

Torrance Tribune

The Weekly Newspaper of Torrance

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Senator Wright Recognizes “Women of Distinction” at Annual Luncheon



Each year, Sen. Roderick D. Wright (D-South Los Angeles) recognizes 25 women from throughout the 35th Senate District for their unsurpassed commitment to bettering the community in which they live. This year's honorees for the city of Torrance, Dee Hardison, Dr. Laurie Love and Debbie Simpson Hays, were recognized at the Annual “Women of Distinction” Recognition Luncheon, which took place on Friday. Seen here is Sen. Wright and emcee Wendy Raquel Robinson with the 2013 “Women of Distinction.” Photo courtesy of the Office of Sen. Wright.

City Council Seeks Federal Funds for Fresh Water Projects

By Dylan Little

The Torrance City Council heard a recommendation by the Ad Hoc Federal Legislative Advocacy Committee about which projects the City should try to bring to the attention of Congress for additional funding. Four projects were selected by the committee: upgrading the fleet services garage with compressed natural gas (CNG) services, expanding the City’s groundwater desalter, constructing three new ground water wells (along with support facilities), and funding for storm water infiltration systems as required by the Regional Water Quality Board. The City is seeking \$600,000 in federal funding for the CNG-related upgrades, which would allow it to expand its fleet of CNG vehicles and reduce carbon footprint. It also hopes to receive \$17 million to expand the desalter to better clean the brackish groundwater in the South Bay’s water basin while providing

“The City is asking for \$8 million in funding for the local storm water system, which would keep pollutants out of the ocean while providing more groundwater.”

clean drinking water to Torrance. The new groundwater wells project calls for \$13 million in federal funds to boost local water production and lessen the City’s reliance on costly imported water.

Lastly, the City is asking for \$8 million in funding for the local storm water system, which would keep pollutants out of the ocean while providing more groundwater. Public Works Director Rob Beste indicated that while these projects are useful, they are also very expensive, and so his department

is looking to outside monies like the federal funds courted by the legislative advocacy committee. “We are always looking for money and our [projects] are very expensive,” said Beste. “We want to seek out all the different funding sources.”

Three of the four projects are related to water and it’s no coincidence. Water has always been a hot-button issue in California--

and with prices expected to rise, cutting back on imported water and making the most of the City’s groundwater is a high priority for Public Works. “We want to expand our well fields. We want to pump our fresh water rights--it takes pressure off our imported water system,” said Beste. “It would help in emergencies and it’s cost-effective.”

See City Council, page 7

SB Lapidary & Mineral Society Gives Rock Hounds Chance to Share Passion

By Cristian Vasquez

For 64 years, The South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society has been giving rock and mineral fans a place to gather while sharing its knowledge and experience with like-minded individuals. Some of the members are new, while many have been with the society for years. For Larry Hoskinson and Leslie Neff, the society has become a way of life.

“I was a rock hound in my youth and when we were married [Neff], through events that were sort of out of our control we ended up in Australia for our honeymoon,” said Hoskinson, who along with Neff is Co-Show Chairperson for the SB Lapidary & Mineral Society.

“We returned to Australia after our honeymoon sometime later, for a long period of time. We thought that an interesting way to go around the country was to look at the different gem and mineral sites that they have, so we got a couple of good books on

the subject and toured the country looking at various sites for gold, opal and quartz crystals. We ended up not only really enjoying the country, but also enjoying the hobby of rock hounding.”

Through the society’s monthly meetings, every first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Katy Geissert Library, rock and mineral enthusiasts have an opportunity to gather and share their knowledge or rocks and minerals. The SB Lapidary & Mineral Society will host its annual Gem and Mineral Show: Natural Treasures on Saturday, March 23 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, March 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., where members and curious visitors can spend a weekend discovering rock and mineral formation.

“Because you learn so much, you also teach--it is very symbiotic in that respect,” said Neff. “We have scouts come to the show and we take them around and talk

See Lapidary, page 4

Weekend Forecast

Friday
Sunny
62°/52°



Saturday
Sunny
62°/53°



Sunday
Sunny
62°/53°



TerriAnn in Torrance

The Cherry Blossom Cultural Festival in Torrance

By TerriAnn Ferren

It was a beautiful Saturday afternoon in the park in Torrance. Vendor tents lined Columbia Park at 190th Street and Madrona

backdrop for the activities of the day.

As I deposited my car in the west lot at the park, I could see how packed the festival was with people from the community. Near

Association booth to speak with Terry Furey. She told me about a program she is involved with called *School-To-Career* where students have the opportunity to work for businesses

next. *Myo' On Taiko* is a group led by Kim Masumi, who shared, "I have been playing [drums] for about 12 years and I founded this group about eight years ago. The name



Amazing Myo On Taiko Drummers.

Avenue as people wandered among the variety of handmade items for sale. The event was sponsored by the City of Torrance, Soka Gakkai International, the Torrance Sister City Association, the Torrance Craftsmen's Guild, and the North Torrance Homeowner's Association. This was the weekend for the *Cherry Blossom Cultural Festival*. Although our cherry trees are still very young, they are bursting with blooms and the perfect

the lot where I parked my car, I noticed Thomas Trulove displaying his ceramics and demonstrating how he throws his pots on the wheel. "I am here for Cherry Blossom," said Thomas. "We do this a lot. Coming up starting the first Sunday of April we'll be here--the first Sunday of each month April through October with *Arts in the Park*."

Moving down the line of vendors in the park, I stopped by the North Torrance Homeowner's

in Torrance with their wages and workers compensation paid for. At the moment, Terry places students from South and West High School in working positions throughout the city. "It is a wonderful program," she said. "Actually all four high schools, Sherry High and extended campus [where the program is in progress]. I have personally placed about 55 [students]." That sounds like a wonderful program open to Torrance high school students.

of the group is *Myo' On Taiko*. So, *Myo' On* comes from the lotus sutra and means mystic and music...spread peace and harmony in the world. So we took the name because it's sort of our mission statement 'cuz we go out and perform for community activities that support our Buddhist ideals of peace, culture and education." This group plays huge drums, which I couldn't wait to hear.

As I made my way around the stage to



Lia Guillen age 9 and Yvette Guillen age 8 part of the Mai No Kai Japanese Dance Group.



Cherry Blossoms in Columbia Park.

At the center of the festivities, a platform riser (acting as a stage) was set up where performers have been entertaining the crowds. The cherry blossom trees dotted the park with pink bursts and reminded me spring is coming. I walked up the grassy knoll and passed by the sculpture on the corner of Madrona Avenue and 190th Street entitled *Fujimahara* by Roger Berry and donated by Standard Brands Paint Company in 1983. Quite interesting, as they say.

Walking to the back of the stage, I met the drummers who were scheduled to perform

find a prime spot to enjoy the drummers, I saw two of the most darling little girls all dressed up in beautiful kimonos. They had just performed their Japanese dancing segment and were more than happy to speak with me. Veronica Guillen told me that the name of the Japanese dance group is *Mai No Kai* and they just finished their performance. Her daughter, Yvette Guillen, age eight, performs with the group along with her cousin, Lia Guillen, age nine. I asked the young ladies how they liked dancing and they told me they

See TerriAnn, page 10

Police Briefs

Commercial Burglary Arrest

After a four-month long investigation, Torrance Police Detectives arrested and charged four adults from the Chicago metropolitan area with multiple counts of conspiracy to commit commercial burglary and grand theft stemming from several commercial burglaries that occurred throughout the Counties of Los Angeles and Orange.

Ausra Bauzinskaite, 34-year-old from Chicago, Adeliya Nassybullina, 30-year-old from Chicago, Lukasz Karasinski, 37-year-old from Chicago and Przemyslaw Skiba, 31-year-old from Chicago, were all taken into custody without incident after Torrance investigators were able to link them to a commercial burglary in Torrance and over 17 additional commercial burglaries throughout Los Angeles County and Orange County. Upon identifying and tracking these individuals, Torrance investigators determined that the group was an organized retail theft ring that had victimized stores throughout the country in the states of California, Colorado, Washington and Florida.

During the course of their crimes, the suspects would all enter a store (such as Apple and Microsoft) that was open for business, select a large amount of merchandise, conceal it on their person and leave the location while making no attempt to pay for the items selected. Generally, the men would select and maneuver the merchandise into position where the females would later conceal the items under their oversized dresses and overcoats.

On Thursday, March 7, 2013, Torrance investigators located subjects from this ring in the City of Hawthorne. Coincidentally, they had flown into the area from Chicago, Ill. for a court appearance in Santa Monica stemming from an earlier retail theft arrest. Torrance investigators conducted surveillance and

observed the subjects commit additional thefts at Apple Stores throughout both Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Upon completing the thefts, the subjects attempted to mail the stolen property to various out of state locations. The suspects were ultimately arrested and warrants were later served. More than \$20,000 of stolen Apple products were recovered.

During subsequent interviews, the subjects described themselves as being a gypsy family out of Chicago, originating from the country of Poland. The subjects admitted to stealing in order to pay off a \$2 million dollar debt which their family had incurred several years prior. Investigators have estimated that since 2009, this group is responsible for approximately \$3 million dollars in property theft from retail stores that include Apple, Best Buy, Costco, Microsoft, PetSmart, Sams Club, Sports Authority and Wal-Mart.

This case is a small step in uncovering numerous other related conspirators and retail victims. At first look, the thefts appeared as singular crimes that occur every day to the retail industry, but when thoroughly analyzed, investigators were able to uncover the magnitude of the crimes being committed by this group. Investigators are optimistic that this arrest will lead to additional evidence in this ongoing investigation.

This case could not have been culminated without the assistance from other law enforcement agencies, the District Attorney's Office and the relentless follow-up by Torrance investigators.

This investigation is being investigated under the command and direction of Captain Bernard Anderson of the Torrance Police Department Special Operations Bureau. Anyone with additional information about this arrest is encouraged to contact the Torrance Police Department at 310-328-3456. •

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.

MARCH 9

Burglary Auto: 2600 BLOCK 182ND ST Suspect(s) smashes window for entry and takes property/purse.

Theft: 2500 BLOCK REDONDO BEACH BLVD Suspect(s) takes property from victim's

purse as she shops/wallet.

Battery Weapon/Agg: 4500 BLOCK PACIFIC COAST HWY Suspect punches victim in the face and strikes him in the head with a hatchet.

Vandalism: 20500 BLOCK PALM WAY Suspect(s) burns carpet and throws office sofa in recreation center's pool.

Theft: 500 BLOCK CRENSHAW BLVD Suspects are interrupted attempting to cut backflow equipment (copper)/no loss.

Burglary Auto: 1400 BLOCK MARCELINA AVE Suspect(s) pries door handle for entry, ransacks and takes property/stereo, TV.

Burglary Auto: 18900 BLOCK WILTON PL Suspect(s) smashes window for entry and takes property/registration, shoes.

MARCH 8

Auto Theft-All: 17000 BLOCK CRENSHAW BLVD Stolen vehicle: '00 Honda Civic.

See Police, page 12

Calendar

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

• Spring Has Sprung Story and Craft, 4 p.m., Henderson Library, 4805 Emerald St. For more information call (310) 371-2075.

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

• Dave Beery and His Awesome Island Instruments, 4 p.m., Katy Geissert Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd. For more information call (310) 618-5964.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

• 64th South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society Gem and Mineral Show- "Nature's Treasures" (also 3/24) 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Ken Miller Auditorium, 3341 Torrance Blvd. For more information call (310) 533-4931.

• "The Gruffalo", 2 p.m., James Armstrong Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive. For more information call (310) 781-7171.

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

• "Sacred Concert-Faure's Requiem" - Los Cancioneros Master Chorale, 7 p.m., James Armstrong Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive. For more information call (310) 781-7171.

• South Bay Children's Choir presents "The Great American Folk Song", 4 p.m., Marsee Auditorium, El Camino College, 16007 Crenshaw Blvd. For ticket information call 1-800-832-ARTS.

MONDAY, MARCH 25

• Prayer and Meditation Prayer Vigil (through March 30), First United Methodist Church sanctuary, 1551 El Prado. For more information call (310) 328-3242.

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

• Breakfast and a Visit with the Bunny, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Toyota Meeting Hall, 3031 Torrance Blvd. Register in person or by phone at (310) 618-2720.

• Opening Reception for new exhibitions, 6-9 p.m. (8-9 p.m. live performance), Torrance Art Museum, 3320 Civic Center Drive. No RSVP necessary.

SUNDAY, MARCH 31

• Torrance Antique Street Faire, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Historic Downtown at 1317 Sartori Ave.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

• Artful Days: Art of Northern Europe-1400s-1500s, 12:10-1 p.m., George Nakano Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive. For more information call (310) 818-2326.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

• Bunka-Sai Japanese Cultural Festival, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. (also 4/21), Torrance Cultural Arts Center, 3330 Civic Center Drive. For more information call (310) 618-2930.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

• "What's Up for Kids" Expo, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Torrance Cultural Arts Center, 3330 Civic Center Drive. For more information call (310) 544-1042.

ONGOING

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

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Easter *In the Field*

Easter Sunday / March 31st 6am

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Business Briefs

County Hosts Used Oil Recycling Event on Saturday

Los Angeles County Public Works Department will host a free used motor oil and used oil filter recycling event at the Torrance AutoZone, 17490 Hawthorne Boulevard, on Saturday, March 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. In exchange for turning in their used oil, participants will be rewarded with free oil containers, oil filter containers, shop towels, and funnels while supplies last. Those recycling oil filters will receive one new oil filter also while supplies last. In addition, residents can drop-off used motor oil and used oil filters for free at weekend County-sponsored Household Hazardous Waste/Electronic Waste Collection Events or at local Certified Collection Centers. A full calendar of collection events and a list of these centers can be found at www.CleanLA.com. Residents are asked to prepare items for drop-off by placing used oil filters in sealed plastic bags and storing used motor oil in leak-proof containers without mixing the oil with other liquids, including water. For additional information on the County's oil and oil filter recycling program, call Edna Gandarilla, Program Manager, at 626-458-6536.

Principal For A Day Launches In Torrance

The Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC) and Torrance Unified School District (TUSD) is launching the Principal for a Day program on Wednesday, March 27. After the chamber's Workforce Readiness Task Force meetings late last year, the Principal for a Day program was born. Working with TUSD Superintendent Dr. George Mannon, Senior Director for Secondary Schools Dr. Tim Stowe, and Senior Director for Elementary

Schools Dr. E Don Kim, the TACC reached out to business and asked for business leaders to job shadow TUSD principals for a day in order to better understand the current state of education. Currently, there are 23 pairings between businesses and schools in Torrance, where the principals will get to share the programs successful for the schools, but also discuss the challenges they face. The business leaders will have a chance to visit with the teachers and students of the school, and see first-hand the educating and training of the future workforce. The Principal for a Day is not new to Torrance and the re-implementation of this program answers a common theme between education and business, which is how can we better train and assess the future workforce for the positions available. Melissa Griswold, Griswold & Griswold Insurance Agency's Marketing Director and Community Liaison, says, "Maintaining a link between schools and business is vital. These children are our future workers, entrepreneurs, and CEOs. If we in the private sector don't participate in the education and cultivation of the best and brightest of the next generation, we're doing everyone a disservice and that is why I'm excited to be a part of the Principal for a Day program through the Torrance Chamber of Commerce." The TACC and TUSD are answering the need to better facilitate the growing concern about a training labor pool for jobs looking to be made available in the upcoming years. Look for an update of the program on the TACC website, www.TorranceChamber.com, after Principal for a Day on March 27. For more information about the program, contact the TACC at (310) 540-5858. •

Letters

CALIFORNIA MUSEUM OF FINE ART

My husband Chuck and I had a most wonderful time last Friday March 8th at the premier opening of Torrance's California Museum of Fine Art. We both feel that such a spawn of culture added to our wonderful town was worth writing about, important to Torrance's public.

After the successful redevelopment of Torrance's business district into a well-designed downtown area is perhaps the major clue as to why this quaint fashionable community has been chosen to be the cultural sight for the California Museum of Fine Art.

My husband Chuck and I during our many romantic evening walks, with avid curiosity, we have reviewed the California Museum of Fine Art as it progressed through its anamorphic like development. We keenly observed 1412

Marcelina Avenue's phenomenal transition from Pillers a once mod-hippie era women's clothing market into Torrance's temple for fine art. Truly, a rewarding beacon illuminating internationally known artists and discovering their creative tempo of morality from their inner-most philosophical perspectives.

As we entered the California Museum of Fine Art on its grand opening day, we became enthralled savoring its exquisite materialization while viewing its reverberating concourse of graphics; pausing only to retain intellectually into our aesthetic senses, and pleased to realize that this first splendid exhibition collected from the studios of major artists will be for Torrance's community a cultural pleasure to host future showings for many years to come.

— Dora Perez-Meyer

Lapidary

from front page

to them about the different rock formations. Every month, eight months out of the year, we have a program on something rock-oriented.

the earth formations in this area. He would take us down to Palos Verdes and help us find rocks and talk about what we found.

"For 64 years, The South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society has been giving rock and mineral fans a place to gather while sharing its knowledge and experience with like-minded individuals."

Sometimes professors from El Camino College come and talk about things like earthquakes and fault lines. On April 2, we are going to have a talk about how to go to Australia and find opals in Coober Pedy."

Established in 1949, the society was formed in order to collect and study minerals while simultaneously teaching the lapidary arts. The society's efforts focused on the dissemination of knowledge of mineralogical and lapidary work, and related activities by exhibiting specimens for public education and exchanging information connected to the earth sciences. With almost 60 members, the club's commitment to educate continues as strongly today as it did when it first started.

"When we joined, there were a lot of older people--that was back in 1989," Neff said. "We were youngsters, kind of, when we started. There were these older, wise people and now we are getting to be the older, wise people. We talk to new people and meet new friends who are interested. You take on different aspects of the hobby such as making chains, doing different specimens. There are so many different things that you can do and you don't have to have the machinery to do it. If you come to the show, you will see a lot of people bring their different cases and fill it up with something that they have. Anybody who comes to the show can see so many different things and I think that the kids get ready to get excited."

In order to support the educational aspect of the society's mission, a scholarship began to be granted in 2000, and by 2007 the scholarship was endowed. There are usually four to five scholarships given out each year to students interested and studying the earth sciences. To raise money for the scholarships, people in the club will donate items that are then sold at the show. In addition, donations come from members who have died and leave items for the society to benefit from in the future.

"One of our club members was Professor Waldo E. Ford, who was a professor at El Camino College--he was a member well into his 90s," Neff said. "He would take us on field trips and he got very involved with

We actually started a scholarship before he passed."

For Hoskinson, the SB Lapidary & Mineral Society is as much a social and educational opportunity as it is a cultural experience. "This is an opportunity for us to share our enjoyment of what we do as a club because it is such a diverse group," he said. "Everybody learns something from everybody else that they did not know before. It gives everybody an opportunity to share their knowledge with one another and we are also able to underpin a scholarship at El Camino College in the earth sciences, so some of the money that we raised at our shows goes to promote the earth sciences."

Hoskinson has been a fan of the lapidary arts his entire life and still becomes excited about what he does and fondly remembers his time in Australia. "When we were traveling, we were looking for some reason to go to different places," he said. "We have worked in cities all of our lives, so going to a country and seeing a city just seemed kind of pointless. We wanted to go to the places where there weren't people, so we thought that the geology of the country was fascinating because of the fact that there was an availability to all of these mineral locations sites. The thrill of finding something is like finding the prize in the cereal box, or anything where you put in some effort and you win something."

Neff added, "When I first started, I had never picked up a rock in my life. Larry had been a rock hound and over the years, just by listening to people and having our talks, I did too. We have a show and tell at our club every month so that three or four people can bring in something that they are interested in and talk about it to everybody. Your knowledge expands very quickly because everybody is so passionate about what they're doing, that you catch that enthusiasm."

All monthly society meetings are free, as is the Gem and Mineral Show: National Treasures. For more information, persons interested can visit: <http://www.palosverdes.com/sblap/>, email lesneff@aol.com or they can call 310-618-2170. •



See D-Fenders
Drawing Winners
on page 6.

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Politically Speaking

One Man's Opinion

By Gerry Chong

We've finally reached the point of total insanity, haven't we? One good thing about the required \$85 billion in government spending called Sequester is that it has made the public focus on the total insanity of government spending. Blogger Alan Caruba, quoted from Citizens Against Government Waste and the government's GAO, points out that if it weren't so tragic, it would be comedic. For example:

The government spends between \$1.7 billion to \$25 billion to maintain 55,000 empty or partially empty office buildings. The Office of Management and Budget doesn't know how much we spend, nor how many buildings we maintain. And to think, they're responsible for "management and budget."

The federal government already owns one-third of all the land in the United States, for which the National Park Service says it has a \$5 billion backlog in maintenance cost. The Park Service says that due to Sequester, it will reduce hiring and furlough existing police. It will close certain parks and reduce trash pick-up. Yet, the Administration has budgeted \$2.3 billion to buy more parkland!

Homeland Security is bemoaning its loss of revenue even as it sits on \$9 billion in unspent funds.

Congressman Tom Coburn (R-OK) has identified funds for a space ship to another galaxy, funds for advancements in French beef jerky, and \$6 billion to find out what lessons about democracy and decision-making can be learned from fish!

The National Science Foundation granted a university \$350,000 to determine ways to

improve individuals' golf games. Concurrently, the National Institute of Health granted \$940,000 for research to confirm pheromones decline over time in fruit flies. Apparently, male fruit flies are more attracted to younger females. Surprise!

Federal Stimulus funds spent \$2.6 million to train Chinese prostitutes to drink responsibly. It spent \$500 million to find out why "five-year-olds cannot sit still." We are now spending \$1.5 million to study obese lesbians.

The list of stupidity goes on and on, but among the most egregious is the White House itself. The American taxpayers paid \$1.4 billion (yes, that's with a "B") to support the White House last year. Among the costs was a video operator living in the White House to satisfy the need of anyone wanting to watch a movie 24/7. There is the \$104,000 for a dog walker and the \$314,000 for three calligraphers. There are 22 handmaidens for Michelle Obama. The Obama vacations to Hawaii, Florida, Vail and now Martha's Vineyard, of course, go without mention.

Above all, however, is the spending for welfare. In 2011, the government spent \$168 per day for food stamps, housing support, child care and Medicaid for 46 million living below the poverty level. By contrast, the family earned the median wage of \$50,000 per year, which translates to \$137.13 per day. After payment taxes, the average worker is paid \$21 per hour while the average recipient of government largess receives \$30 per hour. A person is therefore \$9 per hour better off receiving government support than working!

We have clearly reached a point of spending insanity. •

Another Man's Opinion

Environmental Legislation Benefits More Than Special Interest Groups

By Cristian Vasquez

Part of President Barack Obama's agenda has included improving the quality of our environment, much to the displeasure of some Republicans and leaders in private business. There is no denying that changing the way a business operates comes with a certain price tag and it is natural that private business owners would oppose any changes. However, the importance of maintaining a clean and safe environment outweighs the desire and right of any citizen to make a profit. The area of focus this week is air quality and let's establish that these words

limits on new power plants. He also tightened fuel efficiency rules as part of the auto bailout all while directing billions of federal dollars to clean energy projects. Despite the displeasure this has caused among his opponents, these are changes for the country. Allowing private industries to pollute the air indiscriminately not only presents a health risk for Americans, but it also takes away the incentive within private industries to make the necessary changes to run a cleaner business.

One must only look at the auto industry as an example of how federally imposed

"At one point in our nation's history, we used fuel filled with lead. That is no longer the case."

are not intended to convince anyone of the legitimacy or falseness behind climate change. This will simply address the basic reality behind poor air quality--that it is bad for a person's health.

It has been proven that air pollution is a major environmental risk to health and reducing air pollution levels leads to a decrease in the number of incidents of respiratory infections, heart disease and lung cancer. Also, the lower the levels of air pollution in a city, the better respiratory (long- and short-term) and cardiovascular health of the population will be. Given these facts, why do people have a hard time adjusting to new regulations seeking to clean up our air? At one point, we used lead-based paint and asbestos-filled products for our homes but because of the health hazard those presented, that is no longer the case.

President Obama has had to rely on his executive powers, including his authority under the 1970 Clean Air Act, to push for a sweeping change on air pollution in the United States. The President has moved to have the first carbon dioxide

regulations produced safer and less toxic products. At one point in our nation's history, we used fuel filled with lead. That is no longer the case. To register a vehicle, we must pass an emissions test and that has significantly reduced the amount of pollution in our air. Given the benefits, why is the President still being criticized for his regulations?

As consumers, we have the power and responsibility to ensure that we don't contaminate the environment: air, water and ground included. We are asked to dispose of recyclables, trash and compost in the appropriate manner and we do so without going bankrupt or hindering our everyday routine. Asking private business to do the same is a reasonable request. The President's use of executive power to continue pushing for clean energy projects is necessary for the health and well-being of Americans. As more and more cities continue to ban smoking in public places due to the detrimental effects it has on third parties' health, the same standards need to apply federally to the businesses that produce the items we consume on a daily basis. •

From the Source

Political Q & A

By Gerry Chong

Question of the Week: "How will the State's proposed \$.035 per gallon gas tax increase affect South Bay communities?"

Assemblyman Steve Bradford replied:

Traffic congestion in Los Angeles is the worst in the nation. According to the Texas Transportation Institute, seven of the 10 most congested freeways in the United States are located in Los Angeles. All of this congestion means longer commutes, more pollution and worse health for everyone in the region – even those who don't drive.

And this will only worsen as California's and LA's population continues to grow, unless we focus now on expanding and modernizing our transportation system. Maintaining a stable source of funding for transportation ensures that we are able to do this.

Although it may not always seem like it, the revenue generated by excise taxes on gasoline directly impacts your life and the life of everyone in the region. Important projects like the 405 expansion, the Crenshaw/LAX rail line, the Green Line extension, and the Metro ExpressLanes are happening right now and will continue to move people more quickly, efficiently and with less pollution.

All residents will benefit when traffic on the 405 moves more freely, when travelers from the South Bay and Downtown LA can all get to the airport on the train, and when visitors to Southern California can access all points more easily, more cheaply and more conveniently. To ensure Los Angeles and Southern California remain a world destination, we need a transportation system that can meet the demands of 21st Century travelers. •

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Sports

Up and Adam

West Slides Past Torrance

By Adam Serrao

No one ever said that every game would be easy. Coming off of an El Segundo tournament where the West High Warriors outscored their opponents by a combined score of 39-6 to take the title, it certainly looked like as if the team was cruising this year under head coach Juan Cueva. Enter the Torrance Tartars. After not having lost a game since the opener against Chino (by one run, 6-5), the Warriors may have been provided with their biggest challenge of the season thus far when the Tartars stepped onto the diamond. After five scoreless innings of 0-0 ball in what was a pitchers' duel between Kyle Smith of the Tartars and Christian D'Emilia of West, the relievers came in and the game was broken wide open. Three runs from Torrance in the top of the sixth wasn't enough to overcome the seven-run rally put

gave every true baseball fan (and coach) all they could ask for out of a starting pitching performance. Each pitcher threw five scoreless innings--and combined, the two only gave up a total of three hits in their time out on the mound. That alone had to have been a cause for concern for the Warriors and Cueva. Torrance has owned the Warriors lately, beating them 11-0 last year, 9-0 the year before that, and four out of the last five times that the two teams have met dating back to the 2007-2008 season. "Torrance has had our number the past few years," explained Cueva. "The guys were definitely looking for some payback. They had their eyes set on this game." For that reason alone, there was no quit in the Warriors once the Tartars went up by a 3-0 margin in the top of the sixth. Tyler Martizia was the instigator on offense for the Tartars, hitting a three-run

"Currently sitting in first place in the Bay League standings, the Warriors will be allowed a bad game here or there, but at present time there is nothing bad about the way that the team has been playing."

on by West in the bottom of the sixth that ultimately won the game for the Warriors last Thursday night at West High.

Maybe the bats just got hot at the right time for West. Or maybe the pitching just let down too early for the Tartars. Either way, though, the game between two cross-town rivals gave the fans that surrounded the ballpark last Thursday night all that they could ask for. Even more so, Smith and D'Emilia

double off of West's reliever to score all three runs. West, however, remained hungry.

Kyle Mitchell entered the game in relief for the Tartars and from the outset, looked good. Two quick outs in the inning had the Tartars just about on their way home. Then things took a turn for the worse for Mitchell. A hit batter, a walk and a double to left field by West's Brandon Baker cut into Torrance's

See Up and Adam, page 12



Drawing Winners

Congratulations to the following prize winners for the D-Fenders vs. Idaho game on March 20:

Grand Prize Winner
(VIP table and seats for four, halftime meal and four D-Fenders fan packs)
Robyn Walsh

First Prize (Two courtside seats to the game and two fan packs)
Cynthia Osejo

Second Prize (Pair of General Admissions tickets to the game)
Margaret Kingman

Bruins Clipped Going Into Tournament

By Adam Serrao

March Madness may have just taken on a different meaning for the UCLA Bruins. All in all, their season has been a success so far this year, finishing 13-5 in the Pac-12 while winning its 31st conference championship by beating Washington in this year's regular season finale. The Bruins have had some rough stretches along the way also, though, like the three of four games that they lost in the month of January or the loss to a horrible

"So I guess when you lose one of your best players, it's always something you've got to try to overcome."

Washington State team just three days before their big win against Washington to clinch their division. Despite all of the inconsistency, the Bruins may have just found themselves more maddened than ever after this month of March that had the team playing in the Pac-12 championship tournament at the MGM Grand hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. Not only did the Bruins squander a chance to come away with the championship title, but they also added insult to injury by losing their second-leading scorer in the process as the team heads into the 2013 NCAA tournament.

Three games in three days isn't easy for any team, let alone the UCLA Bruins who were coming off of a hard-fought year to win the Pac-12 outright in the last game of the regular season. The momentum was all shifting in the Bruins' favor and it looked as if the team was really beginning to gain energy following its last-second victory over Arizona in the semifinals of the tournament to send UCLA to the conference championship game. Freshman Jordan Adams was the key to that game's victory, scoring 18 of his 24 points in the second half while leading his team to a 66-64 victory before breaking his foot on the final play of the game. "The very last play of the game when they were shooting, somehow he came down and tweaked his foot," UCLA head coach Ben Howland said. Later the team would find out that the tweak was in fact a break and that the Bruins would have to go on without their second-leading scorer for the rest of the conference tournament and the remainder of the year. "It's going to be tough to go without him," said freshman guard Kyle Anderson, "but it's all part of handling adversity, and that's something that we've shown we're pretty good at." Now, the Bruins will have to show that they are even better at it if they want to make a deep run into the NCAA tournament.

The day after Adams' broke his foot, the Bruins were hit with even more adversity, having to go up against a streaking Oregon Ducks team in the championship game with

everything on the line. As Adams sat on the bench with a boot on his right foot, he could only look on as his team had a hard time keeping up with the Ducks all night long, surrendering a nine-point lead to Oregon at the half. Adams' absence meant that the Bruins wouldn't have the same ability to score that they have had all season long and in the beginning rounds of the tournament. "He's one of our best players," Howland said. "So I guess when you lose one of your best players,

it's always something you've got to try to overcome." UCLA simply couldn't overcome this onslaught by the Ducks, despite how hard they tried. Larry Drew II had 14 points and six assists, Shabazz Muhammad tallied 14 points and in place of Adams, Norman Powell poured in 10 for the top-seeded Bruins. It was all for naught, though, as Oregon rallied to score six straight points to help stretch out a 71-62 lead with just under three minutes remaining in the game. As time on the clock dwindled, so too did the hopes of the Bruins as the final margin of victory for the Ducks remained at nine points, 78-69.

Now, UCLA's chances of making a deep tournament run seem slim to none. With all of the momentum now gone from the team, in addition to the absence of one of their leading scorers, reeling together six straight wins may be more difficult than not. There's no doubt that the absence of Adams will have an adverse effect on where UCLA goes from here. His injury, coupled together with the loss to Oregon, likely dropped UCLA in the tournament seeding. UCLA hoped to land a spot no worse than fifth and be closer to home in the West Regional, but ended up as the sixth seed in the South Regional, with a game against the 11th seed Minnesota Gophers Friday, March 22 in Austin, Texas. So the Bruins are playing a little bit farther away from home than originally planned. What's even worse is that now, Ben Howland's job may indeed be on the line. Without a deep run into the tournament or at least a Sweet 16 appearance, Howland could be looking for a new job come this summer. But don't count the Bruins out just yet. The team has proven resilient time and time again this season. "It's tough," Larry Drew II said. "But there's something about this team. We find ways to make things happen when it seems like all is lost." Perhaps not all is lost quite yet, but if players like Drew II, Muhammad and Anderson don't step up come tournament time, UCLA could be looking at a long, long offseason. •

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Terri Nishimura Named Citizen of the Year

By Dylan Little

During the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce's Lunch with Our Leader event, Pediatric Therapy Network CEO



From left to right: Shauna Valenzuela, PTN's Founding Board President, Terri Nishimura and Teri Nelson Carpenter, PTN's Board Chair. Photo courtesy of the Pediatric Therapy network.

Terri Nishimura was named the Chamber's Citizen of the Year for her extensive work in helping children with special needs both with the Pediatric Therapy Network and as a Commissioner for the Los Angeles County Policy Roundtable for Child Care. Nishimura was honored to be recognized by

little," said Shafer, gesturing about a child's height. "She helps children."

Shafer personally felt the good that Nishimura's nonprofit does when one of his children attended speech therapy and has since gone on to excel in academics. He said that children who have received therapy from the organization have received excellent care that has changed their lives for the better. "I can't go near this place without, as a parent, saying there but by the grace of God..." said Shafer. "These kids are not only in need of help, but when they go to the Pediatric Therapy Network they are treated like royalty. They are helped and nurtured and grow into some of the most wonderful young people I've ever had the chance to meet."

In addition to her nonprofit involvement, Nishimura was appointed by Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe to be a Los Angeles County Commissioner on the Policy Roundtable for Childcare. In that role, she was instrumental in establishing a guide for child care centers to create a system for the identification and inclusion of children with

"She was instrumental in establishing a guide for child care centers to create a system for the identification and inclusion of children with special needs."

the Chamber. However, she made it clear that her hard work wouldn't have been nearly as effective without the support and guidance of a her many co-workers, mentors and friends.

"I'm very humbled by this," said Nishimura. "I haven't done anything as an individual—I've done everything as a circle of people who are all very smart and creative. We have all done this together."

As one of the founders of Pediatric Therapy Network, Nishimura has guided the nonprofit to being a positive contributor to the lives of many special needs children. Pediatric Therapy Network was founded by therapists and parents seeking to provide quality therapy services for children with special needs. The organization is dedicated to finding a balance of professional expertise with a family-oriented atmosphere. As a non-profit, the Pediatric Therapy Network needs outside support to function. One man who believes in Nishimura's vision and assists her in fundraising is Micheal Shafer, owner and head chef of Pediatric Therapy Network's neighbor, The Depot restaurant. Nishimura described him as "a giant of a man" who "took them under his wings" because of his help in hosting fundraising events, and he spoke just as highly of her. "She truly affects this city in a very little way--this

special needs. These strategies eventually led the way to the Steps to Excellence Program (STEP) --a new child care rating system that the County of Los Angeles will be launching in the near future. While she was nervous about taking on a role in public policy, Nishimura said Knabe strongly encouraged her. "Now it wasn't like, 'Would you be interested?' or,



Seen here is Pediatric Therapy network CEO Terri Nishimura in the ball pit with a PTN clients.

"Would you consider?" No," said Nishimura. "I was appointed."

While serving as a County Commissioner is most likely the highest profile position for Nishimura, it is only one of many roles she has taken on in her career. As an occupational therapist, she was a voluntary clinical faculty member for USC's Department

See Citizen of the Year, page 14

City Council

from front page

The Council voted unanimously (with Cliff Numark absent) to pursue these projects. Mayor Frank Scotto said that the main criteria used by the legislative action committee to determine which projects to push for were that they help make the City eco-friendly and align with projects that are typically federally funded. "These four projects were selected based on both the greatest impact to the environment and feasibility for potential funding," said Scotto.

The next step in the process is to actually obtain the federal funding. The Council has scheduled meetings in early April with Congressional representatives to discuss the projects and will travel to Washington, D.C. to meet with agencies, committees and legislators to gain support for these projects.

The Council also heard an update from Erick Serrato, communications officer for Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network, a Long Beach-based organization that helps cities reduce unemployment through job placement, partnerships and education. The organization unveiled plans to focus on the growing fields of advanced manufacturing, transportation and alternative fuels, and healthcare to help find unemployed and underemployed job-seekers sustainable careers. While noting its goals were admirable, Councilmember Pat Furey was disappointed with the group's performance in the South Bay so far. "Sometimes I think Torrance and Lomita are not getting their fair share," said Furey. "I'm kind of jaded at this point."

Serrato countered that while Pacific Gateway is located in Long Beach, it is looking for more ways to increase its presence in the South Bay. It has already partnered with El Camino Community College and is looking to work closely with Torrance's Entrepreneurial Center. "We may be anchored in a city that is down the freeway, but we are committed to this city," said Serrato. "We all have the

same goals."

However, the Council's patience has been running thin. Scotto mentioned that unless Pacific Gateway increases its focus on Torrance, the Council may start looking for a different employment assistance organization. "I'll give you three months--maybe as far out as six months--but if we don't see something happen real soon, I think we'll be seeing an agenda item on this," said Scotto. "You're at the eleventh hour here."

Lastly, Councilmember and Torrance Education Foundation (TEF) President Tom Brewer reminded the public that tickets for the ninth annual TEF Hybrid Car Raffle are still on sale. The tickets are \$30, with \$20 of that going directly to a school organization of the purchaser's choice. In addition to supporting Torrance schools, one lucky winner will receive a 2013 Lexus CT 200h hybrid. Brewer said the opportunity to help students and possibly win a car should draw in many donations. "For each ticket you buy, \$20 to go to the entity of your choice," said Brewer. "It's a great opportunity for classrooms, bands and any other entity in the district. There's no excuse not to have least one ticket for everyone in Torrance."

The winner of the raffle will be selected at the organization's Celebrate Education dinner, which will take place on March 29 at the Torrance Marriott with tickets costing \$100. All proceeds from the dinner will go directly to the Torrance Unified School District's students, as the dinner and venue were donated by sponsors. The dinner will be provided by Torrance chef Michael Shafer and the event will also include a performance by comic Debi Gutierrez and a silent auction featuring a guitar signed by the Rolling Stones and sheet music signed by Taylor Swift. Tickets for both the raffle and the Celebrate Education dinner are available at www.torranceeducationfoundation.org/.

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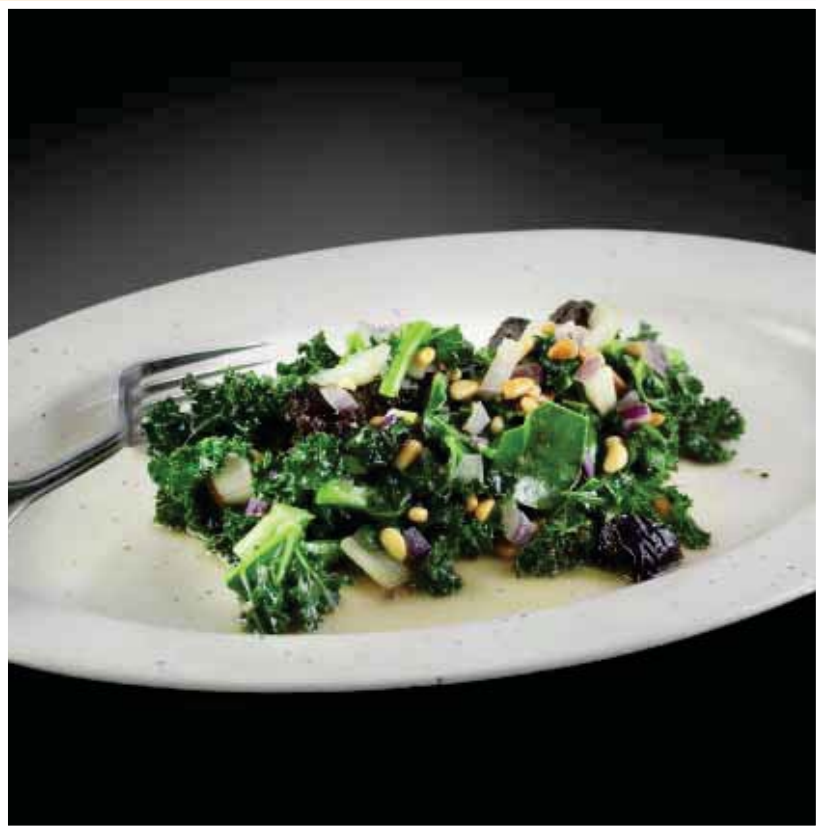
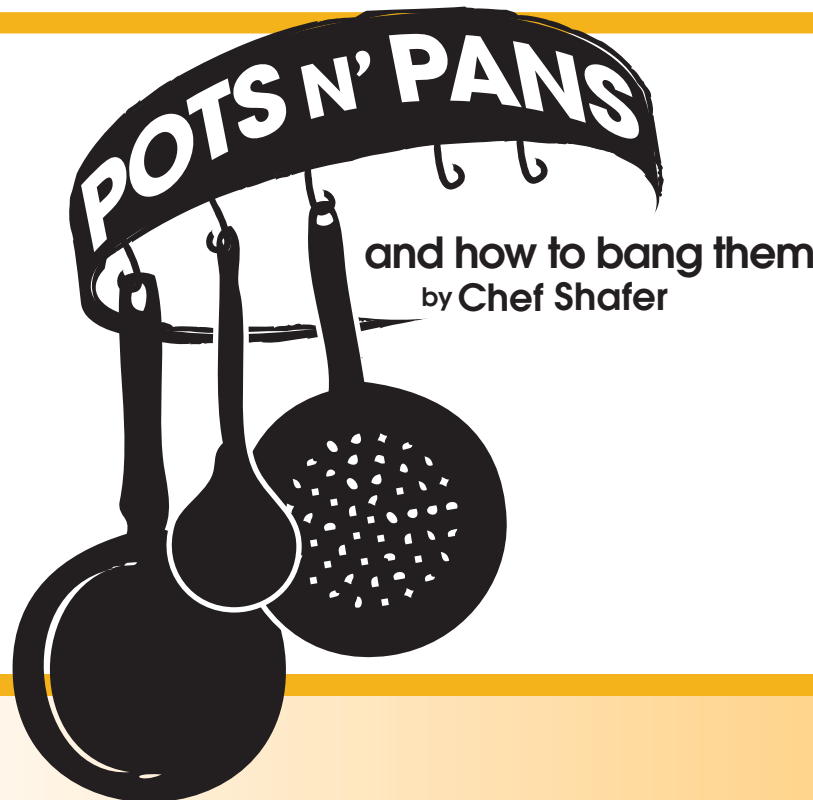
One cup of kale contains 36 calories, 5 grams of fiber, and 15 percent of the daily requirement of calcium and vitamin B6 (pyridoxine), 40 percent of magnesium, 180 percent of vitamin A, 200 percent of vitamin C, and 1,020 percent of vitamin K. It is also a good source of minerals copper, potassium, iron, manganese, and phosphorus.

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I know who wants to eat their vegetables... but, with this recipe you can make them want more.



The Chef



Garlic Roasted Kale With Pine Nuts And Dried Figs

- 4 to 6 cloves of garlic, chopped*
- 2 tablespoons olive oil*
- 1/2 cup chopped red onions*
- 2 pounds of cleaned chopped kale*
- 1 cup of chopped dried figs*
- 1/2 cup of vegetable stock or chicken stock*
- salt and pepper to taste*

In a large hot saute pan or sauce pot that you can cover up place the olive. Then, your chopped garlic. Stir quickly to prevent it from burning. Then add your onions and stir for 30 seconds. After the onions have browned, add your kale, figs, stock and cover. Steam for two minutes. Season with salt and pepper...and get ready to get healthy.

You can serve it with some grilled fish or chicken, or even stir in some pasta and a little feta cheese to spice things up.

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Contact Heidi Maerker 310-322-1830 Ext. 28
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TerriAnn

from page 2

like it very much. I told them they looked beautiful and they said thank you in unison.

Midsuko Nakaza was sitting on a low chair wearing a hat and sunglasses. She was situated right in front of the stage enjoying

School, Ann Lobo, age 15 from Torrance High School, Vanessa Varragan, age 17 from West High School, Ken Shrivastava age 17 from Torrance High School, and Jay Matsumoto, age 16 from South High School. There are



Fujimihara Sculpture by Roger Berry donated by Standard Brands Paint Company in 1983.

the music and dancing. "This is the first time and I enjoy it very much. I live in Carson and came with friends. My friends live in Torrance," said Midsuko, beaming with a beautiful smile. Sitting down next to Midsuko on the grass, I got ready for the drum performance. I can't say exactly what I was expecting, but the sheer power of these men and women beating their drums using every fiber of their being were most impressive. Dressed in black pants, bright

eight delegates total, but one delegate, Melanie Nomiya, age 15 from North High School, was absent because she was busy working with the Red Cross. These young men and women were most impressive and clearly excited about their upcoming trip to Japan this summer. I asked the delegates about the selection process and Ken Shrivastava spoke up and said, "We had to undergo interviews, we had to fill out forms, get recommendations- we had to go to all these different meetings



Sister City Delegation 2013; Matthew Tiansay age 18, Emiko Kranz age 18, Cindy Chan age 16, Ann Lobo age 15, Vanessa Varragan age 17, Ken Shrivastava age 17, Jay Matsumoto age 16.

red tops trimmed in bright yellow, and red and blue rope headbands tied across their foreheads, they made a definite statement. They stood as they hit the drums in a synchronized rhythm instead of sitting down. And they played the huge drums with perfect cadence. They were remarkable!

so they see if we were good applicants." In speaking with these bright, energetic young men and women, it is clear Torrance will be well represented in Japan.

Families were enjoying the booths, the entertainment and the food. Tatsunori and Liye Makidao and their one-year-old baby girl Saki enjoyed everything the festival had to offer. "We live in Torrance," said Liye. Tatsunori added, "I have lived here four years. She [Liye] has been here for seven or eight years. We like Torrance because there is a Japanese community."

As the *Myo On Taiko* drummers were finishing up with their performance, I noticed a group of young adults dressed in short, purple kimonos with black trim and asked them how they were enjoying the festival. Turns out the youngsters were part of the Torrance Sister City Association booth. These teenagers proudly told me they are the 2013 delegation that was chosen to fly to Japan to represent the City of Torrance this summer with the Sister City program. The group includes Matthew Tiansay, age 18 from Torrance High School, Emiko Kranz, age 18 from West High School, Cindy Chan, age 16 from South High



Beder Lee, Bob Godines, Yuko Fukuda, Akemi Davenport, David Gsgshima, Kim Masumi, and Chika Crawford.

As I left the *Cherry Blossom Cultural Festival* that afternoon, I stopped by some of the booths with clever handmade items. Suzie Baskett of *BS Quilts* told me, "My sister Bobbie has grandkids and we were

decorative bags made into the most interesting handbags I have ever seen. Charmaine is indeed inventive.

As I left the *Cherry Blossom Cultural Festival* at Columbia Park that afternoon, I



Tatsunori, Saki, age 1 and Liye Makidao.

making quilts for them and one thing led to another. We were doing bags and we do Easter baskets." Further along the line I met Charmaine Doty of *Char's Crafty Creations*,

felt happy. Citizens came together to enjoy their neighbors surrounded by the beautiful pink blooming trees, the arts and crafts, and the special entertainment. And what



Thomas Trulove of Trulove Ceramic Studio. Photo by TerriAnn Ferren.

who said, "I do a lot of things that you can sew. I make rag dolls and I make bags out of plastic--the plastic bags you bring your groceries home in. I make bags out of them." I took a look at the plastic

is wonderful about this festival is that the trees are still at the park. Take a drive to Columbia Park and see our young budding cherry trees. What a delightful day in the park in the City of Torrance! •

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Do you have questions about general driving related requirements like registration and insurance? Are you unclear about laws and restrictions related to driving? The California Department of Motor Vehicles has answers. Save Time. Go Online at www.DMV.ca.gov.

Q: My 16-year-old niece is coming from Canada to stay for the summer. I want her to be able to drive herself around and explore while I'm at work. Can she legally drive in California?

A: Yes, your niece can legally drive in California if she has a valid license in Canada. However, since she is staying for the summer, she will need to apply for a Non-resident Minor's Certificate because she can only use her Canadian license for the first 10 days she is here. A Non-resident Minor's Certificate will let your niece drive in California with her valid Canadian license. Your niece will have to provide proof of financial responsibility in case of a collision. The usual method of showing proof of financial responsibility is to provide a California Insurance Proof Certificate (Form SR-22/SR-1P) from an insurance company authorized to do business in California.

Q: I have a classmate who skips class a lot and said that his license was suspended because he was truant. Is that possible?

A: Yes, so don't ditch school if you want to keep your driving privilege! The court will suspend, restrict, delay, or revoke your driving privilege for one year if you are convicted of being a habitual truant from school. If you are not already licensed, the court may require DMV to delay the issuance of your first license for up to one year.

Q: People make fun of me because I sit really close to the steering wheel when I drive. I never thought it was an issue until someone mentioned that it's dangerous because if the airbags deploy, being that close can injure me. What is

considered a safe distance to sit from the steering wheel?

A: An air bag needs about 10 inches of space to inflate. Measuring from the center of the steering wheel to your breastbone, sit at least 10 inches from the air bag cover, if you can do this while maintaining full control of the vehicle. If you cannot safely sit 10 inches away from the air bag, contact your vehicle dealer or manufacturer for advice about additional ways of moving away from your air bag while you drive. Passengers should also sit at least 10 inches away from the passenger side air bag.

Q: My 16-year-old niece is coming from Canada to stay for the summer. I want her to be able to drive herself around and explore while I'm at work. Can she legally drive in California?

A: Yes, your niece can legally drive in California if she has a valid license in Canada. However, since she is staying for the summer, she will need to apply for a Non-resident Minor's Certificate because she can only use her Canadian license for the first 10 days she is here. A Non-resident Minor's Certificate will let your niece drive in California with her valid Canadian license. Your niece will have to provide proof of financial responsibility in case of a collision. The usual method of showing proof of financial responsibility is to provide a California Insurance Proof Certificate (Form SR-22/SR-1P) from an insurance company authorized to do business in California.

The DMV is a department under the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Acting Undersecretary Brian Kelly. The DMV licenses drivers, maintains driving records, registers and tracks official ownership of vehicles and vessels, investigates auto and identity-related fraud, and licenses car dealers, driving schools, and traffic violator schools. For more information about the DMV, visit www.DMV.ca.gov.

Finance

Avoiding Post-Disaster Scam Artists

By Jason Alderman

Have you ever turned on the light in a dark basement and shuddered as cockroaches scurried away? I get that same sense of revulsion whenever I hear about unscrupulous swindlers taking advantage of the victims of natural and manmade disasters.



The Better Business Bureau has dubbed these human cockroaches "Storm Chasers" because they creep out of the woodwork after every major storm or disaster. In fact, because fraud was so widespread after Hurricane Katrina, the Department of Justice created the National Center for Disaster Fraud, a central information clearinghouse for more than 20 federal agencies where people can report suspected fraudulent activities tied to disasters of all types.

One common scam is where supposed repair workers blitz impacted neighborhoods, hoping to ensnare frazzled homeowners. Their typical line is, "We're really slammed but with a cash deposit you can ensure a spot on our busy schedule." Or, they'll scare people into thinking their home is dangerously unsafe, sometimes actually creating damage during their "inspection."

Often, these Storm Chasers just take the money and run. Or, if they do show up and make repairs, their work or materials are shoddy. This could leave you on the hook financially since your homeowners insurance probably won't cover unauthorized or fraudulent repairs.

Here are a few tips from the Better Business Bureau to avoid becoming a Storm Chaser victim:

Ask your insurance company about what's covered under your policy and specific filing requirements. Also ask them to survey the damage and see whether they have approved contractors.

Never hire a laborer or contractor on the spot. Get at least three estimates based on the

same specifications and materials. Check their references, licensing and registration information with the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (www.nascla.org/licensing_information); also read reviews posted by the Better Business Bureau.

Require written contracts that specify work to be done, materials to be used, start and end dates, responsibility for hauling away debris, and costs broken down by labor and materials. Verify that the contractor's name, address, phone number and license number are included, as well as any verbal promises and warranties.

Read the fine print. Some shady contracts include clauses allowing substantial cancellation fees if you choose not to use the contractor after your insurance company has approved the claim. Others require you to pay the full price if you cancel after the cancellation period has expired.

Ask your contractor to provide proof of current insurance that covers workers compensation benefits, property damage and personal liability.

You'll probably be asked to pay an upfront deposit to cover initial materials – one-quarter to one-third is reasonable upon delivery of materials to your home and once work begins.

Never pay in full in advance, and don't pay cash. Have the contract specify a schedule for releasing payments, and before making the final payment, ask the contractor to provide proof that all subcontractors have been paid – if not, you could be liable for their fees.

And finally, remember the adage, "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is." If someone uses high-pressure sales tactics, requires full payment upfront, asks you to get necessary permits or offers to shave costs by using leftover materials from another job – run. They're potentially disastrous to your bottom line – and you've been through one disaster already. •

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Police

from page 3

Vandalism: 23800 BLOCK ANZA AVE Suspect(s) smashes victim's vehicle's window/no entry, no loss.

Vandalism: 23100 BLOCK ANZA AVE Suspect(s) uses spray paint to tag vehicle parked at location.

Burglary Residential: 2600 BLOCK 234TH ST Suspect(s) pries sliding glass door for entry, ransacks and takes property/jewelry, watch, tablet.

Burglary Auto: 2000 BLOCK ARTESIA BLVD Suspect(s) smashes window for entry, ransacks and takes property/GPS, eyeglasses, remote.

Burglary Auto: 16900 BLOCK FAYSMITH AVE Suspect(s) enters unlocked vehicle, ransacks and takes property/GPSs.

Burglary Residential: 25600 BLOCK AMBER LEAF ROAD Suspect(s) enters open window, ransacks and takes property/laptop, TV, handbag.

Burglary Auto: 16700 BLOCK ERMANITA AVE Suspect(s) enters vehicle by unknown means, ransacks and takes property/GPS.

Auto Theft-All: 2700 BLOCK SKYPARK DR Stolen vehicle: '03 Chevrolet P/U.

Burglary Auto: 22900 BLOCK ERIEL AVE Suspect(s) enters unlocked vehicle and takes property/purse.

Theft: 2300 BLOCK SEPULVEDA BLVD Suspect(s) takes unattended property from front of location/bicycle.

Burglary Residential: 4200 BLOCK 179TH ST Suspect is observed walking up to the front door and knocking, before heading to the rear yard at which time the witness yells at the suspect, causing him to flee/no entry, no loss.

Burglary Residential: 2800 BLOCK 235TH ST Suspect(s) enters unlocked door and takes property/purse.

Burglary Residential: 22900 BLOCK

ANZA AVE Suspect(s) pries off window screens and attempts to force open windows/no entry, no loss.

Theft: 17400 BLOCK FALDA AVE Suspect(s) enters garage by unknown means and takes property/bicycle.

Burglary Auto: 1700 BLOCK CARSON ST Suspect(s) enters vehicle by unknown means, ransacks and takes property/purse.

MARCH 7

Burglary-Residential: 22900 BLOCK EVALYN AVE Suspect(s) removes screen and attempts to force open window/no entry, no loss.

Theft: 3500 BLOCK CARSON ST Suspect(s) takes unattended property from bench/tablet.

Burglary-Residential: 4500 BLOCK NEWTON ST Suspect(s) attempts to force open sliding glass door/no entry, no loss.

Burglary-Residential: 2400 BLOCK SANTA FE AVE Suspect(s) attempts to pry open door/no entry, no loss.

Theft: 800 BLOCK MAPLE AVE Suspect(s) takes unsecured property from rack/bicycle.

Burglary-Residential: 2200 BLOCK 229TH PL Suspect(s) pries open door for entry, ransacks and takes property/jewelry, watches, handgun.

Vandalism: 4100 BLOCK 239TH ST Suspect(s) cuts gate chain, rendering gate inoperable.

MARCH 5

Burglary-Auto: 600 BLOCK AMAPOLA AVE Suspect(s) enters victims' two vehicles by unknown means, ransacks and takes property/registration, backpack.

Robbery Weapon: 2000 BLOCK CARSON ST Suspect enters location and demands property at gunpoint/ cash.

MARCH 4

Auto Theft-All: 1600 BLOCK COTA AVE Stolen vehicle: '98 Honda Civic. •

Up and Adam

from page 6

lead and brought the game to 3-2. Baker later came home to score the tying run before Joey Notch, 0 for 3 on the night, came to the plate and hit a roller towards third base that snuck into left field. "He threw a pitch that didn't have a lot of movement on it and I squeezed it by," Notch said. It squeezed by to score two more runs for the Warriors to bring their lead to 5-3. Nyles Nygaard accounted for the last two runs after his triple to left to score both Notch and Masata Okawa. Okawa would later earn the win in relief on the mound.

The Tartars have been struggling to string together wins this season and had their opportunity to do so against West after beating Banning earlier in the week. Head coach Ollie Turner still has time to get things turned around as three weeks remain before the beginning of league play. As it stands, however, the Tartars sit at the bottom of the Pioneer League and so that work will have to be done quickly. The Warriors, on the other hand, are still undefeated (dating back to as late as last Saturday) since their opening day loss this season. "We're going to keep going," said Nygaard, who broke the game open for West in this game. "We'll have some bad games along the way, but this is how you respond." Currently sitting in first place in the Bay League standings, the Warriors will be allowed a bad game here or there, but at present time there is nothing bad about the way that the team has been playing.

SOUTH HIGH

The South High Spartans rebounded from their loss to the Warriors two weeks ago by putting together a nice win against Banning last Thursday night at Banning. Down 2-1 going into the seventh and final inning, Mike Esparza came through for the Spartans with a two-out, two-on double to bring home two runs and give his team a 4-2 lead and eventual victory. The come-from-behind victory showed heart and resiliency for the Spartans who had been looking for similar qualities coming off of a tough loss to West. The Spartans, under head coach Grady Sain, have lost only one game all season long (dating back to last Saturday) and currently sit in first place in the Pioneer League standings. Sain has the club off to a tremendous start and it looks as if the Spartans will be around all season long this year.

NORTH HIGH

The North High Saxons are looking to get back on track after a tough loss to Bishop Montgomery two weeks ago. They are on the right track after taking it to Hawthorne at home last Thursday night at North High with an 8-7 victory. Roman Luna went 2 for 4 with two runs scored and two RBIs to lead the Saxons to victory and Kevin Cole went 2 for 3 with three RBIs on the night. The Saxons will need similar production this week if they want to beat the Warriors, who are on a roll. The game will be a good barometer for head coach Mike Demaria and his ball club as they look forward to entering into league play. •



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Chase Bank 2549 P.C.H., Torrance

Chateau Liquor 4545 W. Sepulveda Blvd.

Chinese Shanghai Restaurant 2880 P.C.H., Torrance

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Del Amo Professional Pharmacy 21320 Hawthorne Blvd.

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We visited the butterfly zoo and...

...watched butterflies feed on flowers.

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Have you ever watched butterflies flutter by and wondered where they come from and where they go? I wanted to learn more about them so I went to visit a butterfly house.

I learned that there are more than 17,500 kinds of butterflies. They live almost everywhere, except Antarctica. I'd tell you more, but I want you to read my clues to fill in my butterfly crossword puzzle!

Butterflies (A Cycle of Life)

Metamorphosis (Transforming or changing)

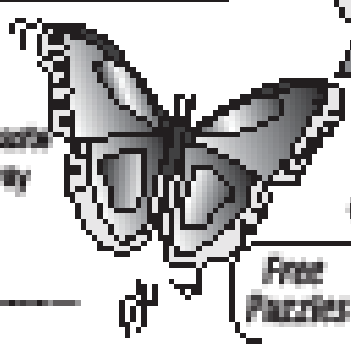


Do you know the four stages of a butterfly's life? Read the clues to fill in the blanks and find out!

1. a butterfly _____ is laid on a leaf
2. a _____ (larva) hatches and eats its own eggshell, then it eats the leaves of the plant on which it hatched
3. it hangs by silken threads and forms a _____
4. later, the _____ (winged adult) comes out and the cycle begins again

Butterflies:

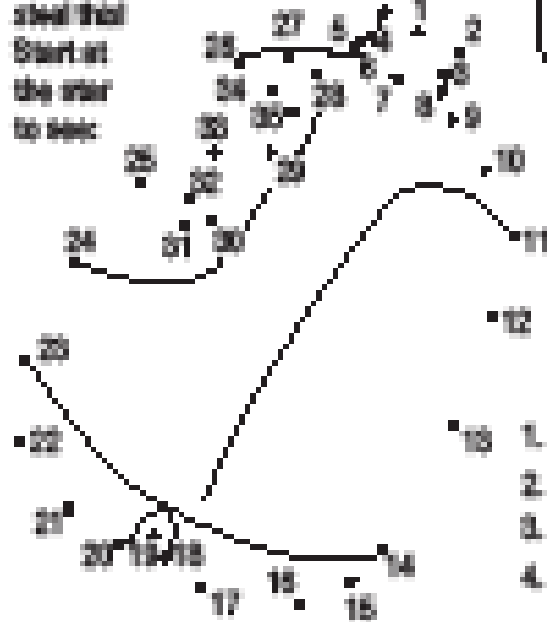
1. are _____, they have 6 legs.
2. have 2 pairs of _____ and a narrow body
3. have a _____ from one half inch (the Pygmy Blue found in southern U.S.) to almost a foot (Queen Alexandra's Birdwing in rain forests of New Guinea)
4. have a sense of taste through their _____
5. feed on nectar from _____ or juice from rotting fruit through a "strawlike" tongue
6. " _____ " through their antennae
7. can see _____: red, green and yellow
8. have skeletons on the _____ of their bodies (exoskeleton)
9. are protected from being _____ by their terrible color or taste
10. may have _____ on their wings that scare predators away
11. may have colors that help them _____ or blend in
12. fly mostly during the _____
13. hang from leaves, crawl into cracks in rocks to sleep at _____
14. live for about one _____ (some live longer)



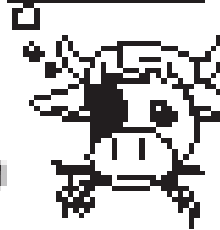
Free Puzzles! Print out our new puzzle: Alphabet Puzzle "B," Shoney Puzzles 11-Upt, and reading log sets @ www.readingclubfun.com

What's In a Name? Butterfly Thieves!

Although butterflies have nothing to do with butter, the English called them "butterflies" because many years ago they were thought to flutter around, land on buttercups or pats and steal their



Who's taking wheatsour?

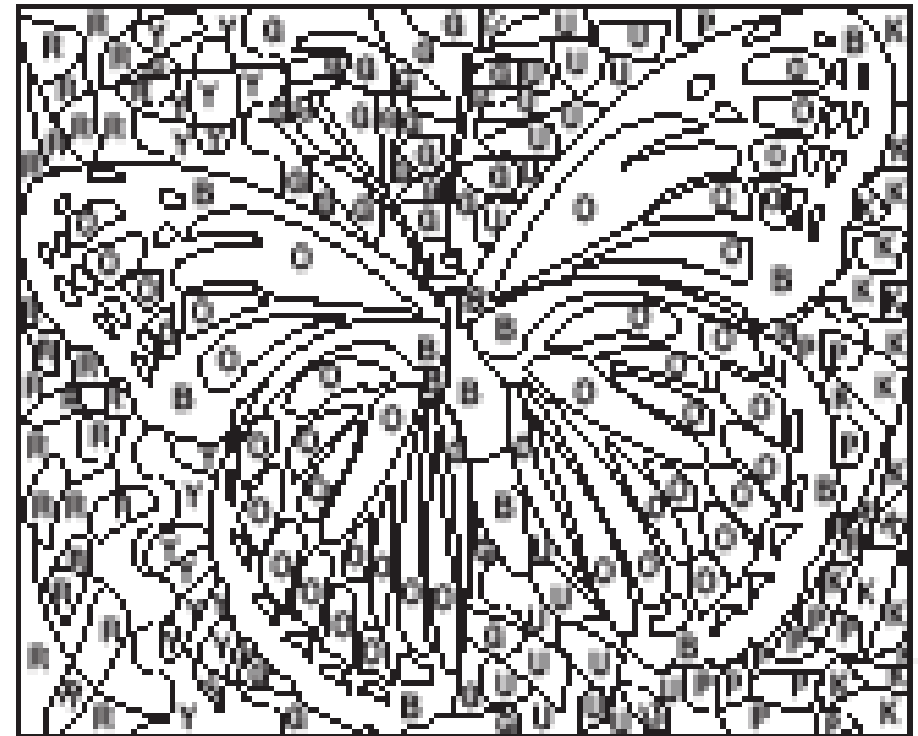


- O = orange
- B = black
- R = red
- Y = yellow
- G = green
- U = blue
- P = purple
- K = pink

12. Butterflies have different names in other languages. Match these up!
10. 1. English
2. French
3. Russian
4. Greek
- A. papillon (also a dog with "butterfly"-looking ears)
B. butterfly
C. papilouda (petal leaf)
D. babochka (cow fly)

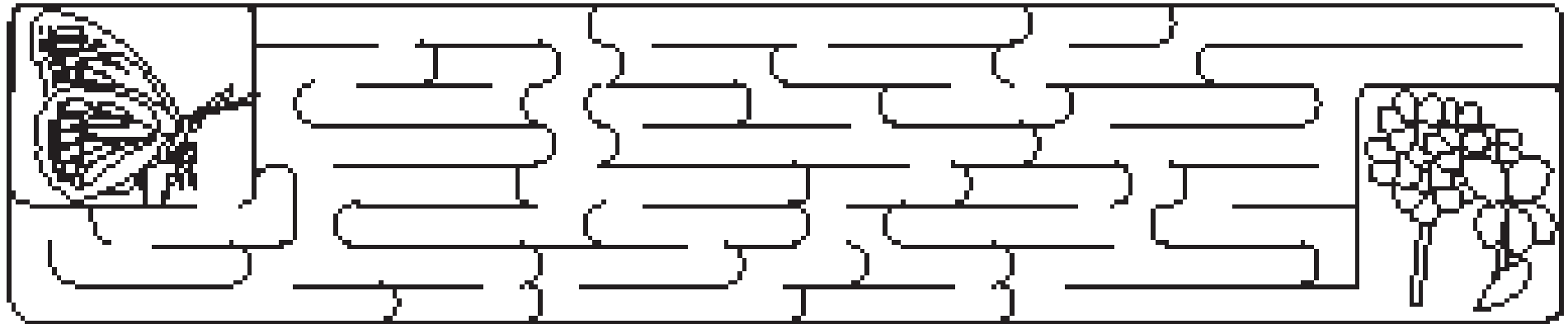
Monarch Migration:

Monarch butterflies travel over 2,000 miles from the U.S. to Mexico. They start flying at the end of summer and get there by November to stay for the winter. Use the color key to see what they look like!



Butterfly House

Have you ever heard of a Butterfly House or Zoo? They are places where butterflies live protected. They are full of plants and flowers! The butterflies breed and live in an environment set up for all their needs. Help the butterfly land on the flowers:



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1635 Van Horne Ln, RB (Btw Prospect/Goodman). Sat., 3/23, 7 am - 4pm. Come Early! Everything Must Go! Furniture, antiques,

electronics, comp/off equip, clothes, home accessories, dog stuff, patio/outdoor, all amazing condition.

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Fully Furnished Guest House (Except for Bed) in El Segundo. Utilities included, quiet neighborhood. \$1100. (310) 351-1064.

HOUSE FOR RENT

2BD/2BA. El Segundo, Back house, very private. Total remodel in 05. Quality throughout. Pet friendly. 541 Penn St. \$2600/mo.+ security. Avail 4/20. By appointment. Call Bill (310) 266-0701.

3BD/2BA. ES. Stove, W/D hooks up, Fireplace, 2 car garage, No pets. \$3000/mo. & \$3000 dep. 215 W. Walnut Ave. Call (530) 577-4308 or (530) 318-2406.

ROOM FOR RENT

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

WANTED

Looking to purchase well-kept 2BD/2BA condo, single level, in El Segundo. Contact Fred & Georgie Curcio (310) 414-0976 or kajida@aol.com.

WEEKLY CROSSWORD See Answers Next Week

Bravo

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15				16				
17					18				19				
20					21				22				
				23	24				25				
26	27	28						29			30	31	32
33						34	35	36			37		
38						39				40	41		
42						43				44			
45			46	47						48			
				49			50	51	52	53			
54	55	56				57				58	59	60	61
62						63				64			
65						66				67			
68						69				70			

Across

- Kingdom ruled by Herod
- Special disposition
- Magazine for pool and spa pros
- Reversed
- Tissue additive
- Indigenous Brazilians
- Coveted response
- Transformers, e.g.
- Salon creation
- Failed to act
- 10-year-old, for one
- Match
- Tense
- It flows into the North Sea
- Chinese dynasty
- Torn comic?
- Warm response
- Long-eared beast
- Makes a scene?
- Japanese cartoon art
- Cleans, in a way
- Carpentry grooves
- Religious instructor
- Member of the Donner party?
- Cross
- Enough, for some

- Spirited responses
- Book before Nehemiah
- Le ____, city in Switzerland
- Sticky sweetener: Var.
- 2002 Robbie Williams single
- Earth barrier
- Puff ____, old Combs nickname

Down

- Merely
- "Law __ oneself"
- Make-or-break time
- Brainiac
- Combine
- Pirogue
- Ice cream thickener
- Bath sponge
- Bulgarian cash
- Habiliments
- Mouthful of tobacco
- __ reflection
- Isn't wrong?
- Italian __
- Yemeni city
- Proceed
- Scale
- Capital of Pas-de-Calais

- Hamlet's father, e.g.
- Put into service again
- Ancient Celtic priest
- Doodad
- Old weapons
- Ozone depleter: Abbr.
- Skimmer, e.g.
- Wife of Saturn
- Hops heater
- Shavers
- Turkey part
- Volatile liquid
- Foot pads
- Bud Grace comic strip
- Computer programmer
- Mediocre
- International language
- One who takes orders
- Sludge
- Oliver's request
- Unlikely candidate for prom king
- "Phooey!"
- Make out
- Priestly garb
- Leary dropped it

Citizen of the Year

from page 7

of Occupational Therapy & Occupational Science. She has also been very active in the business community as the founder of the Nonprofit Coalition section of the Torrance Area Chamber. She has taken away priceless insight and numerous connections from each position and has used these resources to better serve her community and the children involved in the Pediatric Therapy Network. "I [have] served on committees and task forces and policy roundtables and work groups," said Nishimura. "I grew every time I served on something and I grew my network of friends."

One of the biggest challenges facing Nishimura's nonprofit is the sequestration, which threatens to reduce the amount of

federal funding the Pediatric Therapy Network receives. Already, federal funding isn't enough to cover all the costs associated with running the nonprofit--which is why volunteers like Shafer have been such an aid to her. Still, Nishimura said she isn't planning on giving up anytime soon. While the cuts to her organization have been a major obstacle, she believes the support of the community along with her and her co-workers' pride in what they do will make sure they find a way to continue helping the children who need it most. "Three years of really draconian State cuts have really hit our organization hard," said Nishimura. "We have to fight hard to keep it open and move on to the next level. We are proud of what we are doing." •

Last Week's Answers

1	M	O	D		4	F	A	R	E	A	S	T		11	J	O	Y			
14	A	C	E		15	O	V	E	R	B	U	Y		16	O	R	E			
17	R	U	B		18	R	E	D	S	L	I	P		19	P	E	R	S		
20	A	L	O	E		21	M	E	E	T	E	R								
22	C	A	N	A		23	S	T	A				25	E	L	T	A	L		
29	A	R	E		30	T	U	N	E	S			33	S	L	A	V	E		
				34	N	A	B		35	C	A		36	S	T	I	R	O	N	
37	B	A	S	E		38	B	A	L	L	D	I	A		40	M	O	N	D	
41	A	C	H	I	L	L	E	A		42	S	I	S							
43	L	A	I	T	Y			44	A	T	M	A	N		46	B	O	A		
49	M	O	P	H				50	U	L	S		51	T	E	R	S			
				52	E	M	P	I	R	E			57	W	A	I	T			
58	E	M	E	R		60	A	L	D	A		61	S	H		62	O	R	E	R
63	K	I	N			64	G	A	L	L	I	L	E	O		65	D	N	A	
66	E	L	D			67	S	T	Y	L	I	N	G		68	S	T	Y		

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

SUDOKU Medium

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

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 give a homeless pet a second chance in life.

Riley is a great little guy who is seven to eight years old and tiny at five pounds. He was owner-surrendered because he was being bullied in his home by the other dog where he lived. Riley has personality plus! He loves his little doggie beds and sleeps underneath a t-shirt. Riley loves to burrow under towels, blankets or whatever is laying around for him to curl up in for warmth. As sweet as pie and a real love, he is absolutely darling and very animated during playtime. Riley would like nothing more than to be your



Riley

constant companion, purse or lapdog. He is neutered, current on vaccinations, de-wormed, microchipped, and good with children and other dogs.

Ready...Set...Cute! **Hamster's** little Puggy face is to die for. This two-year-old little gal



Hamster

is shy at first, but comes out of her shell quite quickly once she knows you. She comes alive when she is around other dogs and loves her kennelmate Scoobie, who also available for adoption. Hamster walks great on a leash and

goes four miles a day in her foster home. She uses the doggie door to do her business outside and is housebroken. Hamster crates well also and is very animated when she is playing with toys or another dog. This little gal would be great as a second dog in the home, as she loves to run and play with other dogs. When it's time to get snuggly, she is a pro as she puts her head right in the fold of your neck for love. Hamster is spayed, current on vaccinations, de-wormed, microchipped, and great with children and with other dogs.

To learn more about these and other wonderful dogs, visit our website at 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

Add a little love with a new best friend when you adopt your purr-fect partner.

Scotty, short for Butterscotch, found his way into a classroom one day where he decided to make himself at home. As luck would have it, one of the teachers was a Kitten Rescue adopter and took him home. This insanely handsome boy is a super affectionate love bug who wants to



Scotty

spend all day snuggling and playing with his person. His favorite toy is any shape, size and color of kitty ball. He will spend hours batting them around, chasing them down and pouncing on them. Scotty has a fantastic purr that just doesn't stop, rumbling through his entire body without pause. He would prefer to be your only kitty subject to all the attention. If you are looking for a devoted companion to be by your side,

Scotty is the guy for you!

Sophia is a stunning Siamese beauty. Like many Siamese, she is highly intelligent, curious, affectionate and talkative. She is quite amusing with her playful antics, loves to tease the dogs, follows the older cats around and urges them to play, and rolls all over every inch of carpet in the house! When Sophia wants attention, she simply walks up and tells you. She is incredibly intelligent and talented in that she has learned how to open doors, drawers and cabinets, giving her more new smells and places to explore! If you would like to add a creative and vocal little four-legged beauty to your family, please come meet her! Sophia might be a bit shy when you first meet, but her charming personality will quickly emerge and you'll be treated to a display of her humorous antics!



Sophia

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, or email us at 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 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 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

Maggie Mae Finds Loving Family

Maggie found a new family and name. Her “mom” sent us news about her life with them and her new brother Georgie....

“Hello...I hope your week has been pleasant so far... Me? Don't know when I've had a better one. I've got the most perfect little pal and I'm happy the weather has warmed up!

Just thought I'd let you know...First, 'Celia' is now Maggie Mae Mollica. She has brightened our home and lives tremendously in the few short days she's been here. While still skittish with others, she seems to trust us already. She readily and cheerfully runs up when she hears her name. She is mischievous, smart and loves to play--a paper-shredder extraordinaire. She adores

her big brother Georgie. He is oh-so patient and sweet with her. In fact, she is all but housebroken, thanks to Georgie. The first evening, I took her out, stood there coaxing and freezing for 30 minutes... nothing. So we came back in. A few minutes later, Georgie went to the door and I opened it. She merrily followed him out and did her business straight away. So now, every couple of hours, or if we see her sniffing, we call George and they both go out... even if he doesn't 'go'--he stays with



her until she's ready to come back in. It's really adorable to watch.

After a day or two of no boundaries, just love and encouragement, we have started to lay down some rules to which she seems open to learning--eager to please and so amazingly loving! We visited our vet yesterday--she gave her a solid gold A plus. Our vet was also *extremely* impressed with the complete medical files we were able to provide. She said they were probably the most complete she has ever seen from a rescue!

Maggie loves her new bed(s) and toys and completely delights us with her antics, as she is coming out of her shell and making this her home. She now 'marches' through the house and yard like she owns the place... scampers up/down our stairs like a rocket... tail high and wagging madly. She is walking surprisingly well on a leash and enjoys her walks and meeting our neighbors, both human and canine. We will be forever grateful to you for your efforts and bringing such joy into our lives. My best always..." – Andrea Mollica.

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. •

Real Estate

Spruce Up Your Home for Spring In Just a Weekend

(BPT) - As the weather gets warmer, everything outside becomes fresh and new - so why not make your home as nice inside as the weather is outside? In just a weekend, you can complete a few quick, easy projects that will make a big difference in your space.

WASH AWAY WINTER GRIME

Use a weekend to focus on three main areas: the kitchen, bathroom and living room. In the kitchen, toss expired items from your refrigerator and wipe down the

pantries throughout the house by installing shelf liner. It's an easy and inexpensive task that can give any space, whether it's the kitchen, bathroom or laundry room, a new look in a jiffy.

ADD SOME ACCESSORIES

To revive a room without spending a fortune, attach some new trim to your existing drapes or add new shades to your favorite lamps. Wall decals or stencils are another way to add a personal touch to a room.

cheer or try tackling a decorative painting technique - such as stripes, zig zag chevron or a geometric print - to really make your room feel modern and stylish. To really get in the spring spirit, make painting an excuse to have some fun with friends and family.

Whether you're going for a dramatic makeover or simply giving your home a good scrubbing, find inspiration in these tips to help you make the most of your weekend and get your home in superb shape this spring. •

"In just a weekend, you can complete a few quick, easy projects that will make a big difference in your space."

inside with soap and water - don't forget to sweep underneath and give the coils a good dusting, too. To get the bathroom in shape, replace dingy shower curtain liners, pitch old toothbrushes and other unwanted items and purchase a new toilet brush. In the living room, thoroughly dust light fixtures and blinds, and remove and launder slipcovers on couches or chairs. While you're at it, don't forget to replace batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

TIME TO DE-CLUTTER

Spend a few hours cleaning out kitchen cabinets, cluttered closets and the junk drawer - you'll feel more relaxed and organized as a result. Once you've gotten rid of items you no longer need, refresh shelves, drawers and

Highlight your favorite inspirational quote or try an interesting illustration, such as a floral design or a sophisticated chandelier. Stencils and decals are available at local craft stores in numerous shapes and sizes - some are even offered in wall-size shapes, making the project super simple. You can also bring the season inside with spring flowers in a brightly colored vase or buy a new piece of art to hang as a focal point in your room.

PULL OUT YOUR PAINTBRUSH

The warmer weather means you can keep your windows wide open, making it the ideal time to add a fresh coat of paint to your room. For the simplest touch, paint an accent wall instead of redoing the entire room. Pick a vibrant color for some spring



'70s Style Is Stayin' Alive

(BPT) - From home decor to fashion and food, the styles and trends of the 1970s have been creeping back into the mainstream. There are many ways to embrace the retro style while staying thoroughly modern with some simple expert tips.

It's not just personal fashion that is getting the '70s treatment - this trend is popping up in home decor as well. Forty years ago, colorful appliances were must-haves to match shag carpets and paneled walls. Today the color is back, but dull green refrigerators are being replaced by brighter, more playful colors.

The '70s was a complex decade but there was no shortage of fun, and embracing the tastes and trends of those days can bring newfound vibrancy and enjoyment into the present. •

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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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