

Torrance Tribune

The Weekly Newspaper of Torrance

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Car Aficionados from Around the South Bay Meet Every Friday Night



Check out Doug Whalley's paint job. For more photos and story go to page 3. Photo by TerriAnn Ferren.

Artificial Turf Coming to Maple Avenue Athletic Fields

By Dylan Little

During its May 21 meeting, the Torrance City Council approved a plan to provide artificial turf for the newly acquired fields at 555 Maple Avenue. While the decision still needs the approval of the Administrative Office of the Courts, the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) is already excited to play on the new fields.

Perhaps the biggest reason for approving artificial turf as opposed to natural turf is that it's a safer playing surface. Councilmember Bill Sutherland said that in his experience working with AYSO, fields frequently had gopher holes that kids could trip over and possibly suffer serious injuries. "You neglected to say one thing about the artificial turf—it's much safer," said Sutherland. "When I was in charge at AYSO, I never saw a field without gopher holes. I don't know [if] sprained ankles or broken legs or worse are worth spending a few extra bucks, but I think it is."

Sutherland also thought that the City should invest in giving kids a well-maintained place to play. "I don't think I've heard anyone say, 'You should go to Torrance—they have beautiful fields,'" he said. "Let's have great fields for the kids. I think when you spend money on kids, it's money well spent."

As desirable as artificial turf might be, it also carried steeper upfront costs for installation (\$2.5 million versus \$1.44 million for natural turf), which results in the City charging a higher fee to organizations like AYSO to use the new facility. Councilmember Pat Furey thought the costs might be too high. "The one thing that really jumped out at me...was the differences between the rental costs," said Furey. "The natural turf field has a rental cost where we charge \$15 an hour, whereas the rental cost for these facilities would \$100 or

\$200 an hour, which I see as a big increase for 501(c)(3) organizations, like AYSO. Is that really collectable?"

However, Community Services Director John Jones said that the prices aren't insurmountable. With the amount of space at the 555 Maple Avenue location, one-half

could hold three fields for 10 and under players (U10), or two for 12 and under (U12) or host practice space for many more teams. After sharing the costs between teams, the amount each team would pay would be relatively inexpensive.

See City Council, page 3

Police, Fire Personnel Acknowledged for their Service

By Cristian Vasquez

The South Bay Medal of Valor Committee announced the honorees for the 2013 South Bay Medal of Valor Awards. The 39th Annual South Bay Medal of Valor Luncheon, which will take place May 30 beginning at 11 a.m. and will be hosted at Torrance Marriot South Bay Hotel, is organized to honor police officers and firefighters in the South Bay who have distinguished themselves through acts of bravery, heroism or through other outstanding actions beyond the normal demands of protection service.

"We rely on the chiefs a lot to surprise these people and it is for going above and beyond what they do on a daily basis. Sometimes they do qualify and sometimes they don't—but if they have done something special, we want to acknowledge that," Hermosa Beach Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Maureen Hunt said. "They [police/fire] go out every day and put their lives on the line and we kind of tend to take that for granted. As long as there aren't any problems we keep thinking that it is business as usual, but these people risk their lives on a daily basis. When something

extraordinary is done, I believe they should be honored. It is important not just for the officers and the city, but for the officers' families. You see it a lot of times where the officers invite parents and wives and you see tears of joy because they are so proud."

Being honored are police and fire personnel from cities around the South Bay in three different categories: Medal of Valor, Sustained Superiority Award and the Distinguished Service Award. The Medal of Valor recipient is Manhattan Beach Firefighter David Shenbaum. Recipients of the Sustained Superiority Award are Gardena Police Officer Michael Ross and Inglewood Police Officer Robert Cavazos. Several police departments have officers who will receive the Distinguished Service Award, including the Gardena Police Department's Marisol Bazan, Dave Brock, Evan Jackson and Matthew Toda; Hawthorne Police Department's Kevin Pedersen; Hermosa Beach Police Department's Josh Droz and Dean Garkow; and Torrance Police Department's David Cho and Dusty Garver.

"We are very proud of our two officers.

See Medal of Valor, page 6

Weekend Forecast

Friday
Sunny
68°/59°



Saturday
AM Clouds/
PM Sun
66°/59°



Sunday
Partly
Cloudy
66°/60°



Calendar

FRIDAY, MAY 24

• Building the Towers: Simon Rodia and Watts Towers, 3:30- 5 p.m., Katy Geissert Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd. For more information call (310) 618-5964.

SATURDAY, MAY 25

• Torrance Certified Farmers' Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Charles H. Wilson Park, 2200 Crenshaw Blvd. For more information call (310) 618-2930.

SUNDAY, MAY 26

• Walking Tours of Old Torrance, 1:30 p.m., begins at the Torrance Historical Museum, 1345 Post Ave. For more information call (310) 328-5392.

• Free Nature Walk, 10 a.m.- Noon, Madrona Marsh Nature Center and Preserve, 3201 Plaza del Amo, For more information call (310) 782-3989.

TUESDAY, MAY 28

• South High School Spring Concert, 7 p.m., James Armstrong Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive. For more information call (310) 533-4352.

• Pages and Pizza: A Teen Book Group, 4 p.m., Southeast Library, 23115 Arlington Ave. For more information call (310) 530-5044.

THURSDAY, MAY 30

• Propagation Society - Planting Seeds for the Future, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Madrona Marsh Nature Center and Preserve, 3201 Plaza Del Amo, Best for adults or college age students. For more information call (310) 782-3989.

FRIDAY, MAY 31

• Life Planning Classes - Medi-Cal for Nursing Home Care, 10:30- 2:30 p.m., Katy Geissert Library 3301 Torrance Blvd. For more information call (310) 533-1996.

• 31st Annual Spring Fashion Show, 7:30 p.m., Marsee Auditorium, 16007 Crenshaw Blvd. For more information contact vbruce@elcamino.edu.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

• South Bay Ballet presents "A Midsummer Night's Dream", 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. James R. Armstrong Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive. For more information call (310) 781-7171.

• Free Advanced Composting Workshop, 9:30-11 a.m., Columbia Park, 4045 190th St. For more information call (310) 781-6900.

• Meet the Author: Peggy Hesketh, 2 p.m., Katy Geissert Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd. For more information call (310) 618-5959.

• South Bay Scooter Club monthly ride, 12:30- 4 p.m., corner of Crenshaw Blvd and Lomita Blvd. For more information call (310) 770-9819.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

• Craft Delight, Noon-1:30 p.m., Henderson Library, 4805 Emerald St. For more information call (310) 371-2075.

• Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Group, 7-8 p.m., Katy Geissert Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd. For more information call (310) 618-5959.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

• PV Street Fair and Music Festival, 10 a.m.- 9 p.m., Norris Center Drive in RHE between Silver Spur Road. www.pvstreetfair.com.

• Beading Workshop, 10- 11:30 a.m., Henderson Library, 4805 Emerald St. For more information call (310) 371-2075.

• Dance And Music (Shakti Dance), 5 p.m., James Armstrong Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive. For more information call (310) 428-5875.

ONGOING

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

• Library Centennial Film Contest: Why the Torrance Library is important for educational, recreational, business, and cultural needs. Prizes awarded for Youth, grades 8 and under, Teen - grades 9 through 12, and Adult - age 18 and over. Submissions are due by July 31. http://www.torranceca.gov/Library/videocontest/

Torrance Police Memorial Ceremony

On Wednesday, May 15, members of the Torrance Police Department, as well as city officials, gathered at the Toyota Meeting Hall and take part in the department's annual Police Memorial Ceremony.

The purpose of the event was to honor the city's four Torrance officers and one Crossing Guard who lost their lives in the line of duty, as well as, pay respect to the

countless numbers of police officers that have given the ultimate sacrifice across the country.

Family members from their fallen officers attended the ceremony. This ceremony runs in conjunction with National Police Appreciation Week that runs from May 12-18, 2013, as communities from across the country pay tribute and show support and appreciation for the men and women in law enforcement. •



Officer Brian McGee and Officer Guillermo Sandoval.



Sgt Scott Cameron and Officer Danielle Morreale.



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TerriAnn in Torrance

The Roar of Summer in Torrance

By TerriAnn Ferren

Summer is almost here and it is time to get out the warm weather clothing and hit the beach, take long walks and plan vacations. School is nearly out for students and they are probably dreaming of what they'll do on their summer vacation. Last Friday night, I headed down to the beach and spotted rows and rows of pristine vintage cars accompanied by proud owners. As I parked my not-so-late-model, ordinary car and headed toward the event, I heard oldies music as the aroma from the hamburger place nearby reminded me it was nearly time for dinner. Honestly, I remember seeing vintage cars down here in the parking lot before, but haven't stopped to really take a look. Wow, was I in for a treat! These are not just beautiful automobiles--they are pieces of art on wheels. Everywhere I turned, I saw one car more spectacular than the other. Then I spotted a dark green 1969 Corvair and

me, he called him the "doctor of cars." Doug told me he has been coming to the car show for four or five years and brought an '85 El Camino this evening to the event. He has been painting since 1971. "I do paint restoration and all that good stuff," said Doug. "Forty-three years... I started at Torrance Airport when I was 15 stripping and painting aircraft--since 1971. My first job was 13 years and then I started working. Self-employed since then... Now I have been self-destroyed every since." *Back in My Arms Again* by the Supremes began playing over the sound system and I am not sure if it was the old cars or the vintage music, but all of a sudden I felt transformed to an era gone by. I ran my fingers over the paint job on Doug's El Camino and it was unbelievably smooth. I could literally see myself reflected in the paint. And Doug pointed out that I couldn't even feel a separation seam between the colors. Smooth!



1931 DeSoto for Sale. Photo by TerriAnn Ferren.

headed toward it only to find out it was factory perfect. A long time ago, I remember hearing the myth about the Corvair blowing up on the road and found out that debate continues to this day. As it turned out the owner of this perfect Corvair was Noe Rubio, who told me that this particular year (1969) was the last year the Corvair was manufactured. "In '68 and '69, they were hand-built at the factory--only 6,000 of these were made in '69," said Noe. "In '66, 225,000 were made--so it was dwindling down. This car's got 5,000 original miles on it. It really isn't even broken in yet. The windows' sticker [price sticker] is still in the back window, it still has original plates... Everything's original but the wheels, which I am going to get back eventually."

This Corvair was indeed a gem and Noe told me that the paint on the car is original too--Phantom Green." Even the cars were into superheroes, I guess. At night, Noe told me the car looks black. I asked Noe if he brings his car to the show often and he told me he likes to bring different cars and show them off. As Noe sat in the Corvair for a photograph, *I Got You Babe* by Sonny and Cher broke out over the sound system. Noe told me he has had this particular car for three years. "It was on consignment at South Bay Motors in Torrance from this guy who wanted to get rid of his cars," shared Noe. "I just came across it. I got done buying a Corvair the month before from Arizona. It came from Barry Jackson--it was a high dollar car. I just spent \$40,000 on a car and couldn't rationalize another car, but I couldn't... the price was right." The original sticker price? It was \$2,980.25 total. The white walls cost more than the "turbo air" and the car was purchased from Paramount Chevrolet in Downey, California. The license plates frame still says "Paramount Chevrolet, Downey, California!" This beauty of a car hasn't traveled far from where it was originally sold and Noe Rubio takes very good care of this baby.

Noe then introduced me to Doug Whalley. As it turns out, Doug has been restoring cars for a long time. In fact, as Noe introduced Doug to

"I give a lifetime guarantee on my cars when I do a paint job," added Doug. "I use the best materials available. This is Imron®--this is aircraft paint. I've been doing that 30 years." He went on to say, "I have been in business since 1984 [when he quit the airport job] and am a member of the *Walteria Businessmen's Club* and the *South Bay Mopar Car Club* and *The Crusin' '50s* -- I love it here!" Doug owns *Doug's Diversified Specialties* in Torrance. I forgot to ask him what kind of wax he uses! Bummer.

The sun was beginning to set as I walked away from the shiny El Camino and a voice on the sound system told everyone to get their raffle tickets out because they were about to begin the drawing. This group is well-organized, diverse and very into their cars. It made me glad I parked a little bit away. My dusty car would have felt embarrassed with all these vintage, pristine, cool cars about.

This adventure by the sea also reminded me of my son Christopher's love of cars. We spent many hours watching reruns of *Wacky Races* with Dastardly and Muttley, and then there were the *Love Bug* movies we must have watched dozens of times. Actually, if I asked the people here at the car show, I bet they would remember those shows too. Sometimes it's hard not to give human emotions and feeling to cars. I remember Dean Jones in a scene during *The Love Bug* where he tells of his love for his car and how sometimes he feels as if it (the car) listens to him. Hmmm.

Car aficionados from around the South Bay meet every Friday night from April 5 to October 25, 2013 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 245 N. Harbor Drive, Redondo Beach, California 90277. So bring your muscle car, street rod, exotic or bike and show off what you've done to make your car "cherry," as they used to say.

Summer is here, and by the beach the sound of big engines and cars shined to mirror finishes are only half the story because each and every vehicle has a history just waiting to be told. Now I think I will get out my DVD of *The Love Bug* and reminisce. •

For More Photos See TerriAnn, page 7

City Council

from front page

"When you take that \$100 per hour per half...you have three U10s and two U12s--and those are games. When you look at the market rate for artificial turf, the configuration of how cheap and how you can divide, it brings the cost down considerably," said Jones. "You could also have practice space. You could house perhaps 20 or 30 teams over that whole space and when you divide that by \$200, it's a pretty small amount for each team to have the this level of play under lighting."

Representatives from AYSO were pleased with the decision to use artificial turf. Wendy Bell, an AYSO volunteer, said the field would be a welcome addition to the city and help keep Torrance soccer players safe. "A professional, even-grounded facility would improve the safety for our players and the safety of our guests," said Bell.

The Council also concluded its budget hearing process by unanimously approving a budget that adds two police officers over two years, provides funding in case of a shortfall in fundraising for the City's Tournament of Roses parade float, and funds the creation of a "friendly city" partnership with a yet-to-be-decided-on foreign city.

In addition to adding police officers, the new budget also adds an additional lawyer to City Attorney John Fellows' team. Fellows said that the department's caseload is expected to grow due to the effects of AB 109 (also known as the Prisoner Realignment bill). "If realignment does what we project, we're going to need another body at some point," said Fellows.

Mayor Frank Scotto was initially wary of adding more lawyers to the City's payroll, but Furey and others on the Council agreed with Fellows that more attorneys were necessary. "It makes infinite sense to bring in someone at the lower level and move up someone so we have the opportunity for advancement

from within the department," said Furey. "We have a very small City Attorney staff and more and more prosecutions that they are doing--1,800 last year. That's an awful lot of cases."

The new budget also addresses Torrance's airport noise problem. During the May 14 hearing, several residents complained about the under-enforcement of the city's noise abatement ordinances. The new budget provides funding for technology to assist in identifying violators and has an Environmental Quality Officer working part-time on addressing noise complaints. City Manager LeRoy Jackson said that this would slow the department's recovery from past budget cuts, but wouldn't keep it from returning to its past efficiency. "This stretches our recovery time, but still allows us to recover," said Jackson.

Lastly, the budget added after-school services for students at Jefferson Middle School. School Principal Lee Lee Chou said demand for an affordable after-school program was already high and with incoming sixth graders could be even higher. "There are parents who say they absolutely need an after-school program," said Chou. "Currently, I'm very comfortable with the estimate of 25 kids and after next week I think we can bring in another 15."

City Finance Manager Eric Tsao said that if Chou's estimates are correct, the program would be able to pay for itself and wouldn't even need the budgeted \$5,000. "If she hits her target of 25 students, the \$5,000 in funding will not be needed," said Tsao.

Councilmember Cliff Numark expressed that overseeing a balanced budget with no cuts to services has been a welcome change from the past six years of personnel cuts and service reductions. "This has been the most pleasurable budget process I've been through in the last six years," said Numark. •

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Sports

Slip Slidin' Away

By Adam Serrao

Just when they lead you to believe everything is getting better, the Los Angeles Dodgers have the unmistakable ability to let their fans down this year. Having won four of their last five games before last weekend's series with the Atlanta Braves, it looked as if the Dodgers actually had a chance to turn their season around with what manager Don Mattingly called a "window of opportunity." Having taken two of three against the Washington Nationals in a series that featured the return of Zack Greinke, the Dodgers also got Mark Ellis off of the DL and witnessed the emergence of Scott Van Slyke, who came to the team and in one day hit more home runs than Matt Kemp has all season long. That cause for optimism, though, left with the Dodgers as they boarded the plane to fly to the Peach State, where their series against the Atlanta Braves was only a microcosm of what is wrong with the L.A. Dodgers team as a whole.

After a series against the Braves that saw the Dodgers out in front late only to have their bullpen blow the lead in three consecutive games, the team was left with a 17-25 record that had them sitting in last place in the National League West while

"At the core of every good baseball team, there is a good starting rotation. The Dodgers actually have that."

being owners of the fourth worst record in all of baseball going into the series with the Milwaukee Brewers. While the starting pitching is looking somewhat above average behind Kershaw, a healthy Greinke and Ryu, the bullpen, defensive play and an offense that ranks among the worst in the National League continues to spell defeat for the Boys in Blue. An offense that, on paper, looks so potent with the likes of Kemp, Adrian Gonzalez, Andre Ethier and more was held to just two hits last Saturday and only three on Sunday as the Braves at one point retired 19 consecutive batters that stepped to the plate. Many of the fingers are pointed at the bullpen lately, which is an obvious sight for sore eyes, but as Mattingly said himself, "It goes back to us not being able to add on." An unproductive offense that manages less than five base runners per game in many instances is simply not going to win games.

The most obvious of the Dodgers' struggles is the much-maligned bullpen that must be talked about despite its glaringly obvious poor production. Last weekend, Kenley Jansen lost two games in a row, while closer Brandon League looked as if he belonged in the minor leagues the way batters were reading his pitches coming to the plate. Ronald

Belisario has the ability to be dominant, but has struggled all season long thus far. Paco Rodriguez is streaky, but has seemingly lost control of his pitches. Despite all of that, Mattingly remains confident in his pen and holds out hope. "I'm confident our relievers can do the job," he said. "That said, you've got to look at the team. We put pressure on relievers that they can't give up one run. That's not a team for me. We've got to put another run on the board. You can't say the bullpen let us down when you put up two runs. It's not fair to say that. They can't give up a run. Take it all as a group--not just the bullpen."

Mattingly is correct in his examination of the team, but that does nothing to improve the Dodgers' standing in the fans' or league's eyes. A poor offense may be straining the bullpen, but a poor offense, a poor bullpen and poor defense all do little to escape an ever-increasing realization that this Dodger team just flat out isn't good.

At the core of every good baseball team, there is a good starting rotation. The Dodgers actually have that. Kershaw continues to be one of, if not the best, pitcher in all of baseball and even guys at the back end of the rotation like Chris Capuano and Matt Magill

are stepping up in injured Chad Billingsley's stead. That being said, it is not completely impossible for this Dodgers' team to turn it around. There is, however, much to be fixed. Offense remains to be a rumor on a club that was originally thought to have the ability to score five to seven runs a game. Kemp also remains to be a rumor. Is it too early to begin to think that the "All-Star" centerfielder had one good season in which he massively overachieved? Maybe it was the crash into the wall in Milwaukee last year that has him still a bit timid at the plate, but for what he is supposed to be, Matt Kemp is severely under-producing. Then there's the batting average of Ethier that continues to hover below .260, which does its part to announce the realization that the only players who are producing for the team are the ones who came over from Boston (Gonzalez, Crawford and Punto). At least they've all bought into L.A.

Yes, it's still early in the season, as this year has currently hit its one-quarter of the way mark, but the season is slowly sliding away from the Dodgers. If the other three quarters of the season are anything like the first, sports fans in Los Angeles will be wishing that the Kings played year-round to give them something to root for. •

Up and Adam

Tartars One and Done

By Adam Serrao

It certainly wasn't easy for the boys from Torrance High to make it into the playoffs. Once they got there, however, they were quickly relieved of their newly acquired status by the San Dimas Saints. A rollercoaster season that saw the Tartars go from the bottom of their division in the Pioneer League to rallying off eight straight wins,

"A rollercoaster season that saw the Tartars go from the bottom of their division in the Pioneer League to rallying off eight straight wins, including a first round playoff victory over St. Bonaventure."

including a first round playoff victory over St. Bonaventure, has at last come to an end. With a 7-1 loss last Friday night in the CIF Division 4 bracket, the Tartars were knocked out of the tournament, giving San Dimas their first playoff victory since 2009--a year in which the Saints beat the Tartars for the CIF championship trophy at Angel Stadium.

Everything looked to be getting off to a great start for the Tartars when they took on the Saints as they got on the board first in the third inning and held San Dimas, a team that lost only seven games all year long, to a scoreless first two innings of the contest. The run that the Tartars scored in the third, however, seemed to only wake up the sleeping giant that was the Saints. San Dimas responded with three runs of its own in the bottom of the third to jump out to a two-run lead before breaking the game open in the sixth inning with four more to take a 7-1 lead. Seven runs in one game is more than Saints' starting pitcher Jimmy Lambert would need to notch his 11th win of the year on his eighth complete game for the playoff victory. "We hung in the game. We scored first," Torrance head coach Ollie Turner said. "But their pitcher's pretty good." Lambert allowed only four hits to the Tartars while also striking out four to get the win.

The Tartars' (15-14, 7-3) baseball season is now officially over, but none of the players will be found hanging their heads. "Our guys came to fight," Turner said of his team. "We turned it around at the end of the season and gave it all we had." Six straight league victories certainly tell the tale for Turner and the Tartars, who even gained respect from San Dimas. "They beat us a few years before we beat them in the final," San Dimas head coach Mike Regan explained. "They have a great program. It's a huge win against a great program like that." Turner and his Tartars club will head into the offseason with much to work on, but will undoubtedly come out strongly next season to try and take the Pioneer League by storm and gain better seeding going into the playoffs.

South High

The South High Spartans are still riding their high from a successful end to the regular season that saw them win four straight division games to take the top seed out of the Pioneer League. The visiting Estancia Eagles were the first ones to get in the way of the Spartans last Friday night in the first round, but having been absent from the playoffs for three years now, the Tartars and ace pitcher Matt Mogollon wouldn't let their paths be blocked for long.

Mogollon got off to an uncharacteristic start, as the team's top pitcher is usually prone to beginning games strongly. Though Mogollon gave up only one hit in the first inning, Estancia was able to manufacture a run by capitalizing on two stolen bases, a walk and an error to jump out to an early 1-0 lead. The Spartans (18-10, 7-3) backed their

pitcher early and often, however, beginning in the bottom of the first inning. Nick Cohan stepped to the plate and did what he has been doing all season long for the Spartans as he slammed a double into left-centerfield to score two runs and get South on the board and right back in the game. "We didn't let our first inning mistake get us down," said South head coach Grady Sain. "That was a

key point in the game answering back in the first inning. It gave us back the momentum." The Spartans certainly took the momentum and ran with it, scoring another run in the second inning and two more in the third off of four singles to jump out to a 5-1 lead.

A four-run cushion was all that Mogollon would need, going six full innings and allowing only two runs on one hit on the night. "After the first inning, I knew I needed to focus," Mogollon said. "My teammates backed me up offensively, which made it a lot easier." One of those teammates was Cohan, who contributed to the Spartan lead again in the bottom of the fifth with a two-run single to bring the game to its final score of 7-2. "When Matt is out there, we have total confidence and we just try to make plays behind him," Cohan explained. That's certainly what he did, going two for two with four RBIs on the night. With the win, the Spartans will now advance to take on the Northview Vikings this week in the second round of the playoffs.

West High

The West High Warriors rallied their way into this year's playoffs with six straight wins to end the regular season, but found their postseason lives short-lived as they took on the Diamond Bar Brahmas in the first round of the CIF Southern Section Division 3 playoffs. Joey Notch was one for three with a triple, Taylor Myers singled for a hit and Javier Galvan singled to give the Warriors their only three hits of the day in the 3-0 loss at Diamond Bar last Thursday night. Scott Buttlund pitched six innings for the Warriors, giving up three runs on seven hits with two strikeouts. On the other end, seven Warriors stepped to the plate and struck out, leaving the team pretty much handcuffed on offense all night long. The Warriors (18-12, 6-4) will be back next year to try to remain atop the Bay League standings and make another run at a CIF championship trophy.

North High

After a meteoric fall from first place in the Pioneer League standings, the North High Saxons dropped to a fourth place playoff seeding when they lost their last five games of the season. That meant that the Saxons would take on La Habra in the first round of the playoffs, which spelled disaster for North. La Habra jumped out to a 5-0 lead with five runs in the second inning and never looked back from there. Four more in the bottom of the fifth were too much for the Saxons to overcome as they ultimately fell by a final score of 9-2 last Tuesday night in La Habra.

Roman Luna went two for three with a double and drove in the Saxons' only two runs of the night. Gota Tamasaki also had two hits, while Devin Nakagawa and Joey Gomez had one apiece. The Saxons' (16-13, 5-5) season ends in a slump, but Mike Demaria and company will be back next season to prove that they have what it takes to not only win the Pioneer League title, but also make some noise in the playoffs. •



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to appreciate the heat in the buffalo wing sauce and respect it.

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Most of the chili sauces that are sold commercially are too vinegary

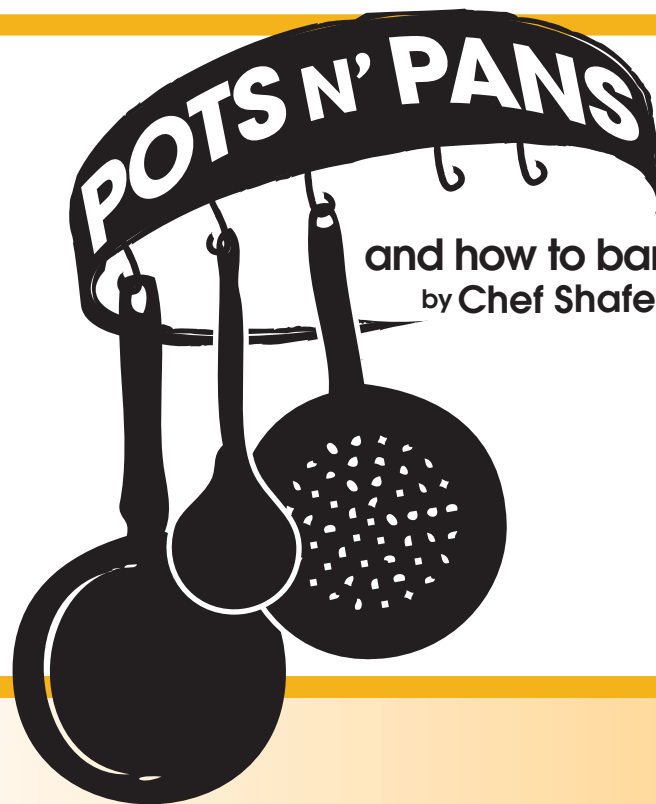
for my taste and not enough other flavors.

So I have come up with a way to make a great hot sauce without the

vinegar to ruin your taste buds.



The Chef



and how to bang them
 by Chef Shafer



Garlic Chili Sauce

- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup garlic cloves
- 1/2 cup chopped onions
- 1 cup chopped chilies
 (Use your favorite Jalapeño, Serrano, Habanero, Thai or even dried chilies will work, but remember they all have different heat meters.)
- 1 cup tomato puree
- 1/2 cup seasoned rice vinegar
- Salt to taste.

In a tall sauce pan, heat the oil. When it is hot, add the garlic and cook till golden brown.

Next, add the onions and cook till nice and soft about 2 minutes.

Next, stir in the chilies and cook for 3 to 4 more minutes.

Add the tomato puree and vinegar and simmer for 6 to 8 more minutes.

Season with salt and place in a blender to puree till smooth and creamy.

Chill and eat.

This will get you hoppin!

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

Torrance Honors Our Military

By Torrance Police Department. Photos by Jon Harrison.

Last weekend the City of Torrance paid tribute to the nation's Armed Forces with its 54th Annual Armed Forces Day Celebration and Parade – the City's longest standing tradition. Each year, the City honors a different military branch; this year highlighted

the United States Marine Corps. Grand Marshal, Major General Melvin Spiese, Former Commanding General, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, California, led the Parade on Saturday. •



Marine Corps Band, Camp Pendleton, CA.



Parade Grand Marshal, Major General Melvin G Spiese, USMC.



WWII Veterans; backseat: Jim Harrison US Army, front passenger seat: Art Johnson US Army-Air Corps, Driver/owner Jeffery MacDonald.



Military Honor Guard.

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Sgt Scott Montoya, Legion of Valor, Navy Cross, Iraq 2003

Medal of Valor

from front page

The Torrance Police Department continues solid police work and this is just another great example of officers going above and beyond the call of duty," Torrance Police Department Sergeant Robert Watt said. "We are a safe city because of the focus-based policing philosophy which is relentless follow-up, preventive police work at the patrol level, complete investigations at the detective level and our partnership with the district attorney's office and the city prosecutor. It is a total team effort."

Recipients of the award are selected by the Medal of Valor Committee, which consists of the joint South Bay area chambers of commerce (El Segundo, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach,

Inglewood, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach and Torrance) based on the recommendations of each city's police and fire chiefs. Despite the recommendations, the selection process is not always clearcut and at times it can be difficult to chose a recipient.

"There are some people this year that we are recognizing that performed their act for their award while they were off duty," President/CEO of the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce Donna Duperron said. "Sometimes you have police first onsite to an emergency and they have to respond with first aid, which might not be what they are immediately trained on,

See Medal of Valor, page 9

TerriAnn

from page 3



1916 Dodge Brothers.



Red MG.



Noe Rubio in his 1969 Corvair. Photos by TerriAnn Ferren.



Inside Noe Rubio's 1969 original factory Corvair.



Original sticker price for the Corvair - \$2980.

Sports

Spartans Win First CIF Playoff

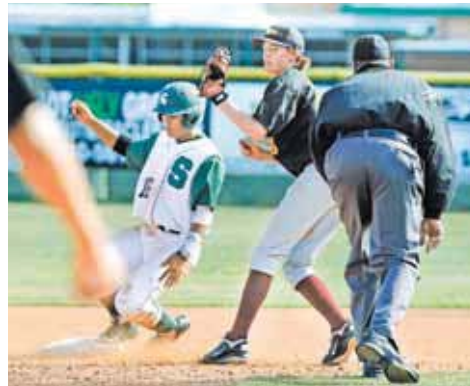
Photos by Shelley Kemp.

The South High Spartans won their first round CIF Playoff over Estancia High School,

giving them 18 wins for the season. They advanced to play Northview on Tuesday, May 22. The winner moves on to the Quarterfinal on Friday. •



Junior Pitcher Matt Mogollon registers his tenth win with a victory against Estancia.



Outfielder JB Guyten makes it safe to second.



Junior Outfielder Andy Rojas slides into home.



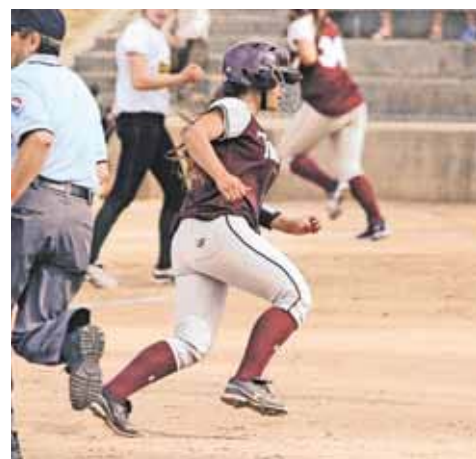
Senior relief Pitcher Jake Mandel fist bumps Coach Grady Sain after the Spartans won their CIF Playoff game against Estancia.

Torrance Girls Softball ousted from CIF Playoffs

By Kelly Kemp. Photos by Shelley Kemp. For more photos please visit www.ShelleyKempPhotography.com

Except for a poor second inning, the Torrance Tartars had a defensive gem against the Mira Costa Mustangs in the CIF Playoffs. Unfortunately, the top of the second cost them 7 runs in the 7-1 loss. The loss gave them a total of 18 wins, 10 losses for the season.

The single tally by the Tartars did not come along until the bottom of the sixth, when Senior Mo Ramirez hit a double to center to start in scoring position, then advanced to score off a double by Freshman CeCe DaCosta. Aside from DaCosta, Torrance had hits from three other Freshman: Jade Arslanian, Katelyn Christian, and Marissa Moreno. That bodes well for next year! •



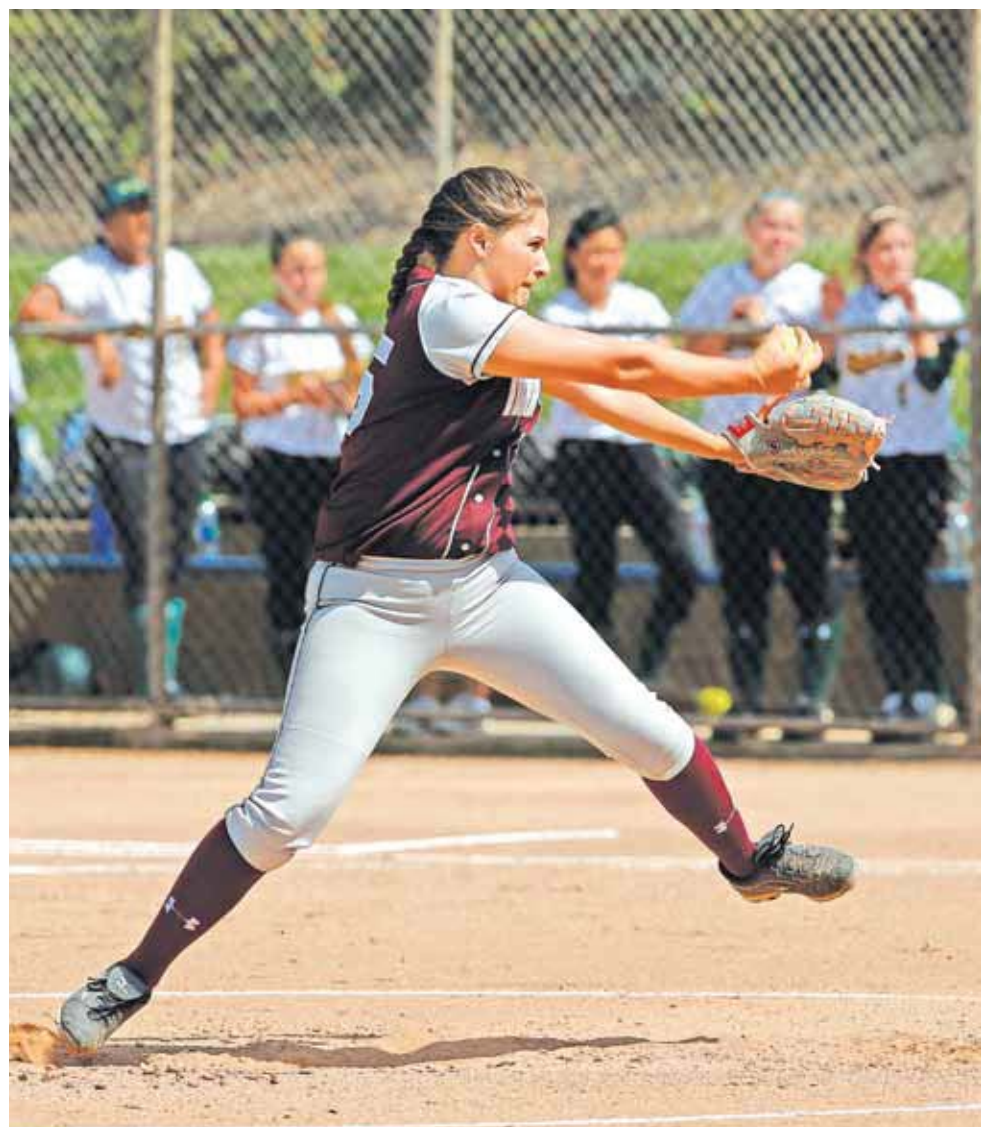
Senior Mo Ramirez scores the Tartars only run.



Second Baseman Jade Arslanian makes the force out then attempts a double play.

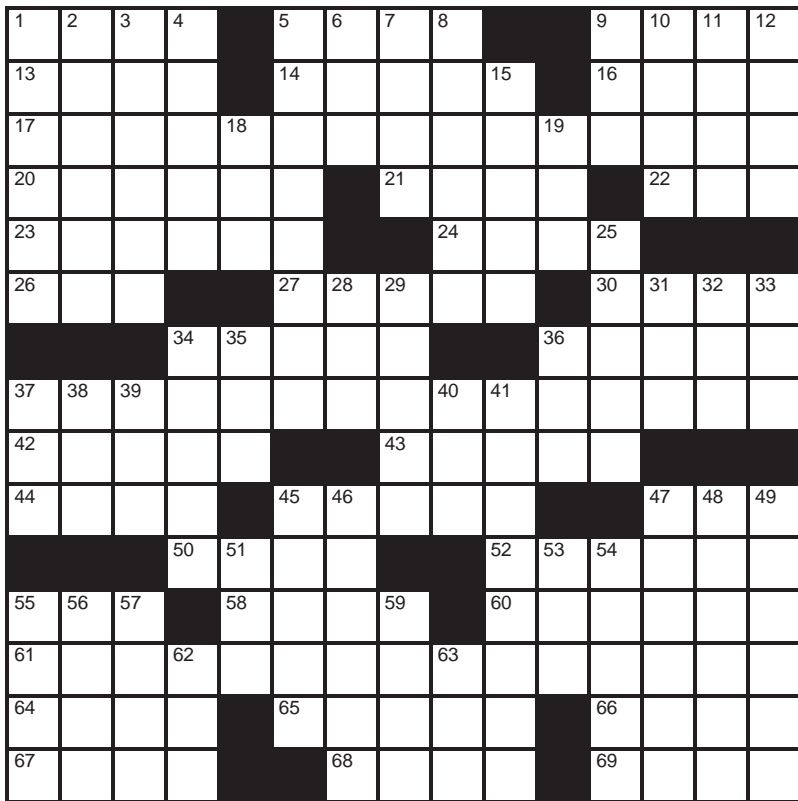


Nicole Ayala and Mo Ramirez look disappointed after their loss to Mira Costa in the first round of CIF Playoffs.



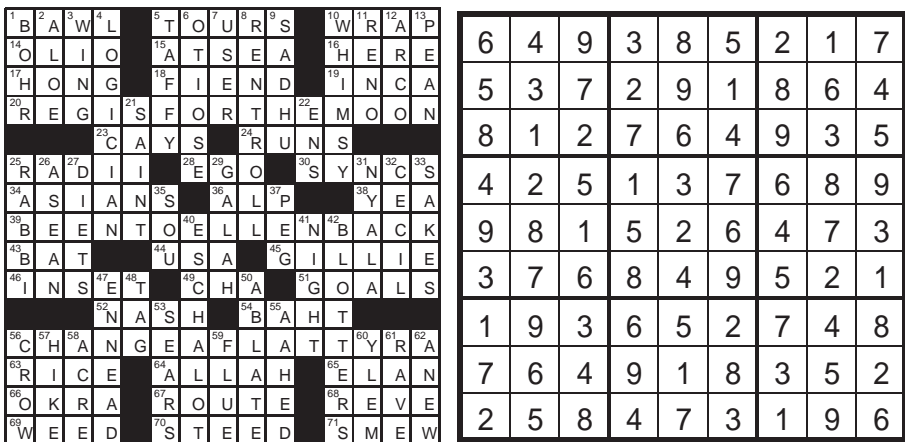
Junior Pitcher Nicole Ayala had ten strikeouts against Mira Costa.

WEEKLY CROSSWORD See Answers Next Week
Hot Beverages

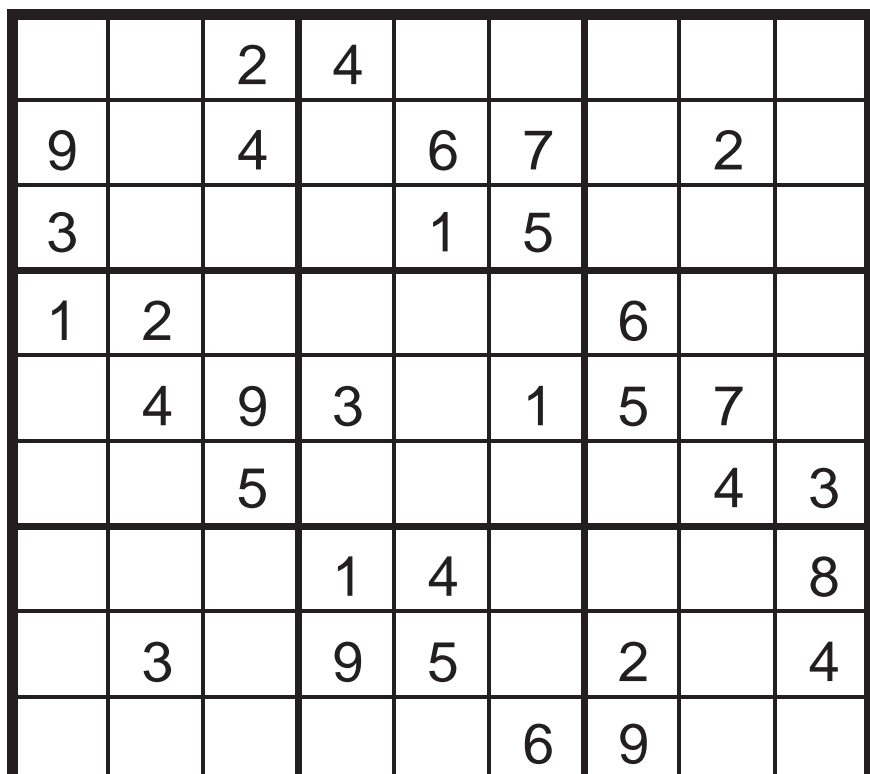


- Across**
- 1. Footnote note
 - 5. Go up
 - 9. Big blowout
 - 13. Bar
 - 14. Shipping weights
 - 16. Wrinkly fruit
 - 17. Conversation sparker
 - 20. "The Night of the ___"
 - 21. Dock
 - 22. "Holy moly!"
 - 23. Jousting one
 - 24. Served up a whopper
 - 26. Seafood selection
 - 27. Pitcher, of a sort
 - 30. Ultimatum word
 - 34. Adjust, as laces
 - 36. Armada
 - 37. Unappealing
 - 42. Roundish
 - 43. Salad oil holder
 - 44. Old Chinese money
 - 45. Destined
 - 47. Banquet
 - 50. 10 jiao
 - 52. Lusters
 - 55. Corroded
- Down**
- 1. Stir
 - 2. Dance energetically
 - 3. Completely
 - 4. Remove lard
 - 5. ___ acid
 - 6. Monopoly token
 - 7. Mideast hot spot
 - 8. Astronomer's sighting
 - 9. Term of familiar address
 - 10. Bug-eyed
 - 11. Spiny shrub
 - 12. Scouting outing
 - 15. Done in
 - 18. Compass reading
 - 19. Needle part
 - 25. Dutch pottery city
 - 28. Bad-mouth
 - 29. Big drawer?
 - 31. Affranchise
 - 32. "Didn't I tell you?"
 - 33. Flight board abbr.
 - 34. Turbulent
 - 35. Cricket wicket
 - 36. "Them"
 - 37. "As if!"
 - 38. Female gametes
 - 39. Turning point?
 - 40. Samovar
 - 41. Coups
 - 45. By chance
 - 46. The Muses, e.g.
 - 47. Boil
 - 48. Disentwine
 - 49. Biblical book
 - 51. Cable network
 - 53. "A likely story!"
 - 54. Overact
 - 55. First-rate
 - 56. Exactly
 - 57. Beige
 - 59. Zoo feature
 - 62. Ancient
 - 63. French vineyard

Last Week's Answers



SUDOKU Medium



Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9.

Classifieds

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

Errors: Please check your advertisements immediately. Any corrections and/or changes in an ad must be requested prior to the following Tuesday deadline in order to receive a credit. A credit will be issued for only the first time the error appears. Multiple runs will only be credited for the first time the error appears. No credit will be issued for an amount greater than the cost of the advertisement.

Beware: Employment offers that suggest guaranteed out-of-state or overseas positions may be deceptive or unethical in nature. If you have any doubts about the nature of a company, contact the local office of the Better Business Bureau, (213) 251-9696. Herald Publications does not guarantee that the advertiser's claims are true nor does it take responsibility for those claims.

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Studio Apt. ES. Quiet complex, stove, fridge, pool, laundry, covered parking, storage. No smoking/pets. Avail. 6/01. \$895 + \$895 deposit w/ copy of credit report. Leave message at (310) 322-8099.

1BD/BA. Large Apt. In ES quiet gated building. W/swimming pool, laundry facility, pond w/ water fall \$1,195. No pets. Call Mike at (310) 322-7166.

2BD/1BA. 7909 Alverstone, Westchester. Approx. 1250 sq. ft. \$1,550/mo. Also, 1 BD, \$1250/mo. (310) 365-1481 or (310) 641-2148.

2BD/2BA. Great view from balcony. Huge living room. Central air. 1250 sq ft living space + extra storage bin in bldg. Security parking 2 spaces. One-year lease. \$1600/mo. Sec. deposits. Call (310) 612-5059.

CONDO FOR RENT

2BD/2BA. Third floor unit, fireplace, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer and dryer. 2 car parking. \$2300/mo. (310) 988-9335.

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Director of Christian Preschool, Covenant Presbyterian Church, half-day September - June. Must demonstrate ability in working with preschool children and their parents in a program of Christian nurture. Must meet all state requirements, have a CORE certificate and have education in human growth and development, early childhood education program and administration, and first aid. College graduate preferred. Send résumé with references to cpoffis@pacbell.net or FAX to (310) 310-670-8706.

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

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Mausoleum Inglewood Park Cemetery, Grace Gardens. Lower Level, double capacity. Value at \$10,750. Asking \$9,500. Call Roberto (310) 798-2562.

HOUSE FOR LEASE

3BD/2BA. Vintage Home, ES. Small office, new lawns, private garden. No garage, driveway parking. 501 Kansas St. \$3200/mo., 1 mo. deposit. (310) 567-9810 and (530) 721-1448.

HOUSE FOR RENT

3-4BD/2 1/2BA. ES. Executive Eastside. Enclosed patio + bonus room. \$3950/mo. Discount for long term. (310) 345-8013.

4BD/3BA. ES. Outstanding Family Home. Two fireplaces, sun room, sec. system, Avail. June 1. \$3700/mo. 835 Dune St. Won't last, call for appointment. S & L Property Mgmt. (310) 350-4096.

ROOM FOR RENT

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

Medal of Valor

from page 6

and vice-versa. We have had situations where firefighters are engaged or in the middle of something police must be doing."

For the local police and fire departments, having one of their colleagues recognized for performance on the job creates a sense of pride and is a reminder as to the commitment and standards held by its members. "Officer [Kevin] Pedersen has set himself apart from the ordinary officer. He is one of those guys that comes to work and from the beginning of the shift, he is on go," Hawthorne Police Department Lieutenant Scott Swain said. "He just loves to do what he does, he handles his radio calls, he loves to look into suspicious activity--and those things have turned into really good arrests and that is really good to see from a young officer. Since Officer Pederson has been here, he has not slowed down. He is one of our highest producing

officers and the quality of work that he did this year resulted in convictions for a number of things. He makes the department and city look good."

Recognizing these public servants is something that all of the chambers take very seriously with an event that they look forward to each year. "I think it is very important for members of the business community as well as our residents to show their gratitude to those that go above and beyond the call of duty," Duperron said. "I think it is important for us also to recognize the amount of work that goes into those departments. I really respect both our chiefs and the amount of work that goes into making us a safe city."

Hunt added, "The chamber of commerce in each city feels that it is something that we can do to give back to the community and help support our police and firemen." •



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Politically Speaking

One Man's Opinion

By Gerry Chong

This month Barack Obama initiated a fundamental debate with Thomas Jefferson, the genius who wrote the Declaration of Independence. Obama told graduates of Ohio State University, "Unfortunately you've grown up hearing voices that incessantly warn

"How big is Obama's government, you may ask? Incredibly, no one knows. There is no list of federal agencies, nor of their purposes, nor of their budgets! When the House passed a bill to establish such a list, it died in the Senate."

of government as nothing more than some separate, sinister entity that's at the root of all our problems. They'll warn that tyranny is always lurking just around the corner. You should reject those voices."

Jefferson would have rolled over in his grave.

Let's look at the news of the last few weeks. Since 2011, the IRS has attempted to intimidate conservative groups by demanding donor lists, identification of both employees and volunteers, the number of hours each has spent on behalf of the group, identification of participants' family members, and so forth.

In 2012, Democrats publicly identified Fred Vandersloot, Mitt Romney's national finance co-chair. Two months later he was audited by the IRS--and two weeks after that by the Labor Department. Vandersloot had never before been audited by the Labor Department, but they fined him \$8,400 for having flies on his cattle ranch! They further sought documents dealing with provisions for worker protections, hours of service, pay rates, explanations of deductions and copies of contracts. Never underestimate the power of government to intimidate.

But it's not just the IRS. The ACLU has identified an FBI policy allowing it to access any emails stored for over six months on Outlook, Gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo mail and Facebook--and to do so without a search warrant...all

in apparent disregard for the constitutional prohibition against illegal search and seizure, and threatening the privacy of us all.

In the earlier investigation of the Benghazi fiasco, the State Department selected four of the five members of the committee charged with investigating... (drum roll...) the State

Department! The committee refused to hear from the three State Department employees with on-the-ground knowledge of events, and who ultimately testified with such impact. According to Victoria Toensing, attorney for one of the Benghazi whistleblowers, unidentified members of the Obama Administration threatened the testifier that his career would be over if he appeared before Congress, but he testified anyway.

Not to be "out-excessed" by the IRS, Labor Department, the FBI and the Administration, the Department of Justice got into the act too. Without a subpoena, and disregarding the freedom of the press, it illegally hacked into the phone records of the Associated Press.

How big is Obama's government, you may ask? Incredibly, no one knows. There is no list of federal agencies, nor of their purposes, nor of their budgets! When the House passed a bill to establish such a list, it died in the Senate.

Government therefore expands without a conscience. In 2010 alone, bureaucrats generated 81,405 pages of new regulations, published in the *Federal Register*. Between 2009 and 2012, they added 13,409 rules to direct every aspect of our lives.

So this is where we've come...from Jefferson to Obama...from freedom to tyranny? You decide. •

Another Man's Opinion

Protecting the Elderly Population

By Cristian Vasquez

This week's topic is a bit out of left field, but came to mind after reading about a case of elder abuse that was as disgusting as it was heartbreaking. Hence, I came across Assembly Bill 332, introduced by Assemblymember Betsy Butler. The bill was signed by the Governor in September of last year and amends the State's penal code relating to elder abuse in the form of identity theft and financial terms.

The purpose of this is not to remind the reader that we shouldn't physically or financially abuse our elder population. I would hope we wouldn't need such a reminder. However, what is worth noting is how much financial abuse and identity theft our state's elder population

had the intended effect in preventing such crimes. Yet, what the law does accomplish is to remind us all that elder abuse, just like any crime, is preventable. How can we prevent such crimes? Simply by paying attention.

It is tragic that our lifestyles are so busy and overwhelming that individuals sometimes lose track of their elderly relatives and their well-being. Financial abuse and identity theft in the elder community are more difficult to identify simply because there are no immediate visible signs of any wrongdoing. If the money victim suddenly has less cash for food, the weight loss can be blamed on a physical ailment or depression. If the money is not enough for the senior to go out and socialize, it is easy

"However, what is worth noting is how much financial abuse and identity theft our state's elder population suffers that a recent bill had to be introduced and signed into law in an attempt to protect seniors."

suffers that a recent bill had to be introduced and signed into law in an attempt to protect seniors. Prior to AB 332 being signed into law, any person who was or wasn't a caretaker of an elder or dependent adult who was guilty of elder abuse with respect to the property or personal identifying information of an elder faced a wide range of possible punishments depending on the value of the property taken. Imprisonment in a county jail for no more than one year, or in a state prison for two, three or four years when the value exceeded \$950 was the normal punishment for such crimes.

Unfortunately that was not enough to deter the practice, so the fines were raised as well as the jail time. The new law makes similar offenses punishable by a fine not exceeding \$2,500 attached to it and the same prison or jail time as before. It is difficult to say if in just a little more than one year this law has

to say they are tired or just want to be home.

Unfortunately for concerned family members and loved ones, most seniors enjoy their independence and refuse to let others know about any financial hardships. That is why people need to be more proactive in the lives of their elder relatives. Being around and closer to elders can simply decrease the likelihood criminals target certain people. The more loved ones around potential victims, the less likely these older individuals will actually become victims. Of course, this does not work if the person committing the crime is a loved one--but then again this message is not for them. The message is for those of us with a set of morals and a conscience. Butler's bill is certainly welcomed, as it creates stricter penalties for offenders. Yet, at its core it serves as a reminder that we should be more vigilant. •

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PETSPETS Pets PETSPETS

Pets Without Partners

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

Ramsey is a little six-pound ball of fire. He is spunky, energetic and full of himself. He is hilarious! Ramsey is about three years old and was found as a stray. Sadly, his owners were never located. He is fine with



Ramsey

other dogs, a little goof ball and would best be placed with children over 10 years old. Ramsey is a very go-with-the-flow little guy and will make a great addition into any home situation. Ramsey is neutered, current on vaccinations, de-wormed, microchipped and good with other dogs.

Bigelow was born on January 19, 2013. He was in a litter of five Beagle puppies that came from a breeder’s home who got into trouble for having too many dogs on her property. We quickly took these little guys in so they would not land in the shelter. Bigelow has the biggest ears of the bunch and is a total love of a puppy. He is your normal, bouncy, playful, sweet little guy who’s looking for a forever home. This pup is full of personality and very lovable. Bigelow needs to be adopted within two or three cities away from our home base of San Pedro, as he will need to come back for vaccinations and to be neutered.

To learn more about these and other wonderful dogs, visit our website at www.animalsrule.org. If a dog is on our website, it’s available. Or come to our Saturday adoption events from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 305 North Harbor Boulevard in San Pedro (just off the 110 near the cruise port). We are always in need of donations for veterinarian

bills and our senior dogs. Donations can be made through our website or by sending a check payable to: Animals Rule Placement Foundation at 305 North Harbor Blvd., San Pedro, CA 90731. All donations are tax-deductible. We are a registered 501©3 non-profit organization.

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



Bigelow

Happy Tails

Misi (pronounced mee-see) was born in backyard feral colony. The kind caregivers wanted a better chance in life for some of these kitties and were able to bring a few of the kittens into their home. Misi and her brother were two of the lucky ones. As they became socialized, they found their way to a Kitten Rescue foster home on the next step of their journey. Black cats (and



Happy Birthday, Misi.

dogs) are often overlooked and the last to be adopted. Miraculously, within a week of each other, Misi and her brother *both* were adopted and found their purr-fect forever homes.

Her family wrote to share the news of Misi’s third birthday and the addition of a new kitty companion in their family...

“Misi is very at-home with us now. No longer hiding under the bed. She even has a playmate--a five-year-old orange kitty named Bubba we rescued after our neighbor kicked him out and left him. They love to wrestle and chase each other. They even cozy up together and sleep. Misi turned out to be the sweetest cuddler. She’ll cuddle for hours and nap with us. She’s such a good kitty. We can have our front door wide open and she won’t leave the doorstep. She’s a happy kitty and we love her so much. We are ever grateful to you for taking her in. Big thank you!” – Regards, Marisa.

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

Purrrfect Companions

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

Zoe is a darling three-month-old kitten who is in need of a human companion who is caring, patient and playful. At first meeting she is a timid girl, but warms up quickly and purrs like an engine. She is seeking a home that will give her the attention she needs to overcome her shyness. Zoe likes other cats, especially her siblings, but she wouldn’t mind a playful and friendly feline companion to bond with at her new home. Her ideal home is calm, with no children or crazy dogs to scare her, and preferably with one or two mature adults who can cater to her needs.

Pretty Boy is a gorgeous, blue-eyed Turkish Van/Siamese mix with taupe markings on his head and tail. He is a very affectionate boy who is playful with both human companions and other cats. Pretty Boy is looking for a safe and loving home where he could enjoy time with a kitty playmate.

Peanut is a loving young dog who gets along with other dogs and especially loves children. Yes, you read correctly. Peanut is a



Pretty Boy

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. •



Zoe

doggie who was saved by a cat rescue group. She is good on the leash, housebroken and very well-behaved. She is approximately one year old. Peanut has a lot of energy, so she is looking for a home where she can go for long walks or do lots of hiking, and spend hours playing with toys. She is a gorgeous brindle color with adorable, floppy ears. This big girl is the perfect addition to any family! To learn more about her or to meet Peanut, please email her foster mom at scuns68@yahoo.com.



Peanut



Misi and Bubba living happily ever after.

Real Estate

Tips To Navigate The Real Estate Landscape And Find The Perfect Home

(BPT) - For most Americans your home is the biggest ticket item you will ever purchase. It's no wonder that people can take months, and sometimes even years, to find the perfect home. When you walk into a house that's on the market, many times the homeowner or real estate agent has "staged" it to ensure that you focus on the home's greatest assets and overlook its flaws. Your job is to look past all that to see if this house is right for you.

Annette Lawrence, academic director of design programs, at The Art Institute of Ohio - Cincinnati, and Marissa Alexander, interior design program coordinator at The Art Institutes International Minnesota, offer these tips to navigate the real estate landscape.

Before you ever step out of your current home, make a list says Alexander. Your list should include one column for "must haves" and another for "wants." "The wants you can compromise on," advises Alexander. If you know what you are looking for and what you can't live without, it's a lot easier to find it.

Many people get caught up on the basic aesthetics of a home. "The paint is not a big deal," says Lawrence. "Countertops are not a reason to choose a home or cross it off your list." The shag carpeting can be ripped out and replaced. These are all easy fixes.

You should beware of the fixes that can break the bank. Will the roof need to be replaced? What about other big-ticket items like the heating and cooling system? Does

the perimeter of the house slope toward it? That could mean flooding during a heavy rain. And what about the structural integrity of the foundation? A good inspector will spot the red flags and could keep you from making a costly mistake. That inspector will also check the chimney, the insulation in the attic and the gutters and spouts.

And there are things you can check on before you call in an inspector. "If you want to know whether a floor is warping, just take a ball and roll it across the room," says Alexander. If it doesn't roll straight across, it could signal issues with the foundation.

Figure out what kind of layout you want for your house. "Ask yourself what kind of floor plan you like," says Lawrence. "Those are the kinds of things that are costly to change." If the floor plan is right for you, the cosmetics will be a fairly easy and inexpensive fix.

While you may think that this home purchase will be one of many, you should consider the possibility that this could be your home for decades to come. That's why Lawrence is a big proponent of finding a home that allows you to "age in place." She suggests you find a home with a first floor master bedroom and laundry room. Also consider how many steps there are from the driveway into the home. Are the hallways and doorways wide enough for a wheelchair or a walker?

Even if you do not think you'll need these accommodations, consider your home's

"visitability." If you have elderly relatives or friends with disabilities, are they going to be able to come to your new home? "My grandmother was one of my most

frequent guests," explains Lawrence. "I had low lighting and had painted the walls dark colors. Consequently, she couldn't see too well when visiting." •



Stylish Stairs Can-Do Ideas That Add Personality

(BPT) - Perk-up the daily climb in your home with these projects.

Walls that Wow - Paint the wall next to the stairs or the landing with an eye-catching pattern, like an all-over diamond motif, geometric shapes, or classic stripes, which complement staircases well.

Dazzling Photo Display - Keep one element consistent throughout-whether it's the color or material of the frames, or the shading of the photographs.

Rethink Risers - Risers are the perfect place to tie in a daring pattern. Opt for a chevron or Moroccan design with colors consistent with your home's interior. •

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