

Torrance Tribune

The Weekly Newspaper of Torrance

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Torrance Chamber Hosts Inaugural and Business Awards Celebration



The Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC) hosted its annual Inaugural & Business Awards Celebration last Thursday at the DoubleTree Hotel to honor those Chamber members who deserve special recognition. See article on page three. Photo provided by the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce.

Council Touts Business Resources

By Dylan Little

The Torrance City Council heard updates from three business and worker assistance groups during its June 19 meeting. Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network (PG WIN) hopes to match workers with businesses, and this year worked with 240 adult and 33 youth jobseekers. The last time PG WIN was before the Council, some members expressed that the organization could be doing more to help Torrance's workers and students. Since that meeting, Communications Officer Erick Serrato said PG WIN has pushed for closer relationships with the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce, El Camino College and other employment drivers in Torrance. Serrato said he would like to see the organization reach out to more Torrance residents seeking employment assistance and to more Torrance businesses looking for ways to add to their workforces. "We are looking at ways to build on [the number of people served] in 2013-2014 maximizing training and placement connections," said Serrano. "We want to do an even better job and making all these resources available."

The City also heard an update from the South Bay Entrepreneurial Center, which has been in existence for less than a year but already created 20 jobs--12 of which are in Torrance--and assisted companies in diverse fields from cosmetics to online gaming. Executive Director Randy Coleman said the center works with all types and sizes of businesses to create more opportunities for entrepreneurs and workers in the South Bay. "We are creating jobs in the community by turning ideas into viable companies, small companies into bigger companies, and allowing the largest companies to incubate their seedlings of ideas into viable new companies," said Coleman.

The next business assistance organization to report to the Council was the City's own

Office of Economic Development. Economic Development Manager Fran Fulton said her office seeks to enhance employment opportunities, increase revenues and the local tax base, improve quality of life, and ultimately look out for the long-term sustainability of the City. The office has already positioned Torrance as a film-friendly city and made opening a new business in the community easier by creating a one-stop permit center.

Fulton said appealing to businesses doesn't just help company owners, but everyone in the city. "A healthy economic development program is a method for keeping our existing businesses profitable, improving the fiscal conditions of public infrastructure, and ultimately improve the quality of life for Torrance residents," said Fulton. "A successful program benefits the community by securing

See City Council, page 3

Senior Naturalist Gather, Learn About Nature at Madrona Marsh

By Cristian Vasquez

Every second and fourth Wednesday of the month, Daniel Marion prepares his class for the Senior Naturalist. The group of 10 to 12 people gathers for an information session in the classroom before heading outside to learn more about nature while being surrounded by the elements.

"We have it every two weeks and we are gearing it toward senior citizens," Marion said. "We invite people ages 50 and up and what we are trying to do is to get people involved with the outdoor environment--get them into a natural setting so that they are able to study the subject in a natural setting."

The Senior Naturalist class has so far garnered a positive response since its inception in February of this year. While the focus is to have attendees go outside and learn about different elements of the environment, there are other benefits from the biweekly classes.

"Some of the other benefits of the classroom are that we are able to have the seniors socially connect with each other," Marion said. "A lot of the seniors in this

area, as in many other areas, have a hard time finding an excuse to be able to get outside and meet new people. However, they will find a significant increase in their quality of life if they have a more social connection, especially with a common ground programs. So if we can get them out in nature where they can meet each other, that is great."

Rather than having the attendees sitting in a room for the duration of the class, Marion likes to split their time in half between in-class discussion and being outside. In addition, while sitting in the classroom, he also seeks to engage the attendees as much as possible by making activities interactive in hopes that the seniors will connect with each other. "Maybe that way, they are able to start friendships on the basis of being in an outdoor environment," Marion said.

There will be classes twice a month for the remainder of the year and every month there is a different theme discussed during the meetings. The curriculum is set up by Marion, who also oversees the

See Naturalist, page 8

Weekend Forecast

Friday

AM Clouds/
PM Sun
73°/63°



Saturday

AM Clouds/
PM Sun
72°/64°



Sunday

AM Clouds/
PM Sun
71°/64°



Calendar

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

• Free Sushi Demonstration, 1 p.m., El Retiro Library, 126 Vista Del Parque. For more information call (310) 375-0922. Please call to register.

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

• Free Walking Tour of historic Old Torrance, docent-led tour 1:30 p.m., Torrance Historical Museum 1345 Post Ave. For additional info, please contact the Museum at 310.328-5392

• Hiroshi Harada Special Charity Show, 1 p.m., James Armstrong Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive. For more information call (310) 781-7171.

TUESDAY, JUNE 25

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26

• Hannah And The Dread Gazebo By Jiehae Park (Works in Progress 2013), 7 p.m., George Nakano Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive. Admission is free but reservations are required. For more information email info@Torrancelive.us.

THURSDAY, JUNE 27

• South Bay Ostomy Support Group

Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Torrance Memorial Medical Center, West Tower 2nd floor #”B”. For more information call Carol at (310) 378-5331 or Anne Marie at (310) 548-8558.

SATURDAY, JUNE 29

• Free Turtle and Tortoise Day, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Madrona Marsh Nature Center and Preserve, 3201 Plaza del Amo. For more information call (310) 782-3989.

TUESDAY, JULY 2

• Artful Days: Highlights of World Art in the LACMA Collection, 12:10 p.m.-1 p.m., George Nakano Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive. For more information call (310) 818-2326.

SUNDAY, JULY 7

• Bridge USA Japanese Summer Festival, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Torrance Cultural Arts Center, 3330 Civic Center Drive.

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/>

• Recovery International Meetings are Fridays at 10 a.m., at the South Bay Mental Health Center, 2311 El Segundo Blvd. For more information call (310) 512-8112. •

Police Reports

June 7

Vandalism: 3400 BLOCK EMERALD ST Suspect(s) flattens multiple tires on multiple victims' vehicles.

Auto Theft-All: 1200 BLOCK MAPLE AVE Stolen vehicle: '91 Nissan 240SX.

Burglary-Auto: 1800 BLOCK DEL AMO BLVD Suspect(s) enters unlocked vehicle and takes property/drill, pouch, cash, prescription glasses, casino cards.

Theft: 1800 BLOCK SANTA FE AVE Suspect(s) takes property off of victim's vehicle/wheels, tires.

Burglary-Auto: 19800 BLOCK PIONEER AVE Suspect(s) smashes window for entry and takes property/cash, video camera, cameras, sunglasses, DVDs, flashlights.

Auto Theft-All: 6100 BLOCK PACIFIC COAST HWY Stolen vehicle: '97 Honda Accord.

Theft: 22000 BLOCK HAWTHORNE BLVD Suspect(s) takes unattended property from victim's work area/cell phone.

Auto Theft-All: 4400 BLOCK PACIFIC COAST HWY Stolen vehicle: '89 Toyota Camry.

Vandalism: 3400 BLOCK EMERALD ST Suspect(s) scratches victims' vehicles' paint.

June 6

Vandalism: 20900 BLOCK MADRONA AVE Suspect(s) scratches victims' vehicles' paint.

Theft: 19800 BLOCK HAWTHORNE BLVD Suspect(s) takes property from victim's car as he shops/tablet.

Vandalism: 4200 BLOCK ARTESIA BLVD Suspect(s) scratches victim's vehicle's paint.

Auto Theft-All: 3600 BLOCK SPENCER ST Stolen vehicle: '91 Ford Tempo.

Burglary-Auto: 21300 BLOCK HAWTHORNE BLVD Suspect(s) enters vehicle by unknown means and takes property/boxes containing prescription eyeglasses.

Theft: 21000 BLOCK HAWTHORNE BLVD Suspect(s) takes property out of victim's purse as she shops/wallet.

Vandalism: 20900 BLOCK MADRONA AVE Suspect(s) scratches victims' vehicles' paint.

June 5

Vandalism: 22700 BLOCK HAWTHORNE BLVD Suspect(s) tags exterior walls of location and dumpster.

Robbery-Strong/Arm: REDONDO BEACH BLVD & CRENSHAW BLVD Suspect forcibly takes victim's property from her possession/cell phone.

June 4

Vandalism: 300 BLOCK AMAPOLA AVE Suspect(s) smashes window/no entry, no loss.

Theft: 3500 BLOCK REDONDO BEACH BLVD Suspect takes bicycle on a "test ride" and flees with same.

Burglary-Residential: 5000 BLOCK ARVADA ST Suspect(s) removes screen, pries open window, ransacks and take.

Burglary-Auto: 4200 BLOCK REDONDO BEACH BLVD Suspect(s) enters unlocked vehicle and takes property/backpack, wallet, cell phone.

June 3

Burglary-Commercial: 19800 BLOCK HAWTHORNE BLVD Suspect(s) forces open lock by unknown means and takes property from locker/wallet, cell phone.

Burglary-Auto: 1800 BLOCK DEL AMO BLVD Suspect(s) enters multiple unlocked vehicles, ransacks and takes property/stereo.

Theft: 3700 BLOCK TORRANCE BLVD Suspect(s) takes property from victim's wallet during room cleaning/cash.

Theft: 3900 BLOCK 190TH ST Suspects tie strap around ATM and attempt to pull it into the bed of their truck/ no loss.

Burglary-Auto: 4100 BLOCK 182ND ST Suspect(s) enters vehicle by unknown means and takes property/remote, bank card. •

EL CAMINO COLLEGE

Cindy Barrientos is an honors student and recent ECC grad who will transfer to UC San Diego this fall to continue her studies in physiology and neuroscience.

Cindy graduated from Torrance High School in 2008.



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Chamber's Inaugural And Business Awards

The Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC) hosted its annual Inaugural & Business Awards Celebration last Thursday at the DoubleTree Hotel to honor those Chamber members who deserve special recognition. Aaron Aalcides, who officially stepped down last Thursday from his position as TACC's 2012-2013 Chairman of the Board. The evening commenced as the 2013-2014 Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce Board was sworn in, including the new 2013-2014 Chairwoman of the Board, Sherry Kramer. The event then moved on to the Awards Celebration, where dinner was provided for all attendees.

Steve Morikawa, Assistant Vice President of the Executive Office Administration, Corporate Community Relations, and Corporate Relations for American Honda Motor Company, Inc., received the George H. Whittlesey Memorial Award for his excellence in his roles at Honda.

Joe Ernest of Joseph Ernest Photography has been a member of the TACC for 24 years, and has volunteered as a photographer for many of the Chamber's monthly and annual events for 23 years. Joe, who is now retiring from his career as a photographer and from volunteering his services, gave some moving words when he received his award. The Chamber is very grateful for all he has done for the organization.

2012-2013 TACC Chairman of the Board Aaron Aalcides received special honors for his service and commitment

and Zdonek & Wolowicz Accountancy Corp. for its 46 years of membership.

The Ambassador of the Year Award went to Marianne Brooks, owner of Gourmet Grindz, for continually volunteering her time by joining committees, welcoming guests at events, and leading by example.

Mark Waronek of Ek & Ek received the Achievement in Excellence Award for his many years as an integral leader of the Torrance Chamber community.

The Innovative Practices Award was presented to Pelican Products, Inc. for constantly maintaining a superior product line.

The Program Leader of the Year Award was presented to Shirley Pe of All Yellow Taxi for her instrumentation in the development and launch of the Chamber program Lunch & Learn, which plays a role in helping small businesses grow.

The Most Uniquely Torrance Award went to the Rossberg Family for their entrepreneurial spirit. Dick Rossberg was President of the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce, City Councilman for eight years, and the recipient of many awards. His four children all own their own businesses, two of which are in Old Torrance: Kirk Rossberg's Torrance Bakery and Jill Rossberg's Every Body's Pilates and Fitness.

The Outstanding Community Service of the Year Award was presented to Exxon Mobil Corporation for its charitable work around the world. Last year, Exxon Mobil provided \$256 million in contributions and

"More than 200 Torrance Refinery employees served nearly 5,000 volunteer hours for 83 non-profit charities to earn \$91,000 in Exxon Mobil Foundation volunteer grants for their favorite organizations."

in his role as Chairman. Aaron was instrumental in many successes during the past year. Under his leadership, the TACC hosted successful State of the Region, State of the City, and Lunch with Our Leader Addresses. He also held a highly professional Japan Business Reception with 318 attendees, including the Consul General of Japan aboard the USS Iowa, partnered with American Honda Motor Co. to produce the 26th Annual Gourmet Food and Wine Festival for 1000 guests, continued a strong legislative advocacy program, hosted the 16th Annual Black History Celebration which honored Olympians, as well as many other achievements. Aaron will remain on the TACC Board of Directors for another year.

The 2013 Legacy Award was presented to three businesses that have been long-standing members of the TACC: Southern California Edison Co. for its 68 years as a member, Radium Open Air Market for its 51 years,

services worldwide, \$120 million of which was dedicated to education. More than 200 Torrance Refinery employees served nearly 5,000 volunteer hours for 83 non-profit charities to earn \$91,000 in Exxon Mobil Foundation volunteer grants for their favorite organizations.

Party Posies Floral & Event Planning received the Small Business of the Year Award for their success as a business since the opening of The Wedding Showroom in Old Torrance.

The Foundation Legacy Award was given to Toyota Motor Sales USA & North High School for having the longest standing Adopt-A-School partnership, spanning over 25 years.

The Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce would like to congratulate all these award winners. The TACC looks forward to another successful year of dedication to the Torrance Community alongside its members. •

A Student's Perspective

The End is Here

By Glen Abalayan,
Torrance High School Student

One hundred and eighty days of sleepless nights, endless days and short-lived weekends have finally culminated into this one moment—the last day of school. After months of fighting just to push through the next day, the golden days of summer are finally upon us and students can now take a brief respite from the fast-paced student life. This rest period, no matter how short, is well-deserved and is earned through the mental toil students endured these nine months. I have never been happier for summer to finally arrive and am very confident many high school students share the same sentiment.

Unfortunately, the year's end also brings emotional goodbyes as friends bid adieu to

enjoy vacations, move to new homes or lead a new life as college freshmen. Having to say goodbye to my upperclassmen friends makes this season bittersweet because although most of them promise that they will stay in touch, life sometimes says otherwise. This has always been the most difficult part of the year's end.

Summer is but a night's rest away now and it could not have come any sooner. The light at the end of the tunnel can finally be realized. Summer is the universal symbol for childhood and as today's students are enjoying their last summers, let them not forget to get in touch with their inner child—as adulthood and the "real world" are waiting around the corner. The end of one school year is here and summer can now officially begin...•

City Council

from front page

income, profit and tax revenue."

Councilmember Pat Furey said that organizations like the three that gave presentations at the meeting are part of what makes the climate of Torrance so business-friendly. "What we've seen tonight is the trifecta of the business-friendly nature of our city," said Furey. "We have our incubator, we have our assistance from workforce investment network coming together with our Office of Economic Development. Everything I've heard from the business community is they appreciate what we are doing."

The Council also considered a request by Aviad LLC to operate a banner towing business out of the Torrance Airport. City staff said Aviad would mostly operate on weekends, averaging two flights per weekend day (which because of the logistics of towing banners would mean four passes at the airport). They also reported that the company already

passed a noise inspection, and CEO Wayne Mansfield noted that his aircraft are newer and "required to meet stricter noise requirements than older aircraft." Mansfield emphasized that making sure the community of Torrance is happy with his company's operations is a high priority for Aviad. "We are in the business of marketing and advertising—the last thing we want is ill will," said Mansfield.

While Mansfield said that operating out of Zamperini Field would not change the impact on Torrance's neighboring beach cities, a few on the Council wanted to consult with nearby communities before approving the request. "We just want to be good neighbors," said Mayor Frank Scotto.

However, Mansfield said that delaying the approval of operations would cause him to miss the Fourth of July holiday (a major day for the aerial advertising business), so instead

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For complete details and a schedule showing when each station will be latched, visit metro.net.



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Politically Speaking

One Man's Opinion

By Gerry Chong

The darkest places in hell are reserved for those who maintain their neutrality in times of moral crisis.

—The Inferno by Dante Alighieri

Thus begins bestselling author Dan Brown in his newest novel, also called *Inferno*. The author of *The Da Vinci Code* places all of mankind in a mathematically inevitable doomsday scenario. While a theoretical solution is possible, it would be considered immoral by most. No one can, or should, stay neutral. That is the challenge.

“The distrust of an all-powerful government is the very foundation of our government. How astounding is it that our President, a Constitutional scholar, rejects the basic premise on which our government is based?”

In the real world, the relationship between Americans and their government could not be more clearly drawn. On one side, we have President Obama speaking at the May 5 Commencement at Ohio State University, at which he said:

“Unfortunately you’ve grown up hearing voices that incessantly warn of government as nothing more than some separate, sinister entity that’s at the root of our problem, and they do their best to gum up the works.”

And *“they’ll warn that tyranny is always lurking just around the corner. You should reject those voices.”*

Really? Those voices that Obama disparages are the voices of our Founding Fathers that filled Independence Hall and gave rise to our Constitution. The distrust of an all-powerful government is the very foundation of our government. How astounding is it that our President, a Constitutional scholar, rejects the basic premise on which our government is based?

To give added credence to the warnings of our Founding Fathers, this administration fills our news cycles with violations of public trust every day.

Clearly the Administration, State Department, and CIA concocted a fairytale to feed Americans in trying to defend the indefensible tragedy at Benghazi.

Would a benevolent administration throw a few low-level IRS employees under the bus by blaming them for targeting political opponents of the Administration? Those employees have denied responsibility, insisting they were following orders from their superiors in Washington.

Would a benevolent government surreptitiously hack into and monitor reporters’ phones and electronic records from the

Associated Press and Fox News, violating the “freedom of the press” and earning outrage from even the New York Times?

And would a benevolent government now create the most egregious violation of public trust by secretly gathering information on millions of phone and Internet communications at home and abroad? Edward Snowden, a former technical assistant to the CIA, revealed, “I can’t in good conscience allow the U.S. government to destroy privacy, Internet freedom and basic liberties for people around the world with this massive surveillance machine they’re secretly building. I am not going to hide. Allowing the government to intimidate its people with threats of retaliation for revealing wrongdoing is contrary to the public interest.”

So there you have Dante’s challenge: Should we trust in the good intentions of an all-powerful government, or should we adhere to the rule of law, as Russia’s president has admonished President Obama to follow? Will you sit in the darkest places in hell by staying neutral, or will you speak out? •

Another Man's Opinion

Celebrating the Constitution is A Friendly Reminder of its Importance

By Cristian Vasquez

Given the recent controversy unleashed by NSA scandal it seemed fitting to bring up an issue that State Senator Ted Lieu presented in August of last year. Through SCR98, Sen. Lieu sought to commemorate the 225th anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution. SCR98, which was a measure approved by lawmakers without the need for the governor’s approval, commemorated the 225th anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution. Through SCR98 the Senator was attempting to remind Americans of the value and importance of the Constitution while taking the time to celebrate its influence and value to the country.

In the past I have defended the President Obama’s actions on a wide-range of issues but on this topic I have to take a step back. Just like President Bush’s proposal for warrantless wiretapping made my stomach turn, the news that President Obama is defending the actions of federal agents who seized the telephone records of more than 100 million Americans and the email and

and their meaning. The vision our Founding Fathers had of equality, justice, rule of law and limited government is as strong today as it was more than 225 years ago. Nobody; not the president, not the NSA is above the constitution. If there is a compelling reason to spy on an individual,

The President made the claim that people’s phone calls and emails are not being monitored but if so, why is the NSA collecting data related to all phone calls, both foreign and domestic made Verizon’s network? Why is the NSA’s program PRISM gathering Internet data from foreign users? Justifying such intrusions on private citizens’ lives by claiming issues of national security is an insult to the American people. Does the administration believe that more than 100 million Americans are involved with terrorist activities? If so issue warrants and go after specific individuals. Going through the files of 100 million plus Americans with no real evidence of wrongdoing is unacceptable and a violation of our Constitution’s fourth amendment. Just like we would not approve of our local police department coming into

“It is simply a rule to ensure that gun owners are being responsible with the storage of their weapons by setting guidelines that will restrict access of such weapons to people who have lost that right.”

texting records without a court order is just as disturbing. President Obama and his aides can defend the NSA phone and Internet intercept programs, by claiming that they prevent terrorist all they want but the fact is they acted in secrecy.

While Senator Lieu proposed SCR98 almost a year before these actions by the administration came out, it is a great reminder from somebody in the president’s party that the rules and laws set by the founding fathers apply to everyone. The reason our Constitution has withstood the test of time is because there have been people who honor its words

our home without a warrant, we should not be okay with the federal government tapping into our electronic conversations just because they feel it is necessary.

I have nothing to hide and if my calls are monitored or emails are read, they will realize the average, boring life I have. But in the end, it is my boring and average life, which I can choose who to share with. Someone should take a copy of SRC98 to the President and remind him that some people in the Democratic Party still believe in the words written down on our Constitution. No President or federal agency is above the law. •

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Sports

Friends and Enemies

By Adam Serrao

Statistically, this baseball season for the Los Angeles Dodgers just keeps getting worse and worse. What was projected to be one of the franchise's greatest years since the early '80s now sees the Dodgers sitting in dead last place in the National League West, nearly 10 games below .500 and struggling to beat most teams--but more importantly, the teams that are within their own division. One thing that has come to light about this Dodgers' squad, though, is that they have an undying will to fight for each other. That, in itself, is meant quite literally. The brawl between the Dodgers and the Diamondbacks that occurred a little more than a week ago was the second benches-clearing brawl the Dodgers have participated in so far this season. The first, against division rival San Diego, resulted in the loss of one of the Dodgers' best pitchers (Zack Greinke) and sent the team into a tailspin that landed them where they currently remain--in last place. The fight with Arizona, however, had a much different feel to it. As the Dodgers came to each other's aid on the field last Tuesday night, a common bond was created that may just be enough to turn this season around for the Boys in Blue.

It all started last Tuesday night in Los Angeles when Diamondbacks' pitcher Ian Kennedy broke one of the unwritten rules of baseball. In the sixth inning, he threw at the Dodgers' young sensation Yasiel Puig's head. To protect his teammate, Greinke took the mound the next inning and responded by hitting Arizona catcher Miguel Montero as both teams drew warnings from the umpires. It all should have ended there. In the bottom half of the inning, however, Kennedy again threw at a player's head, but this time Greinke was the victim yet again, as the ball traveled towards his face and deflected off of his helmet. Both teams then charged onto the field and began a heated scuffle as Dodgers' manager Don Mattingly took Arizona coach Alan Trammell to the floor and then had to be restrained as he tried to get to Diamondbacks' manager Kirk Gibson. Mark McGwire, now the Dodgers' hitting coach, had third base coach Matt Williams by the shirt collar as he shouted in his face, while Puig, Ronald Belisario and Clayton Kershaw could be seen throwing haymakers amidst the scrum of players. "To me, [Kennedy] seemed like he was kind of the instigator and started it and piled on," Mattingly said.

In a short-term sense, the aftermath of the fight could turn out to be costly for the team. Suspensions were finally doled out and a few core players looked at missing some time. Belisario was hit with a one-game

suspension while Skip Schumaker and J.P. Howell both received two-game suspensions. McGwire was forced to sit out two games, while Mattingly received a one-game ban. Other players, such as Puig and Greinke (with the latter seemingly involved in every one of these type of fights in one way or another) were simply fined, but not suspended. While the players were lost for varying amounts of time, there is much more that could have possibly been gained by the ruckus.

The entire ordeal showed that this group of DL-prone players still has some sort of grit, toughness and fight left. Throughout the entirety of this season so far, the Dodgers have been marred by injuries, poor decisions and just overall bad play. Through it all, however, the players are still willing to fight for one another and have each other's backs. After all, win or lose, all fans really want to see from their team is the ability to put up a fight. The Dodgers may not be doing that in the standings so far this season, but their actions have recently shown that they may still have a little bit of a spark left inside that is waiting to burst out and perhaps turn the year around.

If the fight did nothing else for the Dodgers, it certainly brought the team closer together. In just one night, Mattingly let the fiery manager out from inside of him while backing up his players. Andre Ethier finally showed that he belongs on the baseball diamond after he hit a home run to drive in Puig immediately after the rookie got hit. Puig was welcomed into the Dodgers' family when the benches cleared to have his back and Greinke retaliated against the Diamondbacks on the mound the next inning. Greinke became a hero to all of his teammates. Rookie catcher Tim Federowicz produced a three-run double to give the Dodgers the lead and ultimately win the game after the fight, thus proving he belongs on the club. Even McGwire showed that he can indeed be intimidating again.

Maybe this Dodgers' team won't win the World Series. Maybe they won't even make it into the playoffs or out of last place in the National League West. Even if the season doesn't turn around for the Dodgers, as a fan it must be good to see that all of the high-priced players on the roster weren't afraid to mix it up while defending their fellow teammates. Only time will tell what is in store for this Dodgers' club, battling to climb out of the cellar of the National League. As long as they have each other's backs and fight as hard as they did during that Tuesday night brawl, they should begin noticing a difference sooner rather than later. •

Up and Adam

Local Stars Get the Nod

By Adam Serrao

Now that summertime is upon us, most high school sports have suspended play for a month or two so that the athletes and students alike can enjoy their time away from the campus and take a much-deserved break. This brief suspension in play affords

team. Carter led his team with 22 points, 17 rebounds and three blocked shots in its first round victory over opponent Colton and again came up big with 13 points on six for six from the field with 10 rebounds and a blocked shot in the team's second round victory over Hart. Perhaps the greatest thing about Carter

"This brief suspension in play affords us no better time to look back at this year in sports and appreciate the athletes of our four local high schools."

us no better time to look back at this year in sports and appreciate the athletes of our four local high schools. North, South, West and Torrance highs each have had successful sporting seasons thus far through the halfway point in the calendar year. It is the specific players who attend those schools and will their teams to victory on a day-in and day-out basis, however, who deserve the credit. Let's take a look back with this year's All-Area honors for the city of Torrance.

This past basketball season was a relatively tough one for the teams of Torrance. Torrance High missed the playoffs altogether while both North and South played in the first round but were then eliminated by Hart and Bonita respectively. The West High Warriors, however, made a run to the CIF-SS Division III-AAA quarterfinals after winning three of their last four games and squeaking into the playoffs. Junior center on the team Terrell Carter was the man who sparked the Warriors' run. Carter averaged 12.9 points, 10.9 rebounds and 2.3 blocks to make the All-Area second

to all West High fans is that he is indeed only a junior and will be back next year to help the Warriors make another run at a state title.

On the girls' side of things, senior forward for the Torrance Tartars Ihana Aiono was instrumental in her team's success this year to bring them to the CIF Southern Section Division III-AA quarterfinals. Aiono garnered first-team All-Pioneer League honors and second-team All-Area honors as she led the Lady Tartars to victories over first round opponent Colony and second round opponent Rio Mesa. On the other end of town, the West High Warriors had two girls who sparked their run into the second round of the playoffs. Senior guard Sydney Chase made first-team All-Bay league and second team All-Area this season by drilling 83 three-pointers and averaging 10.3 points and 3.5 rebounds. Sophomore guard Kayla Sato teamed up with Chase and received the Bay League Co-Most Valuable Player award by averaging 6.1 points, 3.3 rebounds, two steals and 1.2 assists per game. Together, the

See Up and Adam, page 8

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TerriAnn in Torrance

Something's Bugging Me

By TerriAnn Ferren

Bugs. They are here--and in the summertime, they seem to creep out of wherever they live and show themselves in all sorts of places around the house. Scouting ants have been casing out my house for weeks now. My plan has been to

desk announcing that the *Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center* was offering a *Spiders and Bugs Seminar Featuring Brent "The Bug Man" Karner* for the *Second Sunday Science* program. So I decided to investigate and attend. While driving to the Marsh located at 3201

example, but no...I seem to be frightened of them and crunch--there they go!

Ruth McConnell greeted me as I entered the Nature Center. She took my \$5 and shared with me that she has been a volunteer at the marsh since she moved to Torrance in 1995. Her sweet, welcoming smile made me feel comfortable from the start and then she escorted me to the lab where the lecture would be held at the far end of the gleaming building.

Sitting in the front row already excited, I saw a family of four. The Reyes family had come to the lecture to hear all about bugs. Approaching the children, I asked them if they liked bugs and the sweetest voice you can imagine belonging to Arianna Reyes said, "Me like bugs." I turned to this little three-year-old girl and smiled. Then her brother Aaron, age six, interrupted to tell me, "I like bugs too and my favorite is the worms." "Me too likes worms," added Arianna. Frankly, these two children seemed more comfortable with bugs than I have ever been. Will Gasner, age five, told me he wasn't sure if he liked bugs and then added, "I got a roly poly, but it died. I gave it a nice dry green leaf and gave it a wet paper towel and some sticks."

Darlene King seemed comfortable in the room with all the bugs in plastic cases, dead and alive. She shared, "I love bugs. I've been chasing them since I was a little girl back in New York. There were fireflies back there and that's what I did in the summer--is catch them in an old mayonnaise jar. Then we moved out here when I was nine years old and there are no fireflies and I'm like, 'Now what do I chase?' So I chose moths. Then I moved to butterflies and then I moved to praying mantis!" Darlene had clearly attended these lectures before and wasn't the least bit squeamish.

At 2 p.m. sharp, Brent "The Bug Guy" Karner

the street to the marsh early before the lecture to catch, observe and then let bugs go. At this point, the children were screaming with delight. Meanwhile, I was trying to act mature and not say "ewwww" and "ick." Then Brent hit me between the eyes with his words, "What



Arianna Reyes, age 3, Aaron Reyes, age 6, and Will Gasner age 5.

fight them by putting barriers up wherever I can and place ant sticks all over that I use to get rid of the ants. Friends and relatives have offered many suggestions on how to eradicate the pesky creatures. Everything from soapy water and vinegar to coffee grounds were offered as viable ammunition. And don't get me started on the other bugs I pray I don't see. You know, the creepy crawly ones including spiders and crickets.

Probably because bugs were on my mind, I noticed an advertisement that came across my

Plaza De Amo, I was thinking not only about the ants I have been trying to get rid of, but also spiders that I caught around the house and how I killed them. I flushed them down the toilet, crumpled them up in paper and stepped on them with my foot. All of a sudden I was feeling guilty. Would the naturalists be able to tell I had killed spiders? My mom would never kill a spider. To this day, she still scoops them up gently and sets them free in the backyard. One would think I would have taken her



Brent Karner Entomological expert.

happens to people? Bugs are creepy, bugs are ugly--all of those crazy words we use. All you have to do is change the name into how neat they are, how cute, how handsome if you want, but certainly how cool!" He went on to say that the only way to change attitudes about bugs is to change the way we speak about them. "Bug" is what we use to describe any bug, but Brent told us there is something called a true bug. The groups of bugs are beetles, dragonflies, grasshoppers, butterflies, flies and wasps.

Then Brent brought out an Emperor Scorpion from Africa and showed it around the room. This particular scorpion has big claws, different from the Desert Hairy Scorpion found outside Los Angeles in the deserts. Lovely. Then we listened to Brent tell us all about the habits of the scorpion.

Now I wasn't screeching or wriggling my face, but trying desperately to believe Brent that these beautiful creatures (how's that?) are cool. I was doing rather well until Brent brought out a Sweet Little Rose Hair Tarantula and told us we could "pet" it to feel how soft its fur was. Okay, I "pet" the tarantula. I knew I could do it. All of a sudden, I thought about my ants in the kitchen and how they annoyed me. Somehow after petting a tarantula, that seemed silly.

Brent proceeded to bring out everything including a centipede, a millipede, a Whip Scorpion and a Giant Spiny Stick. He also explained there are no poisonous spiders. Not one. There may be some that are venomous, but one surprise was that he also told us that the caterpillar of a Monarch Butterfly is very poisonous. Of the 40,000 or so different kinds of spiders in the world, only 27 (including the Black and Brown Widow spiders) have venom and he assured us that no one had died of a bite in over 40 years. So if I see any spider that



Giant Tropical Cockroach from Brazil.

began speaking in a robust, confident, informed manner and announced, "You all love bugs," as he picked up a glass-framed board housing beautiful butterflies to show the group. He began, "Everybody does like bugs--some bugs. We play favorites a lot. Like we call these [pointing to the butterflies] pretty, flying cockroaches 'cuz that is really all they are. They are just pretty flying cockroaches. They are closely related to butterflies. Sometimes we don't even like their cousins, do we? Do you know what their close cousins are? The moth!" At this point, Brent was telling me in no uncertain terms that the beautiful butterflies we see are moths and there is no such thing as a butterfly. He said that butterflies are moths that fly during the day. Okay, already I learned something.

Then Brent picked up a beetle and asked us to guess how many different kinds of bugs there are, only to dash all our guesses by revealing there are anywhere from 1.2 to 1.5 million different described species of insects--and those are the number of bugs we know about and have named. Then he said there are five to 30 million species of insects. Some say 150 million, but according to Brent, that estimate might be a bit high.

Brent is an entomologist who goes out frequently to check out bugs. He took his girlfriend "Annette" (a net) with him across



An Emperor Scorpion - notice the big claws. isn't a Black or Brown Widow, I am safe. And if a Black or Brown Widow Spider does bite, it won't kill. Maybe a puncture and a swollen spot will appear, but not much more. That is See TerriAnn, page 11



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For times, dates and locations, check metro.net/about/service-councils.



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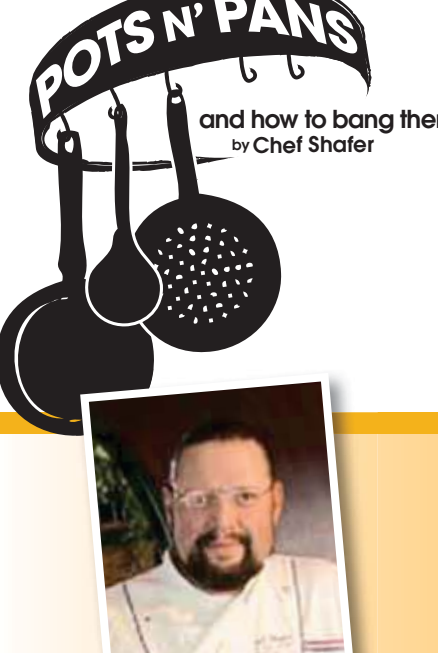
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I'm going home to buffalo to visit my 92 year-old Mom and I can't wait to see her. But more importantly, I can't wait to have all of my favorite foods from my youth. Buffalo has such great local specialties that I have not been able to find anywhere else in the world. Yes, we all know about Buffalo wings, but even the famous wing has been bastardized by the fast food industry. We in Buffalo don't call wings, subs or hotdogs fast food. We call them "specialty" foods. Fast food is a manufactured, processed product. Specialty foods are still made with real ingredients and in a style of the past. One of my cravings will be for the ricotta cheese and brown sugar rice pudding from a small Greek coffee shop on the west side of Buffalo. It's light, but supper rich. Here is my rendition of this Buffalo classic.

The Chef

POTS N' PANS
and how to bang them
by Chef Shafer



Ricotta Cheese and Brown Sugar Rice Pudding



- 3 cups heavy cream
- 4 whole eggs
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup chilled & cooked white rice (I like to use sushi rice or a short grain sticky rice)
- 1 cup ricotta cheese
- Pinch salt

Mix together all ingredients and place in a buttered casserole dish. Bake at 325 degrees for 30 to 45 minutes or until firm to the touch and golden brown on the top. Can be eaten hot or cold. Have this summer and be safe.

Naturalist

from front page

class as well as the nature walk.

"This month, I discussed flowers and grasses. Next month's theme will be trees and shrubs," Marion said. "Other themes vary from anything like reptiles to amphibians to astronomy and to the aquatic life--just all types of different things. We have two classes on each theme."

The curriculum is not random and Marion looks into accomplishing three different tasks when putting together his information for a class. "One is that the activities always tend to be more social so that they [attendees] are interacting with each other," Marion said. "Second, there needs to be a hands-on activity and interactive learning. During the lectures I am very discussion-based. When I have a lecture, I don't like to just put out a bunch of facts. I really like to receive feedback from the audience, which ensures they are being interactive with their hands-on learning material."

Marion's passion for the environment comes out in everything he does at the Madrona Marsh and because he is constantly informing himself on environmental-related news, discussing environmental issues with visitors at the Marsh comes naturally. "I stay on top of environmental issues because I care about the environment," Marion said. "Anybody who cares about the environment

is not going to skip a story in the news about the environment, such as all the oil spilling into the Amazon River from Ecuador. There are hundreds of thousands of gallons of oil spilling into Ecuador and it is going to destroy a huge section of the rain forest out there for a while. I didn't find that out because I am looking for curriculum. I found that out because I read about those stories."

Informing visitors about the benefits of being conscious of the environment is a major aspect of what the Marsh seeks to accomplish. "A big part of our program here is to try to create advocacy so that if people spend more time in the natural environment, they see the value of it and when they come across stories like the Amazon, they are looking for ways to contribute to global health," Marion said. "The reason that those kinds of spills are happening is because there is such a high demand for oil globally. A big part of that is how we live our lives and a lot of those things will come up as we are teaching classes. A lot of times, standard classes have a lot of copies and pieces of paper to hand out with information on them. We always try to do our best to use the minimal amount of paper. We definitely have to lead by example."

The classes are free, but donations are accepted. Persons interested can call the Madrona Marsh at 310-782-3989. •

Up and Adam

from page 5

two helped the Lady Warriors to a share of the Bay League championship as the team tied atop the division with the Mira Costa Mustangs.

The players of Torrance garnered major awards this past year in the game of soccer, led by the All-Area player of the year for the South High Spartans Matt Michell. Michell, junior striker on the team, led the Spartans to the Pioneer League title and the CIF Southern Section Division IV championship game where the team unfortunately lost in a heartbreaker to Ontario. Michell finished the season with 14 goals and 10 assists, leading them back from what was a difficult beginning of the year. Michell's teammates, junior forward Ryosuke Inabe and senior defenseman Josh Fennell, also came up big for the Spartans in their run. Inabe accrued 16 total goals (seven in the playoffs) while making All-Area second team as he was named Best Offensive Player in the Pioneer League. Fennell made All-Area

for the first time while leading the Spartans on defense all season long.

The West High Warriors had a pair of players who came up big for the team as Joseph Barakat earned All-Area first team honors and Dane Silverlake made All-Area second team. In addition to first team honors, Barakat, a junior midfielder for the Warriors, was named team-MVP, ending the season with 17 goals and 12 assists as he led his squad past the first round of the playoffs. Silverlake, also a key cog in West Torrance's football attack, will certainly see his name being talked about later on in the school year. Currently, however, the junior midfielder in soccer picked up All-Area second team honors for the Warriors, helping the team to a first round playoff victory over Capistrano Valley. Silverlake was also a first-team All-Bay League pick. Next week, we'll take a look at how the girls' soccer players did and explore baseball and softball as well as swimming. •

Seniors

Fraud Alert: Grandparent Scam Continues to Trick People Out of Money

(BPT) - Imagine being woken by a phone call in the middle of the night. It's your crying grandchild, who is asking for money because of an accident. Of course you want to help your loved one, so you do whatever you can in this emergency situation. You open your

the person by phone or other means.

"Awareness is the best defense against emergency scams," says Hopkins. "These scams can be convincing, but it's important to keep a few things in mind before you rush to help."



wallet without hesitation.

Unfortunately you've just become a victim of a scam that is happening across the country. Known as the "grandparent scam," this type of fraud involves bogus calls from people claiming to be relatives in trouble. The personal nature and urgency of these calls causes people to let their guard down, and act quickly without verifying the validity of the call.

"Criminals often target older people, but in reality anyone of any age can be a target of a scam," says Phil Hopkins, vice president of global security with Western Union. "With more people sharing personal information online, such as through social media websites, it's easier for criminals to learn details of personal relationships so they can imitate loved ones by name. Newspapers and obituaries are also good sources of personal information, providing detailed relationship information."

Con artists may also impersonate attorneys, police officers or bail bondsmen to create a sense of urgency and legitimacy. Add in loud background noises, muffled voices or fuzzy phone lines, and it's easy to believe someone is calling from jail or a remote location, where he or she may be in trouble.

In addition to calling victims, hackers use similar strategies to target victims through email. Tapping into a person's address book, scammers send emails or instant messages directly from the person's email account alerting friends and others of the "emergency" and requesting funds. Do not respond to the email and confirm the situation by contacting

Hopkins recommends you follow these tips to avoid becoming a victim of the emergency scam or other types of fraud:

1. If you receive a phone call or email claiming a friend or family member needs cash, take a moment to review the situation. Does it make sense? Can you verify the emergency?

2. Call the person at a known telephone number, not a number given to you by the caller. Or, call a mutual friend or another relative and find out if he or she is aware of the situation.

3. Let your friend or family member know that you have received a call or email from the person requesting help. If the request turns out to be fake, contact the police immediately.

4. Regardless of whether you are contacted by phone, email or some other means, be suspicious of requests to send money to "help a friend or family member out" unless you can verify the information you've been given with 100 percent confidence.

5. If you did send a money transfer through Western Union, and then realize that it was for a scam, contact the Western Union Fraud Hotline at 1-800-448-1492. If the transaction has not been picked up, it will be refunded to you.

6. Never send money to someone you have not met in person.

7. For more information on scams or for more tips on how to help protect yourself from scams, visit www.WesternUnion.com/stopfraud. •



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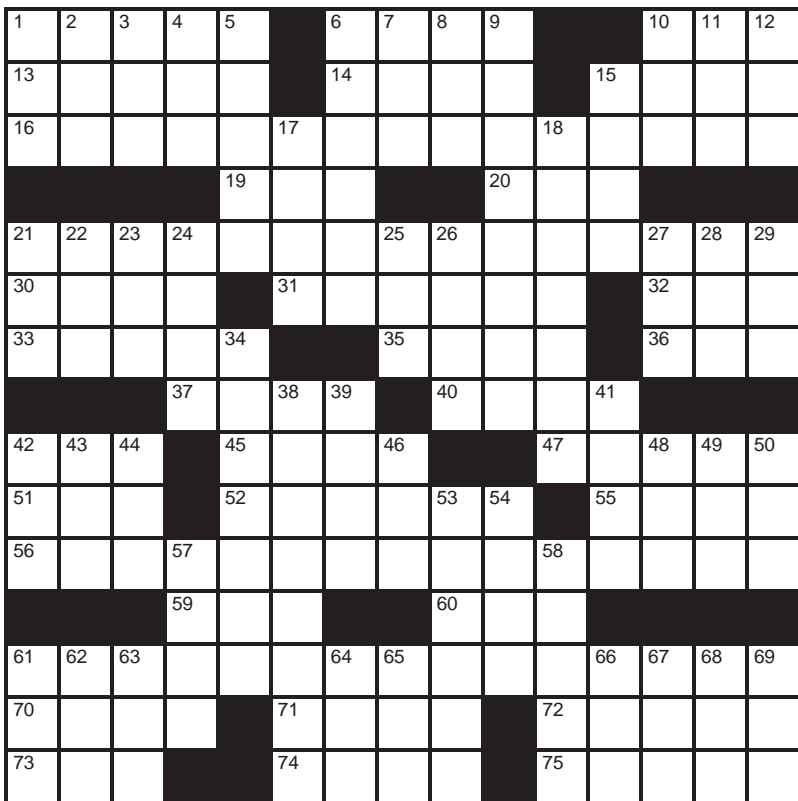
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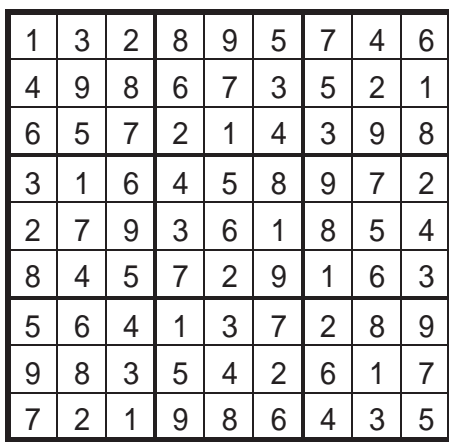
WEEKLY CROSSWORD *See Answers Next Week*

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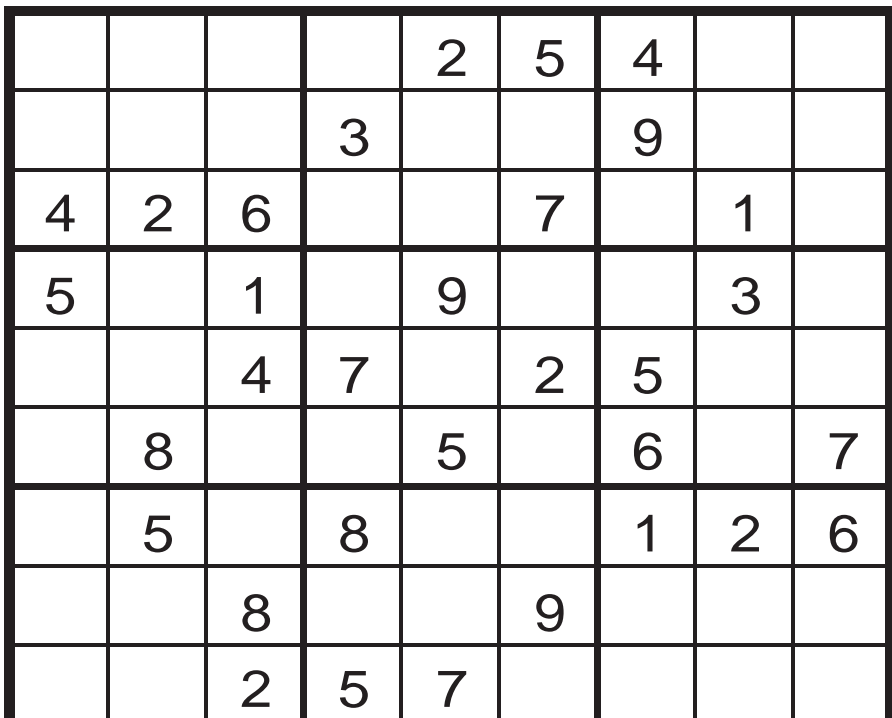


- Across**
- Guitar attachment
 - ___ cut
 - Lund or Cavet
 - It often contains a seasonal reference
 - Son of Rebekah
 - Notice
 - Philosophical belief
 - Bearded beast
 - It'll never fly
 - Attitude on the job
 - Coin with 12 stars on it
 - Court contest
 - ___ Getz ("Lethal Weapon 2" role for Joe Pesci)
 - Come again
 - Cape
 - Race unit
 - Red ink amount
 - Hot pot
 - Astern
 - Certain typeface
 - Saw
 - ___ maison (indoors): Fr.
 - Dessert toppers
 - Rajah's mate
 - Dedication to improving man's welfare
 - It has moles: Abbr.
- Down**
- Cow or sow
 - Custom
 - Swindle, slangily
 - Archaeological site in Mexico
 - Rid of sin
 - Addle
 - Full of: Suffix
 - Blanched
 - Certain musician
 - Kind of particle
 - Good times
 - Sock hop locale
 - Jewish month
 - Research facility: Abbr.
 - Put together
 - The "p" in r.p.m.
 - Bewail
 - Mythical monster
 - Unfair?
- 60. Carbonium, e.g.**
- Personal appeal
 - Mouselike animal
 - Frown
 - Heart single
 - "___ Time transfigured me": Yeats
 - Cartoon bear
 - Striplings
- 25. B & B**
- Half of binary code
 - Down
 - Yellow, for one
 - Floor cleaner
 - Deciduous trees
 - In a convivial manner
 - Open, as an envelope
 - Previsé
 - "Won-der-ful!"
 - Bird ___
 - Flat hat
 - Kind of test
 - Clavell's "___-Pan"
 - Starfleet Academy grad.
 - Headlight setting
 - African talisman
 - Municipality in France
 - Height
 - Concerning
 - Hail, to Caesar
 - NATO member
 - French Guiana's Royale, e.g.
 - Jersey call
 - Calendar abbr.
 - Piece of pipe
 - Elvis Presley's "___ Lost You"
 - Capitol Hill V.I.P.: Abbr.
 - "___ Miniver"

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.

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City Council

from page 3

Scotto suggested approving the contract with a three-month review instead of the six-month review requested by the City's Airport Commission. He also suggested surveying the South Bay beach cities to see if they have specific concerns with Aviad. The motion was approved, with only Councilmember Cliff Numark opposed.

Lastly, the Council met this year's delegation of students who will be visiting Torrance's sister city Kashiwa, Japan. Torrance Sister City President Werner Willoughby introduced the eight high school students and their chaperone Steven Ihde, who will be leaving on July 9 for what Willoughby says is "the trip of a lifetime." This is the 38th group the association has sent to Japan, and while it's not the only aspect of the sister city relationship, it's one both cities are very proud of and work hard to continue. "The student

exchange program is a premier activity for the Sister City Association," said Willoughby. "We had over 160 volunteers who spent an entire weekend at Bunka Sai--our fundraiser which makes our student exchange program with Kashiwa possible."

The students' chaperone said he expects them to be excellent ambassadors to the people of Kashiwa. "We really made sure we are really sending our best students to Kashiwa," said Ihde. "They will represent the City tremendously well."

As a former exchange student host, Scotto told these students that they will get to experience new culture and meet lifelong friends in Kashiwa. "We know you'll do a great job representing the City of Torrance," said Scotto. "The whole purpose of this trip is to build new friendships. Believe me... the result is you'll have a lot of fun." •



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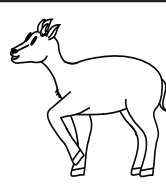
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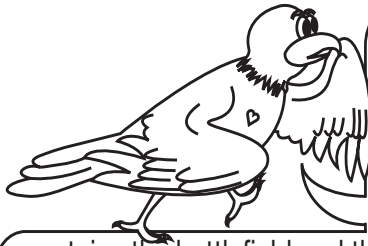
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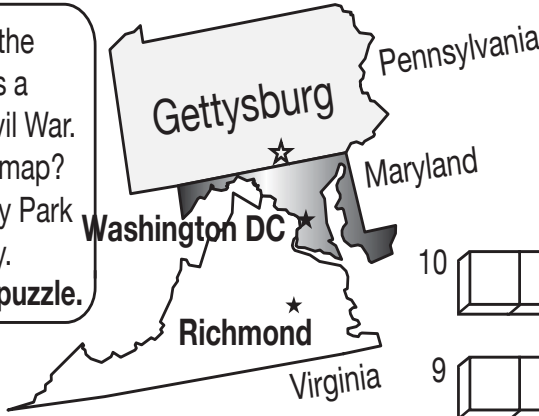
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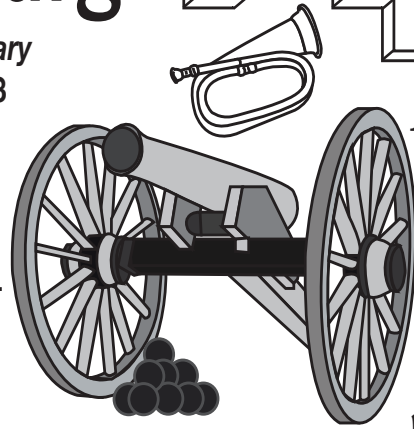
What do **you** know about the **Battle of Gettysburg**? It was a major turning point of the Civil War. Hmm, where was it on my map? Gettysburg National Military Park contains the battlefield and the Soldiers' National Cemetery. **Read my clues to learn about the battle and to fill in the puzzle.**



- The Battle of Gettysburg was the largest battle fought during America's _____ War (1861-1865).
- The Civil War started after southern _____ began to leave the union of the United States of America.
- These states called themselves "Confederate States of America" and elected their own _____, Jefferson Davis.
- Abraham _____ was just becoming the new president of the United States – and he did not want these states to break away.
- Lincoln declared _____ to try to keep the union together.
- He also wanted to put an end to _____.
- The Confederates raised an _____ to fight for their way of life, which included slavery.
- The northern army fought the Confederate army; members of some _____ had to choose sides, and former friends sometimes had to fight one another on the battlefield.
- The Battle of Gettysburg was fought in and around the small town of Gettysburg, _____.
- On the first day of _____ 1863, in Gettysburg, Confederate soldiers under General Robert E. Lee began fighting with Union soldiers led by Major General George Meade.
- They fought for _____ days. By July 4th, General Lee was withdrawing his army.
- At the end of the fighting more than 50,000 _____ were dead, wounded, captured or missing.
- Even with the battle raging around the town, only one townspeople, Mary Virginia Wade, was killed while baking _____ for Union soldiers – by a bullet that came through the door of her sister's house.
- The town was filled with wounded and sick people. People were afraid that _____ would spread.
- Homes, churches and other buildings became _____. Volunteers buried the dead. Horses and mules that had been killed had to be burned.

Battle of Gettysburg

150th Anniversary
July 1863-2013



7 families 15 July
13 _____ president
Lincoln _____ bread
8 _____
4 _____
10 _____ 6 1 _____
9 _____ army _____ Civil
_____ soldiers Pennsylvania three
_____ slavery _____ 12 11
_____ 3 _____ war 5 _____
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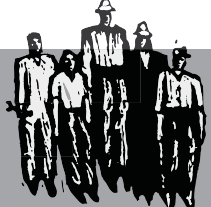
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TerriAnn

from page 6

good to know. But Brent added we should go to the doctor to be sure. Right.

As the lecture continued, I was exposed to bugs I have never really appreciated before and surely never been so close to in the past. For example, I never felt the fur on a bug. I was going to say that being a girl, that was normal--but then I looked at three-year-old Arianna who "woves bugs," and remembered this was not natural to me.

The break came and we sipped punch and

nibbled on cookies. Everyone was enjoying the lecture. Then I noticed Beth Scott with a living walking stick "broach" on her shirt. This funny walking stick looked just like a stick of wood on her shirt. I had never seen such a large example in person. It was truly amazing to see this creature up close and personal.

Toward the end of the lecture, Brent explained how flying insects have an advantage that keeps them alive. Four groups fly--the birds, insects, bats and an extinct prehistoric animal.

Brent went on to say that most people admire the butterflies and think they are pretty and graceful. Then he added that just because a cockroach isn't as pretty as a butterfly, we think it is okay to kill it. He found that sad. "Even when it comes to endangered species... up until two years ago, the only endangered species in the insect world ever recognized were the butterflies. Why? Because we think they are pretty. Everything else can just die--it doesn't really matter," said Brent. After what

Brent said, I started thinking differently about the insects created that roam around the earth.

Did I get hints on how to get rid of ants or spiders? No. But I did manage to learn a lot and the next time I see a friendly spider, I will do as my mom does and scoop it up and gently place it outside.

For more information about the *Madrona Marsh Nature Center and Preserve*, call 310-782-3989 or access www.friendsofthemadronamarsh.com or www.TorranceCA.Gov/MadronaMarsh. •



Three-year-old Arianna about to feel the fur on the Rose Hair Tarantula.



Santos giddy after touching the millipede.



Desert Hairy Scorpion.



Darlene King.



Beth Scott with a real Walking Stick Broach!



The Reyes family, Alonso, Arianna, age 3, Aaron age 6, and Wendy.



Demonstration bugs.



Ruth McConnell a volunteer since 1995.



Madagascar Hissing Cockroach.

Real Estate

Make Your House Look Like A 'Million Dollar Listing' For Less

(BPT) - A new report reveals houses are selling faster and for more money, yet another indicator of a rebounding housing market. According to the National Association of Realtors, full-year sales of previously owned homes increased by 9 percent in 2012 over the previous year. Plus, home prices jumped up 12.3 percent, the biggest percentage gain since January 2005.

This will challenge sellers to sharpen their competitive edge as more homeowners, encouraged by promising indicators, put their house on the market. Josh Altman, one of the top 10 realtors in the country and star of Bravo's hit TV show "Million Dollar Listing: L.A.," shares three strategies for making houses more desirable to buyers.



Laminate or vinyl flooring is another option for getting a fresh, updated look. Laminate enables homeowners to get the look of hardwood for less, and there are even options for DIY novices, such as flooring that easily clicks together without glue or nails.

Increase the Curb Appeal

First impressions matter, and home buying is no different. "Making a few updates to a house's exterior goes a long way in making houses more inviting and valuable," said Altman.

Homeowners can put their green thumbs to work by weeding their garden, trimming plants and branches and adding color by planting vibrant flowers in containers or planters. Simple repairs and updates offer a lot of bang for your home improvement buck, whether it's getting a new front door, updating house numbers or painting the trim, downspouts and gutters.

Update the Kitchen

Remodeling a kitchen can bring a home to the top market value, and you don't have to tear down walls or break the bank to do it. "No matter what budget a homeowner has, there are simple ways to add that wow factor to a kitchen," said Altman.

Unique, stylish light fixtures can create a warm and inviting environment, while new appliances add visual interest and help increase the value of a home. Even subtle touches like updating cabinet hardware or installing a tile backsplash behind a stove can give a kitchen the facelift it needs. •

Install Hardwood Floors

"Installing hardwood floors is one of the smartest investments a seller can make," said Altman. "Hardwood flooring is easy to install, never goes out of style and is extremely desirable to homebuyers."

Countless hardwood flooring options, including popular bamboo varieties, allow homeowners to easily select a floor that looks great and fits within their budget. Homeowners can even differentiate their floors - and houses - by transferring the flooring's warranty to the new owner. For example, Lumber Liquidators' Bellawood brand of prefinished hardwood flooring offers a certified 100-year transferable warranty.

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Tricks to Take Care of Clogged Drains

(BPT) - At some point, the drains in your home will become clogged. A little preventive maintenance now can go a long way when it comes to drain-related problems.

Here are few easy ways to avoid clogged drains:

- For the kitchen disposal, you can run hot or cold water through the drain. Cold water run liberally through the sink will loosen

stuck items, while hot water will help get rid of food residue.

- Instead of pouring hot grease down the kitchen drain, pour it into another container and then throw it away.

- Don't forget to clean the drain pieces regularly to keep them in good working order. If long hair or pet hair is a problem, consider strainers over every drain in the house. •

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