

Torrance Tribune

The Weekly Newspaper of Torrance

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Giveaway Leaves Miles of Smiles



Torrance Police Department's Officer Moore gets a big smile from new bicyclist, while Torrance Fire Department's Engineer Brent Nunez helps with a teen with a helmet. The PVG Foundation's 3rd Annual Bike Giveaway was held this past Sunday in Downtown Torrance. See additional photos on Page 8. Photo by Charlene Nishimura.

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Weekend Forecast

Friday

AM Clouds/
PM Sun
79°/69°



Saturday

AM Clouds/
PM Sun
79°/70°



Sunday

AM Clouds/
PM Sun
80°/69°



Councilmember Susan Rhilinger Retires

By Dylan Little

The Torrance City Council held its last meeting with Susan Rhilinger on June 25. Two months ago Rhilinger announced she would be leaving the Council after five years of service due to health concerns after the budget process was over (the City adopted its latest budget at the beginning of this month). Mayor Frank Scotto thanked her for her behind-the-scenes contributions serving on countless boards and committees. She represented the City on the South Bay Council of Governments, Finance and Governmental Operations Committee, Centennial Committee, and for Armed Forces Day, to name a few. "She has been a very important part of this Council," said Scotto. "She's done a lot of work that people...might not know about."

The Council collectively presented Rhilinger with a proclamation that celebrated not only her political career, but her long history of outstanding work in the community. She was the City's first female police captain and was recognized by both Torrance Historical Society, who named her a Woman In the History of Torrance, and the Torrance-South Bay YWCA, who named her Woman of the Year. After reading the proclamation, the other Council members shared memories and thanked her for her service to the community.

As a tribute to Rhilinger's ability, Councilmember Bill Sutherland said he would've liked to face her in a mayoral election. "One thing that really disappoints me--I really wanted to run against you for Mayor," said Sutherland. "You're the only person I believe I would've learned something from while running against you. I say that with great humility. I believe in myself, but I believe in you more. Thank you for what you've done for this city. It's much better---and guess what? Twenty years from now, it'll be much better because of what you've done."

Councilmember Gene Barnett also recognized Rhilinger for her contributions to making Torrance the best it could be. "There are many ways to define success and many ways to measure, and I think that by any definition and certainly any measurement you've been tremendously successful both in your professional and political career," said Barnett. "I want to thank you for the service

you contributed during both of those tenures in the City of Torrance and the City Council and for your efforts in making the city a better place to be."

As the only woman serving on the Council, Rhilinger was said to bring a unique insight and perspective. Her colleague Tom Brewer noted that she helped shape a special personality

See City Council, page 3

YMCA Joins in World's Largest Swim Lesson

By Cristian Vasquez

The Torrance YMCA hosted 23 swimmers during this year's World's Largest Swimming Lesson on June 18. The event was created in 2010 to help regional, state, national and worldwide community aquatic facilities promote water safety and drowning prevention. People around the world gathered at their local pools to be a part of The World's Largest Swim Lesson.

"Everyone across the world does it and it is based on their time zone. Right now there are lessons around the world going on," Art De La Rosa, Aquatics Director at the Torrance-South Bay YMCA said. "Last year, it was just brought to my attention and what this is for is to bring awareness. The leading cause of accidental death for children one to four is drowning. The whole push for the World's Largest Swim Lesson is to prevent drowning and you can prevent drowning by teaching someone how to swim."

The Torrance-South Bay YMCA was one of four YMCA locations in the Los Angeles area to participate in the worldwide event.

Although De La Rosa learned about the event last year, it was too late to register. However, this year the opportunity was not missed and it is something being planned for in years to come. The day's lesson drew participants as young as three years old to adults, all whom were eager to learn how to swim. The South Bay communities' proximity to the ocean and active involvement in recreational water activities made joining the World's Largest Swim Lesson a natural fit for De La Rosa.

"We live right by the beach and for me, swim lessons are very important because the kids that live in the South Bay and the surrounding areas come in contact with water all the time," De La Rosa said. "It is a life skill to learn how to swim."

Through the efforts of the nation's top water safety and training organizations, waterparks, pools and other aquatic facilities around the world were able to host lessons at 11 a.m. eastern time. The swimming lesson attempted to break the Guinness World Record while also teaching a valuable

See Largest Swim Lesson, page 3

Calendar

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.

SUNDAY, JUNE 30

• Filipino Heritage Sunday, 9:15 a.m., The First United Methodist Church of Torrance, 1551 El Prado Ave. A luncheon and program will follow the service. For more information call (310) 328-3242.

• Torrance Antique Street Faire, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., 1317 Sartori Ave. For more information call (310) 328-6107.

TUESDAY, JULY 2

• City Council Meeting, 7- 10 p.m., City Hall, Council Chamber, 3031 Torrance Blvd.

For more information call (310) 618-2870.

• 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/>

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.

June 15

Burglary-Commercial: 17500 BLOCK CRENSHAW BLVD Suspect(s) pries open door and takes property/ hoses, leaf blower, vise, grinder, dolly, containers of gasoline.

Robbery-Strong-Arm: 24300 BLOCK CRENSHAW BLVD Suspect blocks victim’s path, simulates a weapon in his pocket and demands victim’s property/cash.

Vandalism: 1700 BLOCK BORDER AVE Suspect(s) smashes window/no entry, no loss.

Theft: 3500 BLOCK CARSON ST Suspect(s) takes victim’s dropped property/ cell phone.

Burglary-Auto: 20300 BLOCK GRAMERCY PL Suspect(s) smashes window for entry and takes property from within as well as from bed of truck and attached trailer/ GPS, generator, jackhammer, extension cords.

Burglary-Commercial: 1300 BLOCK EL PRADO AVE Suspect(s) smashes window for entry and takes property/prescription drugs .

Battery-Weapon/Agg: 4000 BLOCK BLUFF ST Suspect twice hits victim in the face.

June 14

Battery-Weapon/Agg: 400 BLOCK CALLE DE ARBOLES Suspects punch and kick victims repeatedly, rendering one unconscious.

Theft: 22100 BLOCK HAWTHORNE BLVD Suspect(s) takes property off of victim’s vehicle/side steps, bed cover.

Burglary-Auto: GREENWOOD AVE & 230TH ST Suspect(s) smashes window for entry and takes property/purse.

Burglary-Residential: 100 BLOCK VIA COLUSA Suspect(s) cuts screen on door window, opens window/no entry, no loss.

Burglary-Auto: 23200 BLOCK AUDREY AVE Suspect(s) enters vehicle by unknown means, ransacks and takes property/drill kit, printers.

Burglary-Commercial: 3500 BLOCK CARSON ST Suspect(s) pries open door and takes property from locker/wallet.

June 13

Vandalism: 23500 BLOCK CRENSHAW BLVD Suspect(s) removes gas pump meter, allowing gasoline to dispense without charging for same.

Battery-Simple: 24600 BLOCK PENNSYLVANIA AVE Suspect while under arrest, attempts to break free from officers and attempts to kick them.

Burglary-Commercial: 20900 BLOCK WESTERN AVE Suspect(s) enters unsecured building under construction and takes property/ power tools.

Theft: 2500 BLOCK PACIFIC COAST HWY Suspect(s) takes property off of workplace desk/ cell phone.

June 12

Burglary-Auto: 18300 BLOCK HAWTHORNE BLVD Suspect(s) enters unlocked vehicle and takes property/miniature American Husky puppy.

Burglary-Auto: 4100 BLOCK PACIFIC COAST HWY Suspect(s) enters unlocked vehicle and takes property/briefcase, documents.

Theft: 5300 BLOCK HALISON ST Suspect posing as “grandson who has been arrested”, contacts victim by phone and asks her to wire bail money.

Burglary-Commercial: 2500 BLOCK MARICOPA ST Suspect(s) cuts chain securing gate, cuts large openings in fence, cuts open loading dock doors and takes property from pallets/TVs.

June 11

Burglary-Auto: 3900 BLOCK 238TH ST Suspect(s) enters vehicle by unknown means and takes property/cash.

Theft: 1800 BLOCK TORRANCE BLVD Suspect(s) takes locked/secured property from front porch/ bicycles.

Burglary-Residential: 4200 BLOCK 182ND ST Suspect(s) smashes glass indoor for entry, ransacks and takes property from residence tented for fumigation/cash, passport, cell phones.

June 10

Burglary-Auto: 17500 BLOCK GLENBURN AVE Suspect(s) enters unlocked vehicle, ransacks and takes property/wallets, sunglasses, chargers.

Burglary-Auto: 2100 BLOCK CABRILLO AVE Suspect(s) enters vehicle by unknown means, takes property from same and carport/ sunglasses, headset, CDs, snow skis, ski boots, ski poles, scooters.

Burglary-Auto: 4100 BLOCK REDONDO BEACH BLVD Suspect(s) enters vehicle by unknown means, ransacks and takes property/ GPS, cell phone, cash, iPod. •



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Imani Crenshaw is an ECC alumna honor student and cheerleader who will transfer to Hampton University this fall to continue her studies in broadcast journalism.

Imani graduated from West High School in 2011.

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City Council

from front page

that the Council has had while she served in it. "It's been really an honor to serve with you these past five years," said Brewer. "You bring something special to the Council. I think each person who comes in brings something unique, but I think yours is something special. It really gave the Council a different personality. I'm going to miss you a lot."

Both Councilmember Pat Furey and Scotto said they thought of Rhilinger as a sister. "I remember the one meeting when you said we were like your brothers and that really hit my home and hit my heart because you are like my sister," said Furey.

Councilmember Cliff Numark said that Rhilinger is a model for civil servants. "Your public service is unparalleled, frankly, both from your career here as a team member in the City of Torrance and as a Council member," said Numark. "What has always struck me about you is you're extremely forthright and honest, your integrity is unquestioned and you're a really good listener. I think all my colleagues would all say your diligence is unparalleled. You study the issues and you try to ensure we make the right decisions not just in the Council, but also for the broader South Bay area. You really are what public service is all about."

Scotto said he has trusted Rhilinger to give him insight, guidance and knowledge in governing matters and he will miss her contributions. "I

really appreciate the times you've given me advice and you told me how to do certain things," said Scotto. "We're going to miss you."

Rhilinger first of all thanked the residents of Torrance for their trust and belief in her. She said she found it difficult to transition from a life as a police officer to one as a public figure, but has cherished the knowledge that she has helped improve the lives of many. "I want to thank the citizens of Torrance for their support over the years," said Rhilinger. "One of the things I wasn't prepared for when I came to the Council was the fact that you run into people you've never seen before in the supermarket, and they know you. It's a warm feeling to know you've touched so many lives that you don't know about."

In her career, Rhilinger said she always tried to do what was best for the City's future, regardless of how popular or unpopular the decision was. "I just call it like I see it and I figured if you don't like it, you can get rid of me," said Rhilinger. "I tried to make my decisions on what I thought was best for the City and I hope that in some small way I've made a difference and fulfilled that intention."

After her retirement, Rhilinger plans to spend time on the East Coast, but no matter where she goes, she said she will always fondly remember Torrance. "Wherever I am, Torrance and its citizens will be in my heart," she said. •

Largest Swim Lesson

from front page

lesson. With six lifeguards watching all four bodies of water and seven swim instructors in the water, the lesson went on without a hitch for the YMCA staff--which routinely teaches people how swim.

"We have eight swim sessions a year and each swim session is five weeks long," De La Rosa said. "People can simply come in and register for the lessons for the upcoming swim session. It is open to the public ages three and up and they do not have to be part of the club."

For more than 100 years, the YMCA has been active in teaching people how to swim. Through its national swim teaching program, the YMCA trains people to improve stroke development, self-confidence, water sports and games, and personal safety in the pool.

"The first thing that is going to happen to any kid that gets in the water is they will gain confidence. Once they gain confidence, they will learn the life skill that is swimming,"

De La Rosa said. "They will also learn how to rescue someone without having to get in the water. They also learn other things such as water sports like water polo, or girls may learn synchronized swimming. We don't only teach swim lessons, but an array of different things. For older kids, they will witness CPR and rescue breathing and that is going to help them if they decide to go into lifeguarding."

For De La Rosa, teaching kids and adults to swim is as fulfilling as it is important for water safety. "The people that you encounter every day are always different. There are tasks that you must do every day, but for the most part it is always something different," De La Rosa said. "These people participating today are all beginners, but in the regular swim lessons we have people ranging from beginners to kids that have been in water for such a long time that they can do the butterfly stroke at five years old." •

TerriAnn in Torrance

Philanthropy at Its Best

By TerriAnn Ferren

My heavy, blue *New World Dictionary of the American Language Deluxe Color Edition* says the word "**phi-lan-thro-py** comes from the Greek Philanthropia < philein, to love + anthropos, man. A desire to help mankind, esp. as shown by gifts to charitable or humanitarian institutions; benevolence." That definition seems simple enough, but I found out it is very much a profound and learned act of giving.

Two weeks ago, I attended the opening and dedication of a new building in Torrance located on Torrance Boulevard. The name gracing the outside of the entrance says *Douglas & J. Glass Family Center*. Who is this person whose name appears on the outside of a building? What did they do to garner such an honor? Leaving the ribbon cutting, I set out determined to meet Mrs. Jacqueline Glass. That search was successful and yesterday I had the pleasure of spending time with this most remarkable woman and hearing her story of how she and her husband came to help hospice care.

As I walked into the small restaurant where we had agreed to meet, it was easy to spot the smiling, joyful face of Mrs. Jacqueline Glass waving at me from a booth near the front of the room. This woman was elegantly dressed and spoke with the softness of one who has seen much.

Jacqueline was born in Brooklyn, New York and met the love of her life, Jerrold Glass, when they both entered their freshman year at Midwood High School located near Brooklyn College. "I saw him standing on the steps," began Jacqueline, smiling broadly, "so it was Jerry and Jackie." The two were inseparable. It was during the era of the Korean War and Jacqueline told me that Jerry knew he needed to get his education quickly, so he graduated high school at the age of 16, went directly to New York University and graduated with an

accounting degree from NYU at 19 years old. Jacqueline told me the two married right before Jerry graduated and six months later, he was drafted in the Army and assigned to the Audit Agency because of his accounting degree. "He worked very hard," said Jacqueline. "When he wanted something, he was very motivated. His dad died when he was eight years old and that motivated his whole life because he loved his father so much and missed him. He had an older sister and his mom, so he became a man at a very young age. He also worked in a pharmacy from the time he was 15 all through college, so he had a lot of business experience in retail and he was good at it and mature and people liked him."

After the war, they ended up in California. Jacqueline explained, "I had always wanted to live in California from the time I was 13 because my aunt had moved out here to San Francisco and used to come back east and I had two cousins too and they loved it out here--so I got it in my head I wanted to see what California was and once we traveled in the Army, we just knew we wanted to make a change. Jerry said he knew he didn't want to ride on the subway the rest of his life." So when Jerry was discharged from the Army, off the young couple went with their one-year-old daughter Jill to live in California. They headed toward the valley because that is where their cousins were living. Six months later, Jackie's parents headed toward the Golden State as well.

Jacqueline told me the story of how her hard-working husband with the faith that "things would always work out" worked very hard and succeeded as a brilliant accountant and businessman. Jerry got his credentials as a CPA and a Masters from USC while attending night classes. This self-made man encompasses the American dream.

See TerriAnn, page 7

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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

"Fathom the hypocrisy of a government that requires

Every citizen to prove they are insured... But not everyone must prove they are a citizen."

"And now any of those who refuse, or are unable to prove they are citizens will receive free insurance

paid for by those who are forced to buy insurance

because they are citizens."

— Ben Stein

Idiocy abounds, but among the many versions of *The Ship of Fools*, none could be more astounding than today's version.

"Okay," they acknowledge, "there are 30 million surveillance cameras in the U.S. and 80 government agencies have received FAA approval to launch as many as 30,000 domestic spying drones above the U.S. over 20 years, but what's that got to do with me?"

Generally, each version has dealt with a shipload of myopic, self-absorbed passengers who acknowledge no specific destination, but believe they will nevertheless find personal paradise. Today they ask, "What's that got to do with me?"

Today's passengers "tsk, tsk" at the news that the government has created 1.2 million facial recognition descriptions that make tracking citizens easier, but they ask, "What's that got to do with me?"

"Okay," they acknowledge, "there are 30 million surveillance cameras in the U.S. and 80 government agencies have received FAA approval to launch as many as 30,000 domestic spying drones above the U.S. over 20 years, but what's that got to do with me?"

So the NSA has arranged to have all ATM and credit card transactions available to the government. Shouldn't the government know everyone's financial transactions?

The Transportation Security Administration can collect travelers' data on a daily basis and hold it for two years; and social media

such as Facebook will have profiles collected daily and held for 90 days. So what? What's that got to do with me?

Sure, in 2011, the government made 1.3 million requests of cellphone providers for information about specific calls, without the need for legal documentation. And yes, political contributions of more than \$200 are reported to the Federal Election Commission, including the name, address and occupation of the contributor. What's that got to do with me?

Yes, under a program named PRISM, the U.S. spies on foreign leaders and governments, including at the G8 economic conference, and yet accuses China of cyberwarfare. Does this make me a bad guy? What's this got to do with me?

And so the Ship of Fools sails on. To investigate Administration wrongdoing on Benghazi, the President selected a five-member Administrative Review Board to determine his Administration's competence. The Board found everyone innocent, delivering its report to the Secretary of State, the subject of the investigation.

Clearly, everyone and every organization could be caught up in the federal intrusion net, but in October 2011, the President excluded Islamic mosques without the prior approval of the DOJ's Sensitive Operations Review Commission, whose makeup is unknown.

To address public outrage over federal intrusion into reporters' phone calls, President Obama directed Attorney General Holder to investigate himself. After a rigorous one-day investigation, he declared himself innocent of all wrongdoing. So this affects me how???

The "none of this affects me" passengers on the Ship of Fools "tsk, tsk" the President, but the time his actions affect them, it will be too late. •

Another Man's Opinion

Tax Incentives that Benefit Landowners, Provide Healthy Food Options for Community

By Cristian Vasquez

The State Assembly recently passed AB551, authored by Assemblyman Phillip Y. Ting from San Francisco, in which cities and counties are authorized to create urban agricultural incentive zones. The legislation would also allow reduced property assessments when a property owner allows any type of small-scale food production on said land. What does that mean? It breaks down to cities and counties being able to enter contracts with landowners in order to create small gardens while offering tax breaks/incentives to the owners.

In the past our legislators have been known for approving generous tax breaks for corporations and small businesses, which do provide a benefit to consumers. The impact of the tax incentives from AB551 are just as important and beneficial to consumers as the tax breaks given to other businesses. Giving property owners the ability and financial incentives to produce fresh produce will add to a city's sense of community while promoting healthy eating.

Most cities in the South Bay enjoy having their weekly farmers' markets. It is a chance for residents to purchase non-mass-produced fruits and vegetables from local growers and in turn help stimulate the local economy. Simultaneously, it is an opportunity for the people in the city to gather and build a stronger sense of community. Through Assemblyman Ting's legislation, which is now in Senate Committee, the unifying effects of a farmers' market in a city will be expanded as more and more community gardens are likely to get started.

With the recent push promoting healthy lifestyles through exercise and the consumption of fruits and vegetables, empowering residents to create community gardens is a very effective way to promote the well-being of the city's residents. Allowing people to witness the harvesting process of the goods sold at these farmers market is going to pique their interest in these products and has a high potential for people to consume these goods. Just like any business, if the products are good, people will come back. Having people return to purchase the foods that are grown in their own city creates a direct economic impact on the community.

Furthermore, if customers keep purchasing these fruits and vegetables, that means they are eating healthier--which leads to a healthier lifestyle and we can all appreciate the trickle effect that has on the rest of the community.

Just as important, the community is interacting face-to-face. In our digital era when emails and text messages are the preferred method of communication, it is refreshing to have opportunities where we can interact with old friends, neighbors and local business owners for a few hours one day a week. We continue to be amazed at how the world is at our fingertips because of technology and yet we engage less and less with the world outside our front door. AB551 will help our communities with healthy food options. It will help our communities by incentivizing the creation of local gardens, which will lead to a direct economic impact. Just as important, it is an opportunity for our people to come out and interact as a community. •

From the Source

Political Q & A

Dear Friends,

Today, I voted for the 2013-2014 fiscal year budget that the California State Legislature passed and is now on its way to the Governor for review and final signature. Some of the reasons why I voted for this compromise budget:

- Overall, this is a balanced budget based on fiscally conservative revenue projections that restores funding for priorities like education while also setting aside over \$1 billion in reserves. This is the third year in a row that the Legislature has passed a budget on time by the constitutional deadline.

- As a former South Bay school board member, I have been fighting for more funding for our South Bay schools. Thanks to all the letters, e-mails, and phone calls from many of you, K-12 school districts will receive more funding this year than last year. Moreover, we achieved an increased base funding grant for all school districts, including suburban districts.

- The budget increases funding for the University of California, California State University, and community college systems. This is an important investment in our economy and our future workforce. Also,

families with incomes at or below \$150,000 will benefit from a cut in student fees by up to 40 percent beginning in 2014-2015.

- The budget provides a modest funding increase of \$63 million for the state's courts. As a former prosecutor, I will continue to fight to restore court funding to ensure access to justice for all.

- The budget provides \$6 million in additional resources for our military veterans to reduce the unacceptable backlog for filing veterans disability claims. As Chair of the Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee, this is a top priority for me.

While I am pleased that we passed an on-time balanced budget that restores funding for priorities like education, this is a compromise budget, and it is not perfect. There are parts of the \$96.3 billion budget that I am not happy with. However, I will continue to fight for the South Bay, and I will continue to fight for common sense priorities for California -- good jobs, good schools, safe neighborhoods, and a healthy environment.

As always, I welcome your thoughts, and I look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely, Al Muratsuchi, Assemblymember, 66th District •

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Sports

LeBron Approaching Greatness

By Adam Serrao

On April 28, 2008, Pat Riley stepped down as the head coach of the Miami Heat after his team finished with an NBA-worst 15-67 record. It was the worst showing as a head coach in Riley's entire career. Perhaps stepping down was the best thing that Riley could have ever done. As team president, where Riley remained after his disappointing 2008 campaign, the highly decorated NBA player, coach and executive made perhaps one of the biggest moves for one franchise in the history of the sport. Three straight finals appearances and two NBA championships later, LeBron James and the Heat have created a budding dynasty for Riley in Miami. A new

view-- that is, by numbers--there is also a subjective way to view their career as a whole. An established opinion of a player in his own time is most easily measured subjectively by viewing the types and amounts of awards he has accumulated throughout his career. One of the most popular awards to measure this subjectivity is the Most Valuable Player award. Currently, James has won four MVPs in his career, attaining his fourth this past season. With four MVPs to his name, James has placed himself amongst even more elite company. Only 12 players in history have won multiple MVPs (not Kobe) and only Wilt Chamberlain, Bill Russell, Jordan and Kareem have at

"Despite who the surrounding players are, however, one thing is becoming more and more evident as the seasons roll on by--LeBron James is becoming one of the greatest players to have ever played the game."

offseason brings new questions and rumors as to what Riley might do with his team full of all-stars next. Despite who the surrounding players are, however, one thing is becoming more and more evident as the seasons roll on by--LeBron James is becoming one of the greatest players to have ever played the game.

It's an unpopular opinion, to say the least, here on the West Coast and in the Los Angeles area. LeBron James? The same guy who left Cleveland with a one-hour television special on ESPN to team up with other superstars in search of a ring? We have our own "best player in the league" out here who wears the number 24 and has accrued five championship rings in his career. That's greatness. Not LeBron James. Right? Well, his poorly executed and unpopular choice of executing the "decision" may not have anything to do with the fact that currently LeBron may belong in the discussion as one of the top 10 greatest players of all time. To look at that statement quite literally, based on numbers, that is, James is already just one of 12 players in history with 20,000 career points, 5,000 assists and 5,000 rebounds to his name. Now the hometown favorite Kobe Bryant is on that list too and is actually ranked towards the top of it, behind only Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Michael Jordan and Karl Malone. What's staggering about James, however, is that he is only 28 years old and unlike Kobe (torn Achilles), he is showing no signs of slowing down. To put this feat in perspective, the only other player to accumulate such spectacular numbers at such an early age was Oscar Robertson. Magic was age 30 and our very own Kobe Bryant was 32.

LeBron's career averages also rank him among the best to ever play the game-- 27.6 points, 6.9 assists and 7.3 rebounds. Only eight players ever, including LeBron, have averaged 20, five and five (and Kobe's not one of them). Numbers can only tell part of the story, however. Aside from measuring a player by the literal point of

least four MVPs (Jordan has five and Kareem has six). With maybe eight to 10 years left in his own playing career, there is no telling how many more James may end up with before all is said and done. James also has two NBA championships (2012-13), two NBA Finals MVPs (2012-13), a Rookie of the Year (2004) award, a scoring championship (2008), is a nine-time all-star (2005-13), two-time All-Star Game MVP (2006, 2008), a seven-time All-NBA first-team member (2006, 2008-13) and a five-time NBA All-Defensive First-Team member (2009-13).

Even if LeBron James never played again starting today, his numbers and accomplishments would still rank him with names like Jordan, Robertson, Bird, Magic and Russell as one of the greatest to ever play the game. James, though, still has almost an entire career left to keep playing. The only thing that he may lack to cement his name amongst the greats is championships rings. With two in a row, James looks to have maybe found his niche. But in an NBA Finals where the other two of the "Big Three" produced next to nothing at certain points, is it time for James to surround himself with a new supporting cast? Well, if it's up to Riley, that answer is most probably no. "I just want this thing to keep going," Riley said. "I'm at an age now where I'm ready to just fly off somewhere. But I'm not going to because the Good Lord has blessed me with a team that's allowed me to grab onto its coattails for as long as they want to be together."

Teams surrounding the Heat in the Eastern Conference keep on getting better, but a common rule of thumb in the NBA is that the best player on the court has the greatest opportunity to bring his team to victory. Whether the Big Three stay together or not, look for James, as the best player in the National Basketball Association, to bring himself and his team back into contention for another title as soon as next year. •

Up and Adam

Girls Soccer Rules the Day

By Adam Serrao

As the summer rolls on and student athletes everywhere across the city of Torrance continue to take a break from the rigors of the school year, awards for their extraordinary play this season continue to roll in. At schools like Torrance High, West, South and North, athletes from such sports as baseball, softball, soccer and swimming can now relax, unwind and look back at seasons of accomplishment that will now forever guide their paths in the future. This week, we'll take a look at women's soccer in Torrance and the athletes that brought their teams success along the way.

When we last left off, it was the girls' turn to receive credit for a soccer season well played. Perhaps no player deserves more credit for what she did for her team than Jessica Nakae of the South High Spartans. The midfielder was one of 15 seniors on a team that not only went undefeated this year in league play, but also took the Pioneer League title outright. Nine goals and 17 assists on the year by the Spartan captain led her and her team to the CIF Southern Section Division IV semifinals where they at last lost to Quartz Hill in a close 1-0 final. Even through the loss, Nakae's leadership shined through. "I just wanted to play as long as I could with the team," she said. "We didn't want it to end." The 2013 Player of the Year will now get a chance to extend her career at the University of San Francisco where she will continue to make others proud, as she did head coach Brad Gomez. "You take

her for granted sometimes--then she has an, 'Oh my, what is she doing?' moment and you realize just how special she is," said Gomez. "It wasn't just her skills. It was her leadership. She really matured into a great leader. The team looked to her."

The team didn't only look to Nakae, however. Gomez himself came away with the coach of the year award. Leading his senior-laden team to an unbeaten regular season, Gomez saw the Lady Spartans' soccer club reach the final of their own tournament while also beating league rival Torrance three straight times in the regular season en route to the Pioneer League crown. Though South lost in the CIF semifinal to Quartz Hill, Gomez did his part to lead the team back to what is now an unprecedented sixth straight semifinal appearance, dating all the way back to the 2006-2007 season. Morgan Mullin, Anju Takei and Amanda Whittle joined Nakae and Gomez in receiving honors for South High this year by taking home first-team All-Pioneer League honors. Mullin was named the Pioneer League's defensive player of the year as she and her team allowed only 19 goals in 33 matches this year. Takei joined Mullin on the defensive unit that helped the Pioneer League champs advance all the way to the Division IV semifinal. Whittle, like Nakae in the sense that they are both midfielders, recorded 20 goals and 19 assists this season to not only make the first team, but also take home All-CIF Southern Section Division IV honors. Midfielder Korie Bozart and senior

See Up and Adam, page 9

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North High School's 2013 Graduation

Photos by Shelley Kemp

For more photos please visit www.ShelleyKempPhotography.com



Anthony Ciomber shakes the hand of a friend as he makes his way to his seat.



Anthony Young enjoys his moment as his name is announced.



Elaine Thompson fists the air as she parades past cheering family and friends.



Yesul Jane Shin high fives her fellow graduate.



Joakim Saldamando proudly displays his diploma.



North High School Families and Friends cheer for their graduates.



Tiffany Alexander smiles at a fellow graduate.



A North High Grad raises her diploma high.



Sydney Byas smiles and waves at her family in the stands.

TerriAnn

from page 3

Then I asked Jacqueline how she and Jerry became philanthropists and she told me, "It is just something that we both felt strongly about. Jerry lived by what the Bible says: 'Too much is given--much is expected [Luke 12:48].' It is said many different ways, but that was kind of his anthem and he really lived it and that is how it was. By the time we had had our fourth daughter [Jill, Jeralyn, Jamie and Joanna and later an adopted son Jay--Christopher], we had moved down by the beach [the South Bay in 1971] 'cuz my dad had died very suddenly and we knew we were going to have my mother and my grandmother with us--she came from New York too." She went on to say, "God was always guiding us and we didn't fight it. We cooperated..."

hospice wasn't as prevalent as it is now, but they hosted the event for 11 straight years. The first event drew 140 people and they raised about \$90,000 and that was the beginning of how the Glasses ushered in the premier fundraiser event for hospice. Wow! Hospice became a passion and Jacqueline grew the now non-profit organization with Catholic Healthcare West. Then they joined with Little Company of Mary Hospital. "I got to know the sisters and then I made the choice if I ever had to go there, that's where I would go," said Jacqueline. "I got to know a lot of the doctors as well because they'd start coming to *Sunday by the Sea* [the annual fundraiser] held the third Sunday in September. I just felt our feelings meshed into what we were trying to do. Their credo with

coaxing, he begrudgingly agreed to the honor. Jerrold Glass died in November of that same year. This humble woman continues to work for the organization which seven years ago added a children's hospice program. Jacqueline not only gives from her treasure, but also her time

the proceeds of an annual concert to hospice (she has performed at the James Armstrong Theatre twice). Another daughter Jamie is a nurse who works in hospice, and her first-born Jill bakes and delivers goodies to the different hospice offices.



9 foot tall Transitions sculpture donated by Jacqueline Glass bought in Omaha, Nebraska.

As I listened to Jacqueline tell the story of her family, I couldn't wait to hear about how this special couple got involved with hospice. Jacqueline began, "In about 1991, a friend of mine came to the house one day to talk to Jerry and me and she said, 'Would you have a fundraiser for hospice?' Because by then, I had had several different things at the house and they knew it. We had done a couple things for Torrance Memorial. I had an open house for Torrance Memorial before their Christmas Tree Party. So we were already doing that

the sisters is exactly us and then we had the chance to start Kids Care [they have 86 kids now] and nobody has that."

Jacqueline was the President of the Board of Directors for 19 years and is now the Community Ambassador. "I am blushing just saying it. Jerry was right there with me the whole way--supportive." said Jacqueline. She went on, "It [giving] has made us both very, very happy and I will tell you one thing that Jerry always said--people don't seem to understand--if they only knew that the more

Douglas & J. Glass Family Center

Naming of the building - The Douglas & J. Glass Family Center when she goes out on calls, gives lectures to doctors about hospice and highlights the need for hospice. One thing Jacqueline said that I didn't know is that sometimes when a person calls in hospice, they improve with care and go off the program. It can be used to manage an illness, support a family whose loved one is ill, and sometimes the person recovers and continues on with their life.

The work being done by this energetic, unselfish woman and by the non-profit organization she mentors is going strong. She told me it was Dr. John Spaulding, M.D. who helped forge the idea that hospice care helps. "He was one of the first doctors to stand up and say, 'Not only does hospice help my patients, but it helps me.' And he meant it," said Jacqueline. "He also served on the Board two or three terms. He and his wife are very supportive of Little Company. We are the largest non-profit hospice and a big part of what we do now is palliative care. For example, you have been diagnosed with something but it's not life-threatening at this moment and you want to continue working and you want to continue your life the way it is right now. You could be 20, you could be 50, and palliative care helps you to do that."

In addition, Jacqueline told me that hospice care began in Ireland. Her children also promote and fundraise for hospice. For example, her daughter Jeralyn, a professional singer, gives

As we ate our lunch, I listened to how the giving spirit of these two beautiful people, Jerrold and Jacqueline Glass, gave out of their blessing right from the beginning of their marriage. Jacqueline has continued the legacy she and her husband started so many years ago and every time I pass by the Providence Health & Services Douglas & J. Glass Family Center, I will be reminded of generosity and giving in the most wonderful spirit--philanthropy at its



Jacqueline Glass, her grandson Travis and Joyce Sharman.

best. Thank you, Jerrold and Jacqueline Glass for giving from your heart to your community and beyond. •



Inside the Douglas & J. Glass Family Center.

and for the American Cancer Society. So this friend asked us and we looked at each other and we said, 'Sure.' Then we said, 'What is hospice?'" Jacqueline told me that at that time

you give away, it just starts coming back. You can't stop it." Jerry was an example and Jacqueline told me hospice wanted to honor him in January 2003 and he said no. With much



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Grads Show Us Your Photos!

Hey Graduates! We'd love to publish your favorite Graduation photos.

To have us publish them you must email them to pr@heraldpublications.com. They must be jpg files and must include a caption (who is in the photo) and a byline (who took the photo). Photos are due Thursdays at 9:00am to go in the following week.

Bike Giveaway a Success

By Charlene Nishimura. Photos by Charlene Nishimura.

The PVG Foundation's 3rd Annual Bike Giveaway was held on Sunday, June 23rd in front of The Buffalo Fire Department in Downtown Torrance. One hundred bicycles were given to children aged 7 to 18-years old. To receive a bicycle, the children were asked to write a letter explaining why they want their own bike and how they would care for it.

The PVG Group is a private non-profit organization dedicated to helping underserved and disadvantaged children in the South Bay community live healthier and better lives and was

formed in 2010 by Larry K. Prutch, Cengiz N. Volkan and Alan E. Goldstein.

The bike giveaway partnership included Jay Wolf of Helen's Cycles and Michael Shafer of The Depot Restaurant in conjunction with the Boys & Girls Club of the Los Angeles Harbor. Special recognition was also given to City of Torrance Fire and Police officials who provided safety instruction, Special Guest Speaker Shelby Jordan, City of Torrance Councilman Bill Sutherland and Councilman Pat Furey and the Norris Theatre Performing Arts Program who provided entertainment. •



Council Member Pat Furey, Chef Michael Shafer and Council Member Bill Sutherland.



PVG Foundation and supporters pose for the cameras.



Left to Right: Torrance Police and Firefighters were graciously on hand to help the children get fitted with helmets and adjusted to their bikes. Pictured: Firefighter Patrick Jacobson, Engineer Brent Nunez, Captain Jeremy Bactat, Firefighter Jon Shiah from the Torrance Fire Department and Officer Buentgen and Officer Moore from the Torrance Police Department.



A happy biker gets some safety tips from Firefighter Jacobson.



Thumbs up! A student is fitted with a new bike helmet by Firefighter Shiah.



Derald Sidler, Director of Development, for the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor, gives us a big smile.



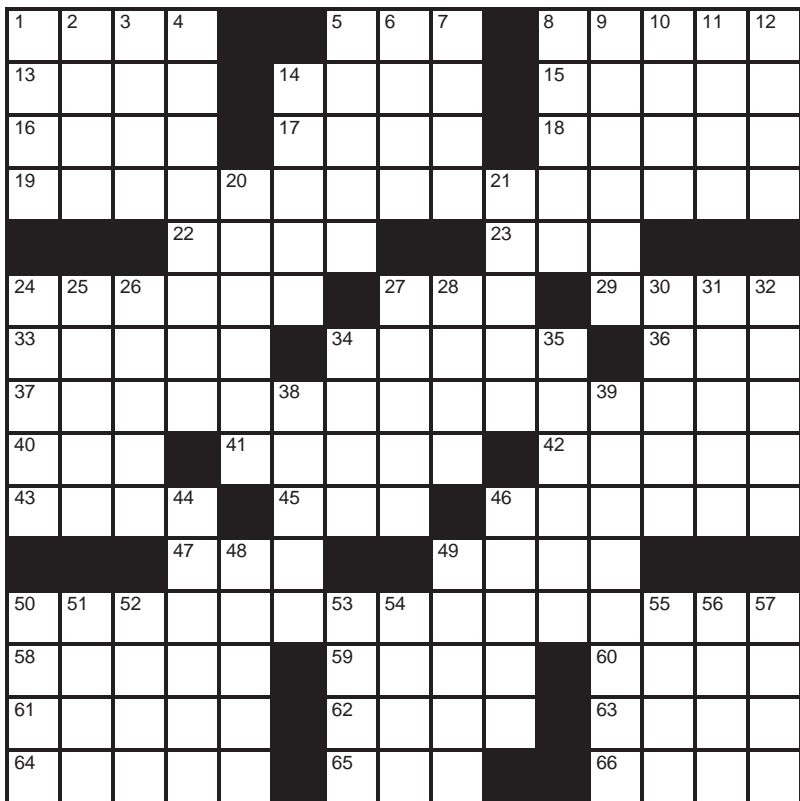
Many families and children turned out to watch the entertainment and to enjoy the Giveaway.



Engineer Brent Nunez with a happy biker.

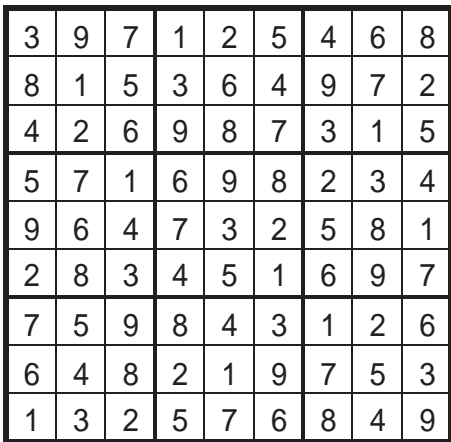
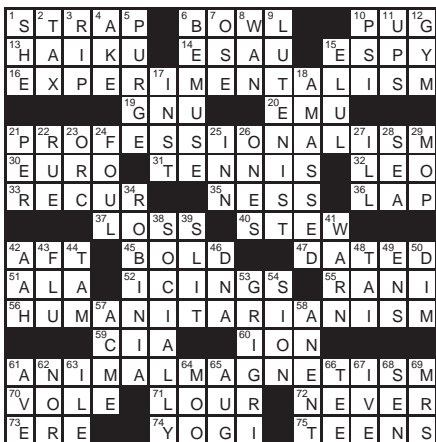
WEEKLY CROSSWORD *See Answers Next Week*

Careers



- Across**
- 1. Embargoes
 - 5. Paw
 - 8. Nautical pole
 - 13. On the safe side
 - 14. Vice president under Jefferson
 - 15. 747, e.g.
 - 16. High time?
 - 17. Crowning point
 - 18. Hockey sites
 - 19. Chopper cleaner
 - 22. Offensive
 - 23. Jump into a pool?
 - 24. Drools over
 - 27. Simpleton
 - 29. Handle
 - 33. Drupelets
 - 34. Drive
 - 36. Mud
 - 37. Media snapper
 - 40. Aquatic shocker
 - 41. Informatory
 - 42. Billiards move
 - 43. "Nerts!"
 - 45. Freelancer's enc.
 - 46. Hip hop's Souljah
 - 47. Cousin of an ostrich
- Down**
- 1. Boston or Chicago, e.g.
 - 2. Frostbite treat
 - 3. Brightly colored
 - 4. Subjective
 - 5. Fief
 - 6. General assembly?
 - 7. Wine sediment
 - 8. Jag
 - 9. Statue base
 - 10. Eastern royal
 - 11. Signs, as a contract
 - 12. Makeup, e.g.
 - 14. Makes an illegal move on the mound
 - 19. Chopper cleaner
 - 20. Film genre
 - 21. "A Doll's House" playwright
 - 24. Dressed like Superman
 - 25. Earthy pigment
 - 26. "Twelfth Night" role
 - 27. Charm
 - 28. Light on one's feet
 - 30. Old pay-to-graze arrangement
 - 31. "All That Jazz" director
 - 32. Schlepper
 - 34. Hawkeye's home
 - 35. Veneer
 - 38. ___ Camp
 - 39. Comics publisher
 - 44. Penn's partner
 - 46. Down at the heels
 - 48. Chaotic
 - 49. Knight mare?
 - 50. Omani moolah
 - 51. Sharpness
 - 52. Top drawer
 - 53. Bickering
 - 54. One to grow on?
 - 55. River to Donegal Bay
 - 56. ___ East
 - 57. Sticky fixer

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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312 Virginia St., ES. Sat., 6/29, 8 a.m. No early birds! Household items,

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Female seeks N/S, to share 2BD/1BA quiet ES home. Prvt. entrance, large yard, walk to beach. Available 6/22. \$750/mo + 1/2 utilities, cable & Internet. (310) 640-0702.

Up and Adam

from page 5

forward Kyla Diekmann added to the list of outstanding players for South High by taking home second-team honors this year.

If there is one sport that the city of Torrance excels at, it would be girls' soccer. South Torrance wasn't the only team in the area that enjoyed a stellar season this year. Their rivals from the East, the Torrance Tartars, may not have had much success against the Spartans this year, but they did against almost every other team that they faced. One of the reasons this held true for the Tartars was junior midfielder Allison Arriola. Ariola earned first team All-Pioneer League honors by recording six goals and 12 assists this season for the Lady Tartars to help them to a second place finish in the Pioneer League standings. Senior forward Kaitlyn Johnson played alongside Arriola on a Torrance squad that made it all the way to the CIF Southern Section Division IV quarterfinals this year. Johnson racked up 32 goals while tallying nine assists and is now on her way

to becoming a standout player at Washington State. Sophomore forward Haley Noble and freshman defender Mia Ramirez also received praise from the Tartars by taking home second team honors. Their youth and experience will ensure success for the Tartars in years to come.

Across the city in the Bay League, the West High Warriors received honors as well. Though the team didn't advance as far into the playoffs as their counterparts South and Torrance, standout players like Amanda Ornelas still ensured the team success. Ornelas, the team's goalkeeper, won this year's Bay League Defensive Player of the Year award. Allowing only 15 goals in 27 matches, Ornelas had 87 saves on the season and came up huge for the Warriors in a wild card match victory over Murrieta Valley that eventually got her team into the CIF playoffs. Senior defender Stephanie Morgan played alongside Ornelas and came away with second team honors. •



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A bucket-wheel excavator is the...

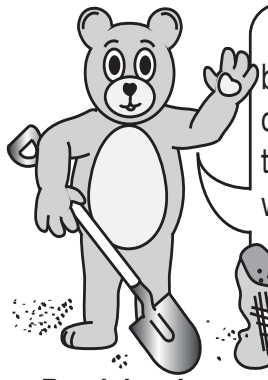
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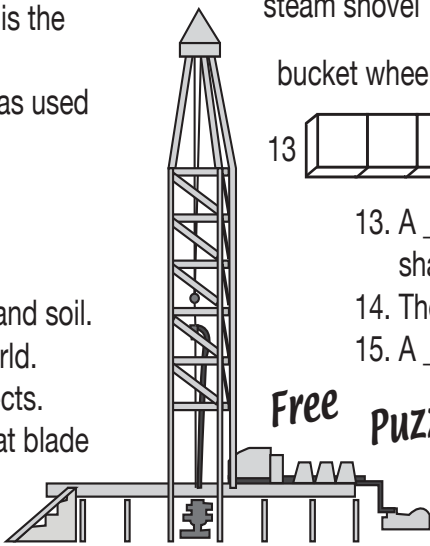
My Dad and I are digging sand and using it to fill bags. We pile bags two layers deep to keep rising creek water away from our garage. Who would think that a bear would enjoy digging? I also like to watch huge machines moving on roadsides and digging on construction sites. I'd like to learn to operate all of them and be part of a team that builds roads, bridges and buildings.

Read the clues to fill in the puzzle with tools or machines used for digging:

1. A _____ is a small tool with a V-shaped blade used to break up soil or lumps when gardening.
2. One special machine, called a _____ excavator, digs by drawing the dirt from the earth like a vacuum.
3. A _____ is a large machine used to dig long, narrow ditches, especially for pipes.
4. The huge _____ can cut holes the entire width of a subway passage.
5. An _____ can be seen on many construction sites. It is the machine with the powerful tilting bucket to scoop up dirt.
6. The old style _____ was powered by boiling water. It was used to dig canals and basements for skyscrapers.
7. The _____ is a vehicle that has a bulldozer front and a strong scooping bucket in the back.
8. A _____ digs up dirt under the water.
9. A _____ is a hand tool used for chipping away rock and soil.
10. The _____ excavator is the largest vehicle in the world. Its rotating scoops shave away mountains in mining projects.
11. The _____ is a long-handled hand tool with a thin, flat blade used for breaking up or moving small amounts of soil.
12. A _____ can force metal poles deep into soil.



13. A _____ is used by farmers to dig up shallow areas of soil to plant crops.
14. The stationary _____ bores into the earth to reach oil.
15. A _____ is the most common digging hand tool people use.



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PETSPETS Pets PETSPETS

Pets Without Partners

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

Summertime is a wonderful time to make new friends and **Sunny** is looking for a new



Sunny

best friend. She was owner-surrendered to our rescue after her owner was diagnosed with a terminal illness. Sunny is a spunky eight-month-old pup with a very good nature and super-spectacular personality. At her foster home, she is housebroken with a doggie door and very well crate-trained. She plays well with all other dogs and is friendly with both children and cats. Sunny has a beautiful golden coat that glistens in the sunshine. She was named Sunny because she brought sunshine to her prior owner’s life. Sunny is

spayed, current on vaccinations, de-wormed, microchipped, loves people, is good with other dogs, and is cat-safe.

Max was owner-surrendered to our rescue from his prior owner who could no longer care for him. He was born on May 1, 2008 and weighs 17 pounds. Max is a gorgeous tri-colored Shih Tzu. His black ears are a perfect offset to his white coat and tan cow patches. When you hold him, his head melts into your shoulder as he snuggles in for love. He is wonderful on leash and loves to ride in the car. Max has good play manners, is good with other dogs or could be fine as an only dog in your home. He will be best around children 10 years of age and older. Max is a splendid chap looking for a new place to call home. He is neutered, current on all vaccinations, de-wormed, microchipped, and good with other dogs .

To learn more about these and other wonderful dogs, visit our website at www.animalsrule.org. If a dog is on our website, it’s available. Or come to our Saturday adoption events from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 305 North Harbor Boulevard in San Pedro (just off the 110 near the cruise port). We are always in need of donations for veterinarian bills and our senior dogs. Donations can be made through our website or by sending a check payable to: Animals Rule Placement Foundation at 305 North Harbor Blvd., San Pedro, CA 90731. All donations are tax-deductible. We are a registered 501©3 non-profit organization.

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



Max

Happy Tails

On the eve of the Academy Awards, 11 Beagle puppies arrived on the Animals Rule doorstep as a result of a “breeder” cited by animal control for having too many dogs. Bigelow was the last, but not least, to

loves to be curled up next to her...*adorable!*

At night he is fantastic in his crate...goes from 11-ish (when we go to bed) until 6 (when I get up). He is doing his business outside and has really had only a few accidents in

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

find a loving home. And he scored in a *big* way with a new best buddy...

“Bigelow (now Baxter) is *fantastic!* He is everything we were looking for...so sweet and a bit rascally...so much fun for the kids! Lulu (our Mastiff) is doing well with him. At first she was a bit irritated with him, but now she seems to be looking for him. They sleep together during the day (when he is needs a nap), sharing any bed that she is on. He

the house and I think those were strictly due to marking his territory--not out of need to ‘go’. Overall, a perfect fit and we love him so much. Thank you for the cute pictures of our little man...precious! We’ll always keep you updated with photos. My kids take pictures of the dogs all the time! As I noted earlier, we did change his name to Baxter...my son wanted that one! Thanks again. Please contact me any time for updates!”

– **Julie •**

Purrrfect Companions

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

Alone on the curb is no place for two four-week-old kittens. But that’s exactly from where

lion as he perches on your shoulder, but the next moment will flop over like a rag doll to be cuddled. He especially loves to lie on your chest as you watch TV or work at the



Left to right, Barney and Magoo

Magoo and his brother Barney were rescued. With no mother to be found and no neighbor claiming them, these adorable brothers were hand-raised at their foster home and are now looking for their permanent, loving home.

Both are energetic, spunky, fun-loving kittens. Ready for action at a moment’s notice, they will run and play until they drop. Then they are ready for some serious cuddling time. They would love to find a home together or if adopted individually, they each need an energetic feline friend in their home.

Although he is the smaller of the two, **Barney** rules the roost and keeps his bigger brother in his place. The soft gray Tabby markings over his white coat are the perfect background for Barney’s beautiful turquoise eyes. He is adventurous and independent, yet still craves your attention. Barney will lie on his back, cradled in your arm and waiting for a belly rub, as he purrs contentedly or will lie at your feet like a puppy dog.

Magoo loves to run and jump in the air to see how high he can reach. He might even learn to fetch, as this is already one of his favorite games. He has the heart of a mountain

computer and soon purrs himself to sleep. With his distinct black and white markings, Magoo will grow to be a strikingly handsome cat.

These kittens/cats are available for adoption through Kitten Rescue, one of the largest cat rescue groups in Southern California. All of our kitties are spayed/neutered, microchipped, tested for FeLV and FIV, de-wormed and current on their vaccinations. For additional information and to see our other kitties, please check our website at www.kittenrescue.org, or email us at mail@kittenrescue.org. Your tax-deductible donations for the rescue and care of our cats and kittens can be made through our website or by sending a check payable to Kitten Rescue, 914 Westwood Boulevard, #583, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

On Saturdays, we have adoptions from noon to 3:30 p.m. in Westchester at 8655 Lincoln Boulevard, just south of Manchester Avenue, and also in Mar Vista at 3860 Centinela Avenue, just south of Venice Boulevard. Our website lists additional adoption sites and directions to each location.

Be kind. Save a life. Support animal rescue. •



Bigelow’s big friend.

Real Estate

Tips For Setting Up Your Home Theater Viewing Space

(BPT) - Few things are more disappointing than turning on your new TV for the first time only to discover the picture doesn't look as good as it did in the store. Or the audio balance is so far off that you feel like you're listening from inside a tunnel.

The home entertainment center concept has evolved dramatically over the past decade, from a single "tube" TV and a DVD player to full-blown, high-definition multi-media centers. The technology today offers a more immersive experience. And with a proper set

up, you can enjoy the full potential of the pride and joy of your living room.

Technologist and industry veteran Tom Campbell, who helped first launch high definition (HD) TVs and played a key role in the recent emergence of "Ultra HD," has some tips for setting up the ideal viewing space for your home theater:

Control Lighting

"While darkness is great in a big movie theater, it's not always practical for your home theater. You'll need to manage lighting

in the room to ensure the best picture quality, whether you're enjoying a family movie with the kids or watching the big game with friends," Campbell says.

Choose adjustable lighting; place lights on a dimmer so that you can adapt the lighting level depending on what you're watching. Outfit windows with shades that can easily be closed to further darken the room. For times when the lights will be on, be sure to position lights so that they won't create glare on the TV screen. And, if possible, avoid placing your screen in direct light from outside, such as opposite a window.

Maximize TV Positioning

Believe it or not, the TV's height or the angle at which your eyes meet the screen can actually affect how good the picture looks. If you're putting the TV on a stand, position the screen so that your eyes are level with the bottom third of the display. Generally, the center of your screen should be no more than 42 to 52 inches above the floor. If you don't already have your TV, for the widest viewing angles you want a plasma or an LED TV with IPS technology, like LG, which ensures a good picture for off-angle viewing (both horizontal and vertical).

"A TV over the mantel or fireplace may look nice, but that height can mean an awkward angle for maximum viewing quality," Campbell says. "Viewers may have to crane their necks to see well and the picture quality might be compromised." An adjustable wall mount can help you adapt the angle of the TV so you still have a straight-on angle and good picture. They can also help with different viewing arrangements or lighting conditions, based on the time of day.

Find the optimal viewing distance

The best quality equipment can leave you disappointed if you aren't watching from the optimal viewing position. Sitting too close to a large-screen "FULL HD" TV can make the picture appear grainy. Too far, and you'll lose the immersive feeling a big screen provides.

Opinions vary on what's the best distance

from which to view a screen. According to Brian Markwalter, senior vice president of research & standards for the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA), a simple way to calculate the optimal viewing distance is to multiply the diagonal size of your TV by two or three. "That number will tell you how many inches you should sit away from the screen for the best possible picture. Remember, though, to measure from the screen to the point where your eyes would be, not the back or front of the furniture you'll be sitting on," he says.

Keep in mind that in addition to the size of the screen, the resolution will affect your calculations. "Generally speaking," Markwalter says, "you'll want to sit farther away from a larger screen, but if it has a higher resolution you can sit closer." For example, a "4K" TV like LG's 84-inch Ultra HD TV offers four times the resolution of typical HDTVs, meaning more detail, so viewers get a crisp, clear picture from as close as five feet. If you want a large screen in a small space, an Ultra HD TV is an ideal solution.

Take Care of Sound Quality

Campbell advises that, while you may love the look of your hardwoods and hate to cover up the view from the picture window, bare floors, walls and windows can make your home theater sound as if it has an echo or the sound is too sharp and bright. On the other hand, if the room is heavily padded with wall-to-wall carpeting, heavy drapes and lots of cushioned furniture, you may think sound seems muffled. A mixture of different surfaces and materials can help ensure the best sound quality.

"Position the center speaker channel in the center of the screen, either above, below or directly behind. Additional surround-sound speakers should be placed around the room - to the side, above or even behind the audience," explains Campbell.

With a good-quality TV and some proper space planning, you can ensure your home theater delivers the best viewing experience possible. •

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