – it will simply be a matter of when. Even if you're a very hands-on manager, working with the IRS or state agencies on payroll issues is one task you'll be glad to give to a professional payroll provider. When that time comes, the pennies per week you spend on payroll processing may turn out to be the best business investment you ever made. •

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# Sports

## Howard Not All-Star Worthy

By Adam Serrao

Dwight Howard has typically been known as one of the, if not the, greatest active centers in the NBA. His impressive physique accompanied by his dynamic basketball skills have taken the vibrant 27-year-old to seven All-Star games, six All-NBA team selections, three Defensive Player of the Year awards, an Olympic gold medal and an NBA Finals appearance in the 2008-2009 season, to name

of the concentration put on offense and the utter disconnect associated with any defensive prowess whatsoever. That said, some of the game's true up-and-coming talent is ignored in honor of players like Howard, who have previously been in the spotlight for stellar play and quite simply just have a polarizing affect on fans across the country. Howard's numbers are decent. The league's "best center" was averaging 17.8 points and 12.6 rebounds

*"One person who hasn't been shy to express his own opinion on the popular vote for the NBA All-Star Game is 11-time All-Star Charles Barkley."*

just a few accomplishments. Traditionally, to be named a starter on the All-Star team has been no easy task. You must stay healthy, you must be one of the game's most talented players, and oftentimes your team must be performing at a high level. This year, Dwight Howard has not fulfilled any of those standards, yet he remains a starter on the Western Conference All-Star team. Surely, being an All-Star does not quite mean what it once did in the days of Magic Johnson, Michael Jordan and Dominique, but even so, Howard has no place on the grand stage amongst the NBA's best this year.

The NBA All-Star Game used to measure talent. Only the most gifted players would be voted to the team and the winners truly felt proud to be among the NBA's best. Now, the game has turned into a bona fide popularity contest that should have Mike D'Antoni coaching on both sides of the court because

per game this season as of this writing. Can you really vote him in over someone, say for instance, like David Lee, though? Lee is not only averaging more points per game at 19.7, but he is also bringing down 11 rebounds and dishing out nearly four assists every game as well. All of that for a Golden State Warriors' team that he and head coach Mark Jackson have turned around for the first time since 2006 as they currently sit in fifth place in the Western Conference standings.

The problem with the current system of All-Star voting is that it is all too entirely based on the popularity of the individual and not the skills that the players possess. Chances are that with the stats Howard has put up this season, he may still have had a chance to make it into the All-Star game based on the coaches' vote, but should you really have two All-Stars from the same team when the

**See Sports, page 9**

## Up and Adam

## Saxons Looking For Consistency

By Adam Serrao

The last time we saw the North High Saxons, they were having trouble gaining any kind of real consistency on the year and were looking for answers at the start of league play. A win against Centennial to start things off had head coach Luke Dupperon and his team feeling good, but then the Saxons fell victim to one of the roughest two-game stretches that they will see all season long. A game against the second place South High Spartans proved to be just as challenging as it seemed. In taking a 75-66 loss that night, North didn't think things could have gotten any worse. Then they Saxons went on the road to face the first place Lawndale Cardinals. Lawndale is undefeated in league play and hasn't lost a game since before Christmas. Surely, the Saxons had their work cut out for them and the final score of the game reiterated just that point. With a 64-56 loss last Wednesday night, the Saxons not only fell another game back in the standings, but also kept their search for any real consistency going this year.

The Saxons' lack of execution on the defensive end of the ball is what ultimately spelled defeat for them against the Cardinals last Wednesday night in Lawndale. The Cardinals had two different players score in double figures on the night, led by Will Newman, who dropped 25 with six assists, six rebounds and five blocks. "The Saxons are a good team," Newman related. "When my guys play together, I don't think anyone can beat us. That's how we approached this game." Newman was clearly the game-changer, as he stayed in control all night long against North, leading a team that saw seven

different players put points up on the board. Though North was hampered on defense, it kept the game close all the way through the first half. Down by a score of 32-26 at the break, Dupperon had his team ready to battle in the third quarter as the Saxons looked for the upset. "I just told them to stay focused," Dupperon admitted. "We kept the game close throughout the entire first half and we obviously felt good about the way we were playing. We came out motivated." North responded to Dupperon's halftime speech, as the team came out in the third and had its best quarter of the game--dropping 24 points to take a 50-47 lead going into the fourth quarter. Lawndale proved to be a tried and tested team, however, by responding in the fourth quarter with 17 points while holding the Saxons to only six. Alex Thompson led the Saxons with 11 points on the night, while Austin Yamada contributed 10 of his own as North kept it close. Ultimately, the Saxons tumbled in the fourth quarter and wound up losing by eight points.

Though the Saxons continue to be devoid of any real consistency, there may be some light at the end of the tunnel. North took apart El Segundo in its first game after the Lawndale loss, behind 13 points from Zach Kimura and 12 from both Alex Thompson and Koh Flippen in the 70-57 victory. Games against Torrance and Centennial coming up should prove to be more winnable than the two prior. If the Saxons can get going on a streak now, they will have an opportunity to seek out revenge against both South and Lawndale as they face the two teams

**See Up and Adam, page 9**

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## TerriAnn in Torrance

# To Prune or Not to Prune

By TerriAnn Ferren

It's time. I think. Having a green thumb has never been one of my talents and I rely on professionals to help me out. But even they have different opinions on when to prune roses. This morning, I went outside my front door into my little garden to check my plants and see how well they survived the low temperatures of the night. At first, they looked fine to me. But a closer look showed leggy, small leaves and dry topsoil. Uh-oh. In November I asked my California Certified Nursery Professional, Martha Bauman, if it was time I cut my roses back and she said, "No, wait for January." Okay, it's January and I should be headed out to the garage to find my clippers instead of wondering if she really meant to cut these leggy stems. My miniature white roses, my tall potted white

will, so that gives me the precipitation I need so I don't really have to water. Most of the backyard is all ivy and magnolias and some lemon and a couple lime trees. Up the front are all weather plants. Bird of paradise is the main feature on the front. Roses are very difficult. You have to really know about them and they are very sensitive to the change in weather." As he leaned on his rake, Eric went on to say, "Especially the pruning--where to cut and where not to cut, if you will, and I have not mastered that." Yup, that sounds like me. Eric further shared, "As you see, I don't have any roses. I am kind of big on the bird of paradise because you just kind of let 'em go. You just need to trim 'em inside out and once they almost come to full bloom, you cut them." I asked the boys if they frequently weed a lot and if they get paid for weeding,



Gabriela Mata.

rosebush, and the three fragrant roses I nurse along outside my garden fence are patiently waiting for me to make a decision. To prune or not to prune? Several years ago I remember I would not do any cutting or pruning other than deadheading my roses, but I made sort of a promise to them to take better care and actually, you know, fertilize and water when needed. But my memories of what the stems look like after pruning do give me pause.

Just to verify, I visited a Torrance flower shop and asked expert Gabriela Mata what she thought about pruning and she said, "Okay, in the second week of the month in January is when you can prune--up to the 30<sup>th</sup> is the best time. Prune at an angle as low as you want it, but you want to get the joints." I asked, "Won't it look like its dead?" Gabriela replied, "It will look like its dead, but it's not. Then remove the soil all around and then fertilize and that's it." I then asked, "But what kind of fertilizer do I use?" She said, "We normally use a time-release formula feeding."

After visiting Gabriela, I was thinking about my spindly roses while driving through a Torrance neighborhood on my way home. Working in his front yard, I spotted what looked like a father and his two sons' team doing yard work. I approached the threesome after parking my car across the street from their house. Funny thing, they all thought I was going to ask for directions to El Retiro Park around the corner. The father, Eric Schiller, was busy raking and cleaning the parkway of his front yard along with two sons. Sixteen-year-old Brian, who is a junior at South Torrance High School, and 14-year-old Jason, who is an eighth grader at Richardson Middle School, were working hard pulling weeds. I first asked Eric if he would share his system of pruning. Turns out he doesn't prune. "This is called weeding day," Eric explained. "I look at the growth because we have that year-round marine layer, if you

or if this was just one of their chores. Jason laughingly told me, "No, we should get paid." "[We are] just cleaning up and mostly gettin' all the weeds out so none of 'em grow back." "Yeah," added Brian. Eric chimed in, "Gotta go down to the...what?" "Root," responded Brian. Eric told me that he is using the Sunday afternoon football playoff game between the Falcons and the Seahawks as an incentive for his sons to get done with their chores quickly.

Later on, I passed a house with out of control rose bushes just like mine. After stopping and



Roses for sale at the store.

ringing the front doorbell, I found out the front yard roses belonged to Melanie Trattner and family, who just moved into their home in late September. Melanie told me, "We are going to be trial and error [with the rose bushes]. I think sometime now you are supposed to prune, but I don't really know, so we'll watch it and then go from there. We are figuring it out--what comes back, what doesn't come back. When you move into a house that has already been done, you've gotta learn on your own. We are still figuring it out." That rang true to me also as I drove home to confront my rose bushes once again. Even before going into the house, I dug through my tool chest in the garage to locate my green-handled clippers. Determined to finish the job of pruning, I headed toward my

very sharp thorns and I regretted forgetting my rose gloves in the garage. But it didn't take any time at all to prune. In fact, it was satisfying and I got braver with the clippers after trimming my first rosebush. Afterwards, the planter area looked so bare. Even though I have confidence the roses will come back and respond to the chopping (I mean pruning), they sure looked sad and yes, dead.

Tomorrow I am going to put new soil, dig around the plants a bit, feed them with some time-release food and then give them a nice soaking. Then I will be done with my roses.

Throughout Torrance neighborhoods, I noticed rose bushes in all states of growth. Some bushes had been pruned already and others looked like they are just waiting for



Last of my roses.

little garden. Armed with a paper bag for the clippings, I stooped down to prune. Gabriela Mata's words rang out in my ear as I tried to clip at an angle, not fearing eliminating all of the green leaves. The tiny branches had

their yearly cut. So if you have roses to trim, don't be afraid to give them their yearly haircut. Now I have confidence in pruning and will keep up the tradition of pruning my roses each year before the end of January. •



Eric, Jason, and Brian Schiller. Photos by TerriAnn Ferren.

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**13** Cooking Tips for 2013, #9 and #10 (please see Jan. 10 and Jan. 17 issues for previous tips)

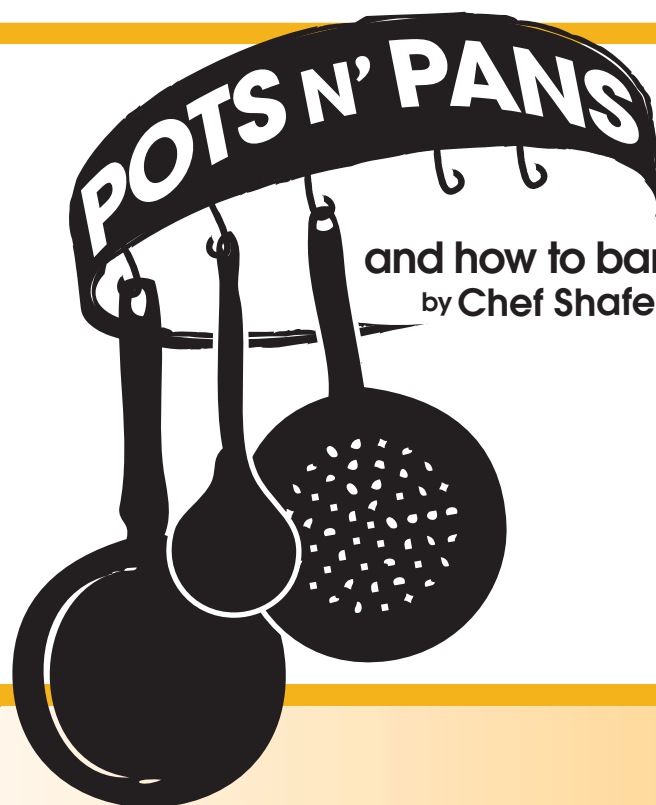
9. Next time you're grilling, get some raw bread dough, rip or cut it into three inch pieces, and brush it with olive oil and herbs then grill until cooked and use as bruschetta with assorted cheeses, olives and smoked sausages.

10. When making a grilled cheese sandwich, toast both sides of the bread to get more crunch in your sandwich.

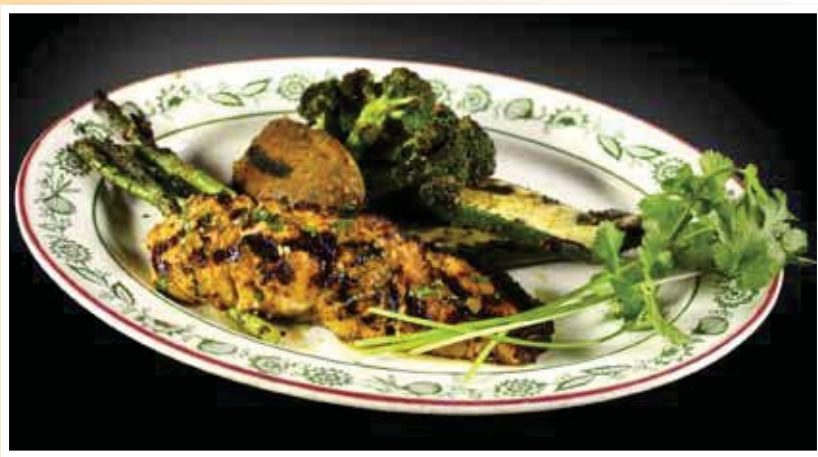
When I was working in Oslo, Norway, I was able to work with a group of chefs from India and learned a lot about curry and how to use it as a bright seasoning for both vegetables and meats. Then, when I returned to the States I started developing my own style of curry combining the fragrance of India and the softness of the Asian curries.

Here is a rub that can be used for beef, lamb, fish, or veggies. Try it next time you are at the grill.

*The Chef*



and how to bang them by Chef Shafer



*Live, Love, Laugh, Eat*  
 Chef Shafer, Owner/Chef of Depot, Buffalo Fire Dept., and the Downtown Torrance Market Place.

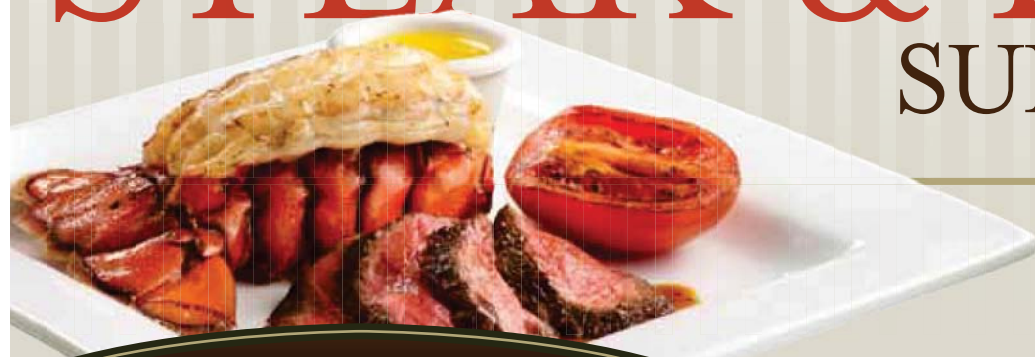
**Chef Shafer's Curry Rub**

- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 6 cloves of garlic chopped
- 1 tablespoon chopped pickled ginger (sushi style)
- ¼ cup chopped cilantro
- 2 tablespoons curry powder
- 1 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon course black pepper
- ¼ cup light sodium soy sauce

Mix together all ingredients then rub onto whatever you are going to grill. Let sit for 10 minutes, then grill and eat. •

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# Seniors

## How Medicare Works With Other Insurance

By David Sayen

You may have wondered how Medicare works with other insurance coverage, such as a group health plan from a former employer or union. It's an important issue because it determines whether your medical bills are paid correctly and on time. If you have Medicare and other insurance, always be sure to tell your doctor, hospital, and pharmacy. When there's more than one insurance payer, certain rules determine which one pays first. This is what's called "coordination of benefit". The "primary payer" pays what it owes on your bills first -- and then sends the balance to the "secondary payer" to pay. In some cases, there may also be a third payer. The primary payer pays up to the limits of its coverage. The secondary payer only pays if there are costs the



first after this 30-month period. Medicare may pay second if you're in an accident or have a workers' compensation case in which other insurance covers your injury or you're suing another entity for medical expenses. In these situations you or your lawyer should tell Medicare as soon as possible. These types of insurance usually pay first for services related to each type:

- No-fault insurance (including automobile insurance);
- Liability (including automobile and self-insurance);
- Black lung benefits;
- Workers' compensation.

Medicaid and TRICARE (the healthcare program for U.S. armed service members,

*"When there's more than one insurance payer, certain rules determine which one pays first"*

primary insurer didn't cover. But keep in mind that the secondary payer (which may be Medicare) may not pay all of the uncovered costs. If your employer insurance is the secondary payer, you may need to enroll in Medicare Part B before that insurance will pay. (The Part B premium for most Americans in 2013 is \$104.90 per month.)

Here's who pays first in various situations:

If you have retiree insurance (coverage from a former job), Medicare pays first. If you're 65 or older, have group coverage based on your or your spouse's current employment, and the employer has 20 or more workers, your group plan pays first. (If the company has fewer than 20 employees, Medicare pays first.)

Your group plan also pays first when you're under 65 and disabled, have group coverage based on your or a family member's current employment, and the employer has 100 or more employees. (Medicare pays first if the company has fewer than 100 employees.)

If you have Medicare because of end-stage renal disease (permanent kidney failure), your group plan pays first for the first 30 months after you become eligible for Medicare. Medicare pays

retirees, and their families) never pay first for services that are covered by Medicare. They only pay after Medicare, employer plans, and/or Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) have paid.

For more information, visit [www.medicare.gov/publications](http://www.medicare.gov/publications) and read the booklet "Medicare and Other Health Benefits: Your Guide to Who Pays First." You can also call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) and ask for a copy to be mailed to you. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. If you have questions about who pays first, or you need to update your other insurance information, call Medicare's Coordination of Benefits Contractor at 1-800-999-1118. TTY users should call 1-800-318-8782. You can also contact your employer or union benefits administrator. You may need to give your Medicare number to your other insurers so your bills are paid correctly and on time. *David Sayen is Medicare's regional administrator for California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii, and the Pacific Trust Territories. You can always get answers to your Medicare questions by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).*

# Ask the DMV

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**Q. I hear that it will soon be okay to text using voice-operated devices. Is this true?**

A. Yes! Current laws do not allow drivers to use electronic wireless communications devices to write, send, or read a text. Starting, January 1, 2013, Assembly Bill 1536 will allow drivers to use wireless communication devices that are specifically designed and configured to allow voice-operated and hands-free operation to dictate, send, or listen to a text-based communication, and it is used in that manner while driving.

**Q. Can I renew my vehicle's registration on the Internet if the registration is suspended**

**for vehicle insurance?**  
A. No. If the registration is suspended for vehicle insurance when the renewal notice is printed, you will not be given the option of renewing your vehicle registration online. The renewal notice will provide instructions for clearing the suspension and renewing the registration. For more information on registration renewals please visit <http://www.DMV.ca.gov/online/vrir/faqs.htm>. Remember to Save Time! Go Online!

**Q. How do I contact the DMV for help with technical issues I am experiencing with DMV's online services?**

A. For assistance with technical issues while using our online services, please call 1-877-563-5213. The Online Technical Support Call Center business hours are: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Wednesday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. •

## School Board

from front page

Formerly, officers would surround a location and wait for SWAT team members to arrive before engaging an active shooter. However, Neu says "those days are long gone." Instead the team of on-duty officers will confront the shooter immediately in order to minimize the opportunity to attack anyone.

"If we have an active shooter situation in the city of Torrance, all our personnel are trained in Rapid Deployment--meaning we put a team together that is working that day and that shift and they will enter the location and stop the threat," said Neu.

In addition to plans to intervene in catastrophic disasters, the Police Department also has resources in place to prevent those from occurring entirely. Both the School Resource Officer program and the Juvenile Diversion Program focus on identifying at-risk youth and taking action before anyone

breaks the law. The School Resource Officers, along with being a uniformed presence at the District's high school campuses, have become trusted liaisons between the police and students, parents and teachers. Because of this relationship with the public, they receive tips that otherwise might not be reported. The Juvenile Diversion Program provides counseling and help for students who might otherwise turn to crime. These two programs help officers intercede when they receive a "yellow flag" and prevent the incident from become a "red flag."

Neu recognized that without the partnership of TUSD, all these programs would be less effective or completely impossible. He thanked the Board and administration for their commitment to safety. "This will save lives because of the proactive approach you all are taking," said Neu. •

*"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."  
~ Martin Luther King, Jr.*

# business & professional directory

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**Sports**

from page 5

game is made to be a display of league-wide talent and the Lakers are currently in 12th place in the Western Conference standings several games back of the last playoff spot? Kobe Bryant demands that spot--not because of his worldwide popularity, but because he is leading the league in scoring at the age of 34 and still hasn't missed one game this season despite all of his constantly aching bones.

One person who hasn't been shy to express his own opinion on the popular vote for the NBA All-Star Game is 11-time All-Star Charles Barkley. Barkley calls Howard's anointment into the game this year a travesty. "I don't think the fans should ever vote because they just vote for their favorite players," Barkley told a radio station in Florida. "Those fans who have penciled [Howard] in to start...that's a travesty, to be honest. I like Dwight Howard, but he ain't played like no All-Star this year." Barkley is right. While Howard's stats may look decent on paper, he has looked like anything but the player who had won Defensive Player of the Year three times in his career thus far. Howard is consistently late getting to the rim and slow on rotations in an offensive-first system with the Lakers that sees very few other players on the roster capable of pulling down rebounds like Howard is, as evidenced by his gaudy rebounding numbers this year.

The NBA has also made a change to its All-Star ballot. Now, instead of voting for two forwards and a center, fans will vote for three undefined "frontcourt" players. This year, that is even more of a reason that Howard should not be the starter on the team and probably should not even make the roster. Take into consideration both the aforementioned Lee and the timeless spectacle who is Tim Duncan. Lee is having a career year and is the workhorse of Golden State,

while Duncan is being, well, Duncan. With Blake Griffin an obvious choice to make the team, our three frontcourt players have thus been chosen. Then take into consideration that for the bench, both Zach Randolph and Marc Gasol of the Grizzlies are helping their team to a better season than Howard is thus far. Sprinkle in a little LaMarcus Aldridge (20.6 points and 8.6 rebounds per game), DeMarcus Cousins (17.7 points and 10.4 rebounds per game) and Al Jefferson (17.4 points and 9.8 rebounds per game with 19 double-doubles already this season) and it looks like there should be no room for Howard on the team.

Eliminating the center position from the All-Star ballot was a way for the league to show that it is an ever-changing association. In the same light, fan voting should be eliminated or at least altered in order to reinstall purity back into the competition. Sure, the fans are the ones who watch the game, and basketball after all is for our own entertainment. Involving fans in another form of selection, however, such as who participates in the dunk contest or the skills competition, would be ideal.

The All-Star Game itself should be a display of the NBA's greatest talent, a category which Dwight Howard does not fall into this year. If the fans wanted a popularity contest, they would watch the Pro Bowl. Just like any All-Star contest, there will always be a snub here or there who didn't get into the game when they were perhaps deserving. When underachieving players like Dwight Howard are still getting undue respect and taking the spotlight away from someone who consistently performs better, a change should justly be made. Who knows what the season has in store for Howard and his Lakers, but until he consistently begins to play like an All-Star, he should truly not be defined as one. •

**Up and Adam**

from page 5

one more time at the end of the season.

**TORRANCE HIGH**

The Torrance Tartars have been struggling to put things together all year under first-year head coach Andru Vaughan. With the losses mounting, it has become increasingly evident that this is simply a rebuilding year for the Tartars. That said, the team has neither given up hope nor lost heart. In a game against El Segundo last Wednesday night, the Tartars kept pace with the Eagles all night long. The second quarter spelled the difference in the game as El Segundo outscored the Tartars 15-13. In all other quarters, the teams put up exactly the same number of points. The two-point difference in the second was enough to do it for the Eagles, sending the Tartars to a heartbreaking 57-55 home loss.

As if that loss wasn't hard enough to swallow for Torrance, the team entered last Friday night's game against Centennial only to find itself part of yet another nail-biter. Down by one point at the half, the Tartars came out in the third quarter behind Brandon Asamoto (who had a team-high 14 points) and Brett Akahiji (13 points on the night) to take a five-point lead going into the fourth quarter. Centennial stepped up on defense, however, and outscored the Tartars by six points in the fourth (15-9) to take a 50-49 win at Torrance High. The loss was the Tartars' 10th in a row. Coach Vaughan hopes that better luck awaits with matchups against North and South High are on the horizon.

**WEST HIGH**

The West High Warriors entered what was perhaps their biggest game of the season last Friday night as they jockeyed with the Leuzinger Olympians for control of first place in the Bay League standings. Leuzinger hasn't lost many games all season long and is still undefeated in league play, so head coach Paul Nitake and the rest of the Warriors knew that they were up for

a good challenge. That is exactly what they got. Leuzinger led the entire game, coming out with 35 first-half points to take an early eight-point lead over West. The Olympians only got stronger after the half, tightening their defense in both the third and the fourth quarters and allowing the Warriors only 15 total points in those quarters combined. The impressive defensive stance by Leuzinger allowed it to widen the lead and ultimately finish with a 64-42 victory on the night.

Xavier Basso once again led the way for the Warriors with eight points on the night. The Warriors have now dropped their last two league games and three out of their last four. The slide has sunk West all the way down to fifth place in the Bay League standings, ahead of only Palos Verdes. The Warriors must regain their team chemistry if they are looking to get a bid into the playoffs come season's end.

**SOUTH HIGH**

The Lawndale Cardinals are having a hard time losing to anybody this season, as North High figured out last week in a 64-56 loss last week to the first place team in the Pioneer League. The Spartans followed in the Saxons' footsteps in a game that could have gotten them a share of first place in the league last Friday night at South High. Kenichi Hackman led the Spartans with 17 points on the night, but it wasn't enough to overcome a powerful Cardinals' defense that has been stifling teams in consecutive quarters this year. The Spartans fell victim to that defense as well, putting up only seven points in the second quarter and eight in the third to fall behind 48-29 after three quarters of play. South outscored Lawndale 16-10 in the fourth, but it clearly was not enough as the Spartans succumbed to their first loss in four games. South is still looking good in second place in league standings and will get a shot at a rematch with Lawndale in the second to last game of the season. •

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14			15					16					
17							18						
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52	53	54				55				56			
57				58					59				
60			61			62	63	64		65		66	67
68				69	70				71	72			
73							74						
75							76					77	

- Across**
1. "\_\_\_ me by my pleasure!"
  4. Enthralled
  8. Quickly, in music
  14. Medieval lord
  16. Squares things
  17. Rental papers
  19. Exec's note
  20. Unfamiliar
  21. Circular opening?
  22. That certain something
  25. Carbonium, e.g.
  28. Call
  29. Home business
  34. Singer DiFranco
  35. Doorpost
  36. Ending of the Bible
  37. Houston \_\_\_
  39. BET alternative
  41. Cork's place
  45. "\_\_\_-Hoo," 1959 rockabilly song
  48. Colossal
  51. '60s hot spot
  52. Vacation spots
  57. Fertility clinic stock
  58. Half a score
  59. Shed
  60. Race's end
  62. "\_\_\_ Me," Withers hit
  65. Kind of store
  68. Don McLean song
  73. Hit
  74. Pitcher feat
  75. Renter
  76. Hardly haute cuisine
  77. Some dashes
- Down**
1. Prayer leader
  2. Cash register part
  3. Sea rescue adjective
  4. Carney or Monk
  5. School of whales
  6. Beehive, e.g.
  7. Tierney
  8. "Dog Day Afternoon" character
  9. Adaptable truck, for short
  10. Drag queen's collection
  11. Supplement
  12. Swarming one
  13. Make rigid
  15. Crack filler
  18. \_\_\_ Towers
  23. Rule opposed by Gandhi
  24. Palindromic title
  26. Dedicated lines
  27. Mongongo
  29. Blackguard
  30. Wallet find
  31. Low-fat meat
  32. "Ghosts" writer
  33. Wolf or devil preceder
  38. Have chits out
  40. Clever
  42. Get going
  43. Tore
  44. German river
  46. Many a time
  47. It needs refinement
  49. Diamonds
  50. Engine part
  52. Diet
  53. Do the Wright thing
  54. Certain topographies
  55. Cross
  56. Bathroom cleaner?
  61. Greek consonants
  63. Be a rat
  64. Chemical compound
  66. Appearance
  67. Stumbles
  69. Fabrication
  70. Chemical ending
  71. Even if, briefly
  72. Not square

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1	A	M	A	H	S	6	B	I	D	S	10	P	L	A	N				
14	N	I	S	E	I	15	E	C	R	U	18	S	O	S	O				
17	A	R	E	A	L	19	S	T	U	N	22	A	K	I	N				
20	L	E	A	D	A	21	O	U	B	L	22	E	L	I	F	E			
						23	G	E	T	S	24	I	S	M					
25	B	A	27	L	E	N	28	I	T	S	30	E	G	G					
33	I	D	O	L	34	S	H	O	36	E	38	A	G	L	E				
39	D	O	U	B	L	E	E	N	T	41	E	N	D	R	E	S			
42	D	R	I	E	D	43	C	O	A	X	44	D	E	B	T				
45	Y	E	S	46	O	47	A	K	48	C	49	A	S	T	E	S			
				50	A	P	R	51	S	E	E	M							
53	D	54	O	E	S	A	D	56	O	U	B	L	E	57	A	59	K	60	E
61	A	R	T	S	62	E	D	O	R	N	63	R	E	F	E	R			
64	M	A	N	A	65	N	O	R	N	66	C	A	R	P	S				
67	S	L	A	Y	68	T	R	A	Y	69	E	M	O	T	E				

### SUDOKU *Medium*

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

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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# PETSPETS **Pets** PETSPETS

## Pets Without Partners

Adopt a "pet without a partner" and cozy up with your new best friend.

**Phyllis**, as in Diller, is quite a sweetie. She was born in May 2012 and weighs about 15 pounds. With her unique hairstyle, Phyllis appears to have some Poodle and perhaps Shih Tzu in her. She is currently in foster care where we have learned she is cat-safe, uses a doggie door like a champ and does her potty business outside about 80 percent of the time. She is almost completely housebroken. Phyllis sleeps well in a crate at night and is great with other dogs. She picked up leash walking pretty quick and walks four miles a day with her foster mom. Phyllis has a nice demeanor and personality. She is gentle, kind and passive and will make a great little doggie companion. Phyllis will be spayed soon, is current on vaccinations, de-wormed, microchipped, good with other dogs, and good with children.



Phyllis

Please don't let another kitten season come and go without Cora finding her own loving family. She is current on her vaccinations, has been spayed, is de-wormed and is FIV/FELV negative. Cora is at our facility all the time, so she can be seen every weekend during our Saturday adoption event from 11 to 3 p.m. or during Creative Pet Supply, with store hours Monday-Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

This very beautiful Calico cat, **Cora**, snuck into our all-dog rescue. This is no place for a cat in this dog-eat-dog world. Since cat rescues are so full these days, we are doing our part to try and adopt Cora from our



Cora

all-dog rescue. Cora is a gorgeous girl, to say the least. She has a gorgeous white coat with beautiful Calico patches of color--she is stunning! Cora is well-socialized, playful, silly and sweet and ready for her forever home.

To learn more about these and other wonderful dogs, visit our website at [www.animalsrule.org](http://www.animalsrule.org). If a dog is on our website, it's available. Or come to our Saturday adoption events from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 305 North Harbor Boulevard in San Pedro (just off the 110 near the cruise port). We are always in need of donations for veterinarian bills and our senior dogs. Donations can be made through our website or by sending a check payable to: Animals Rule Placement Foundation at 305 North Harbor Blvd., San Pedro, CA 90731. All donations are tax-deductible. We are a registered 501©3 non-profit organization.

**Saving one animal won't change the world, but the world will surely change for that animal. •**

## Purrrfect Companions

Enjoy the warmth and affection of a precious kitty when you adopt your purrrfect partner.

**Levi** is a handsome Russian Blue mix with handsome green eyes. The faint lines of Tabby on his legs add to his adorable appearance. This little boy is a serious love bug. He will snuggle in your arms, purring away and giving kisses. Levi wants to sleep with you on the bed every night and will follow you from room to room, since all he wants is to be with you. He is very outgoing and gets along with everyone. Levi's best buddy in foster care is sweet little Emma. He can't get enough of her, always wanting to play with Emma and sleep right next to her any chance he gets. He loves dogs, so he would be super-happy to go to a home with dogs--not to mention he would be very sad as an only kitty given how much he loves playing with the other cats.



Levi

payable to Kitten Rescue, 914 Westwood Boulevard, #583, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

On Saturdays, we have adoptions from noon to 3:30 p.m. in Westchester at 8655 Lincoln Boulevard, just south of Manchester Avenue, and also in Mar Vista at 3860 Centinela

**Sydney** is a stunning, solid white kitty with the most gorgeous set of eyes one will ever see. One eye is a stunning crystal blue while the other is a soft hue of green. This precious girl is a huge lover who loves to be held and petted when not sleeping on the bed or curled up on your lap. She gets along well with other cats, but is not especially attached to any of them nor does she necessarily have to have other cats in her life. Sydney would be just as happy as a single kitty or content with a buddy or two. All Sydney really wants is to be loved and give love in return. A sweet angelic girl, Sydney is the perfect addition to any family.



Sydney

These kittens/cats are available for adoption through Kitten Rescue, one of the largest cat rescue groups in Southern California. All of our kitties are spayed/neutered, microchipped, tested for FeLV and FIV, de-wormed and current on their vaccinations. For additional information and to see our other kitties, please check our website at [www.kittenrescue.org](http://www.kittenrescue.org), or email us at [mail@kittenrescue.org](mailto:mail@kittenrescue.org). Your tax-deductible donations for the rescue and care of our cats and kittens can be made through our website or by sending a check

Avenue, just south of Venice Boulevard. Our website lists additional adoption sites and directions to each location.

**Be kind. Save a life. Support animal rescue. •**

## Happy Tails

### Bailey's the Perfect Family Addition

Adopt a homeless pet and bring the joy of the season into your heart and home. The Animals Rule volunteers helped to match another precious pup with her "fur-ever"

definitely working...she whines a little at night, but that's to be expected. And she knows that if we get up to get her, it's only to go to the bathroom and not to play. She

*"When you adopt a "pet without a partner," you will forever make a difference in their life and they are sure to make a difference in yours."*

family just in time go home for the holidays...  
"Hi! Thank you so much for getting back to us...we really appreciate how helpful you all were when adopting Bailey (and yes, we decided on a name right away for this adorable pup). She is *perfect* and we really couldn't be any happier! Crate training is

hasn't gone to the bathroom once in her crate, which is fantastic! At first she wasn't eating (on Sunday), but now eats exactly when we put the food down and she loves it. And it took her a couple days, but we can't believe how fast she got the hang of going to the bathroom outside on the pad! She is *so smart!*

And I have been home for the last couple of days--but when I went to school on Monday for a couple hours, she was fast asleep in her crate when I got home. We really couldn't be any happier! And when we get our Xmas card, we will definitely send you all one! Thank you again for being so helpful and if we have any questions we will let you know! Here are some updated pics for your records and thank you for your continued support... Sincerely, Kendra, Leslie and Bailey." •



# Real Estate

## Home Tech: Affordable and Uncomplicated Ideas To Add Enjoyment To Your Home

(BPT) - Did you know it's almost the year that Michael J. Fox went "back to the future?" While we don't have hover boards or flying cars, our innovations have changed drastically since 1985, especially when it comes to technology in the home. Now there are many affordable innovations that are simple to use and can add unique benefits and enjoyment to routine activities.

### HIGH-FASHION, HIGH-FUNCTION FAUCETS

Kitchen faucets continue to increase in functionality and style - but imagine the convenience of having a faucet that can sense what you're trying to accomplish, and with a simple wave of your hand, immediately responds to your needs.

### TROUBLE-FREE TOWELS

Continue your hand-free experience in the kitchen by adding an Innovia Automatic Paper Towel Dispenser. This unique product provides the exact amount of paper towel that you choose - without a single touch. A simple wave of the hand delivers one towel; or for bigger jobs, simply hold your hand in front of the sensor until you've achieved the desired amount. Unlike others on the market, it retracts unused sheets back into the clean and dry compartment. Replacing towels can be done with any brand or size within seconds.

Water-Saving Washers and Dynamic Dryers

Previously, a washer and dryer did exactly what their names say - wash and dry. But

for homeowners looking for the new era of high-tech cleaning machines, there is a wealth of options. Most washers today are high-efficient, meaning they use 20 to 66 percent less water than traditional agitator washers - an appealing benefit for the environmentally conscious, or for those just hoping to save on their water and electric bills. Plus, most are available with large-capacity tubs to accommodate bigger loads. And, with less water being used and high-speed spin cycles to remove more water, clothes feel dryer when they come out - saving time and energy on the drying cycle.

Today's dryers offer a variety of features, such as steam functions to remove wrinkles and odors, or sensors that detect when there is a lack of moisture and automatically turn off when items are dry. And, once you've found the set that includes the most high-tech features you desire, these once-commodity products are available in a variety of curvy, stylish looks and multiple colors. Consumer Reports is an excellent source to find the best set to meet your budget, style and feature needs.

### THINKING THERMOSTAT

We've all left the air conditioning blasting on a hot day (when no one is even home); or, left for vacation without altering the thermostat. These worries can be a thing of the past with the new learning thermostat, The Nest. The new product, which WiredMagazine calls

the "the iPod of thermostats," offers artificial intelligence that figures out when to turn down the heat and when to turn up the air conditioning, so that you don't waste money and energy. Plus, you can communicate with the Nest from your smartphone, tablet or any computer. Created by the designer for iPod hardware, Tony Fadell, the Nest will likely pay for itself within a year or two of use,

and ultimately save up to 30 percent of your utility bill, according to Nest Labs research.

While your neighbors may think they're high-tech with Wi-Fi, smartphones and laptops, be the first to embrace these unique, new technologies into your home and also become the envy of the neighborhood. Soon, you can simply and affordably add enjoyment, ease and even energy savings into your lifestyle. •



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**JUST LISTED!**

4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2,208 sq ft and completely remodeled! 2-car garage with additional 15'x18' open shop space. This home is great for entertaining with its two dining rooms, den, double fireplace, pool, spa, and basketball court. Enjoy a 180° ocean and Catalina view from 3 bedrooms, living room and the backyard.

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