

Torrance Tribune

The Weekly Newspaper of Torrance

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Inside This Issue

Business & Professional.....10

Calendar.....3

Classifieds9

Crossword/Sudoku9

Food8

Politically Speaking.....4

Real Estate.....12

Sports5

TerriAnn in Torrance.....6

Bowling Still Rocks Torrance



Jay Fogg bowling. Photo by TerriAnn Ferren. See article and more photos on page 6.

Torrance Remembers its Veterans

By Dylan Little

On Memorial Day, Monday, May 27th at 2:00 PM, the Torrance Historical Society held its second memorial service for the Torrance service personnel who gave their lives in conflicts throughout the world and throughout history.

The service was held at the Veterans Memorial Plaza near City Hall on the corner of Maple Avenue and Torrance Boulevard. The memorial consisted of seven readers reading each of the 146 names on the wall, each name belonging to a service member who lost his or her life in conflicts dating back to World War I to as recently as the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. The readers were Jim Garrity and Charlie Saulenas, who served in the Army in Vietnam, Ken Miller and Dave Pierson who served in the Army Air Corps in both World War II and the Korean War, Paul Nowatka who served during the Korean War, Jim Standifer who served in the Navy during both World War II and the Korean War, and Gene Hassan, the widow of a Vietnam veteran. Torrance Historical Society President Kurt Weideman said he was moved by the number of people who came to honor those who died protecting this country/

“Your presence here today respects these soldiers and shows your deep appreciation for those who served and sacrificed their lives for their country and our freedom,” said Weideman.

After all the names had been read Weideman held a moment of silent remembrance. Then he offered a prayer that no one else will be called to die in combat.

“Our prayer this that we will add no more names to this wall,” said Weideman.

The memorial service was started last year by Jerry Ronan during the city’s centennial celebration, but the response to the simple dignified ceremony was so positive the Historical Society decided to hold the memorial every year.

“The idea of this program is to have it very simple, no bad music, no bad poetry, just the names,” said Ronan. “This is all about those 146 names. The 146 people – a good many of them died at the ages of 19, 20, 21. These names, in many instances, are people right out of high school.”

Ronan modeled the remembrance ceremony after a similar program he was working on with some students from South Dakota. He

thought that Torrance should have a similar way to recognize its service men and women killed in combat.

“I was involved [remotely] in South Dakota and a group of students were doing something similar to this,” said Ronan. “It seemed like a good project and they were very successful.”

Like many in his generation, Ronan also

See Veterans, page 2

Councilman Furey Enters Race to Become City’s Next Mayor

By Cristian Vasquez

Current Torrance Councilman Pat Furey announced his candidacy for the position of Mayor during the 2014 municipal elections. The announcement was made a few weeks ago during the North Torrance Homeowners Association Meeting and came after much consideration by the Councilman, who believes he can lead the City in the years to come.

“Mayor Scotto has actually set the goals and he has raised the bar in the City of Torrance. I believe that you have to treat that position as chief executive officer as one of a major corporation—one of 149,000 shareholders,” Furey said. “I think I have the knowledge, skills and ability to reach those goals in the immediate future as well as the long-range future. I was very fortunate to have served with him [Scotto] and all my colleagues on the Council. Even though we have philosophical differences on several subjects, we all think that same way and that is to act in the best interest of the City of Torrance as residents and as businesses.

Furey has been organizing his campaign

for months, but decided to make his official announcement to the membership of this homeowners association since it was where he first began advocating for residents and businesses in the community. The difficult fiscal situation of the past five years put the current council in a unique situation of balancing the shortfall of funds without drastically hindering services for residents. While Furey recognizes the work and tact with which the Council acted, he also acknowledges the commitment and work by everyone throughout the City.

“We have been very fortunate with that and it is how we have been able to weather the storm in the past five years. We have been very prudent and very fiscally conservative and so we are proud to say that we did not have to lay off any employees,” Furey said. “The employees all stepped up as well. We had fewer employees doing the same amount of work and in some cases even more work. They did it even though there were no pay increases scheduled during that period of time and understanding that keeping their job was more important.”

See Furey, page 7

Weekend Forecast

Friday
Sunny
73°/66°



Saturday
Partly
Cloudy
81°/67°



Sunday
AM Clouds/
PM Sun
75°/64°



Letters

The Mattucci Project Continues to Clean Up

We were glad to know that Aurelio Mattucci still has his golden neighborly helpful touch as reported in May 16th; "The Mattucci Project Continues to Clean Up."

Years ago while my husband Chuck was removing an over-sized pepper tree, two houses from us Aurelio was working on his apartment house. Each evening Aurelio would do a walk about getting acquainted with his neighbors; he made an arrangement to each evening with his large utility trailer pick-up for that day our pepper tree pile of limbs adding it with his remodeling scraps. Aurelio was a great help to us when we now had the stump

to remove, Aurelio wanted to help remove it the following Monday evening. But, our 3 granddaughters who are very imaginatively creative returned from a Las Vegas family outing, gave Chuck a gold nugget paper weight suggesting that we fabricate the stump into a large gold nugget. We had so much fun we crowned our stump of a gold nugget with golden Greek coins; which we fashioned from left-over material. Needless to say, when our loyal neighbor Aurelio came by prepared to remove the stump, but discovered instead a large beautiful gold nugget we all had an enjoyable set down visit. Aurelio was truly a golden neighbor.

- Dora Perez-Meyer

Police Reports

The crimes listed are crimes where a report was taken by law enforcement agency and submitted for investigation. The outcome of the investigation or any criminal court proceeding are not considered when reporting crimes. The crimes are listed as follows: arson, simple assault, aggravated assault-weapon, auto theft, auto burglary, commercial burglary, residential burglary, homicide, strong-arm robbery, robbery with a weapon, theft and vandalism. The City of Torrance, or its employees or agents, shall assume no liability for: 1. Any errors, omissions, or inaccuracies in the information provided regardless of how caused; or 2. Any decision made or action taken or not taken by reader in reliance upon any information

or data furnished hereunder.

May 18

Auto Theft-All: 20400 BLOCK OSAGE AVE Stolen vehicle: '02 Ford van.

Burglary-Auto: 16900 BLOCK PRAIRIE AVE Suspect(s) smashes window for entry and takes property/amp, speaker box.

Auto Theft-All: 3300 BLOCK PACIFIC COAST HWY Stolen vehicle: '13 Mercedes Benz E350.

Burglary-Residential: 2100 BLOCK 236TH PL Suspect(s) enters open window, ransacks and takes property/jar of coins, tablet.

May 17

Vandalism: 2400 BLOCK SEPULVEDA BLVD Suspect(s) cuts victim's vehicle's tires.

See Police Reports, page 7

Veterans

from front page

has a personal connection to someone killed in combat that makes keeping the memory of

"It also makes us aware that we go to war over anything," said Ronan. "This keeps us



A large crowd attended to pay their respects. Photo by Dylan Little.

America's veterans especially important. A classmate of his was drafted into World War II at the same time he was, but tragically was killed just six months into his deployment.

"I lost a classmate very early in the war. We were drafted together," said Ronan. "He was in the Army, I was in the Navy. Within six months he was dead. So he was one of those names on a wall."

Ronan also said that memorial services like this one are important because they remind the average citizen about the cost of war. He said that while politicians are the ones to send troops into combat, service men and women are the ones to fight and die in it.

reminded about what these wars cost. Congressmen don't fight these wars."

Recognizing the sacrifice of these veterans goes beyond just reading their names off the wall. Jerry Ronan, with the help from the Torrance Historical Society, is trying to make sure every name on the wall has a face and a biography attached to it. Currently the organization is halfway to their goal and are still dedicated to continuing to gather and preserve the too-short life story of each of the Torrance military war casualties.

"We give a lot of lip service to these memorials but they're just names," said Ronan.

See Veterans, page 7

Kiwanis Raise Over \$10,000 for Scholarships

Photos by Charlene Nishimura.

The Torrance Kiwanis Foundation held a fundraiser full house Texas Hold'Em Poker Tournament, which included a buffet luncheon and silent auction, on May 19th at

Palos Verdes Bowl at 24600 Crenshaw Blvd. in Torrance. Over \$10,000 was raised from this event for high school scholarships. •



Left to right: Torrance Kiwanis Club President Jennifer Frew and PV Bowl Manager and Hostess Charlotte Melsh welcomed all to charity tournament.



Left to right: Dr. Laurie Love and Gayle CdeBaca work the Kiwanis check-in table at the Texas Hold'Em Poker Tournament. Assisting are Craig CdeBaca, Mel Hashimoto and Nathan Mintz.



Left to right: Les Grundhaus, John Mavar, Judith Diamond and Tony Molino relax before the poker tournament event.



The tournament drew a full house participation and the prizes included a bi-plane flight around the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

Business Briefs

1321 Downtown Taproom Holds Ribbon Cutting



On May 6, 1321 Downtown Taproom Bistro, located at 1321 Sartori Avenue in Old Downtown Torrance, marked their 2nd anniversary with a ribbon-cutting and 25 cent burger specials. Pictured, 1321 Downtown Taproom Bistro Owner Steven Torres celebrates with his wife Marissa and 2-year old son Jaxon.

Volunteer Recognition Celebration at Palos Verdes Bowl



The Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce held a 'Volunteer Recognition Celebration' bowling party at Palos Verdes Bowl on May 13th to thank many people for their dedication and work on behalf of the chamber. Pictured left to right: Margie Werner from the City of Torrance, Charlotte Melsh from PV Bowl and Torrance Councilman Tom Brewer.

Recycle your Electronics

Torrance High School presents a Free Electronics Recycling Event on Saturday, Jun 8 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Torrance High School.

Donate that old e-waste to the High School, Torrance High School ASB has partnered with Computer Surplus solutions to offer a free collection E-waste event on June 8th only from 9am to 4pm. Bring all of your electronics including computers, monitors, cellphones, televisions and anything else that plugs in or takes a Battery. If that is not enough CSS will be donating a percentage of the tv and computers collected at the event to the school for their support, please come out and clean up California.

El Camino College Child Development Center Open for Fall 2013 Enrollment

The El Camino College Child Development Center's (CDC) fee-based, year-round preschool program is now open for enrollment. Families who register for Fall 2013 by June 14 will receive two weeks of tuition free. The ECC Child Development Center is conveniently located at El Camino College, and offers a warm and inviting environment for

children preparing for kindergarten, housed in a building specifically designed for preschoolers. Children ages 2 to 5 who are completely toilet trained are eligible for the high-quality, year-round, fee-based preschool that is open to all families, including those of ECC students, employees, and members of the community. Low child/staff ratios and an emphasis on social skills are hallmarks of the academic curriculum.

Teachers at the CDC are academically well prepared, all are mentor teachers certified by the State of California and all have been on staff an average of 12 years. The CDC is also a "laboratory school," where future teachers are trained in best practices. The developmental curriculum prepares children cognitively, socially, emotionally, physically and linguistically. For the past 20 years, the preschool has encouraged exploration, discovery, making choices, and play, along with social interaction to foster self-esteem, competence, and autonomy in children. Breakfast and snacks are provided. Parents are encouraged to participate in their child's education, and an open door policy is maintained throughout the center. The school's mission has become increasingly important in recent years, as kindergarten curriculum adopts more rigorous standards, with the bar of achievement rising higher and higher.

Torrance Area Chamber Of Commerce To Recognize Members Through Business Awards Celebration

The Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce will host the Inaugural & Business Awards Celebration on Thursday, June 13th, 2013, at the DoubleTree Hotel, 21333 Hawthorne Boulevard, Torrance. The celebration will honor members of the Torrance Chamber community who have demonstrated exceptional services, products, innovations, and other remarkable qualities.

The Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to honor: Steve Morikawa of American Honda Motor Co., Inc. with the George M. Whittlesey Memorial Award; Joseph Ernest (Joseph E. Ernest Photography) with the J. Walker Owens Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award; Southern California Edison Co., Roadium Open Air Market, and Zdonek & Wolowicz Accountancy Corp. with the Legacy Award; Shirley Pe of All Yellow Taxi with the Program Leader of the Year Award; Marianne Brooks of Gourmet Grindz with the Ambassador of the Year Award; Exxon Mobile Corporation with the Outstanding Community Service of the Year Award; Party Posies Floral & Event Planning with the Small Business of the Year Award; Pelican Products, Inc. with the Innovative Practices Award; The Rossberg Family with the Most Uniquely Torrance Award; and Mark Waronek with the Achievement in Excellence Award.

Reservations for this event are \$75 per person or \$750 for a table of ten. RSVP and payment is required in advance; no same day reservations. Call (310) 543-3113 or visit www.torrancechamber.com.

Calendar

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 vbuce@elcamino.edu.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

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

- 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.

SUNDAY, JUNE 2

- Torrance South Bay Choral Festival, 4 p.m., Torrance First United Methodist Church, 1551 El Prado. For more information call (310) 328-3242.

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.

- The California Retired Teachers' Association luncheon meeting (installation of officers), 11:30 a.m., Hometown Buffet, 3520 W. Carson St. cost: \$9.00.

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

- Speaker: Dr. Steve Lee- "Is Stimulant

Medication Associated With Later Alcohol and Substance Use Disorders?," 6:45-9 p.m., Del E. Webb Education Center, Providence Little Company of Mary Hospital, 4101 Torrance Blvd.

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.

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

- Tom Glavich on Gasterias, 1:30 pm, South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society, outh Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd.

- Venus & Mars In Harmony (Los Cancioneros Master Chorale), 7 p.m., James Armstrong Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive. For more information call (310) 781-7171.

TUESDAY, JUNE 11

- City Council Meeting, 7- 10 p.m., City Hall, Council Chamber, 3031 Torrance Blvd. For more information call (310) 618-2870.

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

- The South Bay Republican Women Federated 75th Anniversary party at the DoubleTree Hotel. For more information call (310) 371-6009.

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/>

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Politically Speaking

One Man's Opinion

By Gerry Chong

Ahhh, the sun, the surf, the sand and the ocean... There's nothing like a summer vacation to clear the mind, restore the soul and help us understand the world around us. Why, no sooner had I arrived than I received this Divine Revelation! No one--not Woodward and Bernstein...no one has tied all three presidential scandals together, so let me 'splain it to ya...from God's lips through me to you, you lucky devils.

President Obama got tired of being the reincarnation of Sgt. Shultz in the old *Hogan's Heroes* TV series. Surely you remember the sergeant. He always had the same response to

"When the Benghazi attack struck, both Barack and Hillary went AWOL."

every fiasco that struck. He would suck in his breath, face Colonel Klink and proclaim with all sincerity, "I know nah-thing."

When the Benghazi attack struck, both Barack and Hillary went AWOL. Presidential spokesmen have ducked and dodged like Muhammad Ali claiming the President's whereabouts and his actions during the attack "were irrelevant." Like the Libyan defenders chosen to defend Ambassador Stevens, they abandoned their posts. Following the slaughter, the Administration, the State Department and the CIA made up a fairytale to tell the American public. But Obama claims to know nothing of the cover-up. As a snarky journalist observed, "Evidently, the Administration did not know what the Administration was doing." Or in the words of today's Sgt. Schultz, "I know nah-thing." What galled the President was that the Associated Press released emails that had circulated among the departments which participated in writing

the fairytale. The AP apparently knew more than the Administration, leaving the President looking like the proverbial mushroom (they left me in the dark and threw poop at me).

When the IRS targeted conservatives and religious groups, senior Treasury officials were informed, but they claim they never told the White House--so Obama once again played his Sgt. Schultz role perfectly, saying "I know nah-thing." As compensation, however, he moved the head of the IRS section that had perpetuated the targeting over to head the IRS' section to oversee Obamacare. The President claimed he first learned about illegal targeting from the same news sources you and I read...

that damned AP again.

Clearly tired of the Schultz role, the President brought in the Attorney General to find out how the media was doing a better job of informing him than the members of his Administration.

Eric Holder therefore violated the constitutional provision for a free press and tapped into 20 AP phone lines and surreptitiously monitored three Fox news reporters--all to find the secrets of their craft. The Administration needed to adopt those same techniques to bring the President up to speed, whether he is relaxing on the extended vacation the First Lady has proposed for Martha's Vineyard or on a golf course.

So there you have it. My summer vacation has already paid dividends, allowing me to see the light. All three scandals are really part of one problem: Today's Sgt. Schultz is tired of being yesterday's Sgt. Schultz. •

Another Man's Opinion

Getting Better at Preventing Animal Abuse

By Cristian Vasquez

In September of last year Senate Bill 1500, introduced by State Senator Ted Lieu, was finally signed by Governor Jerry Brown. Unlike most laws that make the cruel and inhumane treatment of animals a crime, this bill focuses on issues such as overcrowded shelters and protecting the abused animal from being returned to abusive owners.

Prior to SB 1500, there was a loophole in the State's laws that forced animal control agencies to return abused animals to their abusive owners, regardless of evidence proving that the animal was mistreated. The law specifically indicated that mistreated animals must be returned to the owner if the animal is physically fit or the owner can and will provide the necessary care for the animal. Unfortunately in many cases, the abused/neglected animal would physically recover from its wounds having been in a shelter and hence would be deemed fit to return home.

SB 1500 is a more comprehensive approach to dealing with abused pets. The new law will allow animals to be removed from the custody of their owner prior to the resolution of their pending criminal case, so long as a judge rules that there was probable cause to seize the pet or pets. In addition, the law places cost liability of the shelter care on the owner if they refuse to surrender the animals.

The reason all of this is important is because our laws are taking a huge step when dealing with crimes. This law addresses animal abuse/neglect/cruelty in a more comprehensive way. Unfortunately our society is quick to impose punishments on criminals, which are very

necessary, without always providing the proper follow-up for the victim. This law is making sure that the animals recover in the long run. It ensures that an abused animal no longer has to be forced back into the environment that put its well-being at risk in the first place.

As humans, we can remove ourselves from negative environments to improve our living situation. Despite having such an advantage over the rest of the animal kingdom, we sometimes fail to do that for ourselves. Unfortunately, animals do not have such abilities. They are dependent on people and when the people they depend on the most fail them in the worst of ways, there must be laws in place to help these animals. The help must include more than being removed from the abusive environment. There has to be follow-up and SB 1500 establishes the initial follow-up needed to ensure that a rescued animal does not become a victim for a second time.

The safeguards established by this new law will allow for the development of more effective and comprehensive recovery plans when dealing with rescued animals. While it is a fact the animal shelters are overcrowded and rescued pets add to the burden, that does not mean the answer is releasing the animal back into the hands of an irresponsible owner. Animal rescue efforts are to be applauded and admired and to those organizations that spend every penny they raise and endless amounts of volunteer hours rescuing and caring for abused animals, I thank you. It is encouraging to see that a new law is in the books that seeks to act beyond prosecution and fines when dealing with the issue. •

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-Rich Marcello & Joel Elliott
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Sports

High Price to Pay in L.A.

By Adam Serrao

It has always been a known fact that the biggest markets with the most money will attract the biggest superstars in their particular sports. If any city in the United States knows that the best, it is probably right here in Los Angeles. Between the Lakers, the Dodgers, the Angels and even to a certain extent the Clippers, Los Angeles is entirely full of superstars who are all getting paid max contracts. For the organizations, that's okay. They can afford it. The players, of course, won't complain either. The fans, however, have been increasingly unhappy here in Los Angeles because of their teams' poor performances that oftentimes winds up in unsuccessful seasons. The owners are doing all that they can to bring high-profile, skilled players to their teams, but maybe that in itself is the main reason why they are not winning after all.

The Los Angeles Dodgers are perhaps the best example nowadays of how a team full of superstars simply isn't panning out to what the expectations have been coming into the season. Injuries are always a cause for concern. After all, the Dodgers have lost Hanley Ramirez, Zack Greinke and may still be playing with a shadow of the player that Matt Kemp used to be after he ran into that wall last year in Milwaukee. If there has been anything learned from this season, however, it should be that injuries oftentimes just don't matter. A great sports trivia game to play this weekend with a few buddies could be to name more than two active position players on the New York Yankees roster. Can you do it? Well, the Yankees are a first place club at the moment and have spent the most time atop the American League East so far this season. Most of the heat right now, as it refers to the Dodgers, is coming down on head coach Don Mattingly. As we know from watching the Lakers closely, when a roster full of All-Star-caliber players doesn't perform, it's always the head coach's fault. Or is it?

Dodgers' President Stan Kasten came out last Friday backing Mattingly and the job the latter had been doing with the club. "What I've always said, what I've always felt, is I like the team we put together," Kasten explained. "I like our staff. I do expect us to have success. I do expect this team to turn it around and because of that, I expect Donnie to be around a long time." Kasten isn't the only one who wants Mattingly to stick around. A prototypical players' coach, most of the guys in the clubhouse love him and Dodger fans across Los Angeles are much more willing to give him second and third chances compared to the likes of Mike Brown and Mike D'Antoni, for example.

So if the problem isn't the manager, what is it? Longtime Dodger and current MLB analyst on Fox Eric Karros may have hit the nail on the head. "You look at the players and they've completely underperformed to their expectations," Karros said. "They haven't performed and it hasn't just been this year. But Mattingly has played this game. He knows how difficult this game is and he's protected this ballclub." The key there is that the players are the ones underperforming. Even through their struggles, Mattingly has mostly chosen to take the blame himself.

The Lakers and the Dodgers each have their issues, but the reasons why the teams are unsuccessful are slightly different. For the Lakers, the team chemistry wasn't there and the players, in over two years, hadn't had the chance to get used to a specific coach and a specific coaching scheme. All-Stars like Kobe Bryant and Dwight Howard, though, are still getting out there on the court and giving it their all, coming back from injury much sooner than expected to try and contribute to their team. Because of that, the blame is thrown at the coaches. Thus, Mike Brown was fired and there are currently simulated marches taking

place down Chick Hearn Way for the head of D'Antoni while everyone is begging for the return of Phil Jackson, no matter how futile their attempts might be.

With the Dodgers, on the other hand, it is the manager who is still doing his job while he watches his high-priced players struggle because of what is perceived to be a lack of effort. "We got to find a team with talent that will fight and compete like a club that doesn't have talent," Mattingly said of his team. "There has to be a mixture of competitiveness. It's not let's put an All-Star team together and that All-Star team wins. It's finding that balance of a team that has a little bit of grit and will fight for you, and also having the talent to go with it. All grit and no talent isn't going to make you successful. But all talent and no grit isn't going to get you there either."

In the wake of those words, Kemp continues to strike out, batting around .260 with his power almost completely diminished. Andre Ethier is nonexistent in right field, batting near .250, and both players are finding themselves riding the bench more often than usual because of it. These are the same players who just received exorbitant contracts from the Dodgers who are now suddenly underperforming in the middle of the lineup--which in turn is leading the team to the cellar of the highly competitive National League West.

Take a look at Albert Pujols' numbers the last two years since receiving his 10-year deal after leaving St. Louis. His home run totals, average and doubles have all gone down. As Colin Cowherd said on his show *The Herd*, "If you start paying people star money, they start thinking that they're stars." The Dodgers recently signed Ethier to a five-year \$85 million contract. Ethier's never been a superstar, but he got star money and now his numbers have all drastically gone down. Kemp may be injured, but his eight-year, \$160 million contract doesn't bode well for a season in which he is posting the worst numbers of his career. The problem here isn't with the coach. It's with the effort that these new players are expending now that they know they are safe with their five to 10-year contracts.

What it boils down to is that the big boys in the Dodgers' lineup have not produced like they have in years past. Mattingly, however, has no other choice but to run them out onto the field day after day. "Adrian, Matt, Hanley when he gets back, Andre...those are the guys, the guys in the middle of the order that you count on to be the run-producers," Mattingly said. "How do you not stay with those guys? You don't just abandon ship and say, 'What do you do?'" Mattingly has been given a group of players to manage and that's exactly what he has done. Some of those players, however, aren't necessarily putting in the effort that they should to parallel their large contracts.

The owners in Los Angeles are going to keep giving the fans what they ask for by signing high-profile players. In one of the biggest markets in the world, these teams can afford to pay their players millions upon millions of dollars to create not just a competitive team, but a championship-caliber team. This Dodgers' team, with a \$220 million payroll, however, is severely underperforming while players like those who are on the Yankees, struggling to show that they have what it takes to be relevant in the big leagues, continue to win. Today is the day and age of the "super team," but maybe creating a super team isn't exactly what is needed to win a championship. It's certainly not working here in Los Angeles where the high prices being paid to the players is certainly no substitute for the hard work and dedication that it takes to be successful at sport, life or anything else that you do for that matter. •

Up and Adam

Spartans Ruled Out of Playoffs

By Adam Serrao

The South High Spartans were sitting pretty. Five wins in a row, including a two-game sweep over league rival Centennial, another two-game sweep over league rival El Segundo and a first round playoff win against Estancia had the team's confidence riding high. They were five games in a row that got the Spartans into a tie for first place and into the second round of the playoffs. Then, all of the momentum shifted. The Northview Vikings stepped up to face South and jumped all over the Torrance team early.

The game would end, but not without a fight from the Spartans and a controversial game-changing call from the umpires that not only took a run off the scoreboard, but sent head coach Grady Sain and his South High team packing. Now the Spartans' season is over as they sit at home, left only to think about what could have been in their 5-4 loss in the second round of the CIF-Southern Section Division 4 baseball playoffs last Tuesday night.

The Spartans carried momentum from their five game winning streak into their game with Vikings quite effortlessly. South got on the scoreboard first behind a Kurtis Brajevich single that brought in Konnor Provin. Matt Mogollon, who has been next to lights out all season for the Spartans, was perfect through four innings of play. That's when everything fell apart for the Spartans, though. The Vikings' Jake Grijalva got things going for his team by doubling home Brian Centeno to score the first run of the game for Northview and tie things up. Grijalva later advanced to third base on a routine groundball and scored when the ball was mishandled, giving the Vikings a 2-1 lead. Two more runs would score before the inning ended for Mogollon and the Spartans--and suddenly, in a game where they held the lead and Mogollon was pitching perfectly, the Spartans found themselves down by three runs with just three innings left to play.

Coach Sain's team wasn't about to go out quietly, though. They had come too far this year to give up that easily. In the very next inning, South loaded the bases with zero outs to force Vikings' coach Darren Murphy into a pitching change. Murphy brought in Kollby Oriti. "If you're going to go down, you don't mind going down with Oriti," Murphy explained. "He's all heart and guts. I wanted to make sure we got him the ball early enough where he had an impact on what happened." Oriti began his stint in relief and almost immediately had that impact that his coach was talking about. The relief pitcher walked home a run to bring the Spartans' deficit to 4-2, but that's when his "heart and guts" began to kick in. Back-to-back

strikeouts followed by a groundout ended the fifth inning for the Vikings and left runners stranded for the Spartans. What could have been a golden opportunity to get more runners to the plate for the Spartans, down by two runs with zero outs in the inning, disappeared along with three straight batters.

The game would remain scoreless until the top of the seventh and final inning when it was South's turn at the plate once again. This time, the Spartans loaded the bases with one out in the inning. That's when all of the controversy began. Kyle Henmi doubled to the gap in left center to score two runs and tie the game up for South. The go-ahead runner, Josh Rotuna, rounded third base on the play and started towards home with the intent to give his team the lead. Rotuna collided with Northview catcher Gabe Rojo in what was a bang-bang play at the plate. The home plate umpire originally ruled Rotuna out, but just then the white baseball could be seen trickling away from the catcher's mitt on the ground. This prompted the ump to then rule Rotuna safe, thus officially giving the Spartans the 5-4 lead. Northview appealed the call, saying that Rotuna never actually touched home plate. The field judge agreed with the appeal and overruled the call, subtracting the run from South's total.

"The umpire ruled him out, then safe--then they rule he never touched the plate. A little confusing," said Sain. "He wasn't ruled out until after the play was dead and then they appealed. It's one of those things where it could have gone either way and unfortunately it went their way." The call erased what would have been a 5-4 Spartan lead and brought the game back to a 4-4 tie.

As things naturally tend to go after a game-changing play like that, the Vikings came up in the bottom of the seventh inning, loaded the bases, and relief pitcher Oriti walked to send home the game-winning run. "I'd rather hit my guy in," Oriti said. "But who cares--we got the win and we're moving on." They moved on having taken all of the Spartans' momentum and leaving questions about. Did Rotuna really ever touch the plate? Maybe no one will ever know, but Murphy said he had a clear view of the play. "He never touched home plate," Murphy explained. "Rojo's tag knocked him off his feet and he was never within two or three feet of the plate." Biased or not, the way the Vikings' coach saw it is the way the umpire called it. South High's season is now over and Sain and company will have to wait until next year in order to get that dirty taste out of their mouths.

North High, South High and Torrance High--previously eliminated. •

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TerriAnn in Torrance

Bowling in Torrance

By TerriAnn Ferren

Last week, I had the opportunity to go bowling. At first I was surprised this ancient game was chosen as an activity for a group get-together, but then I realized most everyone likes to bowl. Somehow I couldn't remember the last time I went bowling, but I think it was in Crestline years ago. Thinking about that particular episode didn't instill confidence in my abilities. As I recall, I think I had trouble even keeping my ball in my lane! My late husband Dave and I took our son

seemed as skilled as I was until we started. It was then I realized I was no better than I was years ago, except I did manage to keep the ball in my own lane. Tim, one of the men in our foursome, seemed like a ringer--especially when he told us he was from the Midwest where everyone bowls. The first game we played ended up with the two men, Aaron and Tim, beating Melissa and me. I had the worst score, but was trying my best. It seemed my shoes were slipping and sliding around the wood lane and the

search out others who bowl on a regular basis to find out if they have as much fun as I had that day.

The following week, I headed off to another bowling alley in Torrance and right away spotted a bubbly group that seemed like they were having fun. Becky Terry was organizing her things and told me, "We've been bowling with this group for about eight years now and it's simply a social group. We bowl once a month whether we need it or not. It's old friends and new friends that have

children [we bowled] but we left it alone for years and years, so now we've got back to it. [I've bowled for] 10 years and it has not gotten any better!" Jan told me their league is called the *Alley-Oopers*. She explained that this league got started with two couples and now they are up to nine and continue to ask whatever friends they know to join--and everyone is from the area.

"When we were teenagers [we bowled], but we hadn't bowled for a long time. We just came back to it last year. This is a social



Dan and Jan Rey

Christopher bowling in Crestline and I believe even *he* did better than I did. Dave had taken bowling in college (yes, it was offered as a physical education credit), so he usually kept score and gave us tips on how to throw the ball. Unfortunately, I threw the ball way too forcefully back then and that is how it landed in other lanes. But I did get better.

Walking into one of the three bowling alleys in Torrance, I remembered that I needed to rent those lovely-looking bowling shoes before finding my lane. (Those shoes are still as *stylish* as ever in case you were wondering.) The group I was bowling with

ball was so heavy. My fingers seemed so fat I couldn't fit them all the way into the holes in the ball! Was this normal? I can see why people have their own balls. The first game, I bowled a 50. I know that was horrible, but in the end Melissa and I rallied and beat the two men! On top of all that I ended up doubling my score in the second game, which I am confident means that I would have done much better with a practice game. All in all, bowling was a lot of fun and I can't remember when I have laughed so hard. After returning my shoes, I left the bowling alley and thought that I would



Notice the automatic bowling scorers.

kind of come together and have a wonderful time. The main thing is we get through the bowling so we get to go to dinner." Becky told me she was not really a bowler and had bowled once or twice in her life until she joined this group. Her husband Glen Terry told me, "I've been bowling since high school and in this league for six or seven years. We bowl for fun--it's mainly eating the dinner afterwards. There are seven teams, so there are 14 of us--two on each team."

Right next to Becky and Glen, I met Dan and Jan Rey. Dan told me they have been bowling for 10 years. Jan added, "As

group," said Jim Wimmer. He told me he has his own blue bowling ball that weighs about 14 pounds.

Mary Lu Swartz was all smiles and told me, "Since it started about 13 years, I usually go out to dinner." When I asked Mary Lu if she had her own ball, she said, "Yes, I do. When I started, I did not. It is easier than running around looking for a ball that fits your hand. Mine is blue and has my initials on it 'cuz another one of the couples--he has a blue ball too and his weighs about twice as much as mine." I completely understand

See TerriAnn, page 11



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Seniors

Laser Spine Surgery Helps Seniors Find Relief From Lumbar Spinal Stenosis

(BPT) - Two recent clinical studies bring good news to the aging population. If you have lower back pain, burning pain or numbness in your legs you are probably one of the many people suffering with Lumbar Spinal Stenosis (LSS) - a condition affecting a vast majority of the over-60 age group - and this good news applies to you.

The condition is most often part of normal deterioration due to aging but can also be caused by osteoarthritis, bone spurs, bulging or herniated discs, or injury or trauma to the spine. It can be hereditary, too.

"It's possible to have spinal stenosis while experiencing no symptoms at all, or the symptoms can appear slowly and then gradually worsen over time," says Dr. Michael Perry, medical director of Laser Spine Institute.

What is spinal stenosis?

Spinal stenosis occurs in the spinal column, where the spinal cord, nerve roots and vertebrae are located. Over time, the spinal canal may become constricted or narrowed. This puts pressure on the spinal cord and spinal nerve roots, causing pain, numbness or weakness in the legs. The lumbar region is the lower part of the spine, and is the most common area where spinal stenosis happens.

Dr. Perry provides some guidance on how to maintain a healthier spine and possibly prevent the onset of conditions like spinal stenosis. Some of his recommendations include exercising and stretching regularly, maintaining a healthy weight, using proper posture and lifting techniques, as well as ensuring correct body postures are used while sleeping and driving. Additionally, adequate rest, anti-inflammatory drugs and physical therapy may ease your symptoms.

If you've tried all these and still have severe, limiting pain that is interfering with daily

activities, it may be time to explore surgery.

Surgical options for spinal stenosis

In the past, a surgeon typically performed open back surgery, called a laminectomy (or decompression), which removes the bone, bone spurs and ligaments that are compressing the nerves. The doctor makes a single, large incision to access your spine.

According to the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons, elderly patients, those with multiple medical problems and others, have higher rates of complications from this type of surgery. There could be nerve injury, blood clots, return of symptoms and more. A several-day hospital stay is usually required.

Additionally, a 2010 study published by the American Medical Association found that these invasive surgeries resulted in a high rate of life-threatening complications, and patients were often re-hospitalized within 30 days.

A less invasive surgery is gaining popularity. Minimally invasive spine surgery using endoscopic techniques - sometimes as outpatient surgery - is becoming more common. In this procedure, small incisions are used and recovery is often quicker, with less injury to the surrounding soft tissues. Dr. Perry says that most surgeons and medical practices are moving toward these minimally invasive techniques because patients are requesting them.

"Patients are concerned about the more invasive surgery, both its risks and potential outcomes," he says. "At Laser Spine Institute, we make smaller incisions, have a lower infection rate and a quicker recovery. Our surgical complications are generally very low compared to open back surgery. Our surgeons have been regularly performing these procedures for eight years and are very familiar with the technique." •

Furey

from front page

Furey is set to retire within the next year and feels prepared to take on the role of Mayor, which though not a full-time position on paper, can consume 40 to 60 hours of a person's week. This is time the Councilman plans on spending to further develop Torrance's economic base, if elected to office.

"I want to continue with the development of our economy--the Mayor has been involved with it and it takes a lot of time," Furey said. "Many businesspeople who eventually move to Torrance, we encouraged them to do so and we feel we should reach out to corporations and other businesses to instill the virtues of having a business in Torrance. We let them know that we have an economic development team that will assist them. I enjoy all these new businesses that we created and brought to our city. However, I think that we are lacking in some aspects. Our industrial base has really not increased demonstratively in that period of time

us a long time to get there, but we did it."

Despite his years of service, Furey believes there is still much more that he can do and decided to take on the task of campaigning in hopes of leading the City. "We took a while to discuss it," Furey said. "My wife, my children and my grandchildren were all included in the mix because they are Torrance residents and they have to deal with the notoriety that comes if I become the Mayor. They have dealt with the notoriety of me being a Councilmember. People identify you and they recognize the shortcomings of the City and they complain to your relatives. Eventually I get the information and try to resolve it, but it is unfortunate that there are certain people in the community that think government is unapproachable and we have proven that it is not."

Furey was elected to the Torrance City Council in 2008 and was re-elected without opposition in 2012. Prior to his election, he served on

"Hopefully we can also improve with our school district to make sure that our children are educated the way that they should be."

and a lot of that has to do with the economy, but I think we are in a situation now where we can reach out and bring that industrial aspect back to our community."

With a lower-than-average unemployment rate in the city, Furey believes that having a well-educated and work-experienced population has contributed to Torrance's ongoing success. The recession that hit the country in 2008 doubled the unemployment rate in the city from three percent to just above six percent. Currently it is below 5.8 percent. For the Councilman, who has been involved in Little League for years and knows the importance of guiding local youth, education is a crucial aspect for the City to succeed.

"Hopefully we can also improve with our school district to make sure that our children are educated the way that they should be. We have a fantastic school district and just forged together a fantastic partnership with a joint use for our properties," Furey said. "Some people don't understand that we are two different entities, the City and the [Torrance Unified] School District, but the bottom line is that we have 149,000 residents and 25,000 students in our schools and they want to be able to use the gymnasiums, they want to be able to use the tracks and they want to be able to use the ball fields. Now we have an actual contractual agreement between us, which is great. It took

the Torrance Civil Service Commission and as a member of the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Ethics and Integrity. Furey has also served as Chair for the School District's Personnel Commission and as a member of other School District committees. He is also a long-time board member of the Torrance Education Foundation, having served as the president of the organization for four years.

"We all have to campaign what our good qualities are. I do not see anything like what you saw in Los Angeles, or what you see national," said Furey. "Bill [Sutherland] is a very good friend of mine and we have known each other for years. He has endorsed my candidacy for the Council and I have endorsed his candidacy for the Council--and in most instances we agree upon just about everything, but we go about things differently at times. The difference will be what the electorate base their opinion on who they want as CEO for the City of Torrance. I personally think that I have the best skill set to be Mayor for the City of Torrance."

Furey concluded, "When we talk about volunteerism, it is because in essence that is what this job is--it is the highest quality of volunteerism that there can possibly be. There are so many things that I would like to volunteer for and do, but I do not have the time because I am busy running the City." •

Veterans

from page 2

"I thought with the small town atmosphere we enjoy here in Torrance it'd be nice to know about each one of those names."

Weideman agreed that remembering those who gave their lives protecting America should go beyond remembering their names, but remembering their lives that had been cut short.

"We can flesh them out and make them more than just names on a wall. [We can] tell a little bit about them" said Weideman. "Almost all of these are very young men just out of high school."

After the memorial service the Torrance Historical Society held a screening of a

documentary about Ronan's efforts in the Names on the Wall project at the Society's museum on Post Avenue. The short documentary was produced and directed by Dennis Kwong and captures the effort made to research and preserve the stories of Torrance's service members kill in combat.

The Torrance Historical Society is always looking for more volunteers to help capture the history of the city's veterans. Perspective volunteers can learn more about the program by visiting the museum, calling (310) 328-5392 or visiting the groups website www.torrancehistoricalsociety.org •

Police Reports

from page 2

Auto Theft-All: 3800 BLOCK SEPULVEDA BLVD Stolen vehicle: '05 GMC Savana.

Theft: 18600 BLOCK HAWTHORNE BLVD Suspect takes victim's property after agreeing to make change for victim's \$5 bill/cash.

Burglary-Auto: 17000 BLOCK GLENBURN AVE Suspect(s) attempts to pry door handle/no entry, no loss.

May 16

Burglary-Commercial: 18000 BLOCK PRAIRIE AVE Suspect(s) smashes window for entry, but flees when alarm sounds/no loss.

Theft: 2600 BLOCK PACIFIC COAST HWY Suspect(s) takes victim's unattended property/cell phone.

Robbery-Weapon: 20500 BLOCK ANZA AVE Suspects confront victim in parking garage, demand his property strike him in the back of the head and repeatedly taser him in the back, causing him to fall to the ground/laptop bag, laptop.

May 15

Burglary-Residential: 2100 BLOCK JOHNSON CT Suspect(s) pries off screen, enters open window, ransacks and takes

property/jewelry, watches, cash, traveler's checks, pillowcases.

Burglary-Residential: 25600 BLOCK ROLLING HILLS WAY Suspect(s) smashes window for entry and takes property/safes, jewelry, bonds, documents.

Burglary-Residential: 4800 BLOCK PACIFIC COAST HWY Suspect(s) removes screen, enters window, ransacks and takes property/jewelry, Chinese currency.

Vandalism: 1900 BLOCK 220TH ST Suspect(s) smashes victim's two parked vehicles' rear windows and dents one vehicle's fender.

Auto Theft-All: 18400 BLOCK ASHLEY AVE Stolen vehicle: '96 Honda Civic.

Burglary-Auto: 21800 BLOCK HAWTHORNE BLVD Suspect(s) enters vehicle by unknown means and takes property from trunk/purse.

Burglary-Residential: 16900 BLOCK KORNBLUM AVE Suspect(s) removes screens, forces open window on residence tented for fumigation, ransacks and takes property/computer, game consoles, binoculars.

Burglary-Residential: 2000 BLOCK

See Police, page 11

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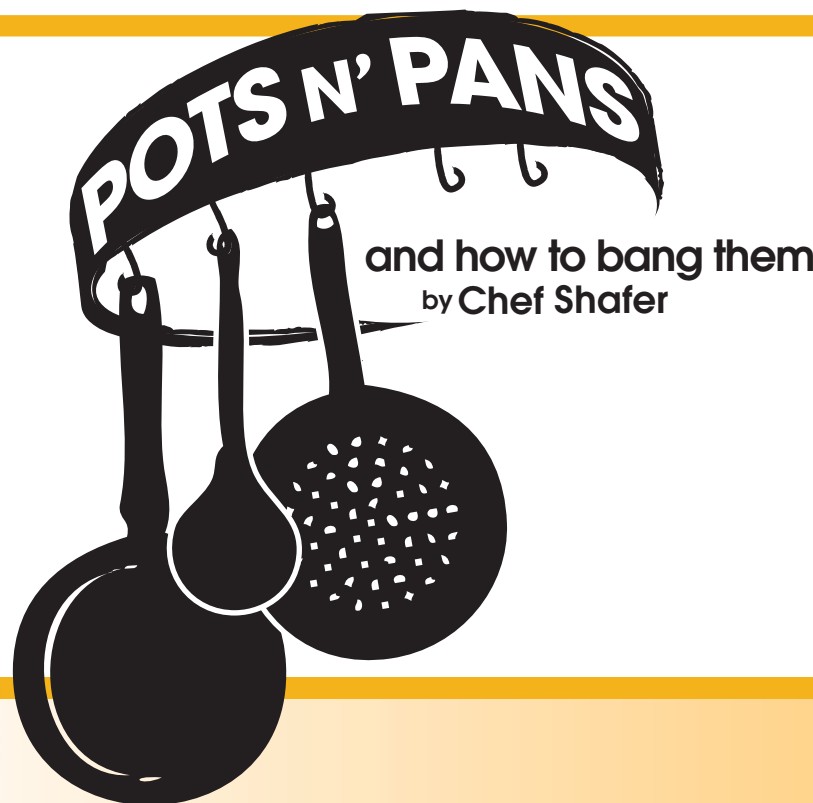
the side dishes! This is your make-it-or-break- it on the BBQ scene.

Here is a great salad that will be refreshing and received well by all

the charred meat that you can mustard. LOL



The Chef



Orange And Cilantro Cucumber Salad

- 8 seedless oranges peeled and sliced
- 2 hothouse or English cucumbers
- 1 bunch cilantro chopped
- 1 tablespoon toasted sesame seeds
- 2 tablespoon's seasoned rice vinegar
- Pinch of salt and pepper

Mix together and chill this will go great with seafood chicken beef or lamb.

Happy burning guys.

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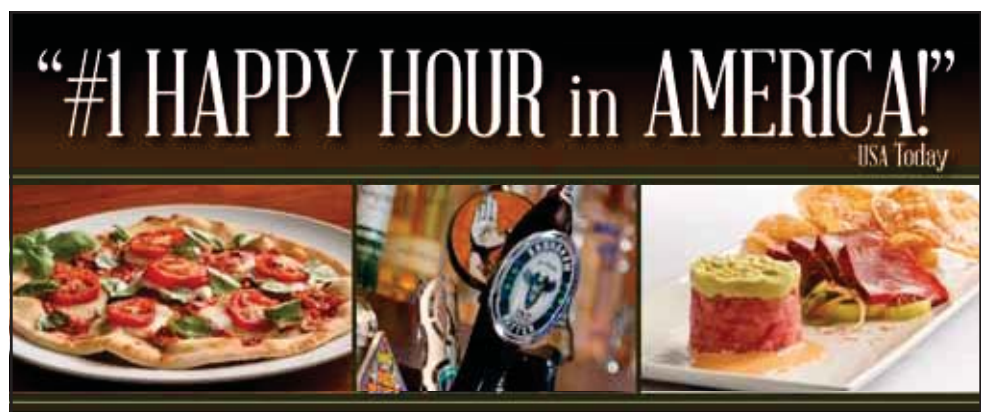


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WEEKLY CROSSWORD See Answers Next Week
The In Crowd

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
14					15						16				
17					18						19				
20					21						22				
23								24							
					25	26	27	28		29		30	31	32	33
34	35	36	37		38						39				
40					41				42	43					
44								45				46			
47					48			49			50				
					51		52				53	54	55	56	57
58	59	60	61					62	63	64					
65					66						67				
68					69						70				
71					72						73				

- Across**
- Floating, perhaps
 - Arctic dwellers
 - Bring down the house
 - Shut up
 - Accustom
 - Aspices: Var.
 - Novice: Var.
 - Hoisted, nautically
 - Certain raptors
 - For one thing
 - Doctor's order
 - Damage
 - Shiny on top?
 - Gawk
 - Is into
 - Intimidate
 - Postal scale unit
 - Sooner or later
 - Grafting shoot
 - Artist's asset
 - Flower holder
 - Like some carpets
 - Sots' spots
 - Called the shots
 - Philip, to Camilla
 - Nearly simultaneously
 - "Watch out!"
- Down**
- At the breakfast table
 - Angler's gear
 - Our "mother"
 - Ho hello
 - Page (through)
 - Con
 - Feline vibrato?
 - Geometrical solid
 - Of an anatomical partition
 - Stagger
 - Indian tourist stop
 - Brass component
 - Latin infinitive
 - Decline
 - 86 is a high one
 - Be in a cast
 - Drawing
 - Dork
- Across**
- Ballpark figure
 - Jersey, e.g.
 - Cap
 - Abound
 - Univ. paper
 - Mark of a ruler
 - Greek earth goddess: Var.
 - Kind of alert
 - Fish
 - Shag rug
 - Robert Burns's "Whistle ___ the Lave O't"
 - Approvals
 - "My dear man"
 - Cow
 - Jocks' antitheses
 - A Bush
 - Book of maps
 - Watery parts of milk
 - In doubt
 - "O Sanctissima," e.g.
 - Branch headquarters?
 - Bridge site
 - ___-en-scène
 - Case
 - Common past participle

Last Week's Answers

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65
66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78
79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91
92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104

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

SUDOKU Medium

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

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

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

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330 Penn St. Sat. 6/01, 7 - 12 noon. No Early Birds. Moving Sale! Lots of household items, kids toys, clothes, furniture, sports.

344 Penn St. ES. Sat. 6/01, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Furniture, office supplies, RC cars & fishing gear.

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Finance

Keeping Funeral Costs Affordable

By Jason Alderman

Anyone who's put a loved one to rest knows that death is not cheap. According to the National Funeral Directors Association, the average adult funeral cost \$6,560 in 2009 (their most current data). That doesn't include such common additions as a cemetery plot, headstone, flowers, obituaries and limousine, which can add thousands to the bill.

Because death is a frequently avoided topic, many people aren't armed with information about the many variables – and costs – involved in planning a funeral. Thus, just when survivors are grieving and most vulnerable, they're bombarded by decisions that must be made quickly, often without



Providers that offer cremations must make alternative containers (besides caskets) available.

Note: The Funeral Rule does not apply to third-party sellers such as casket and monument dealers, or to cemeteries that lack an on-site funeral home.

If your beliefs don't require following specific funeral protocols, here are a few ways to reduce costs while still honoring the deceased and their survivors:

Veterans, immediate family members, members of the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service and certain civilians who've provided military-related service may be entitled to burial at a national cemetery with a grave marker. Burial is free, but families are

"Because death is a frequently avoided topic, many people aren't armed with information about the many variables – and costs."

even knowing what their loved one would have wanted.

The key message for the living is to decide on preferred funeral arrangements ahead of time and to convey those wishes to your family – ideally in your will.

Another important lesson: Know your legal rights and what funeral-related goods and services cost so you – or your survivors – don't feel pressured into buying things you don't want or need. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) oversees "The Funeral Rule," which regulates how funeral providers must deal with consumers. Among its provisions:

Upon request, funeral homes must provide an itemized price list of all their goods and services, whether you call (even anonymously) or visit in person.

You have the right to choose among their offerings (with certain state-mandated exceptions) and are not required to purchase package deals containing unwanted items.

Prior to purchasing a casket or outer burial container from a funeral home, they must share descriptions and prices before showing you stock on hand.

responsible for funeral home expenses and transportation to the cemetery.

A \$255 lump-sum death benefit is available to surviving spouses or minor children of eligible workers who paid into Social Security.

For many, cremation is a viable, less expensive option to burial. If you plan to hold a viewing first before the cremation, ask whether you can rent an attractive casket for the ceremony.

Some families prefer not to hold a public viewing. For them, "direct cremation" or "immediate burial" may make sense. Because the body is promptly cremated or interred, embalming and cosmetology services are not necessary, which saves hundreds of dollars. Also, with direct cremation you can opt for an unfinished wood coffin or heavy cardboard enclosure for the journey to the crematorium.

You can purchase a casket or cremation urn from a source other than your funeral home. The funeral home cannot assess handling fees or require you to be there to take delivery.

The death of a loved one is always upsetting, but you may be able to ease your family's emotional and financial burdens by planning ahead.

Looking Up

Watch As Three Planets Dance in Twilight

By Bob Eklund

Look low in the west-northwest after sunset in late May and you can watch Venus, Jupiter and Mercury pirouetting through the tightest gathering of three naked-eye planets that the world will see until 2026. "Here's a beautiful

May 27: Jupiter appears right next to Venus. After this evening, Jupiter pulls down and right of Venus and Mercury, disappearing from view in early June.

May 28 and later: Mercury, meanwhile, is coming into its own. It's entering its best

"In late May and you can watch Venus, Jupiter and Mercury pirouetting through the tightest gathering of three naked-eye planets that the world will see until 2026."

chance to see three planets all together," says Alan MacRobert, a senior editor at *Sky & Telescope* magazine. "Add the Earth under your feet and you're seeing half of the solar system's planets at once. They'll be a lovely part of the spring twilight."

"The view should be best about 30 to 45 minutes after sunset," continues MacRobert. "And think photo opportunity. Set up a camera on a tripod, zoom to the max and try different time exposures."

The show will continue with two of the planets well into June.

The program of events:

May 20-23: Venus and Jupiter, the brightest two planets of the solar system, have been approaching each other in the western evening sky for weeks. As they draw close together now, Mercury—currently the third-brightest planet—climbs up from the horizon day by day to join them. By May 20, you should be able to spot Mercury to the lower right of the other two. It moves up closer to bright Venus for the next few days.

May 24: Venus, Jupiter and Mercury now all fit within a five-degree circle. That means you could cover them with a golf ball held at about arm's length. And you can view all three at the same time in most binoculars. They'll stay within a five-degree circle until May 29.

May 26: The grouping is now tightest. All three planets fit in a 2.5-degree circle, forming a striking little triangle. Your thumb at arm's length will just about cover them.

evening showing of 2013, soaring ever higher above Venus until about June 7. At that point, it slowly begins to sink back toward Venus and also starts fading—slowly at first and then increasingly fast after mid-June.

True Facts: Although the three planets may look close together, they're not. During the last week of May, Mercury is about nine light-minutes from Earth (105 million miles), Venus is farther at 14 light-minutes (150 million miles) and Jupiter is 51 light-minutes from us (565 million miles).

The fainter star Elnath, or Beta Tauri, which appears with them in the sky, is more than a million times farther away in the background at a distance of 130 light-years.

A planet-viewing party would make a nice addition to anyone's spring barbecue. One might take a cue from the ancient Japanese custom of inviting dinner guests to jointly write a "renga" or series of linked 17-syllable haiku poems, one contributed by each guest. Each new haiku would begin with a thought from the previous one, but develop it in a new way. Your renga might begin with a haiku like:

In the spring twilight,
Three bright guests are dropping by—
Let us welcome them!

Text, images, and video: <http://tinyurl.com/three-planets-dance-at-sunset> <http://www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/ataglance>

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TerriAnn

from page 6

that after the trouble I had finding a ball to use during my bowling *adventure* last week.

Speaking with these bowlers who obviously play for fun gave me insight into why this ancient game has lasted into modern times. It is fun.

Then I met Richard (Dick) and Marcia Stolz. Marcia shared, "We are one of the original starters of it [the league] maybe 10 years ago." Richard added, "It all started out with some friends of ours. We were looking for something to do one evening. Let's go bowling! And we had such a good time, we asked our friends to join us and that's how

the league started. Afterwards we go out to dinner. Our name is the *Tidy Bowlers*. Some of the names are very humorous." Marcia had on a cute, sparkly t-shirt and I asked her if she bought it somewhere or had it made special and she said, "My sister wrote this play called *Rose Bowl Queens* and it takes place in a bowling alley, so we all decided to go out and get our Rose Bowl Queens [t-shirt]. We all have it."

Everyone seemed to be smiling and laughing including Luan and Jay Fogg. Jay told me he used to bowl a lot and has been bowling 25 years. "I don't bowl as well as I used

to. I only bowl once a month now. I used to bowl league all the time--I used to bowl tournament. Not anymore. I'm too old," said Jay. But I have a feeling even on a bad day, Jay could out-bowl me no problem.

As it turns out, every team has its own name in the *Alley Oopers League*. Some of them are quite clever: *Great Balls of Fire*, *The Pin Busters*, *The Rolling Takeoffs*, *The Screwballs*, *The Lucky Strikes*, *The Holly Rollers*, *The Bowtox*, *The Straight Shooters*, and of course the *Tidy Bowlers*. I took a look at the stats of this bowling league and frankly, they are pretty good and everyone is

a better bowler than I was last week.

As I left the bowling alley that afternoon, I was reminded of not only the Crestline experience but the time I spent bowling when I was in grade school and high school. It was fun and you know what? It still is. Bowling is something everyone can do. So the next time you want to have fun with a group of friends, head to one of our local bowling alleys and give bowling a try again. There is a reason bowling has lasted thousands of years and one look at the smiles on the faces of bowlers will tell the whole story. Strike out and bowl! •



Marcia and Richard (Dick) Stolz.



Mary Lu Swartz.



Becky and Glen Terry.



Bowling Balls at the alley.

Police Reports

from page 2

SANTA FE AVE Suspect(s) enters garage by unknown means and takes property/speakers, bicycles.

Burglary-Auto: 2200 BLOCK SEPULVEDA BLVD Suspect(s) enters vehicle by unknown means and takes property/stereo, paperwork, sunglasses.

Theft: 5100 BLOCK 190TH ST Suspect(s) takes property from victim's purse as she converses in the parking lot/wallet.

Theft: 3500 BLOCK CARSON ST Suspect poses as an employee from store's other location and "picks up" merchandise/cell phones.

Auto Theft-All: 3600 BLOCK ARTESIA BLVD Stolen vehicle: '07 Ford 500.

Burglary-Residential: 2300 BLOCK 161ST ST Suspect(s) forces open window of residence tented for fumigation, ransacks and takes property/laptop, handgun.

May 14

Auto Theft-All: 17700 BLOCK WESTERN AVE Stolen vehicle: '07 Jeep Compass.

Burglary-Commercial: 2000 BLOCK SANTA FE AVE Suspect(s) cuts ventilation screen for entry and takes property/PA system, cans of spray paint, gym bag, sunglasses.

Theft: 2000 BLOCK 231ST ST Suspect(s) defeats lock and takes property from victim's locker/cell phone.

Burglary-Residential: 16700 BLOCK AINSWORTH AVE Suspect(s) removes screen, enters unlocked window, but flees when confronted by victim who is inside residence/no loss.

Burglary-Residential: 16600 BLOCK VAN NESS AVE Suspect(s) enters unlocked door and takes property/box, backpack, laptop case, jewelry, cash, documents, garage remote, TV, computer, monitor, keyboard, laptop, video camera, guitar.

Burglary-Residential: 4000 BLOCK ARTESIA BLVD Suspect(s) removes screen, enters possibly unsecured window, ransacks and takes property - also pries open detached garage door/jewelry, documents, cash, laptop,

gold coins, watches.

Theft: 2300 BLOCK 185TH ST Suspect(s) takes property from victim's residence without permission, while there with permission/laptop.

Burglary-Commercial: 2300 BLOCK CRENSHAW BLVD Suspect(s) smashes window for entry, forces open vending machines and takes property/cash.

May 13

Burglary-Auto: 16100 BLOCK VAN NESS AVE Suspect(s) punches door lock for entry and takes property/GPS.

Burglary-Auto: 18300 BLOCK GLENBURN AVE Suspect(s) pries open truck's storage compartments and takes property/cordless drill.

Burglary-Auto: 3600 BLOCK ARTESIA BLVD Suspect(s) enters unsecured vehicle and takes property from trunk/amp, subwoofer.

Battery-Weapon/Agg: 5200 BLOCK CALLE MAYOR Suspect repeatedly stabs victim in the back.

Burglary-Auto: 2100 BLOCK ANDREO AVE Suspect(s) enters unsecured vehicle, ransacks, attempts to remove stereo and takes property/iPod, FasTrak.

Theft: 4800 BLOCK 190TH ST Suspect(s) takes property from victim's purse as she shops/wallet.

Theft: 2000 BLOCK 231ST ST Suspect(s) takes property from victim's backpack while in the classroom/ cell phone.

Burglary Residential: 4100 BLOCK 173RD ST Suspect(s) enters residence by unknown means while victims sleep and takes property/purse, keys.

Burglary-Auto: 1700 BLOCK CARSON ST Suspect(s) takes property from unsecured vehicle/cases of chips.

May 12

Theft: 22200 BLOCK WESTERN AVE Suspect(s) takes property off of victim's motorcycle/backrest.

Auto Theft-All: 16200 BLOCK ATKINSON AVE Stolen vehicle: '01 Toyota Tacoma. •

Real Estate

As Housing Market Warms, Keep These Buying Tips In Mind

(BPT) - Ready to buy your first home, or move up to a larger home for your expanding family?

Home sales seem to be finally warming up after a five-year chill, as demand gradually builds among first-time homebuyers and existing homeowners seeking more room. Historically low mortgage rates, rising rents and relatively positive economic indicators are enhancing consumer confidence and driving the trend, according to the National Association

of Realtors (NAR).

As demand grows, home prices for a median existing home are expected to rise as much as 5 percent nationwide in 2013, according to the NAR. This should encourage existing homeowners who've been patiently sitting on the sidelines to consider putting their homes on the market.

Even though the outlook is looking brighter, Daniel Watkins, an attorney who specializes in real estate law at the Watkins Firm, APC in

San Diego, says the hurdles to buying a home in today's market are significantly higher than they were a few years ago.

"The big hurdle is financing. Expectations among lenders and sellers are a lot higher today," Watkins says. "If you're serious about buying a home, you need to have a sizeable down payment, a good credit score, low debt and a solid track record of employment to qualify for a loan."

Lenders are paying close attention to buyers' ability to repay a loan, according to FindLaw.com, the nation's leading legal information website. The generally accepted principle is that no more than 30 percent of a household's take-home income should go toward the principal, interest, taxes and insurance.

Here are some tips from FindLaw.com about buying a home within the next six to nine months:

Start planning now. Even if you're a year or more away from buying a home, start preparing now. Build up your cash for a down payment

market. Instead, home sellers want to know the deal will go through with smooth sailing. So, today, the highest value is being placed on non-contingent offers (not contingent on the sale of your home), pre-approved financing, higher-than-normal earnest money deposit and personalized bids (share with the seller why the home would be a perfect match for you and your family).

Get a lawyer. In some states, the law requires that a real estate attorney be part of the process of making an offer and reviewing loan documents as part of the closing, according to FindLaw.com. Where a real estate attorney isn't required, buyers and sellers should consider seeking legal assistance for relatively more complicated real estate transactions, such as purchasing a property directly from the homeowner, the purchase of a rental property, a short sale or the purchase of a foreclosed property.

Learn about the neighborhood. When you buy a home, you're also buying into a community. Start your home search by first

"Home sales seem to be finally warming up after a five-year chill, as demand gradually builds among first-time homebuyers and existing homeowners seeking more room."

plus other expenses that come with owning a home. Check your credit report for accuracy. Pay all your bills on time and zero out all credit card debt. And don't take on new debt, like a large car payment.

Get a pre-approval letter. Home sellers want to know that you can get a loan to buy their home. It's OK to window shop, but don't make any offers unless you are certain you can obtain financing. After shopping around for a financial institution, get pre-approved for a home mortgage. Showing a seller a pre-approval letter will increase your chances of your offer being accepted. And don't be surprised if the seller or his real estate agent contacts your loan officer to verify that you've been pre-approved.

Build a strong buying position. As the home market warms up, bidding wars will become more common. However, the highest bid doesn't always win in today's housing

targeting a neighborhood where you want to live. Avoid neighborhoods where homes are not being kept up, or yards are full of old cars and junk. Check out the schools, too. Great schools attract families, and keep up home values. Avoid busy streets, homes under flight patterns or near railroad tracks. And contact the local police department for crime statistics and the location of nearby sex offenders.

Keep your emotions in check. If you've found a home you like, don't fall in love with it yet. Make sure your offer is contingent upon a satisfactory home inspection conducted by an inspector that you hire (not the seller).

Save some extra money. Whether you're buying your first home or your third, moving and getting a household established can cost more than you anticipated. Make sure you save enough extra money to redecorate your new home to fit your lifestyle, and to pay for unexpected repairs. •

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Yardless Gardening Trend

(BPT) - Yardless gardening is a popular alternative for people short on green space looking to flex (or find) their green thumbs.

Make a container garden

Pick your plants - Edible plants like basil, oregano, parsley, thyme and rosemary are great choices because they're heavy producers and easy to grow in small spaces.

Choose your vessel - A good rule of thumb is to use smaller pots for herbs and larger pots for fruits and vegetables. Planters should have drainage holes so your plant doesn't get waterlogged.

Fill 'er up - You want the fertilizer or potting mix that's going to nourish and help your herbs thrive. •



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1221 Beech Ave. Torrance, CA 90501

THE PERFECT SPANISH

Located on one of the most prestigious streets in old Torrance, this two bedroom home has been extensively remodeled. With a new roof, stucco, windows, electrical, plumbing, and drywall this home is ready to go! It also has a brand new gourmet kitchen, custom bathroom, new travertine and hardwood floors throughout. This home is a 'must see' with its large backyard and RV parking. Enjoy a short walk to the great restaurants and shopping that Old Town Torrance has to offer.

\$529,000