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Weekend **Forecast**

Friday Sunny 77°/59°



Saturday Sunny 70°/58°



Sunday Sunny

70°/58°



First 5 LA Highlights Importance of Quality Child Care



Many working parents need to rely on others to care for their children for at least part of the day. Whether at a child care center or with a caregiver at home, the quality of care your child receives will last a lifetime. Children who receive quality child care are more likely to develop social and learning skills at a younger age. According to the High/Scope Perry Preschool Study, the benefits of receiving quality care continue into adulthood. First 5 LA, has launched a campaign to inform parents as guardians of the importance of quality child care and education. For resources available to families and children prenatal to age five, interested persons may call the confidential parent helpline at 1-888-347-7855. Photo courtesy of First 5 LA.

Discover Torrance Seeks to Put Torrance on the Map

By Dylan Little

The Torrance City Council heard an update by Discover Torrance, the City's nonprofit tourism bureau, about plans to bring vacationers, business conferences and athletes to the community. Executive Director Ralph Witsell said that he expects 2013 to be a major year for Discover Torrance to show how tourism can help Torrance grow economically. "I see 2013 being the breakout year for Discover Torrance," said Witsell. "The impact we have on economic development is vital."

Witsell sees tourism as a major economic force. While obviously important for the numerous local hotels, tourist dollars make their way into a wide variety of businesses in town. According to Witsell, even hotels channel much of their revenue back to businesses in the city. "For every dollar spent at a hotel, 30 percent of it stays with the hotel but the other 70 percent goes right back to the City," said Witsell.

To help bring in tourists, Discover Torrance has hired public relations and advertising firm 1400 South to represent the City. The company has created ads for travel magazines like Sunset and Westways and so far Witsell has been happy with its work. "They are very proactive, maybe a little quirky, but they do very, very good work," said Witsell.

Discover Torrance is hoping to make Torrance an attractive destination for travelers looking to experience a little bit of everything Southern California has to offer. "We want to establish Torrance as a year-round travel destination," said Witsell. "We want to market the city as an authentic 'little bit of everything California' experience or 'your California bucket list."

Witsell is also hoping to attract business conferences to the city, especially for industries that could spread the word on how pleasant staying in Torrance can be. "The feather in our cap, if we can land it, is hosting major travel writers and bloggers in our city," said Witsell.

Another segment of travelers Witsell thinks Torrance can appeal to are sporting tournaments. The City is already set to host AYSO's 2014 National Games and Witsell hopes that event can serve as an example of how well suited Torrance is to hosting sports

See City Council, page 4

City, Residents Prepare for Relay For Life

By Cristian Vasquez

y Cristian Vasquez
With 67 teams and 549 participants registered to date, residents, cancer survivors and their supporters prepare to host the 2013 Relay For Life of Torrance on April 27-28 at South High School.

"It is really great to see so many members of our community to be a part of such an event. I was in the Relay For Life in 2004 through my high school in Houston, Texas, but last year was my first year doing the Torrance Relay for Life," Kevin Glover, member of the Planning Committee for the Torrance Relay For Life said. "I joined because there was a group out at the farmers' market who were raising awareness about the event and the effort to fight against cancer, so

The Relay For Life is an annual, 24-hour fundraising event where the community gathers to walk in teams around a track. A member of each team must be walking around the track at any given moment to raise money on behalf of that team. The family-friendly environment includes music, food and a wide range of entertainment.

"It [Relay For Life] does provide support--my very first year at the Relay, I walked the survivor's lap and everyone clapped for us and that is an amazing feeling to know that there are that many people supporting you," Survivor Chairperson for the Relay and 11-year breast cancer survivor Donna Bell said. "That is why I keep coming back and that is why I am the Survivor Chairperson today--to help new survivors. Thank God I am a survivor now because there are many people that are recently diagnosed and they come unsure of what is out there for them, so we all support each other."

The survivor's lap is for all survivors to kick off the Relay by taking the first lap while they are cheered on by other participants. The Relay also recognizes

See Relay for Life, page 3

Community Briefs

South Bay Literary Council Hosts Conference

"Exploring the Power of Partnerships" featuring three distinguished speakers: Cynthia Aguado, Reference Services Supervisor, Kathleen Terry, Representative Manhattan Beach Rotary and Dr. Emmanuel Annor, Principal Chapman Elementary School will highlight the South Bay Literacy Council's Annual Spring Conference to take place on Saturday, April 20 from 8 a.m. to 11a.m. in the Community Meeting Room of the Torrance Main Library. A continental breakfast will be served from 8 a.m. to 9 am. The public is welcome.

Congresswoman Waters Announces 2013 Congressional Art Competition

Congresswoman Maxine Waters' office is now accepting submissions for the 2013 Congressional Art Competition. This annual competition is open to all high school students that reside or attend school in the 43rd Congressional District and offers students a chance to showcase their artistic talent and compete to have their submission displayed in the United States Capitol for a full year. The deadline for submissions is Monday, April 22 at 5 p.m. Entries may be dropped off or mailed to Congressman Waters' Los Angeles Office, located at 10124 South Broadway Suite 1, Los Angeles, CA 90003. The office is open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The competition is open to high school students only, however exceptions will be made for schools that have seventh to 12th grades on one campus. Students will be required to adhere to the rules of the competition and will need to submit all artwork with a corresponding student release form. The form and all guidelines regarding the competition can be found on Congresswoman Waters' website. For more information, please call 323-757-8900.

Torrance Announces Participants of Students & Government Day

The City of Torrance has selected participants for the 2013 Students & Government Day. Twenty-one 8th grade students from Torrance middle schools were chosen from more than a thousand essays submitted this year. Students were asked to address the prompt, "The United States Congress is responsible for creating laws at the Federal level, while Torrance City Council is responsible for creating laws at the City level. Describe one law that you think Torrance City Council should create and how it would improve the City of Torrance and benefit citizens who live here."

On Tuesday, May 7, the selected students from Bert Lynn Middle School, Calle Mayor Middle School, Casimir Middle School, First Lutheran School, Jefferson Middle School, J. H. Hull Middle School, Madrona Middle School, Magruder Middle School, Richardson Middle School, Riviera Hall Lutheran School, St. Catherine Laboure School, and St. James School, will engage in various activities including shadowing the mayor, council members and executive staff in their jobs. The day will culminate at the regularly-scheduled City Council meeting that evening at 7 p.m.; wherein the students, in their respective roles, will conduct some official business for the City live on CitiCABLE 3 (Time Warner)/31 (Verizon).

This year's students include: Andrew Nguyen; Cameron Lippon; Daman Holland-Sanchez; Diane Kim, Jared Kliszewski; Jessica Trujillo; Josh Richardson; Kelsey Thomas; Kris Romero; Lauryn Ishida; Michelle Higa; Michaela Frichtel; Mohammed Yousef; Nico DiGenova; Pamela Trujillo; Patrick Kim; Rebecca Steelman; Sarah Simpson; Sean Lee and Sinead McCabe.

This is the seventh year the City of Torrance is **See Community Briefs, page 12**

by Faith United Methodist Church, celebrated and honored five young men – Michael Kaji, Cody "Hawk" Kuwata, Kyle Wada, Austin Kuniyoshi and Ryan Lee for their achievement of the highest scouting rank as Eagle Scouts at the Ken Nakaoka Memorial Community Center in Gardena on March 9.

Torrance Boy Scout Troop 719, sponsored

For his Eagle project, **Kyle Wada** chose the Epworth Apartment Project located in South Central LA because he wanted to do a unique project that reflected his environmental

a trio of stage boxes, a cart transport, and a reorganized storage room. Austin's project could not have been completed without the tremendous help he received from his Eagle Advisor Jim Matsushita, Construction Advisor John Shimane, Boy Scout troop, Troop Alumni, CAMS faculty, and friends.

Cody 'Hawk' Kuwada chose the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center to complete his eagle service project. San Fernando Community Center President Karl Nobuyuki is an Eagle Scout and had the



Troop 719 Recognizes

Achievements of Scouts

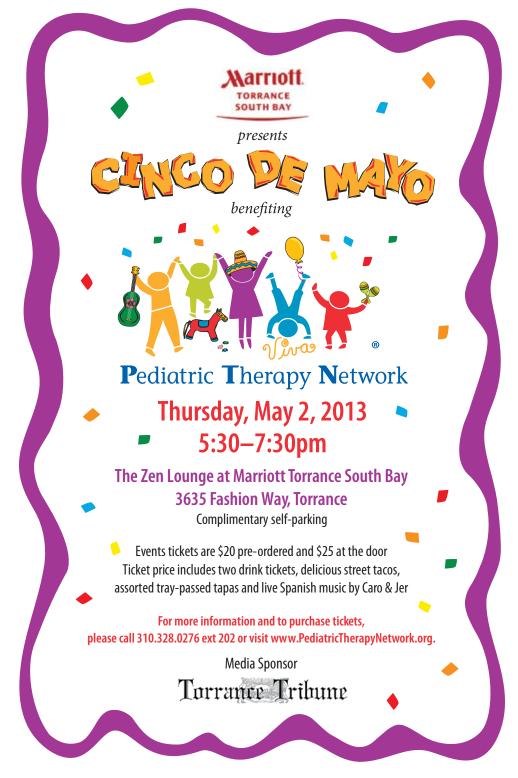
character. On June 23, 2012, with his advisor John Shimane and a group of more than 50 friends, family, troop members and alumni, Wada landscaped the front of the garden, assembled a tool shed, and built a compost bin for the local community. Overall, Kyle is very proud of the accomplishments of his eagle project.

For his Eagle project, **Michael Kaji** chose to help the L.A. County Department of Children and Family Services. On January 7, 2012, with the help of his project advisor, Jerry Takao, he led a group of more than troop members, alumni, family and friends to build a custom shed with metal shelving and plastic containers for organized storage of donated clothing. Rosa Tang from the DCFS expressed her praise and appreciation for the successful completion of the shed. Doing his eagle project taught Kaji the importance of proper planning, research, taking good notes, "measure twice..." and having good communication skills.

For his Eagle Project, Austin Kuniyoshi decided to give back to his high school, CAMS by assisting the drama department. With the help of many scouts, adults, and friends, Austin was able to successfully complete his project. When finished, the CAMS drama department was provided with a new storage shed, a set of weatherproofed stage platforms,

perfect idea for the project. The first part of Hawk's project was to widen an already existing pathway by removing old baseball bleachers. Widening the pathway would allow passage of a golf cart to transport seniors from the Nikkei Village to the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center who were too frail to walk the distance. The second part of the project included building storage tables for use by the San Fernando Athletics department and Japanese School. Thanks to eagle project advisor, David Wada and construction advisors, Jerry Takao, Nathan Tanaka and Jerry Tondo, the project was a huge success.

Ryan Lee's project took place at the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute, which is a center that holds classes and events for the Japanese American community and provides organizations such as FOR and Sansei Baseball a place to store equipment. With the help of more than 100 scouts, friends and family, Ryan carried out his project with great success. New canopy/pole racks and chair racks were constructed, the southwest part of the garage was cleaned and reorganized, and unnecessary equipment was disposed. Through the hard work from many, it was clear that there was significant difference made for a worthy organization. •





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Relay for Life

from front page

and celebrates the efforts from caregivers who have given so much time, love and support for family, friends, neighbors or coworkers facing cancer. The Relay itself began back in 1985 when Dr. Gordy Klatt walked and ran around a track in Tacoma, Washington during a 24-hour period. Dr. Klatt's effort raised \$27,000

and it has a lot to do with the teams that have been there before who come back and get more people out to garner support."

For Bell, who has been a Torrance resident for more than 30 years, the community has always been the backbone of what the Relay For Life can accomplish. "Torrance is a

"Torrance is a very generous community – when I was first diagnosed, I was welcomed by people whom I still see today. I felt like I belonged and they have always been very supportive."

to help the American Cancer Society. The very next year, 240 supporters joined the overnight event and since then Relay For Life has grown into a worldwide effort that has raised more than \$4 billion to fight cancer.

"A lot of the people we have participating have lost family members or close friends and it is the support from the rest of us that helped them get through this because we know what they are going through," survivor and Fight Back Chair for the Relay For Life LaVerna Edmonds said. "It is hard to explain, but this really is a close-knit group because of what we all have in common. I really believe in the research. I really believe in what has been done and what is going to be done to help prevent cancer and save more lives. I have 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren and I don't ever want them to hear the words, 'You have cancer."

The Torrance Relay For Life has gained more support every year, which not only leads to more money being raised but also results in a bigger support group for survivors, their families and the families of those who lost someone to the disease. "Getting the word out is huge and it depends on what our committee members do," Glover said. "We have a group of volunteers at the farmers' market every Saturday. They do a lot of the work of getting the word out

very generous community--when I was first diagnosed, I was welcomed by people whom I still see today. I felt like I belonged and they have always been very supportive," Bell said. "Torrance raises a lot of money every year. We raise a lot more than many other relays and it is because our community really supports it. Our fire department and police department come. Everybody comes."

Organizers understand that not all cancer survivors participate in the event, but it is their hope that one day they too will join the event. "There are still a lot of people who don't want to talk about it if they had cancer because they consider it something very private and we expect that," Edmonds said. "But if we can help, if they would be a bit more open about what they have gone through, then that would be a great thing."

"Once you are a relayer, you are a relayer for life. I will do other jobs, but I will always be involved with the Relay for as long as I can," Bell said. "We have a very good community. We have very caring people and we all get along. We all support the same cause and it is really nice to get together with other people to have lunch during events like the survivor lunch. There are people who do not have that support system, but when they come to the Relay they feel welcomed." •

t page Calendar

THURSDAY APRIL 18

- Community Meeting for the presentation of the proposed Street Tree Master Plan, 7 p.m. 3330 Toyota Meeting Hall Civic Center Drive. For more information contact Judy Emerson at (310) 781-6900 or JEmerson@ Torranceca.gov.
- Beach Cities Republicans Meeting, 7 p.m. (6 p.m. no host dinner), Sizzler Restaurant, 2880 Sepulveda Blvd. For more information contact Patti at (310) 753-4159 or plagrelius@aol.com.

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.
- Earth Day 2013 Celebration, 8:30 a.m.-noon, Madrona Marsh Nature Center and Preserve, 3201 Plaza Del Amo. For more information call (310) 782-3989.
- Earth Day Event: Free Paper Shredding, Mulch Give-Away, and Recycling Drop off for Electronics, Used Oil and Filters, and Clothing and Shoes, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Torrance Courthouse. For more information call (310) 781-6900.
- Free Film Screenings, 5-8 p.m. The Torrance Art Museum at the Joslyn Center, 3320 Civic Center Drive Space is limited and RSVP is required. For more information call (310) 618-3846.

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

• Chef Shafer presents: Triple B Romp n' Stomp 2, 12 p.m.-6 p.m., at the Buffalo Fire Department. For tickets call (310) 787-7501. Limited seating for VIP Bourbon Tasting, BBQ and Blues concert.

Tuesday, April 23

• City Council Meeting, 7-10 p.m. City Hall, Council Chamber, 3031 Torrance Blvd. For more information call (310) 618.2870.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

• South Bay Ostomy Support Group Monthly Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Torrance Memorial Medical Center, West Tower building connected to a parking structure off Lomita Blvd.

Friday, April 26

• Hardback Book Sale - Friends of the Torrance Library, 2-6 p.m., Katy Geissert Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd.

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.
- Torrance Relay For Life, April 27- 28, South High School. For more information visit www.relayforlife.org/torranceca.
- Free Beginning Composting Workshop in the City of Torrance, 9:30- 11 a.m., Columbia Park, 4045 190th St. For more information call (310) 781-6900.

Sunday, April 28

• Family Arts Festival sponsored by Arts Council of Torrance, 2 - 5 p.m., Ken Miller Auditorium, 3341 Torrance Blvd. For more information email artscounciltorrance@yahoo.com.

Monday April 29

• "Researching U.S. Immigration and Naturalization", 7 p.m. Traveling Library, 7:30 p.m. Speaker, Toyota USA Auto Museum, 19600 Van Ness Ave. For more information contact Judie Rice at judieson@ aol.com.

THURSDAY, MAY 2

• "As Long as We're Singing...Come Rain or Come Shine!" performance by the L.A. South Towns Chorus, 7:30 p.m. at James Armstrong Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive. For more information call Donna Lawrence at (310) 539-9123.

Ongoing

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

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Q: I saw a funeral procession taking place near my house and this rude driver interrupted the procession to get by. Can the driver be cited?

A: A funeral procession is led by a

traffic officer. All vehicles taking part in the procession have windshield markers to identify them. Vehicles taking part in a funeral procession have the right-of-way, and if you interfere, obstruct, or interrupt the funeral procession, you are subject to a citation (CVC §2817). So, yes, that driver could have been cited. For more information, visit http://www.DMV.ca.gov/pubs/vctop/d02/ vc2817.htm.

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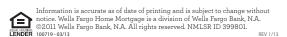
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City Council

from front page

of all kinds. "I want to ensure the AYSO 2014 National Games are a huge success," said Witsell. "I really think this could be the start of a large number of sports-related events in the city."

The plan was met with a positive reception from the Council. Mayor Frank Scotto said Discover Torrance is moving in a positive direction and he is eager to hear more about its successes. "I'm very encouraged about the is that it will have a list of recommended spots to check out in the city that visitors might pass by otherwise.

"If you don't live in Torrance, you probably don't know about Torrance Bakery--if you do, then you know they have the best double chocolate chip cookies in town," said Lee. "That is the kind of thing we want to highlight."

The Council was impressed with the prototype. Scotto said that he expects the

"I want to ensure the AYSO 2014 National Games are a huge success."

direction we are going," said Scotto. "We are expecting a lot of big things from you."

Before ending the presentation, Witsell brought out Sunny Lee from Leadership Torrance's 2013 class to show a prototype of a visitor's guide app for smart phones. The application will feature a map with Torrance hotspots like parks and restaurants with more information and functions like hotel booking just a tap away. It will also feature a section customized for any major events going on in the city. Lee used the example of the AYSO 2014 National Games, where the app would show the live scores (if available) from each park in the city as well as information relevant to youth soccer players--like convenience stores for team snacks or restaurants for a team to celebrate victories. Another feature

application to be a valuable resource from tourists visiting the city and hopefully it can stay functional after this year's Leadership volunteers move on to other projects. "This particular project hopefully will be a longlasting one," said Scotto. "The City of Torrance is grateful for all your efforts."

Lastly, Bob Chiota and Joel Massa with the South Bay Bocce Court Project asked the public to enjoy some laughs for a good cause. The group will be holding an event on May 30 at the Comedy and Magic Club in Hermosa Beach to help raise the required \$50,000 to start converting the unused basketball courts at Columbia Park into handicapped-accessible Bocce courts. Tickets to the fundraiser are \$20 (plus a two-item purchase in the club) See City Council, page 13

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Politically Speaking

One Man's Opinion

By Gerry Chong

Psssst. I've got a secret! God isn't a giant, grey-haired guy in a white robe imitating Charlton Heston. No, he's not. In fact, he wears a starched, long-sleeve, white shirt and a green eyeshade. He has a garter belt around his bicep and a pocket protector in his left breast pocket. Actually,

The percentage of eligible workers in the workforce fell to 63.3 percent, the lowest worker participation rate since 1979 in the reign of Jimmy Carter.

In four-plus years food stamp rolls have exploded from 31 million to 48 million. Moreover, that number is growing at the rate of 13,000 every day! Today, the food stamp

"In four-plus years food stamp rolls have exploded from 31 million to 48 million. Moreover, that number is growing at the rate of 13,000 every day! Today, the food stamp program costs \$80 billion per year and one out of every seven Americans is now fed by the government."

he looks a lot like an accountant. He even keeps a ledger, which he'll show you if you ask real nicely.

On the left side, he has listed all the good things occurring in the economy. Unfortunately, the list is short.

In March, the economy gained 88,000 jobs, and the unemployment rate fell to 7.6 percent. So that goes onto the ledger as a good thing.

Next to that, the ledger shows the stock market going nuts, so that's a good thing too. Hopefully, the rich will start cashing in some of those beans since they'll need to earn their fair share before they can pay their fair share.

Finally, the housing market is coming back and that's a good thing too.

So the good news for the left side of the ledger is enough to encourage the "true believers" that we are in an economic recovery. But the right side of the ledger belies any sense of recovery

Nearly half a million (496,000, actually) discouraged and unemployed people withdrew from the job market in March alone.

There were 386,000 first-time applicants for unemployment insurance in one week-not one month—one *week*!

program costs \$80 billion per year and one out of every seven Americans is now fed by the government.

The government tells us the unemployment rate is 7.6 percent, but that's true if you only count those who have sought work recently. If you count all who are unemployed, the rate nearly doubles to 14 percent.

In 1971, only 1.5 percent of Americans were on disability compensation, but today that percentage has more than tripled to five percent (nine million). Among those 55 to 64 years of age, 10 percent are on disability and unlikely to ever return to the workforce. Disability has become the new welfare. Our people have hit a new low as 50 million now live below poverty.

As Congress ponders the legalization of undocumented residents, some will add to the cost of our nation's social programs. Reflecting that reality, the President's new budget proposes middle class tax increases to support more public dependents.

With pain and a grimace, God looked at his ledger and dropped his eyeshade. He shook his head and walked out to the Garden of Eden to contemplate what he had wrought. After all, this had started so simply with a #%\$* serpent... •

Another Man's Opinion

North Korea's Threat

By Cristian Vasquez

It has been headline news for the last couple of weeks: North Korean leader Kim Jong-un threatening nuclear attacks against South Korea and the United States. While threats should never been taken lightly, the Obama administration's handling of the situation so far has not only been diplomatic, but efficient. There is no denying that a sense of fear can arise from the statements being made by Jong-un. However, the administration's strategy of refusing to make concessions and its promise to proportionately respond should give Americans a sense security.

It is difficult to really know or fully understand the true intentions of Jung-un, but that does not mean that out government should react with preemptive violence. This is not the first time America has been threatened with a nuclear attack. In the past, being patient in such scenarios has resulted in the prevention of war and unnecessary deaths. If we recall the Cuban Missile Crisis, the world was really on edge and ready to experience a full-on nuclear war between Americans and Soviets. Fortunately, President Kennedy and Soviet leader Khrushchev were diplomatic and patient enough to stop flexing their muscles, cut a deal and walk away.

Learning from that particular episode in history can definitely spare us from nuclear disaster 51 years later. The administration must be patient and seek a peaceful resolution while making it clear that it will not hesitate to take every step necessary to protect American

lives. The best way to prove to the North Korean leader that Americans are acting in good faith is by not resorting to any type of preemptive attack and continuing to seek a diplomatic solution.

To critics who are eager for President Obama to shoot off a missile or two as a sign of things to come--that is not only an ineffective approach, but also the most dangerous. If the President were to launch a preemptive strike in hopes of Americans being spared from an attack, North Korea would have the perfect excuse to launch a nuclear warhead toward American soil. Also, why should America's solution to an unstable dictator be the death of countless civilians? We should not sacrifice the lives of North Koreans, South Koreans or Americans in order to prove a militaristic point against a dictator who has to date not proven to be much of a threat.

The truth is all we know about Jung-un is that he is making threats without much proof of being able to carry them out. We don't really know what his nuclear capabilities are, nor do we want to find out. So far, Jung-un is acting no differently than a small dog locked behind a fence that barks at anyone who walks by. The administration does not have to concede anything nor does it have to destroy North Korea to resolve this situation. Kennedy and Khrushchev had a chance to destroy the world with nuclear weapons but despite their ideological differences, both men were able to walk away and spare humanity. There is no reason history shouldn't repeat itself here. •

Love to our Dispatchers



Julie Ruiz and Betsy Maerker.

Political O & A

Political Q & A

Question of the week: "State expenditures had to be controlled in order to balance our budget. Now, however, is there specific spending that should be restored, or is it too soon"?

Senator Ted Lieu responded as follows:

"We have all made sacrifices to get our state on the road to recovery. I, along with fellow lawmakers, voted to make painful cuts these last few years and focused on fiscal discipline. The voters also gave us a great deal of trust by voting for revenues through Proposition 30.

"California is now turning the corner. We created more jobs last year than any other state, and at a higher rate. Our credit rating went from negative to stable to positive. And our unemployment rate dropped to the lowest level in over four years. For California to compete in the new economy, we need to strengthen education. I believe two of the first areas we should restore are K-12 education and higher education funding.

"I'm trying to do my part, but I need your help. Please join me on Wednesday, April 24 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. for a live online town hall webcast from Sacramento. California's nationally respected Legislative Analyst Mac Taylor will also be with me to answer your questions."

Get information on the webcast and how to ask a question.

Senator Roderick D. Wright responded as follows:

"It is early in this year's budget process and the figures are not yet in on the State's tax revenue realizations, so it would be premature to say whether we are or are not in a position to restore funding. If we do reach the conclusion that we are in a position to restore funding to programs that were cut in last year's budget, clearly our priority must be to get funds to critical programs that protect the most vulnerable among us.

"Among some of the most damaging and painful cuts in my eyes were the loss of adult day care and Stage 3 child care. There are people who aspire to be in the workforce, contributing to the rebuilding of our economy, who are unable to work because these critical services are no longer available to them--adult children caring for parents with dementia or Alzheimer's; single mothers in welfare-to-work programs without a family network or support. Keeping these residents from going to work only serves to further reduce our income base and perpetuate our budget shortfalls. We are creating a vicious circle."

"In that same vein, education must always remain a top priority and the opportunity to restore funding for vocational education, special education and English language learners would pay untold dividends for years to come." •

Protecting the Three

I am the Officer, follow me Preserving the peace is where I'll be I am the torch that lights the way In darkness my courage will pave a way Leading the others, that is me I am the Officer guiding the three

I am the Fire Fighter, follow me Into the flames is where I will be I am he who battles the beast To protect that on which it would feast Leading strength to the others, that is me I am the Fire Fighter supporting the three

I am the Medic, follow me
Easing the pain is where I will be
I am the one who helps them survive
Lifting the fallen to keep them alive
Treating the others, that is me
I am the Medic healing the three

I am the Dispatcher, don't follow me Agony and chaos is where I will be Working in obscurity, this forgotten place Not death, but insanity is the danger I face Answering the call, that is me I am the Dispatcher protecting the Three

This was posted on a dispatcher's
 Facebook page this week. Author unknown.

 Happy National Public Safety Telecommunications Week.



How the Mighty Has Fallen

By Adam Serrao

A broken wrist, a sprained ankle, hip and elbow bursitis, right shoulder surgery, another sprained ankle, a back injury, an injured index finger, right knee surgery, a torn ligament in his shooting wrist and a torn ligament in his pinky are all injuries that Kobe Bryant has had to deal with throughout his 17-year NBA career. Certainly no injury has been as crucial or as debilitating as the one that the

When you try to answer the question that Vitti was asked, however, there quickly becomes a number of possible answers. Why? Why did Kobe Bryant sustain this injury so late in the season and at such a crucial time for the Lakers? Well, after 54,051 minutes, over 1,200 games and 17 years in the National Basketball Association, Kobe's body has worn down. While on the verge of missing the playoffs, Bryant was forcing himself to

"With news dropping that Kobe will now be out six to nine months following surgery to repair his torn Achilles tendon in his left leg, there is now some question as to whether or not Kobe will ever be able to return to the Staples Center floor at all."

five-time champ and 15-time All-Star suffered last Friday night in the fourth quarter against the Golden State Warriors, however. Though the Lakers won the game and kept hope alive in this year's playoff chase, they were forced to continue on their run for a championship without their best player for the first time in what has been his long and illustrious career. With news dropping that Kobe will now be out six to nine months following surgery to repair his torn Achilles tendon in his left leg, there is now some question as to whether or not Kobe will ever be able to return to the Staples Center floor at all.

Kobe Bryant is one of the most polarizing athletes of all time. Whether you love him or hate him, there is no doubting his unquestionable threshold for pain and his undying attitude to help his team win, whatever the cost may be. The cost, this time, is his season and quite possibly his career. "I made a move that I've made a million times, and it just popped," Bryant somberly said of his now torn Achilles. "I can't walk. I tried to maybe put pressure on my heel, but there was nothing there." It was a devastating blow to both Kobe and a Laker squad that has been dealing with injuries all season long. Perhaps Lakers' longtime trainer Gary Vitti put it best in what seemed to be his monologue: "If you look at our season, it's been a nightmare. We had a player come in with a surgery, which was Dwight Howard. Then we had Steve Nash break his leg. Then we had Steve Blake have an abdominal surgery. Then we had Jordan Hill with a hip surgery. Then we had Metta with a knee surgery. We also had Dwight with a [torn] labrum in his shoulder. Antawn Jamison will have surgery after the season is over on his wrist. So when you try to look at the whys, it's bad luck." It was a nightmare filled with nothing but bad luck indeed, and as of this writing, the Lakers play 48 minutes per game, every game, in order to try to push his team over the top and into the postseason. Some people want to blame the coach for playing Kobe too many minutes, but truth is that when it came down to it, Kobe wouldn't have let Mike D'Antoni take him out of the game. Kobe is the quintessential competitor and only an injury like this would keep him from playing another 48 minutes tomorrow. Unfortunately for Bryant, now it will.

So, how bad is it? Well, Bryant's injury was described as a "complete rupture" by Vitti. "It's gone," Vitti said. "So, it has to be sewn back together." Bryant crumbled to the floor with just over three minutes remaining in the game in which he had previously played every single second. His 32 points, including back-to-back three-pointers to tie the game, were what saved the Lakers' night and quite possibly their entire season. "I was just hoping it wasn't what I knew it was," Bryant said. "I've never really had to deal with something like this. It's a new experience for me." When asked what his next steps were going to be, Bryant simply stated, "MRI, surgery and then recovery." The MRI and surgery are both out of the way, but now Kobe will have to recover while doing something that he is truly not used to doing--watching from the sidelines.

Now that Kobe has become a glorified coach on the bench until he is fully recovered, an opportunity has opened for Howard to get the 30, 40 or even 50 touches a game that he has been looking for should he stay in L.A past the end of this season. If the Lakers made the playoffs (and if Kobe doesn't return for the start of next season), Steve Nash will become the primary ball-handler and will look more like that guy that we saw scrambling around with the rock in his Phoenix days. Statistically, the team is better on defense without Kobe in the game. Furthermore,

Up and Adam

West High at a Loss in League Play

By Adam Serrao

This year has been a tale of two seasons for the West High Warriors and head coach Juan Cueva. After a tough one-run loss to Chino on opening day, the Warriors rallied together and seemingly couldn't lose a ballgame. They blew teams out, they came from behind... The Warriors did anything and everything that they had to do to get the job done. At that time, West's record stood at 9-1 after the team rallied off nine straight wins to give it a hefty lead atop the Bay League standings. Since then, however, the Warriors have plummeted. The pitching has softened, the defense has sputtered and the run production has basically disappeared. During the ninegame winning streak, the team scored 67 runs while allowing only 18. In the last eight games, however, it has been almost completely the opposite as the team is 1-7 while tallying only 16 runs over that same period of time--certainly, two different seasons in the making for the West High Warriors. That trend only continued last Friday night as the Warriors dropped the second in a row of a two-game set to division rival Mira Costa, taking the 2-1 road loss.

The first series of league play always tends to mean the most to the teams involved. It's what builds momentum and gets the club started off on the right foot. That's why when Mira Costa took the opening game of league play against West High, it was going to be hard for the Warriors to recoup. Costa didn't just win the game--they won handily by a final score of 8-1 with West's lone run coming in the seventh and final inning. The second game of the two-game set was much different and much closer. The Mustangs took an early lead as they did in the first game, going up 1-0 in the bottom of the second inning. This time, however, the Warriors responded with a run of their own as Kevin Clausen scored on an error in the top of the third to tie the game at 1-1.

The game went scoreless from then on through the seventh inning, taking it to extra innings when the Warriors immediately threatened. With two outs in the inning, Tommy Oslund and Niles Nygard singled to bring Joey Notch to the plate. Mira Costa pitcher Chris Alcala was able to retire Notch, however, and quell West's threat while giving his team momentum going into the bottom of the eighth. That's when Braden Casady knocked home Jack Webber with a double to score a run and ultimately win the game for the Mustangs while sealing a complete game victory for Alcala. "I think we were

projected to end up near the bottom of the Bay League," Alcala stated. "Two great wins over our rival will really keep us going."

The Warriors are in dire need of something to get them going. The tough loss for West (10-8, 0-2) has it winless thus far in league play and ahead of only Leuzinger in the Bay League standings with third place Palos Verdes Peninsula next up on the schedule. The Warriors will have to get things turned around quickly if they wish to vie for a playoff spot in the competitive Bay League where a four-game win streak could see the team sitting back atop the standings for the first time in weeks.

NORTH HIGH

The North High Saxons (13-5, 2-0) are not ready for their tear into this regular season to end quite yet. With a winning streak going that might just end up rivaling the one displayed by West High earlier in the year, the Saxons are now at eight wins in a row while showing no signs of slowing down against Temple City last Saturday in a two-game set. The Saxons took down the Rams 3-2 in the first game as Nick Murphy walked with the bases loaded to bring in the winning run for North. The second game was just as close as the Saxons needed a sacrifice bunt from Joey Gomez to score Anthony Rodriguez to win by a final score of 5-4 in game two. The Saxons are clearly looking like the powerhouse of the Pioneer League, but will be tested soon by Centennial and South High to see if they can keep their winning streak alive.

SOUTH HIGH

The South High Spartans (11-6, 1-1) continue to challenge the Saxons for the top spot in the Pioneer League standings, but their momentum took a hit last week as they ran into two consecutive losses against Harvard Westlake. In the first of the two games, the Spartans' team was shut out completely, taking a 3-0 loss in the day game. Things didn't get any better for South as the sun began to set either, as the Wolverines proceeded to put up nine runs in the second game to the Spartans' three to ultimately take the 9-3 victory in the nightcap.

The good news for the Spartans is that neither game was part of league play, so their standing in the Pioneer League was not drastically affected. South will get back to league play this week when it will first take on the Lawndale Cardinals before a heated matchup commences with cross-town rivals, the first place North High Saxons.

TORRANCE HIGH

No Games.





FOOD & DINING





Meal Makeovers for Busy Parents

Spring is the perfect time to remember your families New Year Resolutions to think about healthier eating, and how to do so in the easiest way possible. Here are some great simple ideas to consider because we know that people have many ways of eating and it's hard to change daily habits and behaviors.

Instead of trying to make sweeping changes that might not last because they are not easy or enjoyable, we want to make small, gradual changes that can help us be healthier in the long run. One of the simplest ways to make small changes in our food choices is to add healthy ingredients to family-favorite recipes. Meal makeovers help families enjoy favorite dishes and drinks without sacrificing time or nutrition!

If you're a busy parent who enjoys coffee or tea to get the day off to a good start, try adding steamed (or heated) fat-free milk to make a latte. Not a coffee drinker? Use milk instead of water for your hot cocoa or oatmeal for the same benefits. Bottom line: Start your day with breakfast, including milk. A real, simple ingredient, milk provides an irreplaceable package of nutrients- so you and your family can get one-third of the daily-recommended calcium, plus vitamin D, potassium and even the protein you need to keep going strong all morning long.

Macaroni and cheese is a family favorite that can become a healthier meal option when you use low-fat milk, whole-wheat pasta and mix in additional food-group foods. Broccoli, cauliflower, even some diced, pre-cooked chicken can create a one-pot meal packed with vitamins and nutrients. Bottom line: Even if you only make one small change to a family favorite, it can provide better nutrition.

Research shows that small changes can lead to big results over time. These are two small changes and three is the ideal number- so start thinking about other meals you can make over with simple add-ins. For additional nutrition-rich recipes visit GotMilk.com/Recipes. Learn what foods are best for your family with this interactive tool at HealthyEating.org/MyWay. •

Courtesy of Trina Robertson, M.S., R.D.





Light and Easy Mac & Cheese Cups



Serves 6-8

Ingredients:

2 cups whole wheat pasta ½ cup reduced sodium chicken broth

½ tsp. freshly ground pepper

1 cup 1% milk

1/2 cups nonfat shredded cheddar cheese

1 cup of chopped broccoli, blanched

1 cup grape or diced tomatoes

½ cup of asparagus, cut into ½ inch strips, blanched

1 cup of cooked turkey breast, cut into ½ inch cubes

1 cup of dried bread crumbs

Vegetable cooking spray Olive oil, for drizzling

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 375°F. Spray 12 small ramekins or a 12-cup muffin pan with vegetable cooking spray. Using a spoon, sprinkle some bread crumbs inside of each cup and shake off any excess.

In a large pot, bring salted water to a boil over high heat. Add the pasta and cook until tender but still firm to the bite, stirring occasionally, about 8 to 10 minutes. Drain and place in a large bowl. Add broth, milk, cheese, turkey, salt and pepper and stir well until all pasta is well coated.

Spoon prepared pasta mixture into the muffin cups until about 2/3 full. Place a few pieces of tomato, broccoli and asparagus on top of each cup. Top with a thin layer of breadcrumbs and drizzle with a little bit of olive oil.

Bake 20 minutes or until golden brown on top. Let cool for a few minutes before carefully unmolding with a fork.

Per serving: 179 calories, 7 g fat, 14 g protein

TerriAnn in Torrance

Torrance in Sacramento

By TerriAnn Ferren

Did you ever wonder just how pieces of legislation and bills pass through the California Legislature? Or what our elected officials in Sacramento really do?

Last week, I had the opportunity to spend the day at *the California State Capitol Museum* in Sacramento and get a firsthand look at what goes on inside this historic building. Most importantly, I wanted to meet and see what Senators and Assembly members representing the City of Torrance are doing.

The Leadership Torrance Program is a sevenmonth program with the Torrance Chamber of Commerce that teaches participants to become more effective professional and community leaders. In addition, participants create a group project that benefits the community of Torrance in some way. Leadership Torrance also focuses on the City of Torrance's resources and issues. So to understand how and where our laws come from and to meet a few of our elected officials, we headed to Sacramento for the day.

Led by Executive Director Sheldon Brackett along with Co-Directors Kasey Choe and Lisa Silva, the trip was laid out like a fine-tuned tour package. On the big day, our three leaders accompanied the *Leadership* group to the Capitol from the hotel.

As I stepped out of the cab, I noticed the dome at the top of the Capitol building looked strong and impressive against the clear blue sky that Monday morning. Leaves and branches spun around as the strong wind swept through my hair, blowing it in every direction.

Inside the front door sits a white marble statue. The tour guide said the marble was from the same quarry Michelangelo acquired his marble. Interesting as that was, the statue has absolutely nothing to do with California-it was a gift to the State in 1883, so the powers that be placed the exquisite work in

the beautiful rotunda for everyone to see as they enter the building.

First, we took a tour through the Capitol building guided by our competent and glib tour guide, Kyle. The Capitol is composed of the original refurbished Victorian style building (1850) and the new addition (1948 – 1951), which frankly looks like any other government building. The buildings are joined together.

We began our tour outside the door to the Governor's office complete with a huge brass bear (purchased by then-Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger) sitting out front next to a service officer guarding the entrance. The Governor doesn't enter through that door, but it is impressive to see when you stroll down the hallway.

The 40 members of the Senate and 80 members of the Assembly were scheduled to be in session at noon in their respective chambers for Holocaust Remembrance Day. Normally any citizen is able to walk into the chambers of either the Senate or Assembly without any problem, but because today was a special day, we needed passes to enter the chambers. As we entered the green Assembly gallery, I was struck by the beauty of the room. The wood was exquisite and although the space was impressive, there was a certain accessibility I felt as I sat in the wooden chair high above the action. Looking down to the floor of the chamber were desks neatly grouped in twos. The desks that our legislators work off of are the original ones made back in 1869. The desks are modeled after German school desks, according to our tour guide. The Assembly votes for bills by a lighting system installed in 1935 on each desk. Red buttons vote no, green buttons vote yes and a light will appear next to their names to show how they vote. The yellow button means they need assistance--so when they didn't have computers, for example, and were missing a

page out of a bill, they could push that button and ask for help. Above the first level of the chamber was a large, impressive picture of Abraham Lincoln.

Our tour guide told us something I didn't know. He said that if you are an Assembly member and you vote one way, you can change it months after as long as it doesn't affect the outcome of the vote. What? I found out that this practice is common and legislators often change their vote after the original vote. Sounds like politics to me.

Leaving the Assembly, we headed toward the long hallway of the portraits of former Governors. Every Governor is given \$30,000 to have a portrait painted for the hall. Among the stately, dignified paintings sits a rather modern painting of Governor Jerry Brown. Talk is you either love it or hate it. Noticing the lower right corner of the picture, it looks as if it isn't finished. True enough. According to our tour guide, Don McCarty (another tour guide at the Capitol) wrote a letter to the artist Don Bachardy who painted the portrait and asked what was the problem with the lower right-hand corner of the painting, and he received a voicemail from the artist that said, according to our tour guide, "Jerry Brown was so difficult to work with as a subject to paint and that is the third painting and I was tired of it and I said, 'Jerry, I am all done,'--and so he scribbled in the corner." Governor Jerry Brown will have a second painting because he has been Governor twice. He is the youngest Governor, oldest elected Governor, longestserving Governor, and also will have the opportunity to have another portrait painted. Any guesses on what artist he chooses?

We walked up and down grand staircases and finally entered the Senate gallery. It was carpeted in red instead of green like the Assembly. We really copied England's colors for our galleries. Their House of Lords and House of Commons

are the inspiration for our Assembly and Senate galleries. George Washington's painting hangs high above the chambers and the story of that is most interesting. The painting is actually older than the Capitol building. It was a gift to California in 1854 when they finally settled on Sacramento as the capital city of California. The painting used to hang in the Sacramento Courthouse because the Capitol wasn't built until 1860. There was a fire in the courthouse and the Governor at the time, John Bigler, rescued the painting of Washington. Well, he was so popular after this that a lake was named for him. But 10 years later after leaving office, Bigler fell from favor, which is why Lake Tahoe is not named Lake Bigler. He turned out to be a southern sympathizer during the Civil War.

During the tour, I found it interesting the mosaic tile in the Capitol was sent down to Los Angeles for restoration and then sent back to Sacramento. The reason we still have our beautiful, original Capitol building is because Governor Ronald Reagan decided to refurbish, retrofit and completely upgrade the building in 1982. Only the railings and the bear heads around the rotunda are original. Had Reagan not spearheaded the remodel, our historic building would have been bulldozed.

Touring our Capitol reminded me we vote to send legislators to Sacramento to represent us and this is where they work here. Public Advocate Mark Waronek secured several speakers for us. We were escorted into Room 4061 and invited to sit around the horseshoe dais. First, we were introduced to State Director Government Affairs, Sophia Garcia, who works in Sacramento for *Advance America*. Her job is to inform legislators (lobby) in California for her company. Her job is an example of what many companies do to "inform and educate" legislators. It was enlightening and

See TerriAnn, page 9



Monday morning at the capitol. Photos by TerriAnn Ferren.

TerriAnn from page 8

informative to hear her position and why she and others use this way of educating. Garcia clearly understands that to have her position heard, she must be in the State Capitol.

Confidently entering the room next was Senator Roderick (Rod) D. Wright (35th District). He now represents Torrance and told us what he is determined to accomplish while in Sacramento. Clearly, he is looking out for the business interest which generates jobs in and around the South Bay. He was impressive,

informative, dynamic and clearly presented his views. Next into the chambers entered Joe A. Gonsalves and Son, Torrance's lobbyist. Frankly, I had never met our lobbyist, but knew we had them. These two gentlemen clearly have the interests of the City of Torrance on their minds and have decades of experience in Sacramento. They keep up with bills that could affect our community and alert the appropriate people when needed. Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (66th District) was next. He was articulate,

informative, and has his district offices on Torrance Boulevard. He said he loves Torrance and has lived there for 20 years, served on the Torrance School Board for seven years, and was elected last November ready to look out for Torrance's interests. And the day wound up with our hometown Leadership Torrance alumnus and former City Councilmember, Senator Ted Lieu. He was welcoming and it was wonderful to see such a familiar face in Sacramento. Lieu knows Torrance as his home

and has the city's welfare at heart. It was a wonderful ending to a very special day with our legislators.

The trip up to our Capitol was enlightening and reminded me that our beautiful town is well-represented in the Legislature. We need to remember our vote counts and our representatives are there for us. So contact them and let them know your concerns. We have a voice and Torrance is definitely represented in Sacramento. •



Senator Ted Lieu and the Leadership Torrance Class.



First view inside the rotunda.



Outside the Governors office in the new building.



Our Tour Guide Kyle.



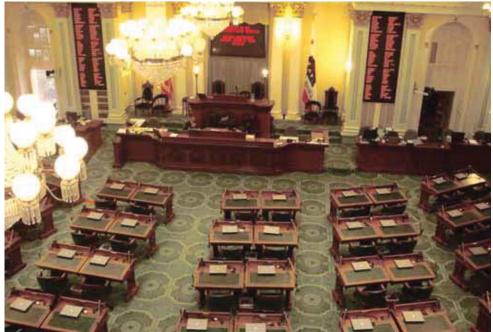
Joe A. Gonsalves.



 ${\bf Sheldon\ Brackett,\ Executive\ Director\ of\ Leadership\ Torrance}.$



Mark Waronek.



Inside the Assembly Chamber.



EVENT

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

11AM - 3PM



BRING YOUR PET!

Free raffles throughout the day **Best Pet Trick & Best Pet Costume Contests!** Win Pet Safety products from Toyota **Training and grooming tips Free Dog handouts** Owner and Pet Look-a-Like contest

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<u>Seniors</u>

Boomers: Your Credit Profiles Matter More Now Than Ever

(BPT) - Maintaining a good credit profile is important at all stages of life, even for baby boomers who may have paid off their mortgages and don't anticipate the need for more big-ticket loans. But it's important to remember credit scores are used for more than just borrowing money, and you never know when an opportunity or emergency might pop up where credit is needed.

To be sure, maintaining good credit can benefit everyone from vacation home shoppers to those seeking college tuition loans, and it can help you acquire financing in the event that you'd rather use credit than cash.

What can baby boomers do to maintain good credit scores or improve lower scores?

According to Barrett Burns, president and CEO of VantageScore Solutions, a credit score model developer, it's a good idea to first check that you even have credit history.

"It's actually quite common to have little or no credit history, especially if there's a primary person who handles family financial decisions," says Burns. "This can leave the other spouse without any credit history. Adding the spouse's name to the utility bills, mortgage payments and credit card accounts can help them build credit history, which results in a credit score."

Once a credit history is established, keep these tips in mind:

- Keep credit accounts active. As children leave the household and retirement looms on the horizon, many baby boomers seek to simplify their finances. What you might not realize is that closing old credit accounts with a positive credit history could negatively affect your credit score, especially if this process is done all at once. Keep the older accounts open, and use them for small purchases.
- Encourage financial independence. It's a common trend for the baby boomer generation to assist their children and grandchildren financially, even helping purchase largeticket items like tuition, homes and vehicles. Co-signing for a loan affects these generous baby boomers' credit accounts as well as

- their childrens', and the behavior of either can affect the credit scores of both. Before co-signing, consider the length of the loan's terms and have confidence that payment obligations will always be met.
- Know how to protect your score, even in disasters. Natural disasters can happen at any time, and in any location. Baby boomers who are affected by a natural disaster can ask lenders to flag their accounts while they get their lives sorted out after the disaster. When lenders flag an account in this manner, the account is no longer used when your credit score is calculated. This can have both positive and negative effects. If you flag an account that has always been paid on time and managed wisely, then that account is likely normally having a positive impact to your score. When it's flagged for a natural disaster then you lose that positive impact, and potentially risk lowering your credit score while it remains flagged. On the other hand, if the account has blemishes, those negative elements will be ignored while the account is flagged, temporarily boosting your score. Unlike other credit scoring models, the VantageScore model will include the flagged accounts if doing so will have a positive influence on the consumer's score. This way a consumer can continue to benefit from the positive impact that account might provide for them.
- · Review your credit files and your score. By checking to make sure your credit files are accurate and knowing your credit scores, you can make changes to your credit habits, improve your scores, or continue down the path of being a good credit manager. Every boomer should get a copy of his or her credit report annually from each of the national credit reporting companies (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion) at www.annualcreditreport. com and review them to be sure they are complete and accurate.

You never know when you may need to have See Seniors, page 13

<u>Finance</u>

Financial Resources For Women In Business

Courtesy of Linda Russell, **South Coast Community** Bank Area President, Wells Fargo

There's one topic we hear about most often when we talk to women who are building their own businesses: Obtaining financing can feel like a daunting task. We also talk with too many business owners who are unaware of the many resources available to help them access capital.

We want to change that and make more women aware of their options. Today there's a growing list of government, non-profit and private organizations that provide resources for women in business. Here are a few to consider:

Financial service providers that have a special focus on women-owned businesses: More financial institutions are recognizing the importance and growth of the segment – nearly 30 percent of businesses are owned by women today. As a result, more financial institutions are adding services and programs specially geared toward helping women learn about financing options and how to obtain a small business loan. At Wells Fargo, for example, we recently committed to lend a cumulative total of \$55 billion to women-owned businesses by 2020, in addition to offering numerous resources for small businesses.

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA): The SBA operates Women's Business Centers across the country - a network of educational centers designed to assist women in starting and growing small businesses. When a business owner is ready for a loan, she may want to consider an SBA loan, which is offered through banks and other lending institutions. SBA loan products, such as SBA 7(a) and 504 loans, can be good options for some creditworthy small business owners who may not able to obtain conventional loans or loan terms that meet their business needs.

National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO): With more than 5,000 members and 60 chapters, NAWBO is a valuable resource helping to propel women business owners into greater economic, social and political spheres of power worldwide.

Once you're ready to apply for a loan, there are a few questions any lender will ask: How much do you need? What will you do with the financing? How will you pay it back? Your success in securing a loan will depend on your answers. To help maximize your chances, before you approach a lender, make sure to do your homework in each of these key areas.

How much do you need?

This the most fundamental question. Having a precise answer is the first step in proving that you're prepared. If you aren't sure how much to ask for, revisit your business plan and business financials first. Look at what you have available, and what you project you will need to reach your goals, then do the math.

Why do you need it?

This is really a two-part question. Lenders are interested in knowing whether you're seeking financing to solve a problem, or to seize an opportunity.

You should maintain an up-to-date business plan that you revise regularly as your business grows. If you're just getting started, you can find plenty of guidance online, such as this step-by-step guide available at Wells Fargo's Business Insight Resource Center: https:// wellsfargobusinessinsights.com/businessstages/startup/writing-business-plan

How will you repay your loan?

The last question requires the most detailed documentation. Start with your current financials to show how much cash your business generates now. Then prepare cash flow projections: your best estimates of how much you anticipate generating after you receive the loan. Include principal and interest payments in the forecasts, and keep the loan terms within bank policy guidelines.

If the loan is secured by collateral, be prepared to explain exactly what tangible assets you can offer as a guarantee. Examples are equipment, a house or a car. In addition to

See Finance, page 13

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A Student's Perspective Looking Up

Disadvantages of Larger Class Sizes

By Glen Abalayan, Torrance High School Student

The State's misjudgment in handling its budget has brought devastating cuts in education and has caused class sizes to swell past their threshold. This is detrimental to the success of students, as it makes it harder for them to understand the subjects in which they need help. Instructors may proudly claim that they will teach their students no matter how large

tries to maneuver his ship in a storm. There have been many instances in school when a teacher's precious class time would be wasted by a student's witty remark and the minutes it takes to regain control.

The management of a large class while trying to give an individualized lecture plan seems almost contradictory. A teacher can only do so much in providing a student the personal attention required in such large class sizes.

"On the other hand, teachers are spreading themselves too thinly."

the classes are, but they can only handle so many students before reaching a limit.

Since middle school, I have not been in a class with fewer than 30 students. Each one of them wants to do well in class, but large class size unfortunately causes them to compete against each other to gain the teacher's favor. Although there is nothing wrong with active participation in class, some students overuse it to the detriment of others. Over time, this will widen the information gap between the students who answer questions at every opportunity and those who do not.

Another issue concerning large class size is the difficult task of keeping an oversized room under control. Educating over 30 students at once is an accomplishment in itself, but keeping the entire class obedient for the entire period is nearly impossible. A teacher trying to control his class is similar to how a weathered seaman There have been times when I have asked a teacher for help on a topic I did not understand only to be ignored because of how he or she is already focusing on another student's issues. This has led me to sometimes teach myself

the subject, which is hit or miss.

By increasing class sizes, today's education system is doing a disservice to students by giving them a difficult circumstance in which to succeed. Students vie to grab a teacher's attention while leaving those less competitive in the dust. On the other hand, teachers are spreading themselves too thinly by trying to provide a personal approach to educating every one of their many students. Maintaining discipline in the class will also continue to be more difficult as the student to teacher ratio increases. These problems will intensify and deteriorate the quality of education students deserve unless something is done about this issue quickly. •

Community Briefs

from page 2

hosting Students and Government Day. The program hopes to encourage youth participation in community affairs. Since its inception, some of the past program participants have become involved in civic affairs, joined the City's Youth Council or expressed interest in public sector careers. •

A Meteorite Mystery: First Meteorite from Mercury Found?

By Bob Eklund

Early in 2012, someone in Southern Morocco picked up 35 greenish stones. Purchased by a dealer in Erfoud, Morocco, one of them was then resold to Stefan Ralew, a meteorite collector from Berlin.

The dealer was demanding a high price and Ralew may have hesitated. But the wrinkled, glassy coating on one face of the rock was clearly a fusion crust--a kind of glaze that forms when a meteorite is heated as it passes through the atmosphere.

Looking at other faces, he would have recognized it as a type of meteorite called an achondrite, said Randy Korotev, a meteorite expert at Washington University in Saint Louis (WUSTL). That meant it was an exceptional stone. Most meteorites are stony, he explains-and of the stony meteorites, almost all (90 percent) are what are called ordinary chondrites. These are pieces of small, unmelted asteroids that are uniform in composition throughout.

The achondrites, on the other hand, are pieces of large asteroids or planets and at least 200 kilometers in diameter. These produced enough internal heat early in their history to partially melt and segregate into a metal core surrounded by a rocky exterior. Achondrites, which come from the crust or mantle of these differentiated bodies, make up only five percent of the stony meteorites that have been found.

So already, this find was looking very interesting. Where might it be from? About half of the achondrites come from the large asteroid 4 Vesta. Others come from Mars, the Moon or other asteroids.

To answer the question of origin, the stone's chemistry had to be analyzed. Ralew shipped it to Tony Irving at the University of Washington.

"Tony is where all the serious collectors go when they find strange meteorites," said Korotev, to whom Irving sends the "lunars" (possible lunar meteorites), which is what Korotev mainly studies.

Both the iron/manganese ratio of an asteroid and the ratios of its oxygen isotopes (variants of the oxygen atom) are thought to serve as "fingerprints" of its body of origin.

At the 44th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference in March, Irving said that the stone, now officially designated Northwest Africa 7325 (NWA 7325), had highly unusual chemistry. What's more, he said, the chemistry was suspiciously similar to that measured by NASA's Messenger probe, which is currently surveying the surface of Mercury from orbit. "It is high in magnesium and very low in iron, which is what they're seeing on the surface of Mercury," Korotev, who attended Irving's talk, said.

Some chemical ratios didn't match, but Irving said that might be because the stone had been "excavated from depth"--that is, blasted into space by a collision that left a deep scar in Mercury.

Although Korotev can't say for certain where the meteorite comes from, he *can* say why it is such a peculiar green. The green comes from a silicate mineral laced with chromium. "I once analyzed bottles to see what made them blue or green," Korotev said. The greenest bottle had 660 parts per million chromium, but some of the mineral components of NWA 7325 have 7,000 parts per million chromium. That's why it's green."

But the bigger mystery—where did it come from—is as yet unsolved.

Images: http://news.wustl.edu/news/ Pages/25222.aspx •

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Finance from page 11

collateral, how much cash will you personally put into the business? When outlining your debts and assets, consider including your personal financial information as well. This will help the lender get a sense of your personal financial stability.

Once you've prepared your proposal and collected the necessary information and documents to back it up, you're ready to talk to potential lenders. Be sure that you can explain clearly what you intend to do with the loan and why you expect the venture to succeed.

Finally, be prepared to discuss your own business qualifications. Because the success of a small business largely depends on leadership, your skills and knowledge are an important part of your company's profile.

When you've done your research, have all your documents in order, and can credibly answer your lender's questions, you've greatly improved your chances of securing capital and launching your business. Make sure to take advantage of the resources available to women business owners. The more you know about your options, the better chance of success. •

Seniors from page 11

your credit score pulled so it's a good idea to continue practicing good credit management habits even if you own your home and your car outright and don't anticipate applying for a loan at any time in the future. •

City Council from page 4

and can be purchased by calling or e-mailing Massa at (310)542-4579 or jmassa@socal. rr.com. Chiota said that the earlier guests reserve their tickets, the more tickets the group can sell, so an early RSVP is helpful. •

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April 6

Theft: 3100 BLOCK LOMITA BLVD Suspect(s) gain access to victim's phone line and make international calls.

Theft: 3600 BLOCK 182ND ST Suspect(s) enters property by unknown means and takes property/electric cables.

April 5

Burglary-Auto: 2500 BLOCK 237TH ST Suspect(s) enters possible unlocked vehicle, ransacks and takes property/cable wires.

Auto Theft-All: 3400 BLOCK MARICOPA ST Stolen vehicle: '08 BMW 328.

April 4

Vandalism: 3700 BLOCK 176TH ST Suspect(s) shatters victim's vehicle's windows with a possible BB gun.

Vandalism: 1800 BLOCK 208TH ST Suspect(s) deflates victim's vehicle's tires and punches door lock.

Burglary-Auto: 22100 BLOCK HAWTHORNE BLVD Suspect(s) punches door lock for entry and takes property/GPS, flashlight.

Theft: 2200 BLOCK SEPULVEDA BLVD Suspect takes property from victim while in

victim's vehicle with permission/iPod.

Burglary-Auto: 3300 BLOCK LOMITA BLVD Suspect(s) punches door lock for entry and takes property/third row seat.

Burglary-Auto: 3400 BLOCK LOMITA BLVD Suspect(s) punches door lock for entry and takes property/third row seat.

Burglary-Auto: 3300 BLOCK PACIFIC COAST

HWY Suspect(s) takes property from victim's vehicle while it is being serviced/iPod, jewelry.

Burglary-Auto: 3300 BLOCK LOMITA BLVD Suspect(s) punches door lock for entry and takes property/third row seat.

Auto Theft-All: 3300 BLOCK ARTESIA BLVD Stolen vehicle: '08 Honda M/C.

Burglary-Auto: 3300 BLOCK LOMITA BLVD Suspect(s) punches door lock for entry and takes property/third row seat.

Burglary-Auto: 3300 BLOCK LOMITA BLVD Suspect(s) punches door lock for entry and takes property/third row seat, clothing, headphones.

April 3

Burglary-Auto: 4100 BLOCK TORRANCE BLVD Suspect(s) enters by unknown means and takes property/GPS, stereo system.

Theft: 20500 BLOCK PALM WAY Suspect(s) takes unsecured property from location/lounge chair.

Theft: 3300 BLOCK TORRANCE BLVD Suspect(s) takes unsecured property from locker/cash, clothing, shoes, keys, wallet.

Burglary-Auto: 3500 BLOCK MARICOPA ST Suspect(s) smashes window for entry but flees without taking any property when interrupted by a witness.

Theft: 21200 BLOCK HAWTHORNE BLVD Suspect(s) enters business and takes property from victim's purse/ wallet.

Theft: 2600 BLOCK 182ND ST Suspect(s) takes victim's vehicle's catalytic converter.

Burglary-Auto: 1900 BLOCK 190TH ST

Suspect(s) smashes window for entry and takes property/passports, cell phones .

Auto Theft-All: 18800 BLOCK VAN NESS AVE Stolen vehicle: '01 Chevrolet Silverado.

April 2

Vandalism: 2300 BLOCK MARICOPA ST Suspect(s) deflates victim's vehicle's tires.

Battery-Simple: 22300 BLOCK KENT AVE Suspect strikes victim in the face and head several times.

Vandalism: 1200 BLOCK COTA AVE Suspect(s) deflates victim's vehicle's tires.

Burglary-Residential: 17000 BLOCK WILKIE AVE Suspect(s) removes window screen for entry/no loss.

Burglary-Residential: 16100 BLOCK DAPHNE AVE Suspect(s) removes window screen for entry, but is prevented by double pane from making entry/no loss.

April 1

Burglary-Auto: 18000 BLOCK OSAGE AVE Suspect(s) enters unlocked vehicle, ransacks and takes property/ backpack, cash, clothing, paperwork.

Auto Theft-All: 3700 BLOCK ARTESIA BLVD Stolen vehicle: '98 Honda Civic.

Theft: 3500 BLOCK CARSON ST Suspect(s) takes unsecured property from photo booth/cell phone, iPod.

Vandalism: 17700 BLOCK WESTERN AVE Suspect(s) kicks victim's vehicle, damaging same.

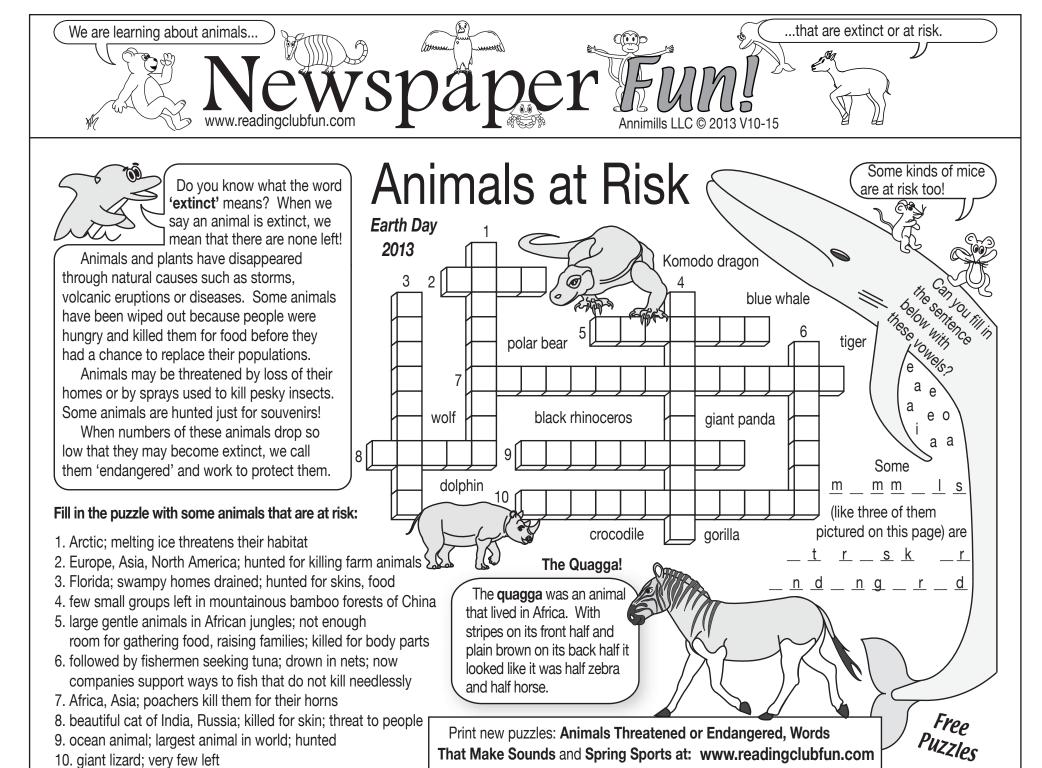
Burglary-Auto: 2600 BLOCK PACIFIC COAST

HWY Suspect(s) enters vehicle by unknown means and takes property/watch, purse, paperwork.

March 31

Vandalism: 18200 BLOCK VAN NESS AVE Suspect(s) smashes window of victim's vehicle/no entry, no loss.

Auto Theft-All: 1400 BLOCK ACACIA AVE Stolen vehicle: '91 Acura Legend. •



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Sports

from page 6

Laker fans everywhere can now almost rest assured that Kobe's plans to retire after next season will certainly crumble and his career will now be extended an additional year or two. In the meantime, however, the Lakers should now become Dwight Howard's team--something that the center was looking for before he hesitantly agreed to come to Los Angeles in the first place. It can be his own team where he can shine and show how good of a player he actually is. An injury to a key player of the team is never good, let alone if it's Kobe Bryant. Kobe's injury, however, might just be the driving force that helps keep Dwight Howard in Los Angeles as a Laker for many years to come.

In the blink of an eye, everything changed

for Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers. The Lakers will, of course, go on as an organization and hopefully remain a successful one at that, but Kobe may never be the same. As Bryant said himself though, "One day, the beginning of a new career journey will commence. Today is NOT that day." There is no quit inside of number 24. LeBron James may have said it best: "If there's anybody and I mean anybody who can come back from that injury, it would be him." Father Time eventually catches up to everybody, but he hasn't met Kobe Bryant just yet. While the injury is severe and could keep Bryant away from the court for almost a year, he will be back. The last thing that Kobe Bean Bryant would ever do is let an injury end his career. •



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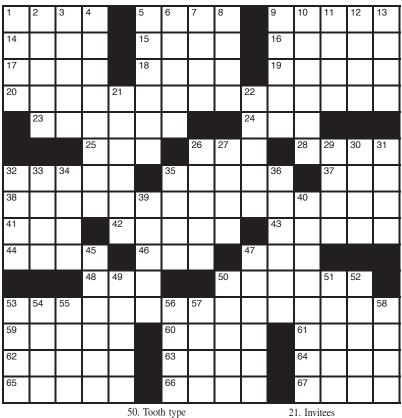
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Across

1. Peewee

5. Frog or year starter 9. Bungle

14. Barge 15. Lady's man

16. Assoc. of nations

17. Club fees 18. Flu source

19. ___ fraiche

20. Does a mediocre job 23. SS ___ Fitzgerald

24. Row producer

25. Fishing aid

26. ___ jacket 28. Farm soil

32. English rock band

35. German municipality 37. Sedona maker

38. World's largest ocean predator

41. Emeritus: Abbr. 42. Capture

43. Approval

46. Boiling blood

47. Mont Blanc, e.g.

44. It may be due

48. Attention

63. Constellation animal 64. "Charlotte's Web" girl

Down 1. Skirt style

2. Busy

3. Extremely

4. Condition sometimes treated by

hypnosis 5. Absorbed, in a way

53. Dramatic downturn

62. City near Düsseldorf

66. Prepares to be shot

59. Actress Renee

60. Encounter 61. Mélange

65. Spot check?

67. Like a bird?

6. Slowly merged (into) 7. Mozart's "Madamina," e.g.

_ du jour 9. Hairy-chested

10. Kamakawiwo'ole

11. Request 12. British title

13. Half of binary code

21. Invitees 22. Excelled

26. Yellow shade

_ meridiem

29. Passable 30. Haughtiness

31. Ocean menace

32. Blackguard 33. Bailiwick

34. Fixes

35. Engine sound

36. Gauge

39. Bizarre 40. Leave it alone!

45. Movie preview

47. Goddess of devotion 49. Answer

50. Extract

51. Edmonton skater

52. Wavelike design 53. Shot up

54. Radio host, to friends

55. To be, in old Rome 56. Flightless flock

57. Prefix with scope or meter

58. All alternative

Last Week's Answers

												us			<u> </u>		uisv	CIS	
¹ A	² S	³ P	⁴ E	⁵R		⁶ М	⁷ I	⁸ R	°O		10 F	11 L	¹² E	¹³ W		2	7	3	
14 L	Ε	0	Ν	Ε		¹⁵ A	В	Ε	D		16 R	-1	С	Ε	Н		1	J	L
¹⁷ B	L	U	R	Т		18 R	ı	D	Е		¹⁹ O	K	R	Α		1	9	8	
²⁰ A	F	F	Α	-1	²¹ R	Ε	D	Н	0	²² N	N	Ε	U	R	Н				H
			²³ P	Е	Α			²⁴ O	N	Ι	Т					6	5	4	
²⁵ P	²⁶ A	²⁷ C	Т		²⁸ C	²⁹ A	30 N	Т		³¹ E	М	³² B	³³ A	³⁴ R		9	2	6	
35 A	G	Α		³⁶ M	Е	S	Α		³⁷	С	Е	Α	G	Е	Н	J	_	U	L
38 N	0	N	³⁹ C	0	М	Ρ	0	⁴⁰ S	М	Е	N	Т	ī	S		4	1	5	
41 T	R	_	0	D	Е		⁴² M	Α	Р	S		43 	L	0	Н	_	_		H
⁴⁴ S	Α	D	Н	U		45 L	ı	Е	U		⁴⁶ S	K	Е	W		8	3	7	
			⁴⁷ E	L	⁴⁸ S	Е			⁴⁹ G	⁵⁰ A	Т					3	4	9	
⁵¹ P	⁵² E	⁵³ R	S	0	Ν	Α	⁵⁴ N	⁵⁵ O	Ν	G	R	⁵⁶ A	⁵⁷ T	⁵⁸ A	Н	Ĕ			H
⁵⁹ A	С	Α	ı		⁶⁰ A	G	Е	D		⁶¹ A	ı	М	Ε	D		7	6	2	
⁶² S	Н	Ι	٧		⁶³ R	U	Е	D		64 	٧	Ī	Е	D		5	8	4	
⁶⁵ S	0	L	Е		⁶⁶ F	Ε	D	S		⁶⁷ N	Е	R	D	S		5	0	ı	

7 F	\	uisw	/CI 3						
ı	2	7	3	8	9	4	6	5	1
ı	1	9	8	6	5	3	7	2	4
ı	6	5	4	2	7	1	9	8	3
ı	9	2	6	1	3	7	8	4	5
ı	4	1	5	9	8	6	3	7	2
ı	8	3	7	5	4	2	1	6	9
ı	3	4	9	7	2	8	5	1	6
ı	7	6	2	3	1	5	4	9	8
ı	5	8	1	4	6	9	2	3	7

SUDOKU Medium

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

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9X9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3X3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9.

PETSPETSPETSPETS

Pets Without Partners

Please join Animals Rule Rescue at The Family Pet Expo held at the Orange County Fairgrounds in Costa Mesa from April 19-21--Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Lexi is a beautiful, bi-colored, purebred Cocker Spaniel who was born May 1, 2005.



Lexi's prior owner was recently diagnosed with cancer and made the decision to owner surrender her two dogs. Lexi came in with her sister Marley. They can be placed separately. Lexi is a little love of a dog.

She has beautiful chocolate-brown eyes and lovely long Cocker ears. She loves to play with toys and is great with all other dogs and good with children. Lexi is housebroken and would make a great addition into any home situation. This is a breed that will require a grooming schedule. Please remember this when budgeting for a dog. Lexi is spayed, current on vaccinations, de-wormed, microchipped, housebroken, loves everyone she meets, is good with other dogs and good with children.

Sunshine, a super cute Terra-Poo (Terrier/Poodle mix), is a spectacular little puppy. She has personalityplus and a tail that wags so much it might cause her to take flight like a helicopter. She was born on December 24, 2012. Sunshine is darling, to say the least, and will be a small breed dog. She is a very happy little pup full of energy and loves to play. She gets along great

with our other little puppies and just adds so much "sunshine" to your day. Sunshine will be spayed when of age, is current on vaccinations, de-wormed, microchipped, and is good with other dogs and with children.

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 on April 27 back to our Saturday adoption events from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 305 North Harbor Boulevard in San Pedro (just off the 110 near the cruise port). We are always in need of donations for veterinarian bills and our senior dogs. Donations can be made through our website or by sending a check payable to: Animals Rule Placement Foundation at 305 North Harbor Blvd., San Pedro, CA

90731. All donations are tax-deductible, We are a registered 501©3 non-profit organization.

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



Purrrfect Companions

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

Henry is a darling kitten with soft, classic Tabby spirals and expressive golden eyes. He is very playful, super affectionate, loves to play on the bed and sleep draped across your feet. Henry is easygoing, good-tempered



and very gentle, which makes it even more bewildering how he could have been dumped back at a shelter after being adopted. Henry likes to coo to you and will trill at other kitties as he runs around the house--he absolutely adores other cats! Because of his age and energy, Henry would be far too lonely as a single cat. Henry would adore a home with a young kitty that he can romp around with

all the time. He isn't picky about his feline companion. Bigger or smaller than him, younger or older, girl or boy-- just give him a buddy...

Scotty, aka Butterscotch, found his way into a classroom where he decided to make himself at home. Luckily, one of the teachers was a Kitten Rescue adopter and took him home. It is completely baffling that Scotty has not been adopted, as he is everything you could wish for in a kitty. This insanely handsome boy is a super affectionate love bug who wants to spend all day snuggling and playing with his person. Scotty has a fantastic purr that just doesn't stop, rumbling through his entire body without pause. He would prefer to be your only kitty subject to all the attention. If you are looking for a devoted companion to be by your side, Scotty

is the one for you!

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. •



Fleas, Mosquitos Like Warm Weather Too

By Dr. Greg Perrault

Even though we've had some extra cool weather lately, the warm weather we all love is just around the corner and great for walking the dog to shed a few pounds.

However, there are two unwelcome pests that also enjoy the warm weather that can be more than just a nuisance, namely, fleas and mosquitos. These parasites can transmit dangerous diseases to you and your pet. Now is the time to take a few simple steps to help reduce an infestation of these parasites in your home and yard to keep your whole family safe.

Fleas thrive and can maximize their reproduction when temperatures climb above 70 degrees and the humidity increases. Just a few fleas can become thousands in a week or two during warm weather.

Fleas can transmit dangerous diseases like feline infectious anemia in cats and Typhus in people. Murine typhus is caused by a small bacteria called Rickettsia typhi, found in infected fleas and their feces. Fleas defecate while biting and feeding on animals and humans. When a person scratches the bite, the bacteria from the feces can enter the wound and into the blood stream. People can also become infected by transferring the bacteria to their eyes, nose or mouth, or inhaling crushed or dried feces of an infected flea.

Understanding the flea lifecycle will help you target your efforts to eliminate these dangerous parasites.

Fleas, like all insects, have 4 life stages. The egg, maggot or larval stage, pupa or cocoon stage, and finally the adult flea. About 95 percent of the flea life cycle is in the egg, maggot and cocoon stages in the environment. The adult flea makes up only 5 percent of the flea population and is the only life stage that lives on your pet.

Flea control applied to your pet once per month can miss the big problem in the house and yard. Even the best medicine will lose efficacy over the course of a month and allow fleas to live long enough to lay eggs and reproduce leading to a frustrating cycle of endless fleas. There are safe and effective products that are easy to apply to your house and yard. You will want to get a product with an insect growth regulator. These products are extremely safe for people and pets and last up to 6 months with one application. Check with your veterinarian for recommendations on the best product for your individual needs.

Mosquitos have been increasing every year in Southern California. Mosquito season in California begins in the spring and goes into November. These parasites can transmit heartworm to your cat and dog and West Nile Virus to you. It's difficult to say how many cases of heartworm we have in Southern California for a couple of reasons.

Not all pets get tested yearly and unlike human medicine, not all positive cases get reported. However, of the cases that were reported in one study, about 40 percent of the dogs had not traveled outside of Los Angeles County. Meaning, they contracted the disease in our area.

Mosquitos cannot transmit heartworm to

people but they can transmit West Nile Virus. In 2012 there were 163 reported human cases in LA County.

There are safe and effective medicines to prevent heartworm in your cat and dog that your veterinarian can prescribe. These medicines also treat and prevent other internal parasites, such as roundworms. Mosquitos reproduce in standing water. Even tiny amounts of water can be home to hundreds of larva. Here are some tips to reduce the places where mosquitoes can hide. Get rid of mosquito breeding sites by emptying standing water from flower pots, buckets and barrels. Change the water in pet dishes and replace the water in birdbaths weekly. Drill holes in tire swings so water drains out. Keep children's wading pools empty and on their sides when they are not being used.

Now is the time to start prevention measures to control these harmful pests. Let's enjoy our summer, flea and mosquito free.

Dr. Greg Perrault owns and operates Cats & Dogs Animal Hospital in Long Beach. •

Reg Estate

Overcoming Common Bathroom Addition Challenges

(BPT) - Adding a bathroom to your home remains one of the most popular and rewarding home improvements you can make. In fact, when you sell your home, you can expect to recoup more than 50 percent of the cost of a bathroom addition, according to Remodeling Magazine's Cost vs. Value

BREAKING THROUGH CONCRETE

Adding a bathroom in a basement, garage area or in a home that sits on a slab traditionally requires cutting into concrete. Yet there are many pitfalls to consider with this traditional approach. First, cutting into a concrete pad is a costly endeavor and inevitably weakens

"In fact, when you sell your home, you can expect to recoup more than 50 percent of the cost of a bathroom addition, according to Remodeling Magazine's Cost vs. Value Report."

Report. Creating a new bathroom where none currently exists can, however, be among the more challenging home improvements you can make.

Fortunately, with careful planning and the help of innovative plumbing fixtures, it is possible to add a bathroom to virtually any home. Here are some common challenges and how you can address them to achieve the bathroom addition of your dreams:

FINDING SPACE

Where to put another bathroom is a burning question, whether your home is 1,800 square feet or 3,800. Of course, the question is more challenging for smaller or older homes, but options do exist. Many people find space in a basement, and with finishing a basement among the most popular types of renovation, adding a bath to this space makes a great deal of sense. If your home is built on a slab, other options might include taking some space away from a garage, or adding a powder room beneath stairs.

its structural integrity. The process creates dust and noise, and the contractor can't be sure what he will encounter; the slab may be thicker or thinner than anticipated, cracks can develop and a host of other problems may occur. These challenges can be solved with above-floor plumbing, and several options exist.

PLUMBING

Plumbing a bathroom addition is, arguably, the biggest challenge of this type of home improvement. Whether you're building in the basement, beneath a first-floor stairway or in an existing space within the house, finding room for pipes can involve opening walls or cutting into concrete - traditional approaches that can be inconvenient and costly.

Macerating toilet systems can be an affordable, time-saving and convenient alternative. While you may be familiar with the concept of "upflushing" toilets that use a pump to move waste, macerating technology goes one better, incorporating a grinding feature that reduces solid waste

before pumping out, which eliminates clogging. In addition to managing liquid and solid waste, this upflush technology easily accommodates waste water from a bathroom sink and a shower or bathtub in one convenient system.

WATER SUPPLY

Ensuring an adequate supply of water - both hot and cold - is another common challenge homeowners must consider when adding a bathroom. Before moving forward with their home improvement plans, homeowners should assess the capacity of their water heaters and the condition of existing plumbing within the home. Is your water heater up to the task of serving an additional bathroom? If you're

adding a powder room, it will require less hot water than a full bath where people will need lots of hot water for showers.

Finally, ask your plumber to inspect existing pipes in the home. Are they in good condition? Will they withstand the added demands of a new bathroom? Will they work well with the new piping that will be present in the new bathroom?

There's no arguing that adding a bathroom improves both your home's value and your family's use and enjoyment of the space. By addressing some common challenges in the planning stages of your home improvement, you can ensure your new bathroom is efficient, user-friendly and cost-effective. •





(BPT) - David Bromstad, HGTV(R) star and celebrity interior designer, offers the following tips for anyone looking to add color to their home:

- Select bold items to build your room around, such as a piece of artwork, rug or chair that make a statement.
- Use a color palette to guide design choices. Mix and match the colors to help guide your color choices.
- For high-impact transitions, combine bolder shades with their more neutral counterparts and for a more tranquil transition, stick to softer or lighter shades that are from the same color family.
- Use colorful patterns for the illusion of space. Horizontal stripes can help small rooms feel more spacious, while vertical stripes can add the illusion of height to low ceilings.







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