

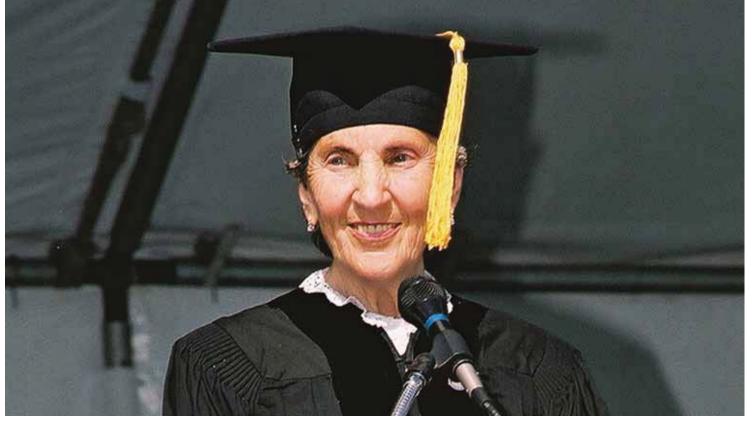
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# **Inside** El Camino College to Present Holocaust Remembrance Day



El Camino College will sponsor a Holocaust Remembrance Day from 1-2 p.m. April 4 in the Schauerman Library's Distance Education Classroom, Library Room 166, in recognition of the national Days of Remembrance established by Congress. The program will feature reflections from Holocaust survivors and their families. Highlighted at the event will be a reading of some of the names of the victims and a tribute to the late Eva Brown, a longtime El Camino College supporter and founder of the Peace and Tolerance Collection located in the ECC Library. Free copies of Eva Brown's book, "If You Save One Life," will be available for all guests. Seen here is Eva Brown at the 2006 commencement ceremony where she was keynote speaker. Photo courtesy of El Camino College. For more information, interested persons may call Librarian Ed Martinez at 310-660-3593.

# **City Signs Lease on New Sports Fields**

## By Dylan Little

During its April 2 meeting, The Torrance City Council approved an eight-year lease agreement with the Judicial Council of California, Administrative Office of the Courts to allow the City to convert a vacant lot on Maple Avenue into athletic fields. The City plans to keep the space open for sports and youth activities. Mayor Frank Scotto said that the area can be used in a variety of configurations and for many different sports. Mock-up drawings of the field show configurations for both two and four soccer fields and Scotto indicated that preferably the field markings would be done in chalk as to retain a maximum amount of flexibility. "It is for multi-use fields," said Scotto. "There are going to be areas for football, rugby, cricket... obviously soccer wants to use it. There will be other types of youth organizations that want to use it and they can hold events there too." Presently, most of the community's youth sports organizations practice on Torrance Unified School District campuses, but this arrangement poses some challenges for the City. Because of the District's modernization push, many of the fields are unavailable to groups like AYSO. Also, the City doesn't have the final say in when it can use the fields, which might become an issue if Torrance wants to hold a tournament on a day that conflicts with the school's calendar. Leasing the Maple Avenue property addresses these concerns and creates another open space for the youth of Torrance. "The need for open playing fields in the city of Torrance is great," said Scotto. "The City has always been interested in finding more open spaces we can use under our control. The reason we want to do that is not only having control over the space, but maintaining a pristine environment for our youth to play on." Although the City was motivated to work with the Administrative Office of the Courts, working out an agreement that both parties found acceptable took three years. Assistant

City Manager Mary Giordano, one of the people instrumental in creating the agreement, said the time-consuming effort ultimately paid off for everyone involved. "This has been a long time coming," said Giodano. "This is really a win-win for everyone."

Scotto also acknowledged how difficult negotiations were. He also had a long list of people-from Torrance, the judicial system and the State government--that helped see the process through to its conclusion. "We've had to go through a long three-year arduous

adventure to get to this point tonight," said Scotto. "It has not been easy."

One of the people who helped broker an agreement on the field was former State Assembly member Betsy Butler. She held up the project as an example of government serving the will of the people. "This really is truly what government is about," said Butler. "This project is about finding out what the community needs, what's going to work best for the public and making it happen."

See City Council, page 3

# **Library Invites Everyone** to Join Video Challenge

By Cristian Vasquez

things that they personally create. We are

Partly Cloudy 65°/57°

Saturday Partly Cloudy 66°/57°



Sunday Partly Cloudy 67°/58°



The Torrance Public Library invites men, women and children, young and old, to enter the Torrance Library Video Challenge for a chance to win \$500. The special video challenge asks participants to tell the story of why the Torrance Library is important to them from either an educational, recreational, business and/or cultural need. The video must be three to seven minutes long. All submissions will have the chance to win an award, and have the film featured on Torrance CitiCABLE and on the Torrance Public Library Website.

"We feel that with the technology available to people today, that it is much easier to create a video that it was 10 years ago," Principal Librarian of Operations Dana Vinke said. "We also have, on our webpage, a link to a lot of free resources because we also want to be careful with copyright. We want to let people know that they can be creative, but that they can use some public domain images or hoping that in addition to people being very creative, that they will be able to create commercials for the library that we wouldn't be able to do ourselves given the budget that we have. Hopefully we get some really good submissions--and what I am trying to do is create some enthusiasm for the project and get the word out to as many people as possible."

There are three categories: youth, which covers eighth-grade students and younger; teen, which is ninth through 12th grade; and adults, which is anyone 18 and older. All video submissions to the Video Challenge will be judged between now and July 31 by a panel consisting of representatives from throughout the city, including one member of the Friends of the Library, one individual from the Library Foundation and representatives from a few other nonprofits and boards. The \$500 prize money for each category See Library, page 3

# <u>TerriAnn in Torrance</u>

# **A Championship Ring**

## By TerriAnn Ferren

Have you ever dreamed of winning a championship? When you were young, did you ever imagine hitting a baseball so far out of the ballpark you thought it would touch the sky? Or how about making the winning shot at the buzzer during a basketball game as you watch the ball dip through the net? I have. Whether it is volleyball, golf, tennis, swimming, track or any other sport, every child I have ever met dreams of participating in a championship game or event. But true champions are far and few between. The South Bay is home to one such champion. Two-time Hall of Fame player and coach Bill Sharman (still working for the Lakers organization) is currently raffling off his personal 2010 Lakers championship ring. Absolutely all of the funds raised will be donated to charity, including Providence Trinity Care Hospice in Torrance and Toberman Neighborhood Center, among others. Raffle tickets are available online only at www.ringofhope.net for \$2 each with a minimum of five tickets. Yes, you heard me right. For \$10, you could own Bill Sharman's 2010 championship ring! I met with the Sharmans at their home in Torrance to ask them about this remarkable event and why they decided to give away the ring.

"In one month, Bill will be 87 years old and we have been blessed for so many years--not with money, but with the best things in life that anyone could have and this is the way we thought that we could give back that could benefit anyone. Anyone could win this ring," said Joyce Sharman.

The campaign is called *Ring of Hope* because it will bring hope to many people. The kickoff press conference was Wednesday April 3 at *The Lakers Center* in El Segundo featuring Metta World Peace and James Worthy joining Bill Sharman to make three generations of "Lakers Royalty." The winning ticket will be drawn and announced the week of the 2013 NBA Finals. Got a ticket?

If that weren't enough, the Sharmans are again supporting their Sixth Gala Event benefiting the *Toberman Neighborhood Center*. Hosted at the Manhattan Beach Marriott, this year's Western Forum for 20 years, are scheduled.

Later that day, I headed to El Segundo to the Lakers practice center to speak with Gary Vitti, the team's athletic trainer who will be sharing at the *Worthy Evening*. It was the first time I had ever been to the center and frankly, the building is most impressive. I parked in the large lot on the side of the building and walked toward the black gate beside an

"Yes, you heard me right. For \$10, you could own Bill Sharman's 2010 championship ring!"

Gala *A Worthy Evening* will honor Hall of Famer "Big Game" James Worthy on Saturday, April 6, at 6 p.m. with entertainment by the

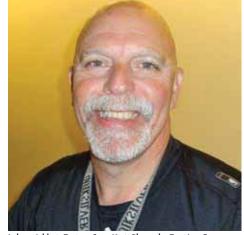


Bill Sharman wearing his 2010 ring he will raffle off.

incomparable Jeffrey Osborne with Master of Ceremonies Chris McGee of Time Warner Cable SportsNet. Special tributes to Worthy by other Showtime Lakers including Gary Vitti, Michael Cooper, Kurt Rambis, Norm Nixon, Mitch Kupchak and Claire Rothman, President and General Manager of The Great



intercom. I heard a voice even before I pressed the button asking me if I needed help. After saying I had an appointment with Mr. Vitti, I



Lakers Athletic Trainer Gary Vitti. Photos by TerriAnn Ferren. was buzzed in through the black iron gate. As I walked along the side of the building, I saw a huge team bus idling. Walking through the front door, I saw Jose Solano sitting behind the front desk. He happened to be the voice I spoke with behind the gate and he turned out to be a very pleasant man who loves his job. Jose told me he has worked at the Lakers office for five years and he lives in Torrance right near City Hall. Gary Vitti was finishing up with one of the players, so I waited a few minutes as very, very tall basketball players went in and out of the office.

Soon, Vitti came out to meet me wearing a Lakers t-shirt and escorted me into the Players Lounge where we had a chance to talk. I first asked him when he met James Worthy and he shared, "The first time he was on the map in my life, it was in the '82 NCAA Finals. I was working for the Jazz at the time and we were in the locker room getting ready for our game and we were watching the North Carolina game--I think they played Georgetown--in the NCAA Finals and Worthy lit 'em up...and it was like that guy can really play and there was a big play. This guy Freddy Brown threw James Worthy the ball at the end of the game and he sealed the victory for North Carolina and everybody that watched that game remembers that play and remembers James Worthy. Two years later, I was working with him. Was like when I saw him, 'I know who you are.""

Vitti went on to tell me that at that point, Worthy had only been in the league a couple of years and he had left the league and came back. He went on to say, "I left the Jazz and the University of Utah and I went up to the University of Portland and I was there for two years and then I came here in 1984. I knew who he [James Worthy] was obviously 'cuz of his college game and then in the two years that he had played here. Right around the time I got here in '84, he transitioned into the starting lineup and from there his career just took off--perennial all-star, bunch of rings. I think he has three championship rings, MVP

See Championship Ring, page 13

# **Chamber Members Shadow Principals**

### By Dylan Little

The Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce hosted its Principal for a Day event on Wednesday, March 27 in order to allow business owners and school administrators to see the successes and challenges facing the Torrance Unified School District. The Chamber hosted Principal for a Day as a way for both business and education to collaborate and find solutions to the challenges of creating a skilled workforce in a state ranked second to last in terms of academic spending.

As part of the event, I was made principal of Madrona Middle School, with Principal Ronald Richardson showing me the ropes. Unlike Torrance Police Chief John Neu, who used his powers to extend recess an extra two minutes. I didn't make use of my Principal powers except to congratulate students during the school's Student Achievement Recognition assembly. Instead, I shadowed Richardson as he visited classes and saw some of the talented and creative lessons students at Madrona were taking part in that day. During my visit, I observed some of Madrona's instructors, including District Teacher of the Year Marissa Stillittano, who helped bring in a grant from Exxon Mobile to sponsor the school's Science Olympiad team. I saw some innovative teaching methods, such as Jessica Shanks' history lesson that involved random and varied note-taking methods and creating 140-character (including spaces and punctuation) tweets from Civil War battles. Madrona has an impressive list of decorated teachers and the entire staff collaborates to share their expertise and teaching techniques. Richardson said everyone at Madrona works together. "Helping each other is what we do," said Richardson. "We want everyone to swim--we don't want anyone to sink." One focus area for Richardson is English

Language Development (ELD). Madrona has many students who don't speak English as a first language, and many who have just arrived in the United States from Asia. In Shanks' ELD class, while she provides individual instruction, her other students read along with recorded books that, while not written at grade level, make reading engaging.

I also met Madrona Assistant Principal Lisa Jones. While typically her job consists of helping troubled students, solving discipline problems and assisting Richardson with his administration duties, she has had another task added to her plate--teaching half a day of school. Because of budget cuts and reductions in teaching positions, Jones dedicates half her day to teaching, which helps keep class sizes down but also means that issues she would normally deal with have to be put off until her break periods. This delay means instances of bullying could go temporarily unpunished or stolen items could find their way off campus before she has a chance to look into the situation. Richardson and Jones would both like to see a full-time assistant principal position budgeted for Madrona. At the Torrance School Board's latest budget hearing, there was a recommendation to look into restoring funding for assistant principals. Still, it's unclear how or when Jones will return to being a full-time assistant principal. Principal for a Day is just one way the Chamber connects business and education. It also maintains the Adopt-a-School program that creates partnerships between schools and businesses that go beyond simply writing a charitable check to providing real-world experiences for students through career days or allowing employees volunteer opportunities as tutors, science fair judges or guest speakers. Chamber Board member Mark Waronek would See Principals, page 13



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# Library

is being sponsored by the Torrance Friends of the Library.

"They [panel] will be in charge of selecting the winners and the library is in charge of collecting all of the submissions. We believe that it is going to be very exciting and we are hoping that we get a lot of interest and we are also hoping that we see a lot of creativity," Vinke said. "Other libraries have done similar types of contests and some people have come

# from front page

toward the end of school when some of the kids might have already applied to college or graduated school."

The Video Challenge is also an opportunity for the library to expand on the types of activities it provides for its patrons in hopes that it becomes an ongoing event. "If this is successful, we hope that it will not be the only opportunity we have. My dream is that next year we can continue it, but I have to wait

# "The Torrance Public Library invites men, women and children, young and old, to enter the Torrance Library Video Challenge for a chance to win \$500"

up with some pretty creative things. We saw one library that had a video someone created where there was a zombie attack and people are running from the zombies, so someone goes into the library and finds a zombie survival guide on the shelf. People can really be as creative as they want."

To submit a video, all that is required is that the contestant be a library card holder. They don't have to necessarily live in the city. "We serve a lot of people, but the only caveat as far as submissions is that the people competing cannot be City employees because we want to make sure that everything is ethical. Somebody can create a video, apply for a card and obtain a library card and submit their video," Vinke said. "We are hoping to capture some students who think this might be a good project for them to work on during the spring semester and we are also trying to capture the students that will be getting out of school and have some free time to create a video. That is why we decided to make this and see how successful this one is," Vinke aid. "I hope that it energizes the young and old to tell the story about how the library has impacted their lives positively. Plus, we would love to be able to go back and say that a young and popular filmmaker started here before their film career took off. Everyone is welcome to submit and be creative in terms of explaining how the library has affected their lives positively. Someone can even say how the library helped them find a job or how a cultural event might have impacted their lives. We have met people who told us that they were never able to afford going to school, but because of the library they are self-educated. There are a lot of great stories out there and we are hoping to get an opportunity to hear them."

All submissions are due by July 31, 2013. For more information on the Video Challenge, persons interested can visit http://www. torranceca.gov/Library/videocontest/ or they can call (310) 618-5959. •

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# **Calendar**

## Saturday April 6

• Lily Cai Chinese Dance Company-Dynasties and Beyond, 8 p.m., James Armstrong Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive. For more information call (310) 781-7171. IUESDAY, APRIL 9

• 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.

## Wednesday, April 10

• California Retired Teachers Association (CalRTA) Division 46 luncheon meeting featuring George Nakano, 11:30 a.m., Hometown Buffet, 3520 W. Carson St. Cost is \$9. For more information call 310-371-0689. [HURSDAY, APRIL 1]

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

#### Saturday, April 13

• "I Hear America Singing" - Torrance Civic Chorale program, 8-10 pm, James R.

# **City Council**

Butler said she was excited to see the finished fields (she even joked about seeing Scotto running on them) after the involved process to make it possible. While the lease is only for eight years, she believes the City will be able to renew it a couple times over. "I'm sorry it took two-and-a-half years, but I'm so happy it's happening and I hope you have it for three decades," said Butler. "And with the way the State is being funded, I'm sure that will be the case."

While most on the dais had nothing but praise for the deal, Councilmember Bill Sutherland tempered his enthusiasm with a warning that the City might not be able to get a full eight years of use out of the agreement. "I am 100 percent behind this, but there is one thing I think the Armstrong Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive. For more information call (310) 781-7171. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

• Managing Anxiety, Stress and Depression, 7 p.m., Torrance Memorial Medical Center, 3330 Lomita Blvd. For more information call (310) 517-4711.

#### 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.

• The Fighters of Armageddon, 11 a.m., Western Museum of Flight, 3315 Airport Drive. For more information call (310) 326-9544.

#### 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.

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

# from front page

public should know," said Sutherland. "There is an 18-month caveat where the judicial system can kick us out of there after five years, so in essence we're only holding a five-year lease."

Despite Sutherland's misgivings, he still thought that finalizing the agreement was in the best interest of the residents of Torrance. "I still think it'd worth it, but I think this is something the Vity should work really hard on and try to extend it as soon as possible," said Sutherland. "I firmly believe nothing will ever happen to this property except that it stays with us forever. If we get five years out of it, great... But I think we'll get 20 or so."

The rest of the Council agreed that leasing the property was a good move and approved the lease unanimously. •





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# Academic Decathletes Celebrated By Dylan Little "We ran into a very bad situation when

The Torrance School Board meeting room was packed with some of the brightest high school students in the district and their families, as the Board recognized Academic Decathlon participants. The competition has 10 subjects: Art, Economics, Essay, Interview, Language & Literature, Math, Music, Social Science, Speech and the Super Quiz (which is a mix of science questions). Being successful is about more than just memorizing facts, though. Decathletes (as they are called) of all grade point averages have to be able to respond with both quick answers and thought-out timed essays.

While local high schools continued their strong showing in the academic competition, none of the Torrance School District's four campuses managed to take first place, which went to Beverly Hills High School. Torrance schools, especially West High, have a long record of LA County Decathlon wins and top 10 showings, but this year West got second place, South took seventh, Torrance took 11th and North came in at 15th. One challenge unique to this year is that nearly all the veteran decathletes had graduated, leaving capable but under-experienced students to take their place. Fortunately, many of this year's decathletes will be back for another round. North High coach Dylan Barth is already looking forward to working with his students next year. "This was a great year, but a difficult year as well," said Barth. "Only one team member was on the team last year--most of them are juniors. So we'll have to do this again next year."

Even though none of the schools took top honors, most of the decathletes in the audience were multiple gold, silver and bronze medalists. Each team had its students that excelled in different areas. West High's coach Ann Cortina was proud of all her students' performances in the competition. "These guys are awesome," said Cortina. "They are special and they are all so different."

Another challenge facing Torrance High's decathletes was that their coach Jeff Jones was facing down a battle with an illness that left him unable to lead his team. Former Academic Decathlon coach Susana Gonzales was called back in to lead the team. "This year was quite unusual for me because I already had been coaching for 10 years and said goodbye to it. Suddenly I got a phone call saying, 'How would you like to coach Academic Decathlon again?" said Gonzales.

"We ran into a very bad situation where coach Jeff Jones fell very ill, and it was my pleasure to step in for him."

Gonzales wasn't the only one to put in the extra effort for Jones. The students also rallied around their coach. Gonzales said that the team worked hard, dedicated their victories to Jones and pushed themselves in his honor. "The kids really did their very, very best for him," said Gonzales. "Throughout the entire semester, it was really about doing this for Mr. Jones and it was all of our pleasure. We just loved doing anything for that guy." During the competition, Jones was awarded the Roberta Kordich Coach Award, which is given for inspiring students to pursue academic excellence.

Decathlon success isn't just up to the students and coaches. It takes a large support network to keep the students focused and provide the materials they need to study for the big test. Cortina made sure the decathletes' parents were recognized for encouraging their children to study hard. "I want to thank the parents," said Cortina. "They contribute so much. They keep our students going. They are invaluable."

Another valuable contributor to the District's teams was the Torrance Education Foundation, which provided the funding for study materials. More than one coach said that competing would be impossible without the group's support. "I want to thank the Torrance Education Foundation. One of the things that makes this work is funding and they fund us very well," said Barth. "We feel very supported."

Torrance Education Foundation President Tom Brewer said the organization was happy to support these talented students. "We heard several coaches thank us," said Brewer. "We are very proud to be able to support them."

The Board also announced that May 8 would be California Day of the Teacher and School Nurses Day. Board member Terry Ragins emphasized the importance of saying thank you to these two groups of hard-working District employees. Torrance Teachers Association President Julie Shankle mentioned that school nurses are especially stretched thin, as there are only seven nurses for the District's 36 school sites. She invited the public to support their teachers and school nurses. "Join us in recognizing the hard work of the District's seven school nurses and the nearly 1,100 certificated educators," said Shankle.

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# **Community Briefs**

## Enter to Win Mini Cooper, Support Head Start Program

Pediatric Therapy Network (PTN) is excited to announce that South Bay MINI has donated a MINI-Cooper to help raise funds for PTN. Tickets are currently available for a chance to drive away in a new, sporty, blue 2012 MINI-Cooper S Coupe. All proceeds from this incredible opportunity drawing will support PTN's early intervention, therapy programs and Early Head Start program for families in need. Tickets can be purchased by downloading the reply form available at www.PediatricTherapyNetwork.org and mailing or bringing it to PTN located at 1815 West 213th Street, Suite 100, Torrance. Tickets can also be purchased over the phone at 310-328-0276. Tickets are \$25 each or 5 for \$100 and are available for purchase from now through May 31. The winner will be notified in early June and will be presented with the keys to the car at the grand opening of the South Bay MINI dealership on June 12.

## Community Invited to Healthy Kids Day at YMCA

On Saturday, April 27, the Torrance-South Bay YMCA is celebrating YMCA's Healthy Kids Day® with a free community event that will help inspire parents and kids to stay physically and intellectually active all summer long in an effort to address critical needs in health and education. Healthy Kids Day, the Y's national initiative to improve families' health and well-being, kick-starts healthier behaviors now and throughout the summer, a crucial out-of-school time for children's health. On Saturday, April 27, the Torrance-South Bay YMCA will celebrate a fun-filled Healthy Kids Day with featuring active play, educational activities, performances and prizes. Join us as we continue making YMCA's Healthy Kids Day® a movement that will encourage our families to live well, grow strong and thrive. For more information, contact the Torrance-South Bay YMCA at 310-325-5885 or visit www.ymcala.org/tsb. Kick Off Earth Month on April 6

The community is invited to join Ed Begley, Jr to celebrate the successful completion of the Green Idea House and to Kick Off Earth Month with the Green Idea House Dedication Ceremony. Participants can ride and drive the Mitsubishi i-MiEV on a first come, first serve basis. Rebate and product information from Partners of the Green Idea House including: Southern California Edison, South Bay Environmental Services Center (SBESC), Energy Upgrade California and more. There will be 2 public tours of the exterior of the Green Idea House at 11:30 a.m. and noon. The Green Idea House is located at 1556 Prospect Avenue in Hermosa Beach. Interested persons may register for the tours at www.sbesc.com/event-registration. For more information, interested persons call SBESC at 310-371-7222.

## **Register to Golf for a Cause** Pacific Audi, in partnership with Adams

## Community Invited to 'Send a Kid to Camp' Tourney

The Torrance-South Bay YMCA's 21st Annual "Send a Kid to Camp" Golf Tournament gives the community's youth the life-changing opportunity to attend summer camp, where they build confidence, make lifelong friends, and explore the great outdoors. The event will take place on Friday, May 17 beginning at 11 a.m. at the Los Verdes Gold Course in Rancho Palos Verdes. Activities of the day include lunch, mega putt contest, shotgun, reception, auction, dinner and awards. As the Y's largest event that raises funds to provide camperships to those in need, this event has raised more than \$1 million and benefited approximately 4,000 local children, giving them the wonderful opportunity to unplug from their everyday lives and reconnect with nature and friends. For more information, contact the Y's Assistant Director of Development JC Bass at jcbass@ ymcala.org or 213-639-7630 or our website www.ymcala.org/tsb.

## TUSD Commits to Recruiting STEM Teachers

100Kin10, a multi-sector partnership addressing the national imperative to train 100,000 science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) teachers by 2021, announced that the Torrance Unified School District has been accepted as a partner. USD will develop, inspire, and retain STEM teachers by creating and maintaining a team of expert practitioner leaders who will remain in the classroom while transforming the practices of their colleagues by 2015. Organizations are accepted as 100Kin10 partners following a rigorous vetting process conducted by the University of Chicago, which reviews the innovation and boldness of each organization's commitment(s) toward expanding, improving, and retaining the best of the nation's STEM teaching force, or building the 100Kin10 movement, while also determining the organization's capacity to meet the proposed commitment. Each nominated organization must demonstrate its unique resources and know-how, as well as a proven ability to deploy those assets creatively and strategically to address the nation's shortage of STEM teachers and ensure high-quality STEM learning for all students. A complete list of partners-with new partners highlighted-is available on the 100Kin10 website.

#### Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi Meets with Chamber

California Legislature Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance) met with the



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Elementary School and the Torrance Education Foundation, are hosting the Pacific Audi Quattro Cup. In the past two years, this annual fundraiser has raised money used to support educational programs at Adams Elementary School and the Torrance Education Foundation's efforts. To register for the Quattro Cup interested persons may visit www. adams.tusd.org and download the registration form. Register deadline is April 30 and the registration fee is \$145 per individual golfer or \$500 for a foursome. Registration includes a Shotgun Start and lunch. Participate in one of four contests to win special prizes. The winner of the 'Hole-in-one' contest will walk away with a brand new 2013 Audi AS Cabriolet from Pacific Audi. There are also sponsorship opportunities available. For more information, to register, or to become a sponsor, please contact James Han at 2103-447-1187 or by email at jameshan@msn.com. Los Verdes, nestled in the hills of Palos Verdes, is located at 7000 W. Los Verdes Drive in Rancho Palos Verdes.

Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Policy (GAP) group last week. Assemblymember Muratsuchi and his family have resided in Torrance for the past 20 years, he served on the Torrance Unified School Board and was sworn into office last December representing the 66th Assembly District which includes Torrance and several other South Bay cities and communities. His district office is located at 3460 Torrance Blvd, Suite 306, 310-316-2164. For more information on GAP or to present an issue affecting your business, contact Brian Rosario, Government Affairs Coordinator for TACC at 310-792-2339. Seen here, California Legislature Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi (on right) poses with Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce Chairman Aaron Aalcides. Photo by Charlene Nishimura. •



# **One Man's Opinion**

## **By Gerry Chong**

Recently I was privileged to have been invited to visit China by one of that nation's major manufacturing companies. It was a jawdropping experience I wish every American could have shared, because it highlighted for me the challenge our country faces. Fundamentally, as we flounder, the world is moving on and our relevance is shrinking.

Laws are strict and justice is swift, so there is no street crime. People respect this model city, so there is no graffiti and streets and gutters are immaculate.

China's economic growth has "slowed" from eight percent per year to 7.9 percent, and it has a plan to continue expanding at that rate for the next 10 years. Three legs will supercharge that growth: First, only half of its 1.3 billion live

"Laws are strict and justice is swift, so there is no street crime. People respect this model city, so there is no graffiti and streets and gutters are immaculate."

There is an old saying that love and hate are two sides of the same coin, since they display a passion. But the most wounding emotion of all is indifference. That is the emotion China expresses toward us--indifference and increasing irrelevance.

Before 1986, China was a closed, poor, agricultural country. Since then, in an economic explosion unmatched in the annals of history over a mere 27 years, the country has risen to the number two economy in the world. Importantly, it is poised to displace us in only three years...by 2016!

They have given the world a model city of the future in Shanghai. With 20 million people, high-rise buildings blanket its skyline. Twenty-story buildings are considered lowrise, 40-50 stories are the norm and their tallest reaches 100 stories. They have a new, brightly-lit subway system, two international airports, two high-speed Maglev train terminals, multiple freeways, and three elevated ring roads surrounding the civic center. Taxi service is as prevalent as in Manhattan. Fixed rail and traditional buses serve the local commuter. All street signs are in English and Chinese, and public announcements on airlines and public facilities are also bilingual.

Retailers range from Wal-Mart to Prada, and hotels range from motels to The Four Seasons. MacDonald's and KFC compete against local fast food establishments for market share.

in cities and generate most of its wealth. They plan on raising that to 70 percent in 20 years, thereby accelerating the nation's productivity. Second, while we in the U.S. spend 70 percent of our income, the Chinese spend only 35 percent. The government wants to encourage greater spending to increase domestic sales and improve the citizens' standard of living. Finally, with its enormous manufacturing base, the country is entering trade agreements all around the globe with the Chinese Yuan as the medium of payment--not the U.S. dollar.

Even the government's mission is changing. Its press has been clamoring for "change," declaring that change is not just about moving boxes around on an organization chart. The cost of government must be reduced and its influence reduced. Government should provide direction, but not micromanage the economy. Accordingly, in his first week in office, President Xi directed his cabinet to write a statement of purpose for each department and streamline each department in accordance with its purpose. He has given them a timeframe within which to accomplish that purpose.

While we devote our nation's wealth to entitlements, supporting individuals in a flagging economy, China is using its wealth to build a modern infrastructure, enabling individuals to use their own initiative to join this race to the top.

Who will win? •



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# Another Man's Opinion

# **Trust from International Community**

## **By Cristian Vasquez**

America's image at home and abroad has varied depending on several conditions such as the global economy or our military activities abroad. However, it's hard to argue that the person who sits in the White House has significant influence over how the world perceives us as a nation, as well as how we define ourselves as Americans. While public opinion will never unanimously favor Americans, there is a lot defined by the actions of our Commander-in-Chief.

The years that the Bush Administration was in power were a time of dwindling American popularity abroad. President Obama's first term in office gave the international community a sense of ease as did his campaign-promised "change and hope" during his time in office. Unfortunately, people feel--and have legitimate reason to do so--that the President has failed to deliver on the change and hope. With the ongoing use of drones, it is difficult to justify that things are any different now than they were six years ago. However, Obama's recent trip to Israel and Palestine was a significant step in improving the perception the international community has about Americans.

It is without a doubt that the President's visit to these two rivaling nations will in the immediate future do little to end tensions and hostilities. It is unrealistic to think that a 50-hour visit to the region will put an end to the conflict that has defined the relationship between both countries for such a long time. However, the crucial benefit to the President sitting down with leaders from both nations

on the same trip is that it slimly reignites the prospect of peace talks between the two nations while proving to the world that American leaders can do more for peace than invading and bombing countries.

Was the visit anything more than a public relations stunt? Maybe it was. Was the President visiting the area for no more than reasons tied to American interests? It is very likely. Still, from 2000-2008, we became a nation that acted with complete disregard toward the interest, safety and opinion of other states in the international community. We ignored the UN's advice to hold off on invading Iraq in our never-ending search for weapons of mass destruction and as a result we became engaged in a war that has yet to fully end and that delivered a huge blow to our international image.

It is sad to think that there are people who believe that we should not be concerned with the way the international community views Americans. The truth is that when America is viewed in a positive light, we as a country are able to achieve more abroad. International leaders are more responsive to our ideas and more likely to accommodate us in a time of need. The idea of doing what we want and using force to obtain our goals will only keep us from achieving the levels of respect that America once joined. President Obama's visit to Israel and Palestine will not end their conflict nor completely restore the world's trust in us. However, in order to earn trust and respect, one must take a series of small steps and this recent visit is just one step in that series. •





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#### By Adam Serrao

The long-lasting tradition of winning seems to be over in Westwood, at least for the time being. With their 86-63 loss to Minnesota in the first round of this year's NCAA tournament, the UCLA Bruins finished a year in which they not only failed to win the Pac-12 tournament against Oregon, but also failed to advance in March Madness, where for all teams it truly means the most. For that reason, Ben Howland not only completed his 10th season with UCLA, but also completed his tenure as the head coach of the Bruins. Howland finished at UCLA with a career record of 233-107 with four conference titles in the past eight years and three consecutive Final Four appearances from 2006-2008. Since then, however, it has been nothing but disappointment for Howland and Bruin fans everywhere and for that reason, UCLA has chosen to go another route in the hiring of former New Mexico coach Steve Alford.

There is no doubt that a change needed to take place for the UCLA basketball team. Since the glory days of Howland's tenure with the Bruins, UCLA has missed the NCAA tournament completely in two of the three seasons before this year. The Bruins also had a losing record in the 2009-2010 season and have won only two NCAA tournament games since 2008. "As I looked at the entire program and where we were--especially headed into the next year, which is obviously where we need to look at this point in time--I felt that now was the appropriate time to make the decision to make a change and to get a fresh start," explained UCLA athletic director Dan Guerrero. That fresh start will be at the expense of Howland and to the benefit of Alford. After landing the nation's second-ranked recruiting class, it was thought by many that this would be the year that Howland would get the program turned around. When all was said and done, however, UCLA failed once again to make its mark amongst the elite programs in the nation.

Losses to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, USC and Washington State all complicated the situation for Howland, who was left with only an eight-man rotation after two players left the program midseason. A key injury to second-leading scorer Jordan Adams further complicated things for Howland and his team's success, as they lost in back-to-back games to end the season entirely. The days of players like Kevin Love, Russell Westbrook, Darren Collison and Arron Afflalo seem to have passed Howland by. His reputation for landing top recruits, despite this year's highly ranked class, had all but diminished. UCLA has had at least 11 players transfer out of the program in the last five seasons while several others have chosen to leave school early for the NBA. This year's top-ranked recruit, Shabazz Muhammad, failed to live up to expectations seemingly all season long, which illustrated yet another example of how Howland has seemingly lost touch with his players over the last four to five years.

Enter Steve Alford. Alford led New Mexico to a 29-6 record this past season while acquiring the Mountain West conference regular season and postseason tournament title. Alford's Lobos wound up losing to Harvard in the first round of the NCAA tournament, but as a head coach, he has either won or shared the Mountain West conference title four times in his six seasons at the school. Alford's coaching career began at Southwest Missouri State before he moved to Iowa and then to New Mexico and now UCLA. "Steve is the perfect fit for UCLA," Guerrero said. "He is part of the storied history of the game of college basketball and understands the tradition and uniqueness of UCLA. Yet he also connects with a new generation of players and brings an up-tempo and team-oriented brand of basketball to Westwood." Perhaps one of the biggest pluses about Alford to Bruin fans everywhere is his ability to recruit in the city of Los Angeles and connect with those recruits. Alford recruited Kendall Williams away from UCLA and to New Mexico. Williams later went on to be the MWC player of the year.

Steve Alford will bring something to UCLA that it hasn't had in years. As the head coach, he will develop a brand for the program that catches people's eyes. Connecting with players like Shabazz Muhammad should be no issue for Alford and the pressure of winning is something that he can live up to as he did in the small basketball town in New Mexico. In addition to that, there is no denying that Alford wants to be in L.A. "You're talking about the premier basketball program in the country," Alford said in his introductory press conference. "This is an opportunity that doesn't come around every day. We've been able to put in place a program, with a high academic grad rate, APR and championships." Now all that's left is for the coach to assemble his team.

What Alford must do is recruit like all of the elite programs in the nation in order to bring a winning brand of basketball back to UCLA. Before he does that, however, he must re-recruit his own team. Getting players like Muhammad and Adams to not only return to the team but to buy in with his coaching style should be of primary concern. Should Alford do that, UCLA fans everywhere will have no problem forgetting the name of Ben Howland while easily embracing a winning style of basketball that has eluded them for so long now.

# **Up and Adam** Saxons Ready to Make a Run

#### By Adam Serrao

Coming off of difficult back-to-back losses two weeks ago against West High and Palos Verdes Peninsula, the North High Saxons baseball team and head coach Mike Demaria knew that they had to get things turned around quickly and looked toward league play as the perfect opportunity to do so. With dominant pitching and bats that have been lighting up lately, the Saxons are seizing their opportunity and getting hot at precisely the right time. North was able to extinguish a hot Lawndale Cardinals team and not only beat them by a final score of 5-3 last Wednesday night at North High, but also took their show on the road. Behind starting pitcher Jacob Peck, the Saxons beat the Cardinals in back-to-back games by taking a 9-1 victory at Lawndale on Friday night as well.

The Saxons have been getting started off quickly nowadays, giving their team an advantage over the opposition. This in turn has led to their current four-game winning streak. In those four games, North has outscored its opponents by a total of 18-1 in just the first inning alone. It was no different against Lawndale in the second game of back-to-backs League standings above both Lawndale and South High. The two victories over Lawndale were important ones for the Saxons. Should there be a tie in the standings come the end of the season, North's two wins will give it the tiebreaker and hand the team the Pioneer League crown.

#### SOUTH VS. WEST

The South High Spartans haven't lost many games this season. Perhaps the one loss that hurt the most, however, was the one that they suffered back in the beginning of March when they took on their cross-town rivals, the West High Warriors. The Warriors (9-3) beat the Spartans 6-0 that day and then went on to win their next three games in a row in what was part of a nine-game winning streak at the time. The Spartans made sure that winning streak was good and done as they took on the Warriors this time around, jumping on West early to take a 4-2 road victory and exact revenge against their non-league rival.

Christian D'Emilia has been a solid starter for the Warriors all season long, but last Wednesday night against South, the Spartans jumped all over him quickly. "Christian couldn't find his rhythm early," West head coach Juan Cueva

"With dominant pitching and bats that have been lighting up lately, the Saxons are seizing their opportunity and getting hot at precisely the right time."

last Friday as the Saxons put three runs on the board in the first inning once again. "It's hard to recover and compete when you start off giving up three runs in the first inning," opposing head coach Tony Parente related. Those three runs were all that North and solid starter Peck would need to solidify a win on the night. Peck pitched a complete game, allowing the only run of the contest for Lawndale in the seventh and final inning. "He's been on all season," said Demaria of his ace starter. "He's really developed into a solid pitcher. He pounded the zone all day." The complete game victory was Peck's second of the young season and the starter looks to be developing into one of the Pioneer League's most dominating pitchers. "I had a good defense behind my back, so I was pretty confident with them helping me out," said Peck of his performance. The defense that was behind him wasn't doing all of the work, however. Peck held the second place Cardinals to just four hits on the night as he said, "but give credit to South. They came out and swung the bats .: The Spartans certainly did just that, putting together one run in the first, two in the second and another in the third to give the team an early 4-0 lead. The Warriors have a tendency to score runs late and come from behind, though. Against the Tartars, they scored seven runs in the sixth inning to take a 7-4 win. Against the Saxons, they scored twice in the bottom of the seventh for a 4-3 come-from-behind victory. Even against South, West scored its only runs of the game in the bottom of the seventh, but this time it wasn't enough as they Warriors ultimately fell by a final score of 4-2.

Starting pitcher Matt Mogollon was the key to the game for the Spartans, giving up only the two runs on eight hits with just one walk and five strikeouts in what was his fourth complete game of the young season. "Matt stayed strong throughout," South head coach Grady Sain related. "He'd only thrown 65 pitches going into the last inning, so we felt he was strong enough to finish." Now the Spartans (8-3) will look to remain strong behind Mogollon and keep up in the race for first place in the Pioneer League. South will begin league play this week with a two-game series against the Torrance Tartars.

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retired 15 of 17 batters at one point, including eight in a row, striking out five and walking just two in the winning effort.

In addition to the defense demonstrated by the Saxons, the team's bats were on full display as well. Besides the three runs that they put up in the first inning, North also scored three in the third and three in the seventh to come to the eventual 9-1 victory. "It was real important that we score early because if you let these guys hang around, they're going to beat you," said Demaria. Fortunately for the Saxons, they were able to score early and often behind their starting pitcher, who was the player of the game. Peck wasn't only effective on the mound, but the pitcher also accounted for two runs, scoring twice on the night. Kevin Cole was the major catalyst for the Saxons on offense, going three for four from the plate with an RBI. Devin Nakagawa also came through for the club, going two for five with a double and three RBIs.

The Saxons' (9-5, 2-0) winning streak now has the team sitting in first place in the Pioneer

#### **TORRANCE HIGH**

Coming off of an optimistic two-game sweep of the Redondo Union Sea Hawks, things were looking up for the Torrance Tartars and head coach Ollie Turner. Another victory against Bishop Montgomery had the Tartars riding a three-game winning streak while climbing back into the Pioneer League race. Torrance's streak ended unceremoniously when Culver City came to town, however, and delivered the Tartars a 6-4 nonleague loss on their home field last Friday night. Kyle Mitchell had a home run for the Tartars while Michael Strosnider, Manny Olloque and Jason DiAngelo all doubled to lead the Torrance offense. Torrance (6-7) will look to get things turned around as it kicks off league play this week with a two-game series against the South High Spartans. •

and how to bang them

by Chef Shafer

Here 21 years at the Depot, as both chef and owner, I have seen lots of trends in food and dinning. But no matter what the trend is, I always come back to the basics of comfort foods.

These are the kinds of foods that bring you back to you childhood or to a time when life was not so complicated and hurried.

Some of these foods are sweet, some are savory. But for me it always comes back to BBQ! That sweet sticky smell of burning sugar and meat just sets my soul a fire. With Spring in our grasp, we need to fire up the old BBQ and get the neighborhood smoking.

# Here is a fun way to get the family involved in the BBQ Sunday dinner:

These ingredients will be incorporated into the potato salad recipe.

- The kids can peel 6 carrots and then grate them on the large hole of the grater.
- Let them peel the 1 dozen eggs after you have hard-boiled them.

Have the kids peel 12 ears of corn and then wipe them down, set aside for grilling. **The Chef** 



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



# **Creamy Roasted Potato Salad**

OTS N' P

25 to 30 red skin potatoes, washed

1/2 cup olive oil

- 2 tablespoons kosher salt
- 1 tablespoon black pepper

Mix together and roast in 350 degree oven for 30 to 40 minutes or until tender. Let them cool, then place in a lager mixing bowl.

Add 2 cups mayo <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup Dijon mustard the grated carrots and the hard-boiled eggs, chopped 1 cup seasoned rice vinegar

Mix together (give the kids rubber gloves and let them mix it with their hands) If it's too dry, add light water or chicken bullion

# The BBQ Sauce

4 cups BBQ sauce I like to start with a generic, bland BBQ sauce then spice it up with the following:

<sup>1</sup>/2 cup brown sugar

- 6 cloves of garlic, chopped
- 1 teaspoon ground corriander
- 1 tablespoon black pepper
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup soy sauce

Mix together and use as paint for what ever you're grilling.

While you are out at the grill, take the ears of corn and coat them lightly with olive oil, salt, and pepper and grill them for about five minutes turning constantly. Now you have your potato salad, corn on the cob, and the BBQ meats of your choice- and the Sunday meal is ready! Have fun burning up the place!







# **Kiwanis Cleans, Beautifies John Adams Elementary**

Photos by Chris Nishimura

The Torrance Kiwanis Club along with dozens of volunteers including family members and local high school service clubs hosted a Kiwanis One Day Campus Clean Up and Beautification on March 23 at the John Adams Elementary School, located at 2121 W. 238th Street. Volunteers donned working gloves and hats to clean and beautify the school grounds. Carina Sokolich served as the Chair of this event.



Some of the dozens of volunteers who showed up for the Kiwanis One Day Campus Clean Up and Beautification at the John Adams Elementary School in Torrance.



Les Grundhaus takes aim for the campus cleanup.



Kiwanis Club members relay instructions for the campus clean up.

Kay Grundhaus spruces up the garden.



L to R: Several volunteers from Torrance High were present including Jaclyn Chung, Maryah Ramos, Erika Tagle, Therese Javier and Leah David.



Curtis Jones, Jr. tends to the garden.





Left to right: Torrance High's Aaron Sindac, Elizabeth Reid, Sarah Vargas and Lee-Anne Aranda.



Left to right: Diana Smith, former Principal of John Adams Elementary, Kay Griffith and David Kuroda of the Torrance Kiwanis Club.



3-year-old Natasha Sokolich also lends a hand.



Left to right: Volunteers included Jeremy Sokolich, Chris Perez, Chantalle Perez, Jessica Morales and Cheyanne Hilke.



Torrance Kiwanis Club President Jennifer Frew.



Left to right: Dr. Kumi Small, Principal of John Adams Elementary School has help from Nicole Wong, Aishwarya Nair, Mohini Patel, Anisha Patel, Rohini Patal, Philip Smart and Stacy Moon - representing Torrance High, South High and Palos Verdes High.

# Herald Publications Designer Makes a Name in Art World

#### By Brian Simon

It's not too often you hear that the reason someone became an artist was because their dad was a plumber. Yet such was the original inspiration for Herald Publications freelance A self-professed workaholic, Patty fell in love with the on-set stylist, Bruce Watson. "In the late '70s, Bruce convinced me to take a vacation, though I didn't really know how," she said. "He said, 'You'll know how—we're



Capturing the personalities of loved companions in a commissioned pet portrait.

graphic designer Patty Grau, who has crafted a burgeoning side career as an accomplished painter, printer and sculptor with ongoing exhibits in the Southland including a monthly show at the Lazy Dog Studio in San Pedro. As a creative kid growing up in Pasadena, Patty spent countless hours in her father's shop and learned about the simple joys of making things. "Mom was the secretary and would take me with her to the shop. Left to my own devices, going to Hawaii.' So I took a portfolio of my retail advertising work along with my bathing suit and set up appointments on different islands." That vacation landed her a job with Liberty House in Honolulu, during which time Patty also gave birth to their son William. But after having a child her priorities changed and being away from family and friends made the California girl homesick, so she returned to open her own graphic design business that

"It's one of the magical aspects of art when you have a vision you work to achieve and the obsession takes care of the grief and the pain and helps you focus on something other than just yourself."

I played with tools, ceramic tiles and metals," she said. "I learned from the men who worked there that if there was something you need, you just make it yourself. That stayed with me."

After graduating from Pasadena City College with a degree in commercial design, Patty embarked on a career in retail advertising starting as a layout artist for newspaper ads and eventually becoming the art director for full-color catalogs of major department stores such as Neiman-Marcus, Bullock's and Robinson's May, while working all over the country. Although she dabbled in painting and did illustrations as part of her job, Patty wasn't interested in fine art at this point. "I always loved art, but I was focused on a career in advertising," she said. she has maintained ever since. She joined the Herald in 2010 on a part-time basis, giving her ample opportunity to concentrate on her art.

That art began to truly take flight in the late '80s. Though not really serious about it at the time, Patty had taken a few art classes and began producing paintings that were increasingly more "sculptural" in feel. "I was adding a lot of thickness and texture to large acrylic paintings and my best artist friend, Paul Sherman, asked if I had ever looked into sculpture," she said. "I was astounded because I had never considered 3-D at all. Then I began taking beginning sculpture with Andy Fagan at El Camino College and it changed my life."

Next, Patty went into bronze casting, auditing

a class every semester for the next decade taught by renowned sculptor Terrell O'Donnell. This allowed her to create increasingly larger works, but it also pigeonholed her own growth to an extent. When budget cuts prohibited students from repeating classes without graduating, it freed Patty to venture on her own and explore new materials as well as her growing interest in abstract, elongated pieces. Her new passion is wood, though she also works with clay, cement, bronze and stone. "Since I don't have access to kilns and other equipment, I can still work on larger pieces with wood. It was a natural leap for me," she said. "I love the tree, I love the wood and I love the grain. It's become my style to leave some of the outer edges, to the bark, to remind us of its origins."

Another advantage of working with wood is a relatively low price point. "People see what I'm doing and they offer me some tree they've cut out of their yard," Patty said. Since the wood needs to cure before it can be used, Patty essentially lives with the tree for awhile. During the curing process, Patty's mother passed away in November. In December, Patty began to sculpt the four-foot cedar trunk into a squid that she completed in early March for a gallery showing. "It's one of the magical aspects of art when you have a vision you work to achieve and the obsession takes care began entering art shows during the time she was taking classes at El Camino and persevered despite steady rejections early on. Once she was finally selected for a show, it got her on a roll with eventual exhibits in Downtown Los Angeles, Echo Park, Long Beach and at the Zask Gallery in Rolling Hills Estates, among other venues. She also curated and arranged expos for the Redondo Beach Art Group and is part of the five-woman Studio 1613 in Torrance—a tight group of artist friends who get together weekly to chat, sip some wine and make monoprints together.

Perhaps Patty's most memorable exhibition was during the 2011 Power of Art show in Redondo Beach when she stepped outside of her comfort zone and created a mixedmedia installation piece in a three-sided room inspired by the tsunami that had recently struck Japan. "I was so moved by the heroism of the Japanese people and found the theme of 'Gaman', which is interpreted as taking the worst that could happen to you and coming out of it with grace and dignity," Patty said. Using pizza box tiles with foam to replicate the waves, Patty glued them to one side of the wooden structure and then affixed plastic toys, fake Monopoly money and other debris. "Seven is a sacred number-so I had seven soft mannequins hanging from the ceiling all



Patty has an artistic eye for finding the hidden beauty. Squid sculpture in beginning stages. Photos courtesy of Patty Grau.

of the grief and the pain and helps you focus on something other than just yourself," she said. "It's a great blessing to have this ability and I think most artists feel the same way."

Recently, a forester friend from Santa Cruz brought Patty a huge piece of walnut now curing in her driveway. She plans to make a whale sculpture and hopes to display it at Lazy Dog Studio, where Patty is part of a stable of artists whose pieces are shown the first Thursday of every month at the gallery. She dressed in Japanese clothing. A projector shot into the darkened interior images of Japan from *Godzilla* to classic art to Hello Kitty all showing in a loop. The intent was to come around to the front, step inside and be engulfed by floating bodies and the changing light. It was fantastic—people were very moved."

Now more motivated than ever, Patty is happy to continue her work for Herald Publications--calling it "the best job" she has had in many years-which allows her the time to come up with more ideas to further her art. Patty has sold paintings, monoprints and sculptures through the art galleries and exhibitions she participates in. She also takes commissions for pet portraits and makes cement planters she calls "instant artifacts." The secret recipe deteriorates a bit in the molding process and though sturdy, they appear to have been around for centuries. "It's difficult to sell art in this economy-that's why I have a few other more commercial ventures." she admitted. Embracing technology didn't hurt either. Once limited to using only chisels and other old school hand tools due to a "fear of power tools" that made her art process painfully slow, Patty can now be seen wielding a chainsaw in her driveway, thanks to a friend's urging. "That set me free," she said. "Since then, I got an air compressor and am using all different kinds of power tools to help finish the work. In the end, there is still handwork with the details and the sanding. It's taking something that is one thing and changing it to something else. That's what I love the most about art ... " Patty Grau's work can be seen the first Thursday of each month at Lazy Dog Studio, 361 W. 7th Street in San Pedro. To inquire about her services, call 310-540-3315 or follow her on Facebook.



Patty Grau with her finished wood Squid sculpture and ocean paintings now showing at the Lazy Dog Studio in San Pedro. All are part of her ongoing underwater life series.

# Helping the Brain Use Alternative Fuel May Ease Symptoms of Alzheimer's

(BPT) - Whether a patient faces a simple health problem, such as a head cold, or one as complex as Alzheimer's disease, relieving the symptoms is often as important as resolving the issue itself. Yet for the more than five million Americans affected by Alzheimer's, treating the symptoms is even more vital.

Some of the early signs of Alzheimer's include memory loss that disrupts daily life, mood and personality changes, and difficulty solving otherwise simple daily tasks.

Alzheimer's disease is the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States, according to the Alzheimer's Association. Of the top 10 causes of death, it is the only one for which there is no cure or preventive measure. However, research suggests that addressing one early facet of the disease - decreased blood sugar in brain cells, also known as diminished cerebral glucose metabolism (DCGM) - may help relieve symptoms for certain people with mild to moderate Alzheimer's.

In a healthy brain, glucose is the primary energy source. A brain affected by Alzheimer's doesn't process glucose into energy as efficiently as a healthy brain.

"Unlike other cells in the body that can metabolize fats as fuel, brain cells rely on glucose (sugar) for their primary energy source," says Dr. Richard S. Isaacson, associate professor of clinical neurology and vice chair of education at the University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine. "One aspect of Alzheimer's is that it hinders the brain's ability to use glucose, and this significantly affects brain function."

"DCGM is an early feature of Alzheimer's disease, represented by region-specific declines in brain glucose - or energy - metabolism," Isaacson says. "DCGM correlates with both the cognitive decline and the pathology associated with Alzheimer's. Research suggests that addressing DCGM may help mitigate symptoms for some patients." Providing brain cells with an alternative energy source may help ease the effects of DCGM, while enhancing memory and cognitive function in Alzheimer's patients. One prescription-only medical food aims at helping Alzheimer's patients by addressing DCGM - Axona by Accera, Inc.

The easy-to-mix, once-daily drink is currently the only prescription therapy for patients with mild to moderate Alzheimer's that addresses the link between the brain's inability to process and use glucose with the degenerative symptoms of Alzheimer's by providing the brain with an alternative energy source. The liver digests and metabolizes Axona to produce the naturally occurring compounds - ketones- that the brain can use as an alternative energy source. Patients or caregivers mix the powder with other liquids or foods and take it once a day in conjunction with commonly prescribed Alzheimer's medications.

"More research is necessary to determine the exact reasons why DCGM can have profound effects on cognition over the long term," Isaacson says. "When blood glucose drops rapidly, significant decline in cognitive function occurs and may be accompanied by confusion, coma and even brain death."

While Axona is not a cure for Alzheimer's, it can help some patients mitigate the symptoms of the disease. Doctors and caregivers of patients using Axona have reported patients appear more alert and engaged in daily activities and conversations. "If you or a family member experience symptoms such as poor short-term memory, changes in behavior and difficulty with language, see your doctor for a full evaluation," says Isaacson.

To learn more about Alzheimer's disease, visit www.alz.org, the website of the Alzheimer's Association. For more information on DCGM and Axona, visit www.aboutaxona.com. •

# **Finance**

# **Prepare Now for Natural Disasters**

## By Jason Alderman

Natural disasters are inevitable, unpreventable and often come without warning. No part of the world seems to be spared, whether it's a hurricane, earthquake, tornado, drought or flood. Even though such catastrophes can't always be predicted, their likely aftermaths often can, including property loss, power

or water service disruption, scarcity of food and supplies or overtaxed relief organizations.

Superstorm Sandy was a powerful reminder of why it's vital to develop a family disaster plan. By planning ahead and knowing what you might need under dire circumstances, you can save yourselves a lot of time, money and grief.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers great suggestions for developing a family emergency plan, building an emergency supply kit, and learning what to do before, during and after emergencies – even a plan for family pets (www.fema.gov).

Once your physical safety has been assured, you'll inevitably need to access important financial and legal records, whether to file insurance claims, apply for loans or simply withdraw cash. Taking these few steps now will make accessing such information much easier when the time comes:

Create a log of all account numbers, tollfree emergency numbers, contact information and passwords for your bank and credit card accounts, loans, insurance policies, utilities and other important accounts. Update it regularly and save copies in secure, offsite locations such as a safety deposit box or with a trusted friend living in another area. You can also email the list to yourself in an encrypted, password-protected file, save it on a CD or USB drive, or use a cloud-based storage service like Dropbox that will let you access it from any Internet connection.

Make PDF copies of tax returns, insurance policies and legal documents and save offsite in the same manner as above, in case your files or computer are destroyed by fire or flood. Also make digital copies of invaluable family photos, documents and memorabilia that money can't replace.

Document your possessions. If you should ever need to file an insurance claim or claim a tax deduction for lost, stolen or damaged property, it'll be much

easier if you have an inventory of everything you own – photos or videotape are even better. A few available tools:

The IRS' Casualty, Theft and Loss Workbook (IRS Publication 584) includes a worksheet for cataloging and estimating the value of your possessions.

The Insurance Information Institute maintains a free, secure online home inventory software application that lets you access your home inventory, anywhere, anytime (www.iii.org).

Your insurance company's website likely contains a downloadable inventory form.

Make sure you fully understand what is and isn't covered by your insurance policies for natural disasters. You may need additional coverage for damage associated with hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes and other weather conditions. Also:

Document any damage with photos or video before you start cleanup or repairs.

Keep track of expenses you incur to prevent further damage, for temporary housing or to move your possessions for safekeeping, as they may be reimbursable under your insurance claim.

Don't delay submitting your claim, since insurers often settle claims in the order filed.

FEMA provides information on how you might be able to get government assistance before, during and after a disaster at www. disasterassistance.gov.

Bottom line: Develop a family emergency plan now and make sure everyone knows what to do when disaster strikes. •



## By Glen Abalayan, **Torrance High School Student**

Standardized education is stifling creative growth. By condensing the learning process into standards, the education system is preventing students from thinking critically about the subject at hand. Alongside students, teachers are also restrained from teaching outside of the

students must fit in, standardized education is gradually shredding away attributes that do not immediately contribute to an increase in test scores--namely those revolving around creative thinking. Today's education system should instill into students a love for learning and an embrace of their own individuality instead of producing students whose creative

"Today's education system should instill into students a love for learning."

box because of how they have to complete a set quota of standards by a certain time. This stifling of creativity will only hinder growth, as it will raise a generation of great test takers but poor thinkers. In a world of mass production centered on efficiency, it is increasingly difficult to think against the grain.

It's ironic how colleges want creative thinkers, but focus their admissions towards students with high test scores. High scores are not an accurate gauge for creativity as much as a high sense of creativity is an inaccurate assumption of high test scores. Unfortunately, there is currently no legal method of measuring creativity on transcripts. This lack of recognition causes creativity to take a backseat in favor of things that can be measured--namely test scores. Unless creativity is given as much of a priority as scores in transcripts, colleges will get students who do well at retaining information but do poorly in using this knowledge to think critically.

Another factor stifling creative growth is the standardized education system. The system's expectation of having every student understand a broad concept in nine months prevents teachers from delving deeper into the subject at the risk of falling behind--which in turn prevents students from thinking critically on the given subject. By creating a mold all spirit has been corroded away in exchange for the tangible results of high test scores.

I am not biting the hand that gives to me. The ability to be writing this very article is due to the culmination of education I have received throughout the years. It is the system's method of placing creative thinking as one of its lesser priorities that I cannot understand. Creativity drives innovation, which in turn brings growth. Being such an important resource towards growth, it is confusing why standardized education seeks to take it away from its students.

Albert Einstein once stated, "Everyone is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing it is stupid." This can be applied to creative students who are not proficient in test taking. Although these students possess great minds, they unfortunately cannot receive the recognition they need because there is currently no way to measure their imaginative ability. Creativity should be given as high of a priority as test scores if colleges and companies want to attract the critical thinkers and innovators they long to recruit. Regardless of how much today's education system tries to deprioritize creativity, students should not allow themselves to disregard it in exchange for the short-lived guise of high scores. •

# Latest News from Mars: Mountain **Panorama, Water-Bearing Minerals**

## By Bob Eklund

Rising above the present location of NASA's Mars rover Curiosity, higher than any mountain in the 48 contiguous states of the United States, Mount Sharp is featured in new imagery from the rover. A pair of mosaics assembled from dozens of telephoto images shows Mount Sharp in dramatic detail. This layered mound, also called Aeolis Mons, in the center of Gale Crater rises more than three miles above the crater-floor location of Curiosity. Lower slopes of Mount Sharp remain a destination for the mission, though the rover will first spend many more weeks around a location called "Yellowknife Bay," where it has found interior of a rock on Mars.

"With Mastcam, we see elevated hydration signals in the narrow veins that cut many of the rocks in this area," said Melissa Rice of the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena. "These bright veins contain hydrated minerals that are different from the clay minerals in the surrounding rock matrix."

The Russian-made Dynamic Albedo of Neutrons (DAN) instrument on Curiosity detects hydrogen beneath the rover. At the rover's very dry study area on Mars, the detected hydrogen is mainly in water molecules bound into minerals. "We definitely see signal variation along the traverse from the landing

and the second of the second of the evidence of a past environment favorable for

microbial life.

Using infrared-imaging capability of a camera on the rover and an instrument that shoots neutrons into the ground to probe for hydrogen, researchers have found more hydration of minerals near the clay-bearing rock here than at locations Curiosity visited earlier.

The rover's Mast Camera (Mastcam) can also serve as a mineral-detecting and hydrationdetecting tool, reported Jim Bell of Arizona State University, Tempe. "Some iron-bearing rocks and minerals can be detected and mapped using the Mastcam's near-infrared filters."

Ratios of brightness in different Mastcam near-infrared wavelengths can indicate the presence of some hydrated minerals. The technique was used to check rocks in the Yellowknife Bay area where Curiosity's drill last month collected the first powder from the

point to Yellowknife Bay," said DAN Deputy Principal Investigator Maxim Litvak of the Space Research Institute, Moscow. "More water is detected at Yellowknife Bay than earlier on the route. Even within Yellowknife Bay, we see significant variation."

Findings from the Canadian-made Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer (APXS) on Curiosity's arm indicate that the wet environmental processes that produced clay at Yellowknife Bay did so without much change in the overall mix of chemical elements present. The elemental composition of the outcrop Curiosity drilled into matches the composition of basalt. For example, it has basalt-like proportions of silicon, aluminum, magnesium and iron. Basalt is the most common rock type on Mars. It is igneous, but it is also thought to be the parent material for

See Looking Up, page 14

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# Championship Ring

## of the finals in '88, I think."

Vitti has been the athletic trainer for the Lakers for 29 seasons and he told me that he has been around the league and great teams a long time--going to the finals eight times. Wow. He said, "Since I've been here, we've won 12 times." When I asked him about being the top athletic trainer in the league, he humbly told me, "I don't know where I stand in terms of quality of an athletic trainer as compared with the other athletic trainers around the league. I think they're all very talented guys...but I am probably the luckiest one. I'm with this team." No kidding. Then I asked Vitti the obvious question: "Do you like your job?" He replied, "Most of the time. It's not really a job. It's more of a lifestyle. I love what I do. I absolutely love the Los Angeles Lakers. It is part of who I am. It is part of my identity."

Vitti shared a story with me about traveling. "The travel is difficult, especially if you are married and have a family," he said. "It is hard on you physically and hard on your family emotionally. We travel first class. We do the best job we can do for our players and our staff, but it's still taxing. There are times when I've gotten to my hotel room in another city. We play in one city, we leave right after the game and go to the next city for the next night and when I get to my room, in front of the door is a USA Today newspaper with the article with the game we just played in

# from page 2

another city! So someone wrote the article, they printed the article and they delivered it to the hotel room before I could get there."

Traveling did sound like a lot, but then Vitti smiled and told me what keeps him going. Winning. He told me winning makes him want to go to work and winning makes him want to come back. Losing is tough--so if you can win more than you lose, then you have more "better days."

"My happiness really truly relies in the fact that I have the health of all my loved ones," said Vitti. "My mom and dad are 92 years old and in great health mentally and physically. Good genes. I don't think they've abused their bodies as much as I have [with the travel], so I don't know if I'll live that long. I give thanks every day for that and my kids, my wife, my sisters, my friends. Knock on wood, everybody that is close to me is in good health."

Vitti realizes he is with a world-class team and this is evident in the fact that everywhere the team goes, he can find someone wearing a Los Angeles Lakers t-shirt. He has been a supporter of the galas put on to benefit Toberman and supports the cause and then added, "[Joyce and Bill Sharman] Good people."

Note to self: get online and take a chance on winning the two-time Hall of Fame Bill Sharman's 2010 Lakers championship ring, the Ring of Hope. How often does one have the opportunity to purchase a bit of history? •

# 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 20

Theft: 3900 BLOCK 190TH ST Suspect(s) pries/ tampers with gas pumps' credit card readers for purposes of skimming bank card data.

Vandalism: 23000 BLOCK MADISON ST Suspect(s) sprays unknown liquid on victim's vehicle, causing paint to dissolve.

Burglary Auto: 2400 BLOCK CARSON ST Suspect(s) opens hood and takes property/ battery.

Burglary Residential: 23700 BLOCK CABRILLO AVE Suspect(s) breaks out glass in door, reaches in to unlock door for entry, ransacks/unknown property loss at time of report.

Auto Theft-All: 22200 BLOCK WESTERN AVE Stolen vehicle: '06 Cadillac Escalade.

Burglary Residential: 21600 BLOCK MARJORIE AVE Suspect(s) breaks out glass in door, reaches in to unlock door for entry, ransacks and takes property/jewelry, watch, laptops, tablets.

#### March 19

Vandalism: 3400 BLOCK GARNET ST Suspect(s) lets out air of victim's tire. Auto Theft-All: 208TH ST & WESTERN AVE Stolen vehicle: '97 Honda Accord. Auto Theft-All: 2500 BLOCK REDONDO

BEACH BLVD Stolen vehicle: '98 Honda Civic. March 18

Burglary-Auto: 17100 BLOCK EASTWOOD AVESuspect(s) pries open hood and takes property/battery.

Auto Theft-All: 17000 BLOCK GLENBURN AVE Stolen vehicle: '97 Honda Accord.

Burglary Auto: 24800 BLOCK WINLOCK DR Suspect(s) enters possibly unlocked vehicle and takes property/briefcase, notary materials, laptop.

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

Battery Simple: 21700 BLOCK HAWTHORNE BLVD Suspect shoves victim against a wall and pins her there.

Burglary-Residential: 1800 BLOCK MIDDLEBROOK ROAD Suspect(s) breaks out glass in door, reaches in to unlock door for entry, ransacks and takes property/tablets, jewelry.

#### March 17

Auto Theft-All: 2200 BLOCK REDONDO BEACH BLVD Stolen vehicle: '90 Honda Civic.

Burglary-Auto: 2300 BLOCK ARLINGTON AVE Suspect(s) enters possibly unlocked vehicle, ransacks, but flees without taking any property when interrupted by a witness.

Battery Simple: 4800 BLOCK PACIFIC COAST HWY Suspect first pushes victim in the chest and spits in his face then later pushes him in the chest and head butts him in the mouth, causing injury.

Burglary-Auto: 21900 BLOCK WESTERN AVE Suspect(s) pries door handle for entry and takes property/headrests with TV screens, stereo, cologne, GPS. •

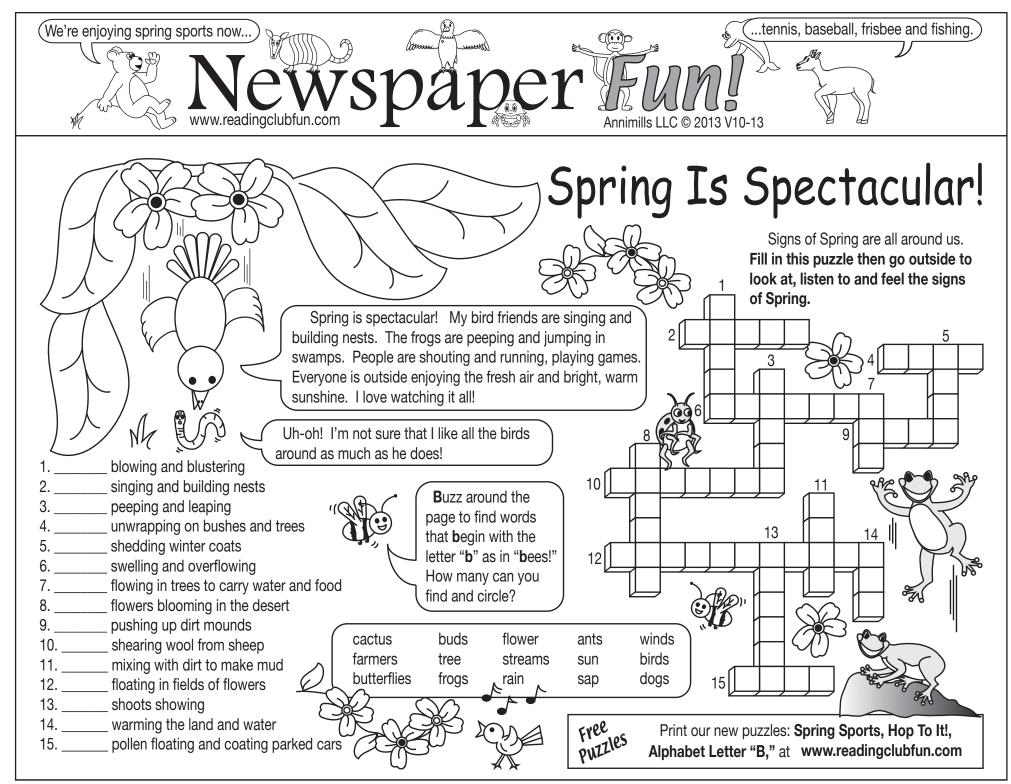
like to see more collaboration between the business and education communities. "How can our businesses help out?" asked Waronek. "We already have the Adopt-a-School program, but we want to go beyond that."

**Principals** 

In my experience at Madrona, I saw the benefits of the Adopt-a-School program first-hand in the school's \$100,000 computer by Raytheon (the campus' current Adopt-a-School partner) and the furniture in the lab was provided by Ball Corporation (Madrona's partner prior to the business leaving Torrance). With each company donating equipment no longer needed, Madrona was able to create a See Principals, page 14

lab. The computers themselves were donated

from page 2



# **Classifieds**

The deadline for Classified Ad submission and payment is Noon on Tuesday to appear in Thursday's paper. Advertisements must be submitted in writing by mail, fax or email. You may pay by cash, check, or credit card (Visa or M/C over the phone).

Errors: Please check your advertisements immediately. Any corrections and/or changes in an ad must be requested prior to the following Tuesday deadline in order to receive a credit. A credit will be issued for only the first time the error appears. Multiple runs will only be credited for the first time the error appears. No credit will be issued for an amount greater than the cost of the advertisement. Beware: Employment offers that suggest guaranteed out-of-state or overseas positions may be deceptive or unethical in nature. If you have any doubts about the nature of a company, contact the local office of the Better Business Bureau, (213) 251-9696. Herald Publications does not guarantee that the advertiser's claims are true nor does it take responsibility for those claims.

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# **Principals**

lab for students to learn technological skills that would serve them well in the workplace. Richardson sees the lab as a model of painless ways businesses can make an impact on students' education. "The lab really shows the possibilities open to us with community involvement," said Richardson.

The Principal for a Day activity closed with a luncheon where businesspeople and principals could share what they learned and brainstorm ways to overcome some of the challenges facing Torrance's schools. The

# Looking Up

### sedimentary rocks Curiosity has examined.

"The elemental composition of rocks in Yellowknife Bay wasn't changed much by mineral alteration," said Curiosity science team member Mariek Schmidt of Brock University, Saint Catharines, Ontario, Canada.

A dust coating on rocks had made the composition detected by APXS not quite a match for basalt until Curiosity used a brush to sweep the dust away. After that, APXS saw less sulfur.

# from page 12

"By removing the dust, we've got a better reading that pushes the classification toward basaltic composition," Schmidt said. The sedimentary rocks at Yellowknife Bay likely formed when original basaltic rocks were broken into fragments, transported, redeposited as sedimentary particles, and altered by exposure to water.

Images:

http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/news. php?release=2013-097&cid=release\_2013-097



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### Last Week's Answers

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# from page 13

4th, Fri. 5th, & Sat. 6th, 8 am. Multi Family Sale! Great Stuff, Don't Miss!

HOUSE FOR LEASE

3BD/2BA. SFR with private backyard

& spa. \$3,495/mo. Available April

HOUSE FOR RENT

2BD/1BA. Den with fireplace, Front

house . newly refurbished, garage,

N/S, no pets, W/D hook ups. \$2.200/

2BD/1BA House, 400 block of Whiting

St. ES. Large yard, fireplace. \$2400/

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

mo. Avail. Now. (310)322-1494.

15th. Call (310) 647-1635.

mo. (310) 322-4848.

(530) 318-2406.

business community shared concerns about reductions in teaching positions, vandalism and funding, but still came away impressed. One business leader was impressed with how in the District's high schools, students could use their smartphones and tablets as tools in class--a resourceful way to reduce technology expenses and work with (instead of against) student behavior. Another commended the school she visited for their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) academy. •

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Gerry Chong, TerriAnn Ferren, Dylan Little, Greg McMullin, Duane Plank, Adam Serrao, Brian Simon, Joe Snyder, Cristian Vasquez

Photographer: Shelly Kemp

## Display Advertising Sales:

Torrance: Charlene Nishimura, ext.23, advertising@heraldpublications.com Real Estate: graphics@heraldpublications.com Display Ads: marketing@heraldpublications.com

#### **Important Emails**

#### editorial@heraldpublications.com

For announcements (weddings, engagements, obituaries, calendar), "Letters to the Editor" and subscriptions

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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.

# PETSPETSPETSPETSPETS Pets Without Partners Purrfect Companions

Adopt a "pet without a partner" and give a homeless pet a second chance in life.



Georgia

**Georgia** and **Mindy** are two adorable Terrier mix puppies and precious does not begin to describe their personalities They are four months old and currently weigh 10-12

pounds. These spunky, playful, loving pups are as cute as can possibly be. They are very welladjusted and will be a great addition into any family. As a companion to another pet in the home or as a fantastic children's dog, these little girls won't last long. Georgia is all fun and games and Mindy is an adorable snuggler. Georgia and Mindy will be spayed soon, are current

on vaccinations, de-wormed, microchipped, good with other dogs, good with kids, and love everyone!

Mia was pulled out of a shelter where her owner discarded her. She is sweet, jovial,



spry and spunky. What a happy little Pug she is, just full of personality! Her tail is

always wagging and she just snorts away when you talk to her. Mia is approximately seven years old and is missing her left eye, which has been surgically closed. She appears to be completely blind in her right eye, however. Shhhh!! Don't tell Mia this, as she appears to have no idea. She gets around wonderfully and finds her place easily in her surroundings. Since she has had sight in

her life, Mia does know her way around. Sadly, she looks to have been the victim of some sort of chemical burns on her back and shoulder area and her prior owner has



been investigated for animal cruelty. How anyone could be the least bit mean to this dog is beyond reason. She is great on leash, loves to snuggle in your lap, and is vocal and silly when you dry her off in a towel. This an amazing little Pug who will make a great addition into any home situation. Mia is spayed, current on vaccinations, de-wormed, microchipped, good with other dogs, good with kids, and loves everyone!

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

Add a little love with a new best friend when you adopt your

purr-fect partner. 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 as she would having a buddy or two. All Sydney really wants is to be loved and give love in return. A sweet, angelic girl, Sydney will be the perfect addition to any family.

**Jackson** is a handsome boy with supersilken jet black fur and fantastic light green eyes. This boy is quite the character and loves people! He adores being snuggled and can;t get enough of being on your lap. He will purr and purr, chatting to you so you know what's going on with him. Jackson is a sensitive soul, knowing just what to do and how to approach you from day to day. He is very sweet and seems to have a natural instinct

in connecting to his humans. Jackson is very laidback and calm, so a quiet household would make him very happy. While he does live with dogs, Jackson isn't crazy about them being around. He prefers to play with his human and kitty buddies. Jackson loves to play with other cats and would be very lonely without a feline companion.

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.



world, but the world will surely change for that animal.

# **Happy Tails**

April is Animal Cruelty Prevention month. So many beautiful, trusting animals are mistreated or abandoned. 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. Wynni is a sweet soul who now has a wonderful, loving mom and new "sisters" to share in the joys of life...

"Hi! I haven't checked in with you in a while regarding Wynni. I've attached two pics of her...the first pic is her in her Easter bunny outfit. You can't see the ears or the fuzzy tail, but she looked adorable. The second pic is of her and her sisters at

# Wynni Finds Loving Family

bedtime. They all have their own spots, as you can see, and Wynni has her favorite soft pink blanket that she can't live without. Wynni is doing perfect. It's weird to think of a time when she wasn't mine. She and her sisters are the three musketeers and do everything together. If they could talk, they would finish each other's sentences. I'm so grateful for Wynni. Thank you to everyone at Animals Rule for the time and energy it takes to give these fourlegged angels loving forever homes. A heartfelt thank you..."

> - Melanie, Wynni, Sasha and Sophia Rose. •





# Surprising, Affordable Upgrades Can Give Your Home A Whole New Look

(BPT) - Sure, kitchen and bath renovations get all the glamour and credit for offering high returns on your investment when it's time to sell your home. But a host of other, often-overlooked improvements can also offer great ROI - while completely changing the look of your home at a fraction of the cost of bigger projects.

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If you're looking for home improvements that will pay off in the long-term, plus give your home a fresh look now, consider these high-impact, lower-cost upgrades:

· Change the front door. The door to your home is not only a key element of its exterior look, the door can set expectations for what you may be aware of the benefits of painting walls, many homeowners overlook the value of painting ceilings and baseboards. Repainting a ceiling - even if it's plain white - dramatically brightens a room. The same is true for painting trim; the freshness of updated trim can draw the whole room together.

While these upgrades can help you costeffectively change your decor, when you're looking for high impact, flexibility and affordability, updating your stairway is one of the best investments you can make. Many modern floor plans place the stairway front and center, making it the first design element

"A host of other, often-overlooked improvements can also offer great ROI - while completely changing the look of your home at a fraction of the cost of bigger projects."

guests will see inside your home as well. A new front door makes a statement for both the inside and outside of your home. When you sell your home, that new front door can return as much as 73 percent of the initial cost for steel doors and nearly 54 percent for fiberglass doors, according to Remodeling Magazine's Cost vs. Value Report.

• Layer and upgrade lighting in key rooms such as living rooms and family rooms. Replacing outdated lights can create a fresh, appealing atmosphere in a room. But don't stop at overhead fixtures. Layer your lighting by adding new floor lamps and table lamps. A variety of lighting sources and types allow you to change moods in a room with the flip of a few switches.

· Repaint ceilings and baseboards. While

guests see when they enter. Yet when it comes time to renovate, many people overlook the design potential of this functional element in their home.

The look and positioning of the staircase affects the flow of the home and sets the tone for the entire house. Modifying a staircase can open up a floor plan and increase usable square footage. It can also help you redefine the theme of your decor from traditional to contemporary or even modern. For example, replacing old wooden balusters with iron can help you create a cohesive look with other metallic design elements in the home, such as doorknobs or faucets. A variety of products from decorative balusters to newel posts and newel tops - make it easy and affordable to create a custom look for virtually any stairway. •





(BPT) - Ongoing TLC - Vacuum heavy traffic areas two to three times a week and all other carpets at least once a week.

Keep The Outdoor Elements Where They Belong - Keep windows closed and place your air conditioner on recirculate on high-allergy days or while doing yard work.

Have A Roadmap For Cleaning - Try moist cloths or special dusters made to capture dust. Begin with air ducts, followed by upholstery and drapes, and finishing with floors.

Welcome An Allergy-Free Season With A Welcome Mat - A doormat at the entrance to a house is a proven way to reduce the amount of dirt that enters the home. Vacuum under indoor welcome mats and area rugs periodically to help remove any loose dirt that might be trapped. •





2420 W. Carson St. #120 Torrance, CA 90501

# SPANISH REVIVAL IN HISTORIC OLD TORRANCE



1621 Cota Ave., Torrance 90501

Your family can enjoy a short walk to shopping and fine dining, award winning schools, and well maintained parks. Young and old will enjoy the old time charm of this true oasis in the best area of historic Old Torrance. Only 3 miles from the beach, this 5 bedroom, 2 bath, 2,050 sf home is on one sprawling level. Remarkable 10 foot coved ceilings with 1920's character preserved throughout-from the elaborate woodwork and cabinetry, to original crystal doorknobs and swing windows! One bedroom is currently being used as an office with built in bookshelves. Newer master suite with fireplace, walk-in closet, and French doors that lead to your own private retreat, a *large redwood deck and trellis that overlook the inviting backyard* with fruit trees. Kitchen has been remodeled with plenty of cabinets, granite counters and a skylight. Spacious, detached 3 car garage. This home is filled with the true charm and character of the period.

DRE# 01409641

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